

November 2001



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# THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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*Promoting Scottish Country Dancing  
Around the World*



RSCDS AGM VENUE 2000 - TROON

[RSCDS BULLETIN]

No. 79

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**President:**

*The Earl of Mansfield*

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The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine  
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The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of  
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**Vice-Chairman:**

*Mrs Jean Martin*

**Secretary/Administrator:**

*Ms Elspeth Gray*

**Treasurer:**

*Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat*

**Editor:**

*Ms Elspeth Gray*



## THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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## [EDITORIAL]



*Elspeth Gray, Secretary/Administrator*

It is hard for me to believe that over a year has passed since I took up my post with the Society. It has been both hugely

enjoyable and very busy so far, and my main discoveries have been that (1) this organisation is unique – there is nothing else quite like it; (2) there are no “quiet times” of the year in this office; and (3) Scottish country dancers are very friendly and welcoming people! I am very pleased to have been able to communicate directly with so many members, by phone, post and, increasingly, by email. I am happy to receive your thoughts, queries and suggestions, please keep sending them in.

I would especially welcome ideas for what you would like to see in next year's Bulletin, and I look forward to hearing from you!

**Elspeth Gray**  
**Secretary/Administrator**

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

All articles, letters etc must be submitted in writing to the Editor by 30 May. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles subject to space.

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## [PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE]

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*It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity once more of greeting the members of the Society through the medium of the Bulletin.*



*President of the RSCDS, The Earl of Mansfield.*

Once again, it has been a busy and interesting year. The work of the Society's Committees continues unabated – the industriousness and commitment of the volunteers who give of their time and expertise is to be applauded. Proposals for amending the management and membership structure of the Society continue to be developed, the Youth Committee has produced an exciting new pack for schools, the second successful Winter School has taken place and there is the possibility of an Easter School for young people.

An interesting development is the first committee with world-wide membership – a working party to take forward

development of the website, whose members will communicate by email. It is also pleasing to see that we are entering the millennium with two new Branches – one in the UK, Derbyshire North East, and one in Japan, Saitama. These tangible indications of the world-wide attraction of Scottish country dancing serve to remind us all of the common language we share.

I hope that, whatever direction the Society takes as it debates its future, we will all continue to work together to promote and develop Scottish country dancing for everyone.

**The Earl of Mansfield  
President**

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## [CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE]

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*It was in 1970 that I was taken for the first time to attend a beginners' class in Scottish Country Dancing. Since that time I have enjoyed an involvement with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society which has taken me to many interesting places and introduced me to countless friends whom I would not, otherwise, have met.*



*Chairman of the Society,  
Alan Mair*

The Bulletin for that year makes very interesting reading. No mention is made of the fact that Christine and I had joined although it does record the fact that at least 264 other people did – thus reversing a downward trend in membership. It appears, however, that we were simply part of the response to Miss Milligan who, at the previous AGM, had "indicated that she intended to speak to members

in a way only she could do". Among other things she insisted that young people must be encouraged and made to feel that they have a stake in the Society. Since that time membership of the Society has increased considerably but once again we find ourselves facing the same challenge. We no longer have our co-founder to motivate us

but there is still within our membership an abundance of the enthusiasm and generosity which she highlighted in her address to the 1969 AGM. The enthusiasm of those who attended Summer School this year has been no less than Miss Milligan described then and it is interesting to note that in that year, as in this, funds were raised towards the purchase of a piano in University Hall "for the pleasure of both performer and listener". Our dedicated staff at HQ, the hard-working committee members and office-bearers will do all they can to promote the Society but it is the enthusiasm and generosity of you, the members, which will ensure that the RSCDS continues to flourish around the world and will be passed on to a new generation in good heart.

I am well aware of the privilege you have accorded to me in allowing me to be your Chairman. It has given me a unique opportunity to contribute towards the future of the Society and it has given me a challenge at least as great as those classes in 1970!

**Alan Mair  
Chairman**

# [ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2000-2001]

## HEADQUARTERS

This year has been one of consolidation in terms of the staff, since Kate joined the Headquarters team in August 2000. The team therefore now comprises: Elspeth Gray (Secretary/Administrator), June Dick (Assistant Secretary), Linda Bates (Membership & Finance Administrator), Eileen Watt (Office Manager) and Kate Lawrie (Finance & Administrative Assistant). Sincere thanks are due to all members of the team for their continuing hard work and commitment. This year, in addition to the usual extensive workload, they have coped admirably with the transfer in-house of much of the accounting function, which has had an impact on all work areas. Although 12 Coates Crescent is very much a busy working office, members are welcome to come in and have a look at the books, CDs etc that are available, and to sign the Visitors' Book, and many members from all over the world have done just that this year.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Society currently has 20,715 members, in 166 Branches and 477 Affiliated Groups throughout the world. It has been particularly exciting this year to add two new Branches to the list – Saitama Branch in Japan, and Derbyshire North East Branch in England. We welcome all the members of these new Branches, and wish them well for the future.

Many thanks must be given to all those volunteers in the Branches who work so hard to make sure that communications with HQ (in both directions) work as well as possible, particularly the Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers.

Once again, a number of Branches celebrated special anniversaries this year:

**50th anniversary:** Adelaide, Lanark and Liverpool Branches, all established in 1951.

**25th anniversary:** Atlanta, Calgary, Gothenburg, Kitchener-Waterloo, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Stockholm, Twin Cities and Western Australia Branches, all established in 1976.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the above – and much continued happy dancing!

The following Affiliated Groups were approved in 2000/2001, and the Society is delighted to welcome them:

**Cirencester Scottish Country Dance Club** (Wiltshire, England)

**Lakes Scottish Country Dancing Club** (Cumbria, England)

**West Michigan Scottish Ceilidh Dancers** (Michigan, USA)

**North Esk Scottish Country Dance Group** (East Lothian)

**Comhlan Group, Krakow** (Poland)

**Soka Scottish Country Dance Club** (Japan)

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Immediate Past Chairman are ex-officio members on all standing committees. Members' names in italics are ex officio on the committee in question. Committee members are re-elected at the November Executive Council Meeting. Either the Secretary or another member of secretariat staff is present at all Society meetings.

### General Purposes Committee

*Functions: To consider from time to time matters concerning the general administration of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council and to prepare the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.*

**Members:** *Mr Alan Mair* (Convenor, Chairman), *Mrs Jean Martin* (Vice Chairman), *Mrs Linda Gaul* (Immediate Past Chairman), *Mr John Fenningworth* (Finance Convenor), *Mrs Jessie Harper*,

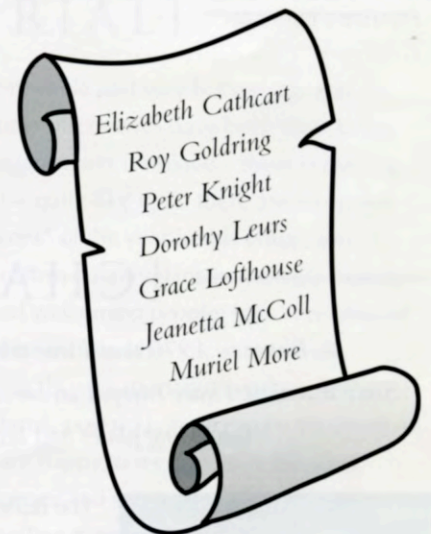
*Mr Brian Harry*, *Dr Wilson Nicol*, *Mrs Sue Porter*, *Mr Alastair Reid*, *Dr Jerome Reinstein*, *Miss Margaret Ross*, *Mr Alasdair Smart*, *Miss Pauline Stewart*.

In attendance: *Ms Elspeth Gray*

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

General Purposes Committee administers applications for grants from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, and once again agreed funding for a variety of projects.

Committee members were pleased to recommend that the following members should receive the Society's Scroll of Honour:



Refurbishment of the building at 12 Coates Crescent has not yet taken place, but much work has been done in re-arranging storage and equipment/facilities on the ground floor, resulting in a more efficient use of space. Plans are in place for clearing and re-organising basement facilities to enable the refurbishment to take place.

The numerous sub-committees of the General Purposes Committee have continued their work in the following areas: Marketing and Public Relations; Annual General Meeting; Management and Membership; Strategic Plan. A further Working Party was added this

year, to examine and identify proposals for the further development of the Society's website; this Working Party is unusual, in that its members do not meet physically, but communicate entirely by email, as its membership is scattered throughout the world. The Marketing and Public Relations Sub-Committee has been working on a number of initiatives to improve internal and external communications, to promote the Society, and to generate income. The Management and Membership Working Party has been particularly busy this year, taking forward the consideration of changes to the Society's structure. A Strategic Plan Sub-Committee has been re-constituted in order to begin work on preparing the next Strategic Plan.

#### **Finance Committee**

*Functions: To be responsible for the funds of the Society and to deal with its financial business.*

**Members:** Mr John Fenningworth (Convenor), Mr Alan Mair (Chairman), Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs Linda Gaul (Immediate Past Chairman), Miss Dorothy Hamilton, Mrs Elizabeth Harry, Mr Tom Kerr, Mr Robert Mackay, Mr Ronald Taylor, Mr David Watson.

*In attendance: Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat (Treasurer), Ms Elspeth Gray*

The Committee usually meets four times a year.

In yet another very busy year, one of the major activities overseen by the Finance Committee has been the transfer in-house of the majority of the day-to-day accounting function. The appropriate software has been installed, some staff training has taken place, and we continue to develop skills and systems to make this work efficiently.

Recognising the importance of keeping pace with new developments, the purchase of new computer equipment and cabling was approved, and this was installed at the beginning of 2001. Several pieces of legislation or new

accounting practice have been considered by the Committee, including SORP 2000 (Statement of Recommended Practice 2000 on the Reporting of and Accounting for Charities), and Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000, and their requirements incorporated into the appropriate activities. Global Branch insurance has become very expensive, and the Executive Council approved that this cover will be stopped at the end of 2001; however, the Committee has been investigating alternatives to offer to UK Branches. The Committee has been considering the Society's VAT liability, which is extremely complex, and a professional consultant has been engaged to review and report on this. The Executive Council in May agreed to recommend to the AGM that the subscription rate for 2002/03 should be raised to £15.

There have been many donations to the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, to the General Fund, and also to the project to transfer all the Society's recordings to CD. Additionally this year, proceeds of the Summer School raffles were put towards a fund to purchase a piano for use at Summer School.

#### **Examinations Committee**

*Functions: To consider from time to time the regulations governing the examinations and the awarding of Teaching and other Certificates and Diplomas of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council.*

**Members:** Mr Bruce Frazer (Convenor), Mr Alan Mair (Chairman), Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs Linda Gaul (Immediate Past Chairman), Mrs Helen Frame, Mr Alex Gray, Miss Lesley Martin, Mrs Elma McCausland.

*In attendance: Mrs Eileen Watt*

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

The Committee was pleased to initiate a new course this year, the Teaching Skills

Course. The first one, held in Edinburgh in February 2001, was massively over-subscribed. The Tutor's Course planned for Summer School was cancelled due to lack of numbers, and therefore a second Teaching Skills course was run in its place. Both courses produced very positive feedback, and it would seem that they are generating interest and meeting a real need. A Tutor's Course is planned for February 2002. A Dancing Proficiency Test was piloted at Summer School 2001, and the Examinations Committee is now considering feedback on the test from participants and others. The issue of verbal feedback at examinations has generated much discussion. The Committee proposed discontinuing the practice, but the Executive Council in May asked that they reconsider the matter. The Committee has proposed that Examination Fees should be increased with effect from July 2002 to £10.00 for the Preliminary Test and £15.00 for the Teacher's Certificate. Examination tours to New Zealand and to North America have taken place in 2001 and were very successful. Guidelines for overseas tours have been produced, with input from all examiners, and these will provide a very useful basis for examiners and tour co-ordinators to work from.

#### **Publications & Research Committee**

*Functions: To arrange for the publication of such instructional literature and other relevant material as may be deemed to be in the interests of the Society, subject to the approval of the estimated expenditure by the Finance Committee and to the approval of the Executive Council. To conduct and to encourage research in furtherance of the objects of the Society.*

**Members:** Ms Rosemary Gordon-Harvey (Convenor), Mr Alan Mair (Chairman), Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs Linda Gaul (Immediate Past Chairman), Mr Alan Macpherson (Archivist), Mrs Anne Gordon, Mr Peter Hyssett,

Mr Joe Murphy, Miss Angela Young.

*In attendance: Ms Elspeth Gray*

The Committee usually meets six times a year.

The major project to transfer all the Society's recordings to CD is ongoing, and this year we have produced Book 22, Book 33 (including a 9/8 version of Strip the Willow), and "A Fife Fairing" (containing 4 for 1978, 5 for 1982 and 3 Jubilee Dances) – all three sponsored by Branches, to whom grateful thanks are due for their support. The Leaflet Dances have been collected together and printed, with music, in a new book. To accompany the book, two CDs of music for the Leaflet Dances will be issued later in the year, one a transfer and one a re-recording.

This year's Subscription Copy was the Pocket Edition of Books 39-41. Next year's Subscription Copy, Book 42, will have Summer School as its theme, and 68 dances were submitted for consideration. The Committee has very much enjoyed the process of considering the submissions, and the final selection will be made in the autumn. Book 3 has been revised and reprinted, and the revised Pocket Edition 1-3 will be available shortly.

The Archivist continues to maintain the material held in the Society's archives, and to provide advice and support to members and others looking for information about the Society or particular issues.

### Summer School Committee

*Functions: To assist the Director in the administration of the Summer School.*

**Members:** Mrs Johan MacLean (Director), Mr Alan Mair (Chairman), Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs Linda Gaul (Immediate Past Chairman), Dr Ian Hall, Mrs Carol Smith, Mrs Moira Stacey, Mrs Rachel Wilton.

*In attendance: Mrs June Dick*

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

Despite slightly lower numbers this year, Summer School was again a great success. 779 students attended, of whom 249 were attending for the first time. The School had full use of University Hall, including Wardlaw wing, this year, and of course some attendees chose to stay at New Hall. New afternoon classes in Very Advanced Technique and Technique Analysis & Correction were introduced and were very well received. There were talks from invited speakers on health topics and, once again, massage facilities were available for those aching feet! A Musicians' Course was again held and was very successful, the highlight being the 17 participants playing for social dancing in the Younger Hall at the end of the week. A special, table-service, dinner was held one night each week, with invited guests.

Success once more too for the Winter School in Pitlochry in February, with the highlight being the ball at Blair Castle. Plans for the next Winter School, again in

Pitlochry, in 2002, are progressing well.

### Youth Committee

*Functions: to encourage children and young adults to participate in Scottish Country Dancing.*

**Members:** Mrs Fiona Turnbull (Youth Director), Mr Alan Mair (Chairman), Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman), Mrs Linda Gaul (Immediate Past Chairman), Mr Andrew Kellett, Miss Lorna Ogilvie, Mrs Marilyn Watson.  
*In attendance: Mrs Linda Bates*

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

This year has been no less busy than last for the Youth Committee, who have co-opted two students to join them. One of the major achievements has been the production, first available at Summer School, of "dance Scottish", a resource pack for teachers including a book, CD and video. Flyers advertising the pack have been sent to all Scottish schools, and will be sent to all Branches and Youth Co-ordinators. The Committee has set up a Working Party to organise an Easter School in 2002, for young people aged 18-30, and plans are well advanced. The first edition of a Youth Committee Newsletter was circulated to Youth Co-ordinators. Communications with other committees and external organisations relating to testing and examinations, days of dance & festivals, and information for students are all ongoing.



*Medicine Hat reunion of Vancouver Prelim Class with teacher Ron Wallace (all passed!)*

# [MINUTES OF 71ST AGM - 2000]

## PRESENT

**Office Bearers:** *The Earl of Mansfield (Hon. President and Chairman of the meeting), Mrs L Gaul (Chairman), Mr A Mair (Vice Chairman), Lt. Col. (retd) M Muriel Gibson (Hon. Vice President).*

**Past Chairmen:** *Mr A Aitkenhead, Mr W Clement, Mr G Lawson, Dr A MacFadyen, Mrs M Parker.*

192 delegates and 242 observers were also present.

**In Attendance:** *Mr J Fenningworth (Finance Convenor), Ms E Gray (Secretary/Administrator), and Mrs M Jeffcoat (Treasurer).*

## APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Honorary Vice Presidents, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the Honorable Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe and the Earl of Elgin; Past Chairmen, Mr J B C Brown and Miss W Miller; Elected Member, Mrs B Burnell; and from 12 delegates.

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Lord Mansfield, other office bearers, past chairmen, delegates and observers, noting that each in their own way had contributed to the Society's successful year. She had many happy memories from her four years in office as Vice Chairman and Chairman, particularly visiting various Branches for their Millennium events. This had been an exciting time for the Society, with many developments taking place. She welcomed Elspeth Gray as Secretary/Administrator, and thanked her for the work done in her first six months. The Chairman was very proud to have seen the first Winter School run successfully in Pitlochry, and looked forward to directing the next one in February 2001. The achievements of the Youth Committee had been most exciting, and the committee has got off to a flying start in their first year. Another highlight was the musicians' course held during Summer School, which gave enormous pleasure to participants. The Chairman thanked all the members and Branches who have contributed so generously to the project for transferring all the Society's recordings to digital format. She was confident that, under the leadership of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman, and with members' help, the Society would find the right answers to the challenges of the new century and that changes would be embraced

enthusiastically, and the Society would move from strength to strength.

## OPENING REMARKS

The Earl of Mansfield introduced Elizabeth Foulkes, the Provost of South Ayrshire Council, and invited her to address the meeting. Provost Foulkes said it was a pleasure to be invited, and welcomed members of the Society to Troon, where she believed she had never seen the hall so full. She recalled that, at the age of 10, she joined a Scottish dancing club in a village near Scone, for some three years. Although it was some time ago, she felt it had stood her in good stead, as she still remembered many of the steps on the occasions she was required to attend events including Scottish dancing. She still had her pumps, now rather dusty, but they prompted a lot of happy memories. Now that she herself was a grandparent, she hoped that her grandson would also take it up. In her role as Provost, she had visited all the primary and secondary schools in South Ayrshire, a high percentage of which have country dancing, and she was very proud of "her" youngsters. She was impressed at the world-wide representation at the meeting, and hoped that everyone would find their visit to South Ayrshire enjoyable. The Provost thanked Ayr Branch, especially Ethel Carlyle and Margaret Parker, and hoped

that the Society would continue its good work of bringing such enjoyment to people.

## PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

The President thanked the Lady Provost for her remarks. He welcomed all those present, and thanked them for their dedication and commitment to the Society. He particularly welcomed those who had made a major contribution to the success of the Society all over the world and would today receive the Society's Scroll of Honour.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY'S PATRON, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The message from our Patron read as follows:

*"I was pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the delegates of the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society which is being hosted by the Ayr Branch today in Troon. As Patron of the Association I send my best wishes to all those concerned for a successful and productive gathering."*

**Signed Elizabeth R**

## PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY SCROLLS OF HONOUR

Mrs Gaul, the Chairman, read out the citations and the Earl of Mansfield presented Scrolls of Honour to the following recipients:



Left to right: Beatrice Nairn, Erica Archer, Mary Murray, Mary Jamieson, Betty Lee Barnes, Anselm Lignau, Frans Ligtmans, Evelyn Murray, David Maiden (on behalf of Fife Council Physical Education Visiting Teacher Service), Margaret Ross, Frances Gray. (Brenda Burnell received her scroll at a local ceremony, and the award to Susan Nedderman was sadly made posthumously.)

- Erica Archer
- Betty Lee Barnes
- Frances Gray
- Mary Jamieson
- Frans Ligtmans
- Anselm Lignau
- Evelyn Murray
- Mary Murray
- Beatrice Nairn
- Margaret Ross
- Fife Council Physical Education Visiting Teacher Service (received by David Maiden)

David Maiden addressed the meeting briefly. He thanked the Society for the award and said, "Education is about partnership – We can only take the children so far. We have started them on the SCD road, now it's over to you."

Local presentations would be made to Brenda Burnell and to Ron Nedderman, with Susan Nedderman's posthumous award.

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6 NOVEMBER 1999

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

#### APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS

**Honorary President:** The Earl of Mansfield was unanimously re-elected as President of the Royal Scottish Country

Dance Society.

**Honorary Vice Presidents:** It was unanimously agreed to reappoint the following Honorary Vice Presidents of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society:

- Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel K.T.*
- Lt. Col. (retd) M. Muriel Gibson*
- The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe*
- The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine K.T.,C.D.*

**Chairman:** The appointment of Mr Alan Mair as Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was unanimously approved. The Earl of Mansfield called upon Mrs Gaul to present the Chairman's chain of office to Mr Mair.

In accepting the chain of office, Mr Mair said that he was aware of the honour being given him and undertook to do his best. He remarked that it was clearly a time for new appointments, with a new First Minister in the Scottish Parliament, and the election for President of the USA being underway – but these were nothing compared to being Chairman of this world-wide Society. He was aware of following a small band of very distinguished individuals. He thanked the Branches who had proposed him, and Simon Wales and David Taylor for

proposing and seconding the motion. He reflected that his father, who was born near Ayr and had attended Ayr Academy, would have been proud of this happening in Troon.

Mr Mair congratulated Mrs Gaul for her achievements as Chairman. Her enthusiasm was known to many, but perhaps not so well known was the amount of time, knowledge and commitment she had given to the post - she had set a standard that would be hard to follow. Over the last two years, he had been kept fully informed and his opinions sought and valued. He believed that he and Mrs Gaul were the first Chairman and Vice Chairman to use e-mail, and he felt they would not have managed without this facility. Mr Mair thanked both his and Mrs Gaul's spouses for their tolerance, and occasionally advice. He then presented the Past Chairman's badge to Mrs Gaul.

**Vice Chairman:** The appointment of Mrs Jean Martin as Vice Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was unanimously approved. Mrs Martin joined the platform party.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY/ ADMINISTRATOR

The appointment of Ms Elspeth Gray as Secretary/Administrator of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was unanimously approved.

#### ELECTION OF SIX MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The following members were unanimously confirmed as the elected members to the Executive Council for the period 2000/2001: Miss Dorothy Hamilton, Mr Peter Hyssett, Mr Andrew Kellett, Miss Lesley Martin, Miss Margaret Ross and Mr David Watson.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Gray presented the Annual Report. She began with events at headquarters; Gill Parker had left the Society in December 1999, and she herself joined in March 2000. While there was no



Secretary in post, the headquarters team had kept everything running smoothly under the leadership of June Dick. Elizabeth McNeill left in June, and in August was replaced by Kate Lawrie. The team was therefore not at full strength for much of the year, and it said much for their continuing hard work, commitment and professionalism that most things have continued to run smoothly. The exception is delay in production of the Bulletin, for which she apologised. Members joined in acknowledging the hard work of an excellent team.

The Publications & Research Committee had a busy year. Book 41, this year's subscription copy, had been well received, as had the accompanying CD, which had sold more than any other CD to date. A special Commemorative Edition of Book 1 was produced, and also a book of alternative tunes for musicians, compiled by Muriel Johnstone. The project to transfer recordings to CD has been very successful, with the music for Books 1, 19 and 39 being released in July, thanks to Perth & Perthshire Branch, Edinburgh Branch and an anonymous donation in memory of Herbert Wiseman. Thanks were expressed to all the Branches and individuals who are supporting the project, including Ayr Branch who were presenting a cheque at the AGM dance.

The Management & Membership Working Party has continued to investigate possible alternative structures for the Society. They submitted an interim report to General Purposes in September, and General Purposes Committee has subsequently produced a progress report for the Executive Council in November, as well as a review of the Strategic Plan. Marketing & Public Relations have dealt with a number of issues, but one to highlight is the website. This has made real strides, especially with the addition of a superb section on the books and music, with an index of dances showing in which publication and on which

recording each can be found. Grateful thanks went to Jim Healy and Ian Brockbank for their work in helping the website progress.

The Finance Committee had been working on a variety of issues, but with cost savings being a constant in all considerations. Ongoing issues include investigating alternatives to the current insurance arrangements, reviewing agreements with recorded music distributors, and most recently producing guidelines on Gift Aid and legacies, the latter initiated by the Marketing Subcommittee. Accounting software has now been installed and training is under way to transfer some of the accounting function in-house.

It had been another full and challenging year for the Examinations Committee. Following the success of the Examiners' Seminar in October 1999, a review of the examinations system was submitted to the Executive Council in May, where most of its recommendations were accepted. It is hoped to trial the proposed new dancing proficiency test at Summer School 2001. There had been examination tours to Australia and Japan this year, and the Potential Tutors' course at Summer School was very successful.

The Summer School Committee, under the directorship of Johan MacLean in her first year in post, oversaw great success with both the Winter and Summer Schools of 2000. The Musicians' Course at Summer School was thoroughly enjoyed by both course participants and by those attending Summer School.

The Youth Committee had achieved much in its first year. The first newsletter has been produced, and will be put on the website as well as being distributed to Branches and individuals with responsibility for young people's activities. Work is progressing with Learning and Teaching Scotland to produce a resource pack for teachers, which it is hoped to complete in the first

part of next year. A model Code of Practice had been produced for Branches in line with the requirements of the UK Children's Act, and again posted on the website as well as having been distributed.

Ms Gray concluded by thanking members for having made her feel so welcome, and particularly Mr Mair and Mrs Gaul, who had been especially supportive.

The Annual Report was unanimously adopted.

### **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

Mr John Fenningworth, Finance Convenor, presented the accounts.

Mr Fenningworth confirmed that the accounts were for the year 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, and included the Draft Budget for the year 2000/2001. He thanked the members of the Finance Committee and the head office staff for their support, constructive discussion and decision making, which had enabled them to deal with the ever increasing workload of the Committee.

The Society had taken some hard decisions during the year about where and on what its money was spent in an effort to control its costs, in light of the fact that the Society's income was not sufficient to cover the costs. However, even with the benefit of not paying Secretary's salary for three months, nor paying the Executive Council's expenses in May, a deficit was still the end result. The deficit for the year was £1,849.

Mr Fenningworth went on to highlight some aspects of the 1999/2000 accounts. The General Fund income for the year, at £457,000, was down from £493,000 in the previous year. Most of this was due to the drop in Summer School attendance. Whilst the Society had the benefit of an 8.3% increase in subscriptions, from £6.00 to £6.50, the effect of a declining annual membership had resulted in the

annual subscription income falling by 2.8%, and this will be a continuing feature of the Society for the foreseeable future. Many donations had been received, and the Society continued to be eternally grateful for all donations.

In the previous year's accounts, Summer School income benefited from the 75th anniversary, and the lower income this year was the result of fewer people attending. He was happy to report that this was not the case in 2000/2001 where the numbers and the income had increased. Summer School was a very important part of the income generation activities that the Society undertakes and without its invaluable contribution the Society would be in a very poor financial state. Winter School was an innovation and proved a success both as an activity and financially, and will be expanded and repeated next year.

Merchandising was one of the poorest areas. Excluding the amount sold to one music distributor and what is sold at Summer School, £55,000 worth of goods were sold, to approximately 19,000 members, averaging less than £3 per person. He believed that we do not sell what members or the public want to buy, and there is an ongoing need to review what the Society should be selling to members. This would be important for Marketing, Publications, General Purposes and Finance Committees. Mr Fenningworth asked members to take time to complete the questionnaires about merchandising which were being distributed at the AGM, as this would form part of the process of review.

Investment income continued to rise as the Society had a strong balance sheet, with some very good investments, and the market is buoyant.

Members and Branches had generously donated over £4,800 towards the transfer of music to CDs, enabling the Society to re-release 3 more CDs during the year, and further substantial sums have been

received or promised to continue this work.

With regard to expenditure, costs of the Society, excluding Summer and Winter Schools, had remained relatively static. This had been achieved by not paying 3 months' salary to a Secretary, not paying Executive Council's expenses last May, and reducing the number and costs of the Newsbriefs. Other steps were taken to reduce costs, such as going on-line with credit card payments, reducing costs from 3% per transaction to 1.8%. However, he believed the effect of these cost-cutting measures, while trying to maintain the services offered by the Society, was both stifling the Society and unproductive, and many of these benefits/savings were unlikely to be repeated in future.

With regard to the Balance Sheet, the writing-off of stock items that are worthless had continued, and will be ongoing. There were always large sums of cash and creditors, most of which relate to Summer School, which happened just after the year-end. The Balance Sheet is strong, and investments continued to grow.

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund had grown dramatically from the previous year because of the Kitty MacLauchlan bequest. As a result, the fund was able to support more activities, and the General Purposes Committee would review any application to the Fund for extension work.

A draft budget for 2000/2001 was presented to the Executive Council in May of this year. Figures had been revised since then, in the light of known changes. The budget circulated and presented for this meeting reflected the review of available information at the August meeting of the Finance Committee. The budget showed that a deficit is again expected this financial year, but this may not happen as the Society is dependent on others for much

of its income. The Executive Council voted in May that subscriptions should not be increased this year in light of all the other changes that will happen as the Society restructured its management and membership.

For Summer School 2000, the final income and contribution would be higher than budgeted, thanks to the efforts of all involved. At the last General Purposes Committee meeting, it was agreed to contribute £5,000 from the JMMF towards the costs of the Youth Committee, subject to approval by the Executive Council in November. However, the costs of the Youth Committee will be higher, and the Publications Committee will seek the Executive Council's approval for other non-budgeted expenditure.

Mr Fenningworth concluded by saying that the future of the Society was in members' hands – if they buy our merchandise, attract new members, attend the Winter and Summer Schools and make donations to the Society then deficit may well become a surplus.

The annual accounts as circulated were unanimously approved.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

The re-appointment of Mr Humphrey Holmes CA as Auditor was approved unanimously.

#### **VOTE OF THANKS**

Lorraine Michie said she was honoured to be giving the first vote of thanks for the new millennium (or the last of the old). The Society was indebted to Lord Mansfield for the business-like way in which he had conducted the meeting. Thanks were expressed to Linda Gaul for all the time she had given, having worked tirelessly to promote the Society. Miss Michie wished Alan Mair success in his new position as Chairman, and thanked both Linda and Alan for conducting the Open Forum and Discussion Group in the morning.

Miss Michie thanked the Provost for attending the meeting and addressing the delegates. She also thanked the Chairman of Ayr Branch, Andrew McConnell, the Branch Committee and members. A two-day event like this would not be possible without the hard work and camaraderie of the Branch members, and she recognised the time and effort that had gone into making the

whole event run smoothly. She also thanked the hallkeeper and his team for their hard work. Congratulations and thanks were also expressed to the Secretary/Administrator and the team at headquarters.

She hoped that next year, there would be no worries regarding transport, weather or fuel, and she looked forward to

welcoming delegates to Perth.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The President closed the meeting and reminded delegates that the next Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 3 November 2001 in Perth.

## [COURSES FOR 2002]

### **TUTORS' COURSE**

9-10 February, Apex Hotel, Edinburgh

**Tutor:** Lesley Martin

**Musician:** Robert Mackay

Numbers may have to be limited on this course. The closing date for applications will be 1 December 2001.

*Please note all applicants will be responsible for their own travel arrangements, accommodation and meals other than lunch which will be available during the course. There will also be a course fee of £15.00 per person, with the balance being funded by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund.*

### **MUSICIANS' COURSE**

2002 Summer School, St Andrews

Following the success of this course in 2000 and 2001, it is hoped to offer it again in 2002. The course week and other details have not yet been finalised, contact HQ for more information. The course will be open to anyone over the age of 16 interested in playing for Scottish country dancing.

Application forms for courses can be obtained either from your Branch Secretary or from HQ.

Complete forms should be returned to the Secretary at:

**RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF**



## [NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES]

*Sadly, space does not allow reports from all the Branches, but here are some highlights.*



*Aberdeen Branch celebrate their 75th anniversary.*

### **ABERDEEN BRANCH**

The Branch's 75th anniversary celebrations began in September 2000, with a dance at Haddo House, the home of Lady Aberdeen, the Branch's Honorary President. 'An Aberdeen Collection' book of dances was launched as part of the evening (see photo). This was followed by a Civic Reception, a dance and the Annual Day School, and a special afternoon of Tea, Chat and Performance. And finally, the anniversary was also marked with a recording of 'Take the Floor' in November.

### **ISLE OF ISLAY BRANCH**

Although a small Branch, Islay tries hard and involves a lot of people in its activities! In addition to Branch classes over the winter, they have a weekly dance for visitors in the summer. Members teach Scottish dancing in all the Islay and Jura (neighbouring island) primary schools, in 4 of which it is part of the curriculum. All schools participate in a Festival of Dance in March, where 90-100 children enjoy themselves thoroughly. The 19th Annual Weekend School was held in May, with well over 80 people coming to Islay to join in.

### **ISLE OF SKYE BRANCH**

In addition to its normal round of activities, including the very successful May weekend, with around 180 participants, Isle of Skye this year repeated an innovation from last year. This was a dinner dance to which (usually non-dancing) spouses and partners were invited. Some ceilidh and simpler RSCDS dances were included, which the Branch hope will tempt new members to join, as well as showing those left at home what they are missing!

### **LANARK BRANCH**

Lanark Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, and held a special dance to mark the occasion. Her Majesty the Queen visited New Lanark; May Jamieson, a Scroll recipient in 2000, organised a dancing display involving primary school children, and was presented to Her Majesty. Around 140 children were also involved in the Day of Dance in November.

### **WASHINGTON BRANCH**

The branch celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with a special dance in October, when the Branch also honoured Betty Lee Barnes, on the occasion of her award of Society Scroll

of Honour. The evening was a great success.

### **LONDON, ONTARIO BRANCH**

A weekend of special celebrations was held in May to mark the Branch's 40th anniversary. 113 people attended a Reception, Ceilidh and Dance on the Friday, followed by workshops and a special Dinner and Ball on the Saturday, attended by 138 people. There were displays of photos, newspaper cuttings and dance programmes, and an updated history of the Branch was produced.

### **WEST RENFREWSHIRE BRANCH**

The 75th anniversary year has been a very successful one for the Branch, culminating in the Annual Ball in March, with a Children's Anniversary Party a week later. 180 members attended the Ball, and 50 dancers from 4-14 years were welcomed to the Party.

### **BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH**

Bournemouth Branch is delighted to have very active Junior and Teenage members. As well as participating at all the Branch's main functions, they hold their own New Year Charity Dance. The photograph shows those who participated in the Country Dance Section of the Slough Arts Festival, where they took the 11 yrs & under Trophy for the 13th year in succession, the 16 yrs & under Trophy for the 10th year in succession, and also the 16 yrs & over Trophy.



*Bournemouth junior and teenage members*



*Liverpool Branch celebrate 50th anniversary*

**LIVERPOOL BRANCH**

The 50th anniversary of the Branch was celebrated with a special dance in February, and a Branch memoir "Fifty Years of Dancing" was published. The birthday cake was cut by Rita Ackers, Branch Honorary President and founder member, assisted by Liz Leyland, the youngest new member of the adult class.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH**

The Branch has had a relatively quiet year, but held a particularly successful Assembly in April, where many members had their first experience of dancing to live music – 3 members of the Dalriada Band who were touring Australia. An excellent experience of, quote, "the higher pleasures of SCD" for all!

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**

Highlight of the year for the Branch was the 25th Anniversary Ball held in October, where representatives from distant Branches joined in a magical evening. An additional event for this adventurous Branch came in the form of an Alaska "inside passage" trip, comprising 38 members/friends/family. The roll of the ship was a challenge to the dancers, but undeterred, they hurried home to take part in the San Diego Highland Games and Del Mar County Fair!



*Lorne Branch*

**LORN, ARGYLL BRANCH**

Lorn Branch welcomed 179 dancers from Thurso to Worcester to its very successful 40th Weekend School. Pictured are Branch Committee and Weekend School Committee members, together with Anita Mackenzie (Weekend School teacher) and 4 members attending for the first time.



*Whitehead Branch*

**WHITEHEAD BRANCH**

Highlight of the year for the Branch was the 50th Anniversary Dance in July 2000, attended by over 100 dancers. The anniversary cake was cut by two of the Branches earliest members, who were in turn presented with floral baskets by the youngest member.



*Western Australia Branch celebrate 25th anniversary*

**STIRLING BRANCH**

A notable event for the Branch this year was the retiral of Doris Milne – their "Mrs Milne of Kinneff" – from playing for many years as the Demonstration Group pianist, and her retiral was marked with a class party. Social events were well supported and successful, with 52 children attending the Junior Day School and Dance, and 250 children attending a Day of Dance in March. A "Family Night" was held for the first time, and proved very popular.

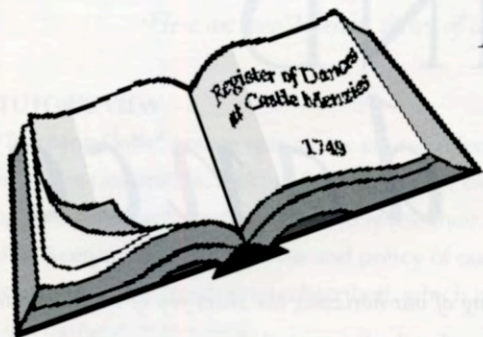
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH**

Western Australia Branch celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with an Anniversary Ball. Pictured are members of the 2001 Branch Committee cutting the commemorative cake.

# [BRANCH WORKSHOPS 2001/2002]

WORKSHOP	BRANCH	WORKSHOP	BRANCH
<b>2001</b>			
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
2001 October 12-14	Hamilton (Ontario)	2002 March 9	Doncaster & District
2001 October 27		2002 March 9	Leicester
<b>NOVEMBER</b>		2002 March 16	Richmond
2001 November 2-4	Kitchener-Waterloo	2002 March 16	Royal Tunbridge Wells
2001 November 3-5	Medicine Hat	2002 March 23	Edinburgh
2001 November 3-5	New York	2002 March 23	Bath
2001 November 3-5	Kingston (Ontario)	2002 March 24	Hague District
2001 November 9-10	Victoria	2002 March 26	Monklands
2001 November 9-11	Croydon & District	2002 March 29-31	Leeds
2001 November 9-10	Toronto	2002 March 30	Banffshire
2001 November 10	Bristol	<b>APRIL</b>	
2001 November 17	Calgary	2002 April 6	Paris
2001 November 17	Edinburgh	2002 April 12-13	Helensburgh & District
2001 November 23-25	Carlisle & Border	2002 April 13	New York
2001 November 23-25	Leeds	2002 April 20	N W Craven
2001 November 25	Hague District	2002 April 20-21	Vancouver
<b>2002</b>		2002 April 27	Somerset
<b>JANUARY</b>		2002 April 27	South Wales
2002 January 5	N W Craven	<b>MAY</b>	
2002 January 18-20	Falkirk	2002 May 3-4	Isle of Islay
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		2002 May 3-5	Tokai
2002 February	Seattle	2002 May 16-18	New York
2002 February 2	Carlisle & Border	2002 May 17-18	Isle of Skye
2002 February 2	Inverness & District	2002 May 17-19	Duns & District
2002 February 2	Ottawa	2002 May 18-20	Delft
2002 February 15-17	Hawaii	2002 May 18-20	Leeds
2002 February 15-17	York & North Humberside	<b>JUNE</b>	
2002 February 16	Leeds	2002 June	Montreal
2002 February 16	Oxfordshire	2002 June 5-7	Washington DC
2002 February 16	Stirling	2002 June 15	Leeds
2002 February 16	Vancouver	<b>JULY</b>	
2002 February 24-25	Tokyo	2002 July	Boston
<b>MARCH</b>		2002 July 6-13	Australian Winter School
2002 March	Dundee	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
2002 March	West Lothian	2002 September	Ayr
2002 March	Cincinnati	2002 September 7	Lochaber
2002 March 1-3	Atlanta	2002 September 20-22	Ottawa
2002 March 2	Somerset	2002 September 21	Leeds
2002 March 2	Birmingham	2002 September 28	Manchester
2002 March 2	London (Ontario)	2002 September 30	Saskatchewan
2002 March 3	Berks/Hants/Surrey Border	<b>OCTOBER</b>	
2002 March 8-9	Lorn (Argyll)	2002 October	Sheffield
2002 March 8-10	Winnipeg	2002 October 12	London
2002 March 9	Cheshire	2002 October 12	Ribble Valley
2002 March 9	Perth & Perthshire	2002 October 19	Leeds
2002 March 9	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne & Dist.	2002 October 25-27	Sutton Coldfield

# MONTY, THE MENZIES MANUSCRIPT *and me*



One of my (and a great many other people's) favourite dances is *The Montgomerie's Rant* from Book 10, which gives the source as *Castle Menzies ms., 1749*. I knew that this manuscript was in the Sandeman Library in Perth and had often thought of looking at the original but had never got around to it. When the Sandeman closed and moved with great (and merited) fanfare to the new A K Bell Library with its expanded Local History section, I decided the time had come. But, first, I had to find it in the catalogue of the Athole Collection to which the Librarian directed me. Two lengthy visits drew a blank. Nothing under dance/dancing, castle, Menzies, manuscript or any other key that I could think of. Unrelated to that search, however, I needed to look up a dance in Book 34 and happened to notice the reference to *Couteraller's Rant* as being *The Register of Dances at Castle Menzies 1749*. Back to the Athole card index and, there it was – under "Register". I filled out the application form and was surprised to be handed a handsome red bound book with gold lettering on the spine. I opened it to find several pages of letter sized paper cleverly bound to protect them but still allowing both sides of the closely written sheets to be read – paper was an expensive commodity in the eighteenth century. What I had in my hands was nothing less than a 250-year-old crib sheet.

My eyes leapt to dance number 4 and I almost laughed out loud. All those years of carefully checking dance programmes to be sure that the names were precise, especially wary of the apostrophe in Monty, and there it was, clear as day – *The Montgomerie's Rant a Strathspey Reeel*. I read on: "1st pair goes back to back & casts off then back to back again & 2d woman casts up, & the man down, then reels above & below then the 1st pair sets hand in hand to the 2d woman then to the 3d man then to the 3d woman & then to the 2d man; then leads out att the sides."

"Back to Back!" – even being in a library couldn't stop the exclamation. Fortunately, the Local History section is frequented by researchers into family history and the odd excited shout is greeted with smiles – somebody has just filled

in a piece of a jigsaw. I just sat nonplussed and musing. "Back to back and set, that's six bars! Maybe it's a long cast, that's eight bars and would make it a forty bar dance . . . and, what's the significance of it being a strathspey?" The questions have continued over the years since I first read it but people interested in early dance have shown me that the style of the time would have allowed one to dance back to back and cast in four bars although it's not casting as we know it, more of a sidle round the couple below. And that, of course, is the clue to the change in the modern start of "cross and cast . . ." to fit in with a different style of dancing. The more I have studied it, the more I come round to thinking that the interpretation is inspired and part of what makes the dance such a favourite. I am less convinced by the interpretation of the last eight bars where I think that lead out at the sides would be more satisfactory for the dancing couple but it's still a truly great dance.

Of the 18 dances in the manuscript, 12 have been interpreted and published by the Society (with greater or lesser degrees of success) but my main interest now is in the more general questions. Who wrote it? How did it end up in the Athole collection? What significance is there to a selection of dances dated only three years after Culloden that includes such titles as *O'er the watter to Charly* and *You'r welcome Charly Stuart*? Some day, one day when I have time, I may tackle these questions more systematically but, having read the document numerous times over the last few years I venture to conjecture that the answer to the first two of those questions may be that the list was produced by the Dancing Master at Castle Menzies who also (later) worked at Blair Atholl. Certainly, there are occasional notes in the descriptions that are more reminiscent of teaching points than dance pointers. But, will we ever know? For anyone interested, my complete transcription of the manuscript is on the web at: [www.strathspey.org/history/menzies](http://www.strathspey.org/history/menzies)

**Jim Healy**  
Perth, Scotland



# BLIND dance

*"The widening of our horizons, the sheer joy of being able to do what other people take for granted, is a memory which will live with us all for many years to come"*

A blind member, after Switzerland 1995

Blind Dance is a group of blind and visually impaired adults who dance on a one-to-one basis with sighted partners. On the dance floor, where they are able to move securely, they feel for this short time that they are on an equal footing with their sighted companions, in a world where they can't drive a car, run for a bus, or even hurry along a crowded street – all things the sighted world takes granted.

We meet weekly in Glasgow, members coming from the wider West of Scotland, and during the seventeen years of our existence have moved from simple circle dances, to English country and international folk dance. More recently we have taken Ceilidh and Scottish on board, and have frequently mounted costumed programmes of the 13th c. Provençal, Regency and Scottish dance, not only as a means of augmenting our funding, but also providing a focus to our activities.

Additionally, when funds permit we run daily workshops and even the occasional residential weekend workshop of dance, where we are able to spend more time socialising than is possible on our busy Monday evenings. By courtesy of some of our helpers we occasionally attend audio-described theatre and ballet performances.

We were the Scottish winners of the Government's 'Make a Difference Volunteering Award', for which there was an entry of 300, forty-nine of whom came from Scotland. Chairman, guide dog and secretary went to London to receive the £1,000 award from the then Home Secretary Michael Howard, with Lord James Douglas Hamilton. This award helped to fund our visit to the Early Dance Festival in Cambridge in 1996 when we presented 'The Deil's Awa', a 25-minute programme of dance, song and braille readings commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of Robert Burns.

In July 1999 we won the Scottish section of the Nationwide Building Society 'Local Heroes' awards, again for the quality of our helpers, and on 18th October were summoned down to the House of Commons to take part, together with another 39 organisations, in the final round. As a result of this invitation we collected £250-worth of retail vouchers and a cheque for £500.

In 1995 we spent an eventful week in Switzerland where we presented a full-length costumed programme in two locations. The following is a translation of the review in the daily newspaper Die Basler Zeitung:

*"An impressive experience and a rare chance to consider how blind people feel. It was hardly possible to decide who was visually impaired and who was not. With great security and confidence everybody moved equally freely, some quietly and invisibly leading others, who moved forward, stretching out a hand confident that they would be met. It was a delight to see the Regency costumes, and the lively spontaneity of the Scottish section made everyone forget their inhibitions and freely join in the audience participation."*

Our most recent fund raising fund-raising performance earlier this year was based on the well-known Memoirs of a Highland Lady, by Mrs. Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus. The piece with its braille readings will be repeated at this year's Early Dance Festival, which takes place in Edinburgh on Saturday 13th October. During the Festival's evening Ceilidh a Blind Dance team will perform the Herbridean Weaving Lilt with puit a beul from our guest, Johan MacLean.

For information about the Festival, please telephone June McKay on 0141 889 1760.

**June McKay,  
April 2001**



# [TEACHING SKILLS COURSE]

*The Teaching Skills Course held in February 2001 generated very positive feedback.*

*Here are two different views of the course – firstly, from the Tutor, and secondly, a participant.*

## THE TUTOR'S VIEW

The "Teaching Skills" course was a new course offered by the Examinations Committee. Held in Edinburgh over two days, it was open to any teacher who wanted to revise their methods of teaching, keeping in mind the aims and policy of our Society. The course was very much over-subscribed, which indicates there is a demand in this field.

When I received the application forms of those accepted, I realised there was a wide range of experience. The object, therefore, was to try to give varied topics so that all would benefit irrespective of their experience. Since this was a new type of course and not being sure of what to expect, some people had indicated that they were rather nervous. There had to be practical work but I wanted to avoid anyone feeling forced to 'perform' in front of other teachers. I therefore divided people into groups, each one consisting of teachers of different grades, covering the whole spectrum of classes from beginners and children to very advanced and certificate teaching.

The emphasis was on getting back to basic structure and as the groups proceeded to decide how they would teach various formations with their related teaching points, to analyse dances and plan their presentations, great camaraderie developed, making it easier for those appointed to teach for the group.

Everyone participated in the general discussions and it was encouraging to hear the interchange of ideas. As one more isolated teacher said, it was reassuring to find all the points re-emphasised, as sometimes one can feel that people do not want detailed teaching and that only dances, not dancing, are taught. To learn how to dance not only gives us more enjoyment, but helps us to be better team members with whom to dance.

From the verbal and written feedback, the participants found the course beneficial and worthwhile. The topics noted as most valuable included teaching practice sessions with critiques, dance analysis, detailed teaching points, class management, correction of faults in footwork, warming up/cooling down exercises, use of music and discussion on the 'debatable' areas.

For my part, it was gratifying that everyone quickly cooperated and worked together and that a sociable, friendly atmosphere prevailed. We accept that it is our duty to uphold standards but not to the detriment of social enjoyment. Ours is a hobby to encourage exercise along with friendship. The course gave us an opportunity to interact in fellowship with people of similar concerns and interests and to gain from each other something to enable us to go back with a refreshed approach and confidence to keep alive this wonderful heritage.

**Elma McCausland**  
Course Tutor

## A STUDENT'S VIEW

It was with a real sense of trepidation that I presented myself at the Apex Hotel in Edinburgh on the morning of 9 February. I felt very much the novice amongst the 20 participants – yes, I'd had my teacher's certificate for a number of years, but since then had not been teaching much at all. Most of the others were "names" in the teaching field, some even teaching at Summer School! However, Elma McCausland made us all feel very welcome, and after introductions all round the serious business of the weekend began.

The format of the day was to be part discussion and part practical exercises designed to cover the standard elements of a Scottish country dance class, and we began by talking through the various points to look for in step practice. We launched into a series of warm-up exercises, then split into pairs to "dissect" each other's footwork, practising the observation skills we had been reminded were fundamental to teaching and improving the technique of the class. We then returned to discussion of the various tempi suitable for teaching specific steps, and James Gray, the musician for the course, joined Elma in suggesting possible tunes and movements that could be used. Have you ever thought of using the Elephant Walk as part of a Scottish dance warm-up? It's good fun, and certainly lightens the atmosphere!

In the afternoon, we split up into groups, each looking at a specific formation, which we then had to teach to the rest of the class. Everyone joined in the discussion of how they might teach it differently, particularly if teaching children rather than adults. Everyone enjoyed participating in the talk sessions, and acknowledged what a valuable opportunity it was to exchange ideas in such a non-threatening environment. The session ended with a discussion around the use of class musicians and how to work with them as allies, and also on the use of recorded music in classes.

On Sunday, the sessions were dedicated to the analysis of dances, firstly in general terms and then addressing some "problem" dances. The manual provided a constant source of reference, although it was amazing how many times the phrase "grey area" seemed to occur! Elma guided us ably through the pitfalls as we took it in turns to teach the various dances she had selected.

The course came to an end mid-afternoon, with all agreeing it had been a most worthwhile venture whose repetition should be encouraged, even if just within Branches. All the participants expressed their thanks to Elma and James, to the Examinations Committee whose initiative this was, and to the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund for providing funding. I hope many others will have the opportunity to take part in this course in the future.

**Rosemary Gordon-Harvey**  
Edinburgh

# IS IT TIME TO *change your feet?*

## RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION OF THE REEL/JIG POUSSETTE

*Why is it that men are enjoined to start the poussette on the left foot when it is much easier to maintain the flow of steps by continuing into the figure with the right foot? Many dancing as the male partner have themselves found it easier to perform the figure without having to change feet. Is the time not ripe to accept that there is no good reason to persist with a pedantic foot change which many men find difficult and even off-putting. Research into the matter is interesting.*

About ten years ago there was correspondence in the London Branch "Reel" in which it was argued that there was no valid reason for men to have to start on the left foot. The letter aroused considerable interest with replies reproduced below from senior figures in the RSCDS.

"On inventing the rectangular poussette, or taking its essentials from J M Duthie, the Society was at pains to decry the 'waltz round' poussette then current. The new figure is surely much more in keeping with the spirit of Scottish country dancing; but we now know that the 'waltz round' has been the only form of the poussette since it was introduced from the cotillon. (The old lady who conveniently remembered the poussette danced with a two-handed hold is irrelevant, since the early waltz used this hold.)

"Duthie's poussette differed from the Society's version mainly in having all the dancers begin with the right foot. *Vir Tutis'* (the earlier Reel correspondent) experience with skilled partners confirms that it is not really for the ladies' benefit that the men are enjoined to begin awkwardly with their left feet. The intention was clearly to keep the partners' feet extending in the same direction – a feature introduced by the waltz and continued by subsequent couple dances, but which is unfamiliar in country dancing.

"Thus the Society was equally determined to supersede the 'waltz round' poussette, and to preserve a conspicuously alien feature. Feet extending in the same direction seem appropriate to our dancing only where that is essential, when dancers face each other and move together with sideways or side-to-side steps – especially in strathspey poussettes. This also makes these figures neatly fit the steps, which is always pleasing. A rectangular poussette begun with the right foot does just that, and there seems every reason to allow men that pleasure."

"John Duthie invented the modern figure in 1925 and originally he did not want the men to commence with their left foot. (There is independent evidence that Allie Anderson concurred

with his view). However, in the 'Complete Guide to Scottish Country Dancing' which he co-authored with Allie Anderson, the change of foot for the men is specifically mentioned.

This book also included two different poussettes: the normal poussette, the way we dance it today, and the Border Poussette which has a quarter turn on bar 6, a quarter turn on bar 7 and fall back on bar 8, with all starting on the right foot. This of course is easier to dance, looks nicer and, I understand is the way John Duthie originally intended the figure to end."

"By the time the Society was formed the poussette was commonly danced using a ballroom hold. The men, therefore, started on their left foot as they would do in a waltz. The formation, like our modern poussettes, could either be all-round or progressive. Each took eight bars of music with the couples dancing round each other.

"Research showed, however, that this was not the traditional form of the poussette. A letter dated 25 January 1802 to William Watson a farmer at Blantyre from his dancing teacher throws light on this. It clearly states that the poussette was to be danced with a two-hand hold. (*no mention of feet?*). This letter is the earliest reference to a poussette in Scotland, and can now be found in the Atholl Collection. The Society decided that it would revert to this original hold for the poussette but retained the man starting on their left foot which had by then become familiar and well established (*in the waltz hold*).

"It is interesting that the Society justifies the left footed poussette purely on the grounds of what it believes to be traditionally correct. The questions of whether it is easier to perform or more aesthetically pleasing than a right footed poussette do not appear to concern the Society."

I communicated this information to the Society's present Archivist asking for any further information from the archives. His response was:

*"I have searched thoroughly in the Society Archive and can find no additional information to that which you already have.*

There is, however, a letter from a Stirling dancing master to Mrs Stewart in reply to a question from her regarding the form of the poussette. He replied that it was done with a two-handed hold (as we do now) but gave no details regarding phrasing or foot movements.

*"'Poussette' is a quadrille term and I imagine that it was borrowed from the French Country Dance which in turn probably borrowed it from the English Country Dance where it was known as the 'draw'. In this movement two couples moved around one another in a regular (probably rectangular) pattern by pushing and pulling with both hands joined. In the quadrilles, the poussette would be danced probably by one couple in the manner of that in La Russe, and therefore would be a rectilinear shaped formation. Certainly pas de basque as we dance it in SCD would not have been the step used."*

Referring to the original editions of books 1 to 6 published before 1930, the poussette is described as a progression with four quarter turns as follows: partners take hands and turn, with eight Pas de Basque steps, the woman starting with the right foot, the man with the left foot taking two steps for each of the quarter turns. From the centre of the set the first quarter turn with the 1st man and 2nd lady acting as the swivel points takes the first couple to the men's side and the second couple to the women's side of the set. The next quarter turn takes the 1st man and 2nd lady into the centre, back to back, their partners acting as the swivel points. Again with the 1st lady and the 2nd man acting as the swivels the couples turn back to the side lines. With the 1st man and 2nd lady now acting as the swivel points the final turn completes the progression. With the publication of Book 7 in 1931, the new and current version of the poussette is described with one Pas de Basque for each of the eight movements illustrated. There is a note accepting that the poussette done with four half turns is equally correct. There is no mention of starting feet for the new version.

Both the modern and the 4 quarter turn version poussettes are symmetric figures with the first man and the second lady tracing out the same pattern, just as the second man and the first lady do. In the former it is logical for both dancers to start on the right foot; in the latter on the left foot.

In the current form of the poussette, if the men start on the left foot, the first man has an awkward quarter turn crossing right foot over left on bar four and similarly the second man on bar two. This has a noticeable effect on their partners' dancing. It is common for the less able men on these bars to turn on the spot and leave the travelling to their partners. By starting on the right foot these quarter turns become natural and equate to the quarter turns by the women (first women on bar two and second women on bar four). Some may argue that it is untidy having the jeté stick out in different directions if all start on the right foot, but both dancers start on the right foot for four bar

two handed turns. When the jeté is in the same direction it is not unknown in a crowded ballroom for there to be a collision of feet! In any case if the jeté is so obvious, then the step is obtrusive detracting from the grace of the dance.

It is difficult enough for many men to dance continuously without having the added and unnecessary complication of changing feet. Such acrobatics are fine for good dancers to show off their prowess, but Scottish Country Dancing is primarily social dancing, and the easier we can make it the better. It is clear that in the early days there was no established tradition regarding starting feet in the two-handed poussette, so to make the change is not breaking with tradition. It is hard to reconcile that on the one hand the Society was at pains to decry the 'waltz round' poussette while on the other to retain the waltz hold footwork.

With one fewer hurdle to overcome might this not help to make Scottish Country Dancing more enjoyable for men. It seems a simple and sensible change for the Society to make.

**Wilson Nicol**

*with acknowledgement to contributions from senior members of the Society.*

## SUMMER SCHOOL

### *Interested in Keeping Fit?*

Come and join us at our annual Summer School in St. Andrews. Scottish Country dance classes for beginners through to very advanced. Our teachers and musicians are a joy to hear. Great social atmosphere, with around 1000 students worldwide attending to meet old friends and make new ones. 1 or 2 week courses with accommodation, if desired.

Summer School runs from  
14 July-11 August 2002.

Further details available from  
12 Coates Crescent,  
Edinburgh EH3 7AF  
Tel: 0131 225 3854  
Fax: 0131 225 7783  
email: [info@rscdshq.freemove.uk](mailto:info@rscdshq.freemove.uk)

*Get in touch and really  
enjoy your summer break*

# ATTRACTING *younger dancers*

*When I went to school in Scotland, Science was taught as a single subject and Art consisted of still life drawing either of inanimate objects or fellow pupils – all fully clothed! Only boys did Technology, ie they made a wooden stool with a rush seat, while we girls learned how to make soup or stitch an apron.*

*We were, however, all taught Scottish dancing during the Christmas season.*

Everyone left school with a knowledge of The Gay Gordons, St Bernard's Waltz and The Dashing White Sergeant, and some of us also progressed to The Duke of Perth and The Eightsome Reel. These days, only a minority of Scottish schools teach any Scottish dancing, despite the popularity of ceilidhs and of the kilt as dress wear for social gatherings. The Scottish Parliament seeks to promote Scottish culture in schools and what better way than with Scottish country dancing and its associations with music, history, literature, etc.

The first major project undertaken by the Youth Committee is to encourage more dancing in Scottish schools. With the advice and assistance of "Learning and Teaching Scotland", the "Dance Scottish" pack was prepared (for further details, see advert below).

While it is aimed initially at Scottish schools to fit into the 5-14 curriculum, the pack should be of interest to every Branch or group with an interest in promoting dancing to children. The Youth Committee has also discussed ways of encouraging more young dancers to try SCD as a leisure activity. It recognises that teaching a class of school children requires a different approach from the social dancing of many clubs and is preparing advice for would-be teachers of out-of-school classes.

The Committee is also investigating the different tests and examinations offered to young dancers with a view to encouraging teenagers to continue to dance.

For students and older teenagers, a residential course is being organised by a sub-committee of mainly young dancers. The 18-30 Easter School will take place in Stirling between 4-7 April 2002. The costs have been kept as low as possible with accommodation in the local Youth Hostel. Students can either prepare their own meals or visit local restaurants. A Ball will be held on Saturday 6 April, and extra tickets are available to other dancers, priced £15. Application forms for the Easter School are available from Headquarters.

The Youth Committee will produce a second newsletter for Youth Co-ordinators in the autumn and is looking for

suggestions for another world-wide dancing event for young people for 2004.

The Committee is not short of ideas for encouraging young dancers but relies on all members far and wide to promote and assist these initiatives in their own locality. I enjoy receiving information from or about young people in the RSCDS family, and thank all those dedicated dancers who give their time to encouraging the younger generation.

**Fiona Turnbull**

**Youth Director**

*(See also Fiona's piece on the background to producing the video element of the "Dance Scottish" pack, page 24)*

**dance**  
**Scottish**

A resource for teaching Scottish dancing in schools

Introduce children to their cultural heritage and give them social and physical skills for life by teaching Scottish Country Dancing in the classroom as part of the 5-14 curriculum.

This new pack contains:

- a book of 18 popular social dances graded from elementary to advanced, plus teaching advice and a glossary of steps and formations
- an audio CD containing music recorded by popular Scottish Dance bands for teaching and for all the dances
- a video illustrating teaching methods and a selection of the dances performed by school pupils.

Teachers with no experience of teaching Scottish dance will find this material gives them all the resources and confidence required to enjoy learning along with their pupils.

*Dancing is fun for all ages!*

The pack is available at a cost of £35 plus postage and packing from:  
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF  
Tel: 0131 225 3854  
Fax: 0131 225 7783  
E-mail: info@rscdshq.freeserve.co.uk

Endorsed by Learning and Teaching Scotland

# [DONATIONS 2000-2001]

*A heartfelt "thank you" to the many members, Branches and Affiliated Groups who have made donations to the Society, through the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, the General Fund or for a specific project. All of these donations are put to very good use in carrying out the Society's aims and objectives, and are much appreciated.*

## THE JEAN MILLIGAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund was established in December 1978 in memory of Miss Jean Milligan, the Society's co-founder. A stipulation of the Fund is that only the interest accruing from the Fund can be used to provide funding for projects. The capital donated is secured to provide for future income. The Fund continues to benefit from donations and legacies from a variety of sources, and all donations are gratefully accepted. The General Purposes Committee is responsible for Fund expenditure, and in doing so considers each application carefully to ensure that the funds available are distributed to benefit as wide a range of projects as possible. Applications are welcomed from individuals and Branches; for details of how to apply, please contact the Secretary.

We are very grateful for all donations, no matter how large or small. All those who kindly donated £20 or more to the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund in 2000/2001 are listed below:

In memory of Susan Nedderman	£275.00
Frimley Green Scottish Country Dance Class	£150.00
George Douglas, Orangeville, Canada	£40.00
In Memory of Susan Nedderman	£50.00
In memory of Glen Younge (Medicine Hat Branch)	£100.00
Jean & Wilson Nicol	£216.00

Thank you also to those who organised the raffles at Summer School: Helen Brown, Janet Johnston, Jennifer Lawson, Fran Smith, Eric & Mary Wallace, and June Wright. A total of £1,338 was contributed to the Fund from the raffles.

The total donated in the year was £2,181.10.

A number of RSCDS Committee projects and activities have benefited from grants, such as the Teaching Skills Course, a contribution towards the "Dance Scottish" pack, Summer School scholarships, and a contribution towards the cost of a Musicians' Course tutor. In addition, some of the grants given to Branches or individuals during the year 2000/01 were as follows:

**Bristol Branch:** Contribution towards Tea Dance for children

**Leicester Branch:** Assistance to support candidates from other branches to ensure viability of PT & TC courses

**Moscow Trip:** Contribution towards the cost of fares & visas for one teacher + one musician (see report, page 21)

**New Zealand Branch:** Contribution towards Weekend School

**Thornhill Children's Day of Dance:** Contribution towards cost of live music

**Glasgow Branch:** Day of Dance for children

**Queensland Branch:** Children's Class at Winter School

## THE GENERAL FUND

Donations to the general funds can be used for a number of purposes, and come in many forms. All those who generously donated £20 or more to the General Fund are listed below:

Nashville Hamilton SCD	£100
Ayr Branch (surplus from AGM)	£352
Dr David Normand-Harris	£50
Katharine Hoskyn, New Zealand	£20
Sale of 2 computers	£100
Iain Nigel Stuart Robertson's Executry	£1,936
Peter Fisk	£100
Dorothy Anne Scott	£80

Many Standing Committee and Executive Council members have elected to donate their expenses to the General Fund, and this generated a total of £275.

The total donated in the year was £3,160.84.

## DONATIONS FOR TRANSFERS TO CD

We are very grateful to all of the following for their most generous donations, which have allowed further progress to be made on this project:

Edinburgh Branch (Life & Long Term members)	£40
Ayr Branch	£1,500
Western Australia Branch	£100
Edinburgh Branch – reclaimed tax	£319
South East Branches (Bedfordshire, BHS, Bournemouth, Brighton, Cambridge, Croydon, London, Oxfordshire, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Winchester)	£1,450.00
Scottish Country Dances in Diagrams	£2,500.00
Middletown Scottish Country Dancers	£100.00

We continue to welcome donations for the project to transfer all Society recordings to CD; the cost of a straightforward re-master is approximately £1,500, and a re-recording is approximately £5,000.

## GIFT AID

UK tax-paying members may be interested to know that any amount can now be donated under Gift Aid. Guidelines on this, and a form for those who wish to donate money in this way, are available from Headquarters.



# R.S.C.D.S. SCHOLARSHIPS

## Applications for Scholarships

Scholarships are offered annually by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund and the Duncan Macleod Scholarship Fund. Residential fees and examination fees (where appropriate) are covered by the Scholarships but travelling expenses are not covered. A recommendation from the Branch should accompany each application and the Summer School Committee will be responsible for selecting the recipients from the applications received.

No Branch may submit more than one recommendation for any of the five scholarships.

**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RETURNED TO HEADQUARTERS NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER.**

1. **Teacher's Scholarship**  
A Scholarship is offered annually to Members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Teacher's Certificate. A report from class teacher and a recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be sent with application form.
2. **Preliminary Test Scholarship**  
A Scholarship is offered annually to Members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Preliminary Test. A report from class teacher and a recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.
3. **Junior Scholarship**  
A Junior Scholarship is offered annually to Members aged 16-20 years, wishing to attend Summer School. A recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.
4. **General Scholarship**  
A General Scholarship is offered to Members wishing to attend Summer School. A recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.
5. **The Duncan Macleod Scholarship**  
The above Scholarship will be offered to a student in (preferably) Physical Education Training. The Scholarship will consist of payment for two weeks Summer School in St. Andrews. The student selected by the Summer School Committee will attend the class preparing candidates for the Preliminary Test for the Teacher's Certificate and will take the Preliminary Test at the end of the course. The examination fee will also be covered by the Scholarship.
6. **John Duckett Scholarship**  
A Scholarship funded by the proceeds of the "Green Book". Preferably it will be offered to full-time students aged 16-25.

Please indicate the Scholarship being applied for by ticking the appropriate box below.

<b>1</b>	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Scholarship for Teacher's Certificate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>2</b>	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Scholarship for Preliminary Test	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Junior Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>4</b>	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund General Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>5</b>	Duncan Macleod Scholarship For Student in (preferably) Physical Education Training	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6</b>	John Duckett Scholarship For full-time students under 25	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Applicant .....

Address .....

.....  
 .....

Date of Birth ..... Branch .....

Date of Joining the Society .....

Reasons for Application .....

.....  
 .....



# “GATOV-UH-EEE!” (“Ready . . . AND!”)

## RSCDS MEMBERS VISIT MOSCOW

*The idea to dance in Moscow came about by a conversation between June Foreman, Elspeth Nairn, members of the Oxford Branch, and myself about two years ago. June is a lover of the Russian people and their culture, and speaks fluent Russian. This knowledge, combined with her love of Scottish dancing and my eagerness to promote Scottish country dancing, set the germ of an idea.*

The idea developed and we, along with other members of Doncaster and Oxford Branches, prepared to visit Moscow in May 2001, to help with an existing class there and to learn a little about the Russian way of life. Twelve of us went for nine days, holding classes on six evenings. The dancers were of very mixed ability, with a lot of beginners. Thankfully quite a number spoke reasonably good English which helped, but my task was made much easier by the help and support I had from the members of our own group, who mixed in the sets and helped steer our new friends through steps, formations and dances. The age range in the group was mainly between 18 and 30.

The eagerness with which the Russians learned, persevered and came night after night was a delight to see. My “Gatov-uh-eee!” pronunciation left much to be desired, so I stuck mainly to “Ready . . . AND”.

During the day we saw many of the sights of Moscow – Red Square, the Kremlin, St Basil’s Cathedral, and the precision stepping of the changing of the Guard. All were breathtaking. We went farther afield on the metro, which was in itself a whole new experience. It was very crowded, as you would expect, and each station was a wonderful display of art and architecture, some depicting different ways of Russian life and dance.

Before we went, we had collected over fifty pairs of good second-hand dance



shoes, which were given out on the first evening, mainly to new dancers in the group. We estimated that over 100 dancers had been to the classes throughout the week and there were about six sets per night. On the last class night, we presented the class teacher with the books and tapes donated by the General Purposes Committee, and other similar gifts from the Doncaster, Oxford and Retford Branches.

Through Scottish country dancing we have formed new friendships and visited a country that most of us had not been to before. We found the Russian people so generous and longing to be understood. They loved the dancing, the music and the fun that we all had together. At the end of the week we had a ceilidh at

which we all performed. One group gave a wonderful display of Russian dancing and the Moscow group we had been working with gave a display of Scottish country dancing, and then it was the turn of our own demonstration team. Our display was so well received we had to dance the whole of it again! At the end of the evening we were presented with flowers and gifts.

Our tour was over but the feeling of kindness, friendship and understanding will never leave us. Long may it continue. We look forward to the chance of welcoming some of our Russian friends here before too long, perhaps to Summer School.

**Moira Stacey**

# TEACHING AN OLD DOG *new tricks!*



*Someone on the Youth Committee suggested that it would be a good thing to include a video in the resource material for teaching dancing in schools. GREAT IDEA! How to do it?*

Learning and Teaching Scotland, who produce curriculum material for the 5-14 years programme, found us a film producer with experience of working with children. What experience did he have of Scottish country dancing? Answer – none! Tom has produced award-winning films and makes videos for the Scottish Executive. Working with RSCDS was to be a new experience for him, and producing the film was a totally new experience for me. I learned some new skills, and he learned a lot about dancing!

Two Glasgow schools volunteered to take part. Anderston Primary School, in the heart of Glasgow, teaches dancing to all its pupils. The boys are not allowed into the football team unless they also dance. As you will see on the film, this inner city school draws its pupils from a wide ethnic mix and what they lack in technique they make up for in enthusiasm. The other school involved was Garscadden Primary School, where dancing is an after-school activity, but one which the head teacher encourages for boys and girls. Both schools had previously taken part in festivals organised by Glasgow Branch and would like more Days of Dance for their pupils.

Before any filming could happen, I had to prepare a plan and a running order. Both schools obtained parental permission for their pupils to take part, and the dates and venue were agreed. Thus it was that on a very snowy day in January, I arrived at Anderston with Johan MacLean to start two days of filming. While I sat in a small cupboard watching three screens, Johan was coping with two cameras, a microphone and a class of wriggling, restless youngsters aged about six years. Their concentration span was very short and it was hard work getting suitable material. The circles always broke. Waving at the camera proved irresistible to some girls. Several of the boys could not stand still and, despite their tender age, the occasional rude gesture was spotted as they acted up for the camera!

Johan displayed tremendous patience and the next eight dancers suffered many false starts when telephones, door bells and school bells rang without warning. Pupils from other classes had to pass through the hall. Workmen arrived and

started to repair a broken door to the accompaniment of much banging and hammering. By the end of the morning, all were very tired indeed and the afternoon passed in a blur.

The following day 24 pupils from Garscadden arrived, plus a second teacher, Bruce Cochrane, who is a mounted policeman. The children were disappointed that he did not arrive on horseback! After a successful teaching session, all the children danced together in the hall. It was a pleasure to see how much they enjoyed the dances and how all ages and different schools mixed together. The two schools had different ways of doing The Gay Gordons and The Dashing White Sergeant, which was just what I was hoping for, as both variations are described in the book. Pupils were content to dance in any combination of boys and girls.

After the filming came the editing. I spent HOURS looking at the rushes from the two cameras and choosing suitable sections where the lesson points were clearly made, and naughty boys who were having a fight on camera were removed from view. Editing was made more complicated because the music had to fit the action. Some mistakes could not be edited out, but any teacher will recognise and empathise with these. After many hours at home and in the editing studio, the video was complete. It is divided into four sections, illustrating approaches to teaching different ages and abilities.

When you view the video, please keep in mind that it is intended for classroom teachers with little or no experience of Scottish country dancing. It must not frighten them by being too perfect, but encourage them to try Scottish country dancing. The book and the accompanying CD of music provide a complete resource for such teachers. It is hoped that Branches and groups will be happy to provide backup for these teachers, if requested. The Youth Committee commends "Dance Scottish" to everyone, and asks YOU to encourage your local schools and other groups to use it.

**Fiona Turnbull**  
Youth Director



## [REVIEW]

### AN ABERDEEN COLLECTION

This book of dances and accompanying CD were produced to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the RSCDS Aberdeen Branch. The book contains a good mix of jigs, strathspeys and reels, as well as one 40-bar jig and a 48-bar strathspey. The instructions are clear and easy to follow, and the dances are well

structured and "danceable"! Several dances have original tunes, and the book includes alternative tunes for three of the dances. Some well-known favourite dances have been selected as well as dances recently devised.

Anne Gordon

## [CD PLAYERS]

Further to the article in Bulletin No.78, Peter Knight has provided some updated information.

Unfortunately, the company mentioned in the article, Keytronics, went out of business between writing the article and publication. However, a new company, Audioleisure Ltd, has emerged selling



similar equipment,  
including a waistband

amplifier. Their most interesting piece of equipment is called "Freestyle" – they will put together various CD/cassette players with a suitably powered amplifier to your own requirements.

Their contact details are as follows:

13 Coombes Avenue, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 5NZ.

Tel: 0161 351 7004 Mobile: 0771 363 3263

To add a postscript on operating a CD player – it is possible to teach a medley or a set dance, with different pieces of music, by judiciously using the PAUSE button. Listening to the music carefully, press PAUSE just before the end of the last bar. Then, when you are ready to continue with the music, say "ready . . . and" and press PAUSE or PLAY to start the next piece of music. But warn the class about what you are going to do!

Peter Knight



(photo copyright J McDonald Photographers, Wick)

## SHELTERING *royalty*

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother pictured this summer by Peter Knight at Canisbay Church – under the shelter of a RSCDS umbrella.

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## [OBITUARIES]

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### FREDA IRENE GALWAY

**Died 31st January 2001**

Freda, a life member of the society, will be fondly remembered by the wider family of Scottish Country Dancers when she regularly attended Summer School at St. Andrews with Dougal, her West Highland Terrier. Some will remember her at TAC Summer School at Brock University, St. Catherines as part of "The Irish Brigade". Others knew her best as

Belfast Branch Representative to the Executive and when serving on the Finance Committee from 1975-1988. Freda was a traditionalist who was very demanding of her dancers. She taught Beginners, General, Demonstration, Advanced and Teacher Training Classes for the Branch from 1955-80's. Most class members fell foul of her "all seeing eye", but her criticism was always constructive. Her advice to this one time

Certificate Candidate was – "Know what you want from your class **and get it!**" She was recognised by the Society in 1989 when she received the Scroll of Honour and by Belfast Branch in 1993 when she became our Honorary President. We are much the poorer for the sudden passing of Freda Galway.

**Daphne Jones**

### JOHN ROBINSON

Herefordshire Branch have been sadly missing their Honorary President, John Robinson, following his death in October, 2000.

John had an early taste of Scottish Country Dancing at primary school in Buckie, while an evacuee from Cardiff during the war. It was obviously a good impression as, years later in the late 1970's, John and his wife Julia, now farming in Herefordshire, responded to an

invitation to join Hereford class as a family activity for their 3 teenager daughters. John's great love of Scotland and things Scottish led to a commitment lasting the rest of his life. He devoted many hours to becoming fully qualified as a teacher in 1985 and was responsible for Leominster Class from 1983. In the 1990s John tragically lost the use of his legs due to a spinal tumour, yet his determination was such that he continued teaching almost to the end of

his life. When asked how he managed to teach from a wheelchair he said, "I just shout louder!" Those of us in his class know that he zipped around in between the sets with an excellent view of our feet, able to spot all our faults and put us right! We miss you, John – bet you've got the angels dancing!

**Linda Rowberry**

### CHRIS GAUL (1938-2001)

Linda and her family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all the

friends who have sent messages of love, sympathy and support. It is a great comfort to know that the thoughts and

prayers of so many are with them during this difficult time.

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## [SEPT 11TH 2001]

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*The events of 11 September 2001 have horrified and frightened so many of us.*

*Heartfelt condolences to all those who have suffered and are still suffering from the events of that day.*

*We hope that this international Society of ours can bring friendship and support to you.*

# [RSCDS CATALOGUE & PRICE LIST HIGHLIGHTS]

*The full list is available on the website or from HQ.*

Orders can be placed personally or via your local Branch. Prices listed are retail, and discounts are as shown below. Postage and packing is added to the price. We accept payment by Access, Visa, Delta, JCB and Eurocard, or cheque in £ sterling.

**Member's discount:** 10% discount from retail price list (RSCDS books, CDs, videos and accessories) – current membership number must be quoted.

**Branch discount:** 10% discount from retail price list (RSCDS books, CDs, videos and accessories)

**Volume discount:** available to all Branches, members and non-members. For non-members, this is the only discount applicable; for Branches and members, this discount is applied after the deduction of the initial 10% discount.

Orders over £50.00 - 5% discount

Orders over £100.00 - 10% discount

Orders over £200.00 - 15% discount

## BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE ON CD:

Book 1 (RSCDS - CD17)	£10
Book 19 (RSCDS - CD18)	£10
Book 22 (RSCDS - CD22)	£10
Book 23 (RSCDS - CD11)	£12
Book 24 (RSCDS - CD12)	£12
Book 25 (RSCDS - CD13)	£12
Book 26 (RSCDS - CD14)	£12
Book 33 + Strip the Willow 9/8 Version (RSCDS CD23)	£10
Book 39 (RSCDS - CD19)	£10
Book 40 & The Children's Book (RSCDS - CD15)	£12
Book 41 (RSCDS - CD16)	£12
A Fife Fairing (4 for 1978, 5 for 1982 and 3 Jubilee Dances) (RSCDS CD24)	£10

## BOOKS etc:

<b>Dance Scottish</b>	
Resource pack for teaching Scottish dancing in schools. Contains book of dances with glossary and teaching advice; CD of music; video illustrating teaching methods	£35
<b>Leaflet Dances</b>	
Collection of 31 Leaflet Dances with music	£12
<b>Any Good Tune</b>	
Collection of alternative tunes for musicians. (Muriel Johnstone)	£12
<b>NEW THIS YEAR:</b>	
CD holder, with RSCDS logo	£7
Kilt pins	£30 and £25

T-shirt (blue or white, crown logo on chest or sleeve)	£6.50
Water bottle (white with logo in blue)	£2
Tartan gift wrap (4 designs, per sheet)	£0.25
Tartan material – Dress Strathspey, lightweight wool (per metre)	£25
Sash – Dress Strathspey, lightweight wool	£25

## SPECIAL OFFERS:

Serviettes (pack of 25) – buy 1 get 1 free	£2.50
Umbrella (gents', golf style)	£6
Sporran flask	£25
Tie (repeat motif, various colours)	£4

*(note: Special Offer items are not discountable)*

## WEBSITE

A reminder – the Society's website can be found at [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

Please send your comments or suggestions on the website to the Secretary at Headquarters, or email [info@rscdshq.freemove.co.uk](mailto:info@rscdshq.freemove.co.uk). They will be passed on to the Working Party looking at developing the website, for their consideration.

## 2002 EASTER SCHOOL

*Get spun right round  
at Easter School!*

Continuous dancing fun  
for 18 to 30s.

### WHEN

3-7 April 2002

### WHERE

Stirling

Further information from  
Headquarters,  
or check the website

[www.rscds.org/youth/easter](http://www.rscds.org/youth/easter)

**Book before 14 december  
to guarantee a place!**

## THANE MULTIMEDIA LTD

Sound Recording Specialists

Your own branch CD  
*featuring local dances and tunes*

A great fundraiser

Top Scottish Dance Bands available  
*Colin Dewar, David Cunningham etc*

Music Book Publishing

CD Sales

Contact: David Cunningham

Tel: 01334 657522 Fax: 01334 657559

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

# Have a Jubilee Ball in Jersey! Two Nights Dancing!



to



Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd June 2002

Enquiries: Mrs Helen McGugan, La Pelotte, Rue a Don, Grouville, Jersey JE3 9GB Tel.01534 854459



## Teachers' Association (Canada)

*Affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society*

- o An Association of Scottish Country Dance teachers located mainly in North America and with a worldwide membership.
- o Promotes and encourages excellence in the technique and social enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing.
- o Membership is open to RSCDS members who hold the Society's Preliminary or Full Certificate.

### Membership Services

- o TACTALK  
Quarterly magazine with articles on many aspects of Scottish Country Dancing, book and recorded music reviews, teaching hints, etc. Subscription information is available for non-teachers through the Corresponding Secretary.
- o TACSOUND (Catalogue available)  
Sells and produces recorded music for Scottish Country Dancing and leisure listening. Recorded music available for RSCDS books. Instructional videos on SCD now available.
- o TACBOOKS (Catalogue available)  
Distributes dance books, leaflets, and instructional material about Scottish Country Dancing to TAC members and dancers.

- o ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL SUMMER SCHOOL (1 WEEK)  
Classes, evening social dancing, ceilidh, banquet and ball, optional afternoon activities. Daily, part-week, and weekend registration available. Candidate courses offered on alternate years.

- o AREA REPRESENTATIVES  
Area representatives provide local networking contacts and support.

- o OUTREACH PROGRAMME  
Provides sponsorships, advice, and encouragement to new teachers.

- o TAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
An annual weekend held at various locations in North America with a guest teacher for class instruction, banquet and ball, and an opportunity for input at the Saturday afternoon AGM.

**TAC Web Site**  
[www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org)

### Corresponding Secretary

(for all general enquiries)  
Nadine Gingrich  
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e-mail: [nmgingri@watarts.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nmgingri@watarts.uwaterloo.ca)

### Membership Secretary

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### TAC Books

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Tel: (613) 733-1820  
Please see Web Site for more details

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
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*Summer School Christchurch 2002/2003*

The New Zealand Branch invites dancers from around the world to attend their annual Summer School in Christchurch, New Zealand from 28 Dec 2002 until 6 Jan 2003.

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*Whale watching and swimming with seals and dolphins*  
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For more information please contact the Organiser:

Doug Mills, 30 Tonbridge Street, Merivale, Christchurch 8001, New Zealand.

Tel: +64 3 379 4451 Fax: +64 3 377 2874 Email: doug@mitton.co.nz

or

RSCDS NZ Branch Inc

Robyn Ferguson, 102 Darraghs Road, Tauranga, New Zealand.

Tel: +64 7 576 4106 Fax: +64 7 578 0940 Email: sect@rscdsnz.org.nz



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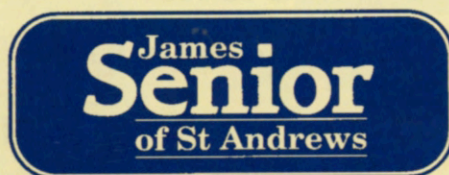
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