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# THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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*Bulletin  
Number 76  
October 1998*



THE ROYAL  
SCOTTISH COUNTRY  
DANCE SOCIETY

**Headquarters:**

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh  
EH3 7AF, Scotland, UK  
Tel: + 44 (0)131 225 3854  
Fax: + 44 (0)131 225 7783

**Website:**

<http://www.rscds.org>  
<http://www.scottishdance.org>

## Office Bearers

**Patron:**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

**President:**

The Earl of Mansfield

**Honorary Vice-Presidents:**

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel  
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine  
Lt.-Col. (Retd.) Muriel Gibson  
The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of  
Moncreiffe

**Chairman:** Mr Bill Clement

**Vice-Chairman:** Mrs Linda Gaul

**Director of Administration/  
Secretary:** Miss Gill Parker

**Treasurer:** Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat

**Editor:** Miss Gill Parker

**Cover Photograph:**

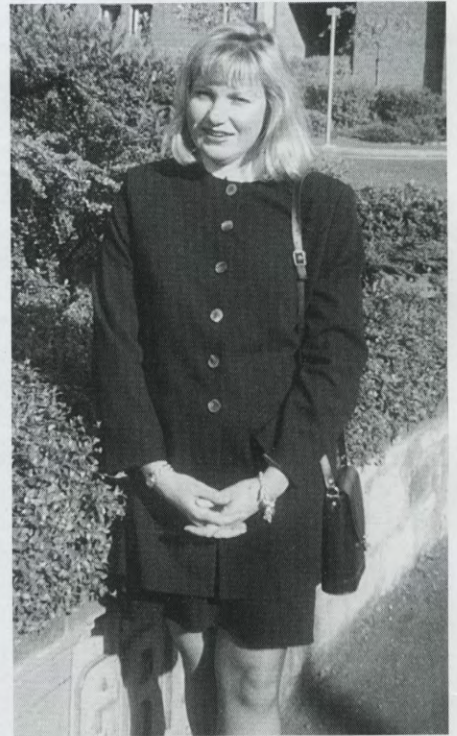
Her Majesty The Queen signing the visitor's book at the 75th Anniversary Reception, with Bill Clement (Chairman) and The Earl of Mansfield (President).

No statement, advertisement, or views presented here are to be construed as supported by the Society, unless specifically stated and no liability is accepted for any matter therein.

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## Editorial



THIS EDITION is a special issue coming out in the Society's 75th Anniversary. This year has been particularly memorable because of events taking place around the world in commemoration of the Society's anniversary.

Details of various Society events are contained within the Anniversary Section on pages 10-13.

We were particularly pleased that so many of the branches were able to take the opportunity of this special year to join together to co-ordinate the organisation of some wonderful events (see page 10). Some have also taken the opportunity to consider twinning with a branch overseas, while others have saved their special celebrations for the millenium.

Not to be outshone, several branches had their own special anniversaries this year, included on page 15. Our very best wishes go to them.

As the Society has been reflecting back on special memories of the past 75 years, I have included a short piece highlighting some of the "firsts" for the Society. These are direct extracts from the Minutes and give a brief glimpse into the early years (see page 14).

*Gill Parker*

## Chairman's Message

**D**URING this special year, as the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society celebrates its 75th Anniversary, it has been a great honour for me to serve as your Chairman.

The amazing achievement of our Society is how it has grown into a worldwide organisation, which Miss Jean Milligan, our co-founder, always referred to as "her international family". The beginnings and development of branches and affiliated groups, particularly in North America, were due directly to her endless energy and enthusiasm, as she travelled, taught, lectured and examined candidate teachers there.

In the past year, it has given me great pleasure to carry greetings and good wishes of the Executive Council to the many branches celebrating our 75th anniversary, in New Zealand, Sydney, Tokai and branches in North America and also to the many branches in the UK.

Dancing is a social recreation and teaching Scottish country dancing must be fun both for the teacher and the class. While the teacher endeavours to aim for the best performance of dancing from the class, it must never be at the expense of enjoyment.

It is sad when a teacher forgets this rule and sometimes over drills the class when there are some members who by age (at both ends of the scale) may never do better.

Warm up exercises are a means of preventing damage to legs and ankles and there are teachers who prolong these, spending 25-30 minutes, when the dancers are eager and there to dance. Miss Milligan began

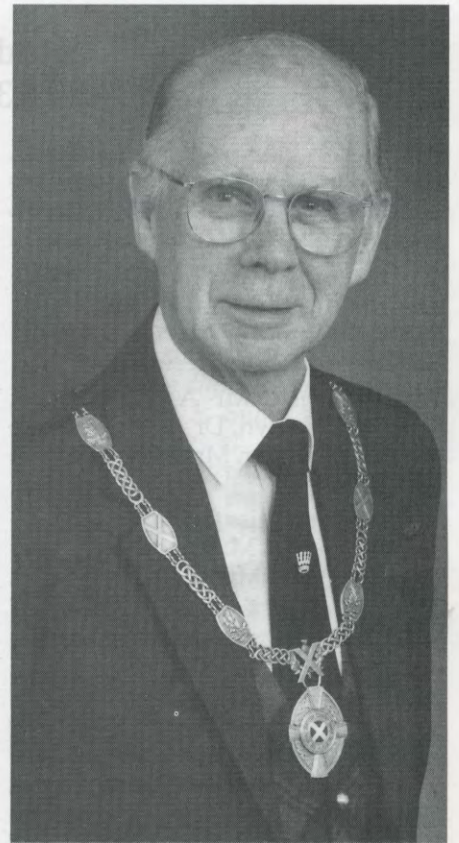
her classes with walking some of the steps and positions of the feet, but never lasting more than 10 minutes before starting to teach a dance.

Earlier I mentioned that we should endeavour to have the best possible RSCDS style of dancing in our classes. Therefore should the Society be able to cope with ceilidh dancers who do not wish to dance with our precision of technique, but nevertheless wish to dance? The answer must be "yes". Our teachers could assist them to dance rhythmically to the music without stressing foot positions and steps and help to obtain good phrasing and sociability. Some dancers having attended a ceilidh class taught by a welcoming RSCDS teacher might well feel encouraged to progress into a regular Society class and become members of the Society.

Everyone who joins the Society, regardless of the form of Scottish dancing, should be made welcome. Might this not be a fitting way to celebrate our anniversary and fulfil Miss Milligan's original aim of bringing all Scotland together dancing?

This 75th anniversary year has been a memorable one and two outstanding events have specially marked this year. The gracious visit by Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, to meet members at the Reception in the City Chambers, Edinburgh. On the preceding evening a reception hosted by our President, The Earl of Mansfield was held in Stirling Castle.

I should like to convey my thanks to all members who have



contributed to the celebrations and assisted me in fulfilling the great privilege of serving the Society as Chairman.

*Bill Clement*

CHAIRMAN

### Deadline for Next Issue

#### *Deadline for submission of articles*

All articles, letters, advertisements, etc. must be submitted before 30th May. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles subject to space.

All advertisements are dealt with by contacting Buccleuch Printers Ltd., Carnarvon Street, Hawick.

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in The Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen,  
at 14.30hrs on Saturday 1 November 1997

## Present

*Office Holders:* Mr W. Clement (Chairman), Mrs L. Gaul (Vice Chairman), Mr G. Lawson (Imm. Past Chairman), Lt. Col. Muriel Gibson (Hon. Vice President).

*Past Chairmen:* Mr A. Aitkenhead, Mr J. B. C. Brown, Dr A. MacFadyen, Miss A. W. Miller, Mrs M. Parker and Mr J. Taylor.

*In Attendance:* Miss G. Parker (Secretary), Mrs M. Jeffcoat (Treasurer) and Mr M. Taylor (Solicitor).

200 Delegates and 208 observers were also present.

## Apologies

Apologies were received from The Earl of Mansfield (President), the following Honorary Vice Presidents: Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, The Honorable Peregrine Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe, The Earl of Elgin; and from eight delegates.

## Official Welcome

The Chairman introduced Councillor Michael White, who gave the official welcome.

On behalf of the Provost, Councillor White extended a warm welcome to the Society both to the AGM and to Aberdeen. While Aberdeen was best known as the Capital of the offshore oil industry, it was also a great cultural city. The city was delighted to welcome the global family of the RSCDS. It was noticeable that the Society really was a family and if the world could learn to live as a family it would indeed be a different place.

He went on to explain that "If asked what is Scottish culture", he said his reply would be "The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society".

## Chairman's Address

The Chairman thanked the City of Aberdeen Council for their generosity to the Society during this visit. He went on to read the

following message from our Patron, the Queen:

*"I send my sincere thanks to you, the Executive Council and members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for your kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of your Annual General Meeting. As patron I was delighted to receive this message and send my warm regards to all concerned for a most successful occasion, together with my best wishes for a happy celebration of the Society's seventy-fifth anniversary next year."*

Elizabeth R.

*1997 Annual General Meeting  
Aberdeen*

Mr Clement welcomed all members of our Society, to the 68th Annual General Meeting, especially those who were attending for the first time.

He went on to say "We are all members of a unique worldwide Society, which we must ensure not only survives these times of change, but continues to flourish; especially so during 1998 when our Society celebrates its 75th Anniversary. This year for the first time, the Society was honoured to receive two invitations

to attend Her Majesty's Garden Party at the Palace of Holyrood House, and I can report your Past Chairman, George Lawson, and I were delighted to represent the Society on this special occasion"

## Award of Society Scroll

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Muriel Gibson, Hon. Vice President, made the presentation of the Society's Scroll of Honour to the following recipients.

Mr Bobby Crowe, Mr Robert Hunn, Mr William and Mrs Marie McLennan, Miss Wilma Miller, Mrs Mary Stoker, Miss Jean Yeats. Mrs Kay Gibson (Cape Town) and Mr Jim Stephen (Florida South) were presented with their scrolls locally.

## Minutes of Meeting of 2 November 1996

The Minutes of the last meeting as contained within Bulletin 75, were approved unanimously on a proposal by Margaret Brown (Toronto) seconded by Keith Oughton (Leicester).

## Appointment of Office Bearers

**Honorary President:**  
The Earl of Mansfield was unanimously re-elected as President



Lt. Col. Muriel Gibson who presented the Society Scroll's to (from left) Robert Hunn, Jean Yeats, Mary Stoker, Wilma Miller, Marie McLennan, Bobby Crowe and Bill McLennan.



Jim Stephen receiving the Society's Scroll of Honour from Mrs Elma McCausland

of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society as proposed by Alan Mair (St. Andrews) and seconded by Mrs Jean Martin (Aberdeen).

#### Hon. Vice-Presidents:

Following a proposal by Helen Frame (Ayr), seconded by Alasdair Brown (York & N. Humberstone), it was agreed unanimously to confirm the appointment of the following Honorary Vice-Presidents:

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, KT  
 Lt. Col. (Retd.) M. Muriel Gibson  
 The Hon. Peregrine Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe  
 The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, CD

Chairmanship of the meeting was handed to Mrs Gaul, Vice Chairman for the next item.

#### Society Chairman:

A motion proposed by Stella McCraw (N. Virginia) and seconded by John Johnstone (Dumfries) that Mr W. Clement be re-appointed Chairman was unanimously carried.

Mr W. Clement resumed the Chair.

#### Vice Chairman:

Angela Young (Hamilton, Ontario) and Christine Munro (Perth) proposed and seconded that Mrs Linda Gaul be re-appointed as Vice Chairman of the Society. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### Six Members to the Executive Council (1997/98)

The following members were elected to the Executive Council:

Dr Alistair MacFadyen, Miss Irene Bennett, Miss Dorothy Hamilton, Miss Margaret Ross, Mr David Watson, Mr James Healy.

### The Annual Report

The full Annual Report was printed within the Bulletin and therefore Miss Gill Parker, Secretary, gave a summary

of the main issues which had arisen during the past twelve months.

*"New seems to have been the buzz word for the Country and for the Society during 1997.*

*We welcomed our new Chairman, Vice Chairman and Honorary Vice President, along with two new local associations (New Jersey and Tokai). We issued a new look, new style Bulletin and Directory of Secretaries. We appointed a professional public relations company to help us to renew our image, and finally, we are to have two new addresses"*



Dr Alastair MacFadyen, Mr Alastair Aitkenhead and Mr James Brown enjoying a chat before the AGM

She explained that The Society was shortly to release two websites – one for members and one for non-members.

She went on to outline some of the projects that the standing committees had been working towards.

She ended the Annual Report by thanking the secretarial staff "for their cheerful and helpful assistance and support throughout yet another hectic year."

The Annual Report was adopted as proposed by Rachel Wilton (London) and seconded by Bruce Frazer (B/H/S Border).

### Annual Accounts

Mr Richard Turnbull, Finance Convener presented his report on the annual accounts.

He began by advising delegates that historically subscriptions had been raised every three or four years. Because of the lead-in time involved, this meant that once a subscription increase had been approved, it did not take place until the following year. "This is the first year which reflects the increase in fees which

was approved at the AGM in 1995."

He also explained that the amount received was actually very close to that which it was hoped the Society would receive but when the estimates were being prepared and

## 1997 Annual General Meeting Aberdeen

approved in August 1996, the Committee were concerned that the changes would result in a reduction in membership. They therefore felt it prudent to put a reduced amount in the estimates for the year to June 1997.

*"The other area where considerable difficulty arises with the budgets is Summer School. The meeting at which these budgets are prepared is only a week after the end of Summer School and final figures are not available at that stage. The detailed bill from the university which forms the bulk of the expenses is not normally received until September/October – well after the budgets have been prepared."*

Mr Turnbull then went on give further details on the various items in the Income and Expenditure account, the Statement of Financial Affairs, and the Balance Sheet.

He concluded by thanking all those on the Finance Committee including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Past Chairman and particularly Mr John Douglas who was leaving the committee after attending sixty Finance Committee meetings over a sixteen year period.

The motion to confirm receipt of the annual accounts as circulated in the 1997 Bulletin was proposed by John



Kay Gibson (centre) receiving the Society's Scroll of Honour from Marlene Lloyd-Evans (RSCDS Cape Town Branch Chairman)

Douglas (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), seconded and Alex Gray (South Wales) and unanimously approved.

### Appointment of Auditor

Mr W. Hetherington (Nottingham) proposed and Mr C. McCausland (Victoria) seconded the motion to confirm the appointment of Mr Humphrey Holmes, CA as Auditor. This was approved unanimously.

### Amendments to the Constitution

Mr Clement in presenting the motion explained that prior to the last Executive Council he had consulted a lawyer specialising in Scottish Charity Law. The legal advice given was for the Society to appoint a small number of Trustees at our next AGM.

*"I presented this advice to the Executive Council in May, and after much discussion a motion was agreed, based on the advice given. It was also agreed that we should seek further advice from the same legal firm to confirm the wording of this motion.*

*When consulting the lawyer, and his senior partner, after the May Executive Council meeting, we were told that on their further consideration they would now recommend a better way to proceed.*

*As there was not another Executive Council meeting prior to this AGM, and it was strongly recommended that we should deal with this matter urgently, a new motion was added to the provisional agenda in my name.*

*This motion could have been withheld and presented as urgent business not contained on any agenda, and then raised at this meeting. However, this would not have given Local Associations the opportunity of considering the new motions and the correspondence from the lawyer and the Inland Revenue".*

For clarity a vote was taken as to whether the motion could be discussed, this was carried without dissent.

The following motion was proposed by Mr A. Smart (Florida South) and seconded by Dr Jerry Reinstein (Paris):

(a) Clauses VI(3)(c) and VI(3)(d) shall be deleted, and the following inserted in substitution therefore:

*"(c) The Executive Council shall be responsible for the utilisation of the funds of the Society in furtherance of the objects of the Society."*

(b) Clauses VI(3)(e) shall be renumbered VI(3)(d) as a consequence.

(c) The Functions of the Finance Committee specified in Clause VI(4)(b) shall in future be as follows:

*"Functions – To be responsible for the funds of the Society and to deal with its financial business; to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council; to cause proper books of account to be kept; to make arrangements for the preparation of annual accounts; to have such accounts audited annually by a qualified accountant; to approve the same; and to present them for adoption by the Society at the Annual General Meeting; to submit to the Annual General Meeting a budget for the ensuing year, setting forth the sums estimated to be necessary to meet the Society's commitments and to provide for any developments contemplated so that the rates of subscriptions necessary to be levied may be decided upon; to appoint and to dismiss staff (other than the Secretary); to determine the appropriate salary scales to be paid and to deal with any other relevant staffing and office matters."*

This was approved on a vote 192 (for), 2 (against), 6 abstentions.

A counter motion replacing "to approve the same; and to present them for adoption by the Society at the Annual General Meeting" with "to recommend the approval of the same to the Executive Council for the presentation to the Society at Annual General Meeting" was rejected: 190 (against), 9 (for), 1 abstention.

The following motion was proposed by Mr A. Smart (Florida South) and seconded by Dr Jerry Reinstein (Paris):

(d) the following additional clause shall be added after Clause VIII

*"IX Trustees: The Trustess of the Society for the purposes of holding title to its property, shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society for the time being ex officio."*

A counter motion submitted by RSCDS Edinburgh Branch was withdrawn.

The above motion was carried on a vote: 196 (for), 0 (against), 4 abstentions.



Linda Gaul following in George Lawson's footsteps?

### Other Motions

1. The motion "That the Society revise its management structure by the end of June 1998" was proposed by John Carswell and seconded by Joan Tyler (both West Lothian).

The motion was rejected following a vote: 184 (against), 2 (for) and 14 abstentions.

2. Andrew Mackie and David Watson (both Edinburgh) proposed and seconded the following motion: "The Society in General Meeting therefore instructs the Executive Council to await the completion of any Charities Legislation governing Scottish Charities before making any further changes to the Structure of the Society, its Constitution or Rules, in so far as such action could affect Charitable Status."

This was rejected after a vote: 177 (against), 20 (for) and 3 abstentions.

3. Following a proposal by Andrew Mackie and Rena Mulholland (both Edinburgh), the following motion was overwhelmingly approved.

*"This Meeting therefore instructs the Executive Council to examine the aims and objects of the Society (as set out within its Constitution) and to produce, within 24 months, a strategic plan setting out in detail how the Society intends to further these aims over the next five years."*

### Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman concluded by thanking those present for "helping to ensure that this meeting has been conducted so smoothly" and

reminded delegates that the next Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 7th November 1998 in Glasgow.

### Vote of Thanks

Dr Mike Walshaw (Glasgow) proposed the vote of thanks.

"The weekend had," he said, "been a great success and thanks to the Chairman the meeting had been completed in good time for every one to enjoy the dance in the evening."

He went on to thank the Open Forum and Discussion Group chairmen (Linda Gaul and Andrew Kellet); Lesley Martin and Bruce Frazer who had conducted the classes; the Secretary and the HQ team for providing such comprehensive papers for the meeting; the stewards; The Ball and Dance MCs; the Bands; and the leisure centre staff; all of whom had contributed to the wonderful weekend enjoyed by all. Finally he gave special thanks to all the members locally who had been involved in the organisation.

The meeting closed at 16:40.



Past Chairmen Margaret Parker and George Lawson in Aberdeen with members of RSCDS Aberdeen Branch

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Headquarters

THE SOCIETY Headquarters at 12 Coates Crescent continues to be the central point for the Society, despite its many members based around the world. Although the HQ is a working office, with limited social facilities, all members are welcome to come in and browse the new items on sale, or simply to sign the visitors book!

We have four full time members of staff at HQ, including the Secretary, and one part-time member of staff.

This year we have seen a change in the people based at Headquarters. Miss Gill Parker, as Director of Administration, heads the team assisted by June Dick (Assistant Secretary), Linda Bates (Membership Administrator), Eileen Watt (Office Manager) and our Office Assistant who works part-time is Elizabeth McNeill.

Thanks are due to them for the way they have handled the large volume of requests, queries and comments which have arisen in this our special anniversary year.

### Branches

The Society has 167 branches covering all the continents.

We are extremely grateful to all those within the branches who work so hard behind the scenes to communicate with HQ.

There is a great deal of work involved in ensuring that the branch members are aware of Society decisions and policy. In addition the Representatives on the Executive Council help to disseminate the information to the branch they represent and to express the views of the branch members at the Executive meetings. All this helps enormously with the effective administration of the Society.

Our very best wishes go to those branches who have just celebrated special anniversaries in 1998 and to those who are looking forward to celebrations in 1999! (see page 15).

### Affiliated Groups

The Society is pleased to welcome the following groups to Affiliated Group Status:

*Aberystwyth Scottish Country Dancers*  
(Wales)

*Caledonian Scottish Country Dancers*  
(Ontario, Canada)

*Jackson Country Dancers* (Mississippi)  
*Lechlade Scottish Country Dance Club*  
(Gloucestershire)

*Sorrento Scottish Country Dancers*  
(Canada)

*St. Andrews Society of Paphos* (Greece)

*Suncoast Scottish Country Dancers*  
(St. Petersburg, Florida)

*The Bangkok Reel Club* (Thailand)

We now have 459 affiliated groups around the world.

### Standing Committee Reports

*The Chairman and Vice Chairman are ex-officio on all standing committees. The Secretary or her Assistant are in attendance at all committee and sub-committee 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 Bill Clement (Convener, Chairman), Mr David Watson (Finance Convener), Mrs Jessie Harper, Mr Jim Healy, Dr Alastair MacFadyen, Mr Alan Mair, Mrs Christine Munro, Mrs Alice Murphy, Mrs Isobel Rae, Dr Jerry Reinstein and Mrs Rachel Wilton.

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*The Committee usually meets three times a year*

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Following the 1997 AGM in Aberdeen, the Executive Council instructed the Chairman to appoint a sub-committee of the General Purposes Committee to prepare a five year strategic plan for the Society. The sub-committee is now established and have made initial investigations, taking submissions from the standing committees, branches, individuals, representatives, etc.

The General Purposes Committee have had considerable discussions regarding the effectiveness of the current Executive Council structure and while no firm recommendations have been presented to the Executive Council the Committee have made suggestions to the Strategic Planning sub-committee for consideration.

One recommendation, which is to be placed before the 1998 AGM, is for the deadline for nominations of Executive Council Representatives to be changed. This is to allow branches to nominate their representative at any time up to eight weeks prior to the first Executive Council meeting they are to attend.

The Committee continues to administer grants from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. (see page 21)

Jean Milligan  
Fund  
Memorial

In memory of the co-founders, the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund has this year underwritten the expense of a Founders' Ball, to be held as a part of the AGM weekend celebrations of the Society's 75th Anniversary.

There are seven sub-committees of this standing committee dealing with various subjects. These include the 75th anniversary, the AGM, the Constitution, Marketing and Public Relations, The Edinburgh Tattoo, the Young Scottish Dancers Association (see page 23) and the new Strategic Planning sub-committee (see above).

The Society web-sites, having been established in March, will continue to be monitored, updated and improved on a regular basis.

### Scroll of Honour

The Committee were delighted to recommend that the following be presented with the Scroll of Honour at the 1998 AGM. (Nominating Branches in brackets).

- 
- Mrs Maragaret Ackers  
(Liverpool)
  - Mr Alastair Aitkenhead  
(N. Ayrshire)
  - Mr John Armstrong  
(Oxfordshire)
  - Mr Robert Blackie  
(Toronto)
  - Mrs Dorothy Carr  
(Sacramento)
  - Mrs Mina Corson  
(Edinburgh)
  - Mr John Douglas  
(Newcastle-upon-Tyne)
  - Mrs Brenda Kampf  
(Nairobi)
  - George & Nan Lawson  
(Glasgow)
  - Mr John Middleton  
(Hamilton, Ontario)
  - Mr Robbie Shepherd  
(General Purposes  
Committee)

### Marketing Sub-Committee

Convenor: Mrs Linda Gaul

The Marketing Committee have this year produced a new colour brochure, and were responsible for a successful launch of the anniversary year with coverage in both local and national radio, television,

newspapers and magazines. Hopefully this will have paved the way for more local coverage of the individual branch events.

Work is now progressing on establishing a Society display pack with display stand which will be made available to branches for use at exhibitions, displays, etc.

### Strategic Planning Sub-Committee

Convenor: Dr J. Reinstein

In preparing the Strategic Plan for the Society requested at last years AGM, the sub committee agreed that there would be full consultation and disclosure of its activities and process.

A questionnaire sent to branches and Executive Representatives elicited many thoughts and proposals, but we also want individual members' views. Please send your thoughts, comments, criticisms, etc. to

The Secretary,  
RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent  
Edinburgh EH3 7AF

marked "Strategy" and they will be copied to the sub committee.

During the AGM weekend, we will facilitate a Discussion Group on the draft Strategic Plan to which all members are invited to help further the thinking on the Society's future strategy. We welcome your thoughts on the Society structure, image, and activities or on any other topics you feel are important.

Through this wide consultation we believe that we will have a final product that incorporates the best ideas of all the membership. Your ideas can make a better Society. Send them to us.

### 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: Mrs Elma McCausland (Convenor), Mr Malcolm Brown, Mrs Brenda Burnell, Mr Bruce Frazer, Mr Stanley Wilkie

*The Committee meets  
three times a year*

The Committee have made final corrections to the revised IDTA

syllabus. The Core Programme for Tutors was published this year to help overseas branches to run tutors' courses and to provide further information for tutors unable to attend the Society's courses.

Three courses were organised again this year for Potential Tutors, Tutors and Musicians, each were funded through the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. In addition it has been agreed to hold a one-day Practical Course for Examiners, and an Adjudicators Assessment Panel in 1999.

Examination tours of New Zealand and South Africa this year, as well as several examinations held within the UK. Arrangments are underway for Examination tours of North America, east and west, in 1999, along with a tour of Australia in 2000.

The Committee continues to consider new Potential Examiners to add to the list of UK and overseas examiners.

The trial marking sheet has proved to be successful and with some adjustments is to be implemented on a permanent basis thus providing further information for candidates.

### Summer School Committee

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

Members: Mrs Marjorie MacRae (Director), Miss Fay Golding, Miss Betty Ferguson, Dr Ian Hall, Mr Jim Rae.

*The Committee meets  
twice a year*

The Summer School Director has announced that as from 1999 she will be retiring as Director. An election will take place at the Executive Council Meeting in November.

With the number of applications for Summer School far exceeding the amount of available accommodation, many students were advised that they would have to attend on a non-resident basis this year. A variety of special events were held during each of the fortnights of this year's school including Old Scottish Step Dancing class, a photographic exhibition of the Society through the ages, sherry reception, ceilidh and a Garden Party.

The two celebratory dinners were well attended with resident and non-



resident members attending these occasions.

Following a suggestion at the Open Forum, the Committee have investigated the possibility of holding a Winter School. Further investigation of the costs and suitable location will be required before a decision can be taken.

### Finance Committee

*Functions: to be responsible for the funds of the Society; to cause proper books of accounts to be kept; to have such accounts audited annually; to approve the same; and to present them for adoption at the AGM; to submit to the AGM a budget for the ensuing year; to appoint and to dismiss staff (other than the Secretary); to deal with any other relevant staffing and office matters.*

Members: Mr David Watson (Convener), Miss Dorothy Hamilton, Mr Tom Kerr, Miss Beatrice Nairn, Mr David Ross, Miss Margaret Ross, Mr Ronald Taylor. (The Treasurer is in attendance).

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*The Committee meets  
four times a year*

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In addition to having responsibility for the Society accounts, the Committee oversee the investments held by the The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, with approval for payments from the Fund coming from the General Purposes Committee.

Two replacement staff have been appointed over the past year (see Headquarters section, page 7).

The Committee have carried out an annual review of the agreements with our distributors and suppliers.

Concern was raised at the high expense of reprinting some of the older books and alternative means of reprinting the books are being investigated.

The Committee has recommended that a mechanism is established for an annual review of the subscription rate. This will allow any amendments to the subscription rate to be more regular but smaller. The current system meant that subscription reviews were only considered when the Society was in a crisis situation. Normal expenditure of the Society (which was outwith the control of the Finance Committee)

continued to rise and it was now necessary to allow a review of the subscription rate on a more regular basis than at present.

A professional audit of the Society's computer network has been undertaken and upgrades to some of the computers will need to be considered.

The Committee is currently considering the insurance requirements of each of the overseas branches, in order to assess whether it might be possible for the Society to consider taking out a global policy for public indemnity insurance. Further details were required before any decision could be taken.

Funding was approved for one copy of the Directory of Secretaries (issued to all members every second year), to be made available to each branch and affiliated group secretary every year.

### Publications & Research Committee

*Functions: to arrange for the publication of such instructional literature and other relevant material as they may deem 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 Committee.*

Members: Miss Irene Bennett (Convener), Mr Alan MacPherson (Archivist), Miss Christian Catto, Mr Peter Knight, Miss Dorothy Leurs, Miss Christine Traynor, Miss Angela Young.

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*The Committee usually meets  
six times a year*

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The Committee have this year released recordings of Books 23 and 24, along with two CDs to accompany the hugely popular Collins Pocket Reference book.

In order to cater both to the global needs of our diverse membership and to appeal to a more general listener, the Finance Committee approved that future recordings would continue to be available on both audio cassette and CD.

To commemorate the Society's 75th Anniversary, a booklet was issued giving the history of the Society, along with Leaflet 33 containing five social dances researched from our

archives. A recording was released to accompany this publication, Leaflet 32 and the Book 5 for 1965.

Books 2, 7, 9, The Graded Book, Scottish Country Dancing for Children and Miss Milligan's Miscellany Vol. II were revised and reprinted this year.

It was agreed that in future each branch would be asked to submit an annual report which would be retained as part of the Society's archives.

The Society Newsbrief will now be issued twice a year – in January and June, and will include more articles of general interest to the membership. The June issue for 1999 would contain a Leaflet of childrens dances (Leaflet 34). The Millenium publication will be chosen from tried and tested dances submitted through the branch network.

### Submission of Dance for Publication

The Publications and Research Committee of the Society are shortly to be considering the dances for the Millenium publication.

Any member may submit a dance through their branch provided it fits all of the following criteria:

*Only one dance may be submitted per branch;*

*the dance must have been devised within the last five years;*

*the dance must be popular, having been tried and tested at branch events;*

*the dance must be written according the guidelines given in the Society's Glossary of Dance Terminology;*

*the dance must have been written by, or for, someone in the branch or for a branch event.*

The dance must arrive at Society HQ by 1st March 1999 for consideration by the Committee. If printed music is available, this should be submitted along with the dance.



Members enjoying the Garden Party in Sydney, dressed for the occasion. March 1998



Seven Branches from the East Midlands and Yorkshire joined together to organise the Grand Ball at The Dome, Doncaster on 18th April, 1998



Society Chairman Bill Clement with past scroll recipients attending the ball in Kitchener-Waterloo, 27th June, 1998.



"Cutting the Cake". Bill Clement with West Lothian Chairman Isobel Rae.



The Southeast Branches Anniversary Ball, Watford Colosseum, 28th February, 1998.

(l to r) Mrs Atsuko Clement, Bruce Frazer (Chairman BIHIS/ Borders Branch), Wendy Mumford (Winchester Branch), Bill Clement (Society Chairman), The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe (Society Hon. Vice President), Mrs Miranda Moncreiffe.

# Images of our 75th Anniversary



Back to the village green, circa 1900, Phillip Island, Australia, November 1997



Celebrating in style, 1998



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL



## A year to remember . . .

IT WAS with a mixture of emotions that members celebrated during 1998.

Dancers around the world have joined in a variety of celebratory events to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Society, yet this has also been the 20th and 30th anniversary of the death of two of the founders of the Society.

The anniversary year was launched with a press conference, followed shortly thereafter with a variety of children's events co-ordinated through the auspices of the Young Scottish Dancers Association.

Local Associations organised a wide range of activities including open air festivals, candlelit dances, formal balls and displays. Dancers at these events have enjoyed

dancing the five core anniversary dances for the year.

The President was delighted to welcome members to a reception held at Stirling Castle, Scotland.

(see page 13).

The Queen, as Patron of the Society, joined in the celebrations when she met

with representatives of each of the branches at a

reception held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh.

Her Majesty also graciously allowed the Society 25 tickets to her Garden Party held at The Palace of Holyrood House in Edinburgh (see below). Members attending either fortnight of the Society's Summer

School in St. Andrews were able to attend an anniversary dinner, garden party and ceilidh.

A 75th Anniversary booklet was also issued to all members. This contained a history of the Society, and a leaflet of dances researched from the archives. A variety of special, limited edition commemorative items were made available for purchase. These included crystal glasses, and mini decanter, sweatshirts, polo shirts and fine stoneware mugs.

Yet this year has also been a sad reminder - heralding the 20th anniversary of the death of Miss Jean Milligan and the 30th anniversary of the death of Mrs Ysobel Stewart. A special founders' ball is to be held as part of the Annual General Meeting weekend.



## Royal Garden Party 2 July 1998, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh

*The Society received 25 tickets for Her Majesty's Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh. The names were drawn in a ballot from the members of the Executive Council. Marjory and Brian MacRae were one of the 25 couples who attended the special occasion.*

THE WEATHER was sunny and warm, the ladies resplendent in their (new) summer finery, while we men, well "we just had to wear our kilts".



Entering the Palace grounds by the North Gate we wandered around the gardens which were in full colour. At 4pm prompt the band struck up the National Anthem. The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal party were standing on the steps.

The Royal party split up and made their way towards the tea tents between rows of guests marked out by the Company of Royal Archers. The Duke of Edinburgh came past where we were standing and stopped just in front of us. Turning to the food tent we saw a small group of people and standing in the centre was The Princess Royal.

Having partaken of sandwiches and refreshment, our next assignment was to find as many of the other 24 couples representing the RSCDS as possible. Wandering around we enjoyed the fine selection of music played by the two military bands who kept everyone entertained.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon, the setting absolutely brilliant. Reading the papers on Friday we realised that over 8000 people attended the Garden Party and maybe this is how we failed in our assignment to meet the other 24 couples!

On behalf of all those selected to attend, we wish to thank the Society for giving us the opportunity to take part in this wonderful event.

BRIAN & MARJORY MacRAE, West Lothian Branch

# 75th Anniversary Reception

*In the presence of Her Majesty the Queen*

*2nd July 1998, City Chambers, Edinburgh*

**H**AT ON, gloves in hand, Thursday 2nd July 1998 found me at the City Chambers, Edinburgh, one of approx. 160 members of the RSCDS gathered for a Reception in the presence of our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. What a wonderful occasion for this world-wide ring of friendship – “the family” as Miss Milligan called it – with representatives from Europe, Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand. Society personalities were there: the President, The Earl of Mansfield was accompanied by the Countess; Chairman, Bill Clement and his wife Atsuko; as well as Vice President, Lt. Col. Muriel Gibson; and Vice Chairman, Linda Gaul; to name but a few.

What a thrill to mingle with so many fellow dancers . . . and our link? – our love of Scottish country dancing. Our co-founders would indeed have rejoiced at this gathering.

Everyone looked stunning, the men resplendent in the kilt, the ladies in their finery. As we stood around, chatting, there was a sense of expectancy and then applause as Her Majesty escorted by the President and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, entered the magnificent Council Chamber. What a setting, matching the brilliance of the occasion. A welcome from Linda Gaul, then a display by two teams of young dancers drawn from all over the UK, to music by Muriel Johnstone (piano) and Keith Smith (fiddle).



*75th Anniversary Reception, City Chambers, Edinburgh, 2nd July 1998. (l to r, front row) Lt. Col. Gibson (Vice-President), The Earl of Mansfield (President), Her Majesty The Queen (Patron), Mr Bill Clement (Chairman), The Lord Provost of Edinburgh. (l to r, back row) The Lady Provost of Edinburgh, The Countess of Elgin, Lady-in-Waiting*

Afterwards, Her Majesty moved amongst the members to chat before departing for Holyrood House and the Royal Garden Party that same afternoon.

What more can I say? It was a truly memorable occasion for us all. An occasion never to be forgotten. An occasion befitting the 75th Anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

DOROTHY WILSON, RSCDS New Zealand Branch

*Each of the branches were invited to send a representative to the “Royal Reception”. All UK branches were invited to send in the name of young dancers to give a demonstration before Her Majesty and two teams were chosen from branches throughout the UK.*



*75th Anniversary Reception, City Chambers, Edinburgh, 2nd July 1998. Her Majesty meeting the dancers.*



PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

3rd July, 1998

*Her Majesty*

The Queen has asked me to write to thank you for the reception at the City Chambers yesterday to mark the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society. As your Patron Her Majesty was very pleased to be able to include this in her Holyrood programme this week and particularly enjoyed both the dance demonstration and the opportunity to meet some of your members afterwards. She asks me to pass on her warm good wishes to all in the Society with this letter

*Robin Janvrin*

*Robin Janvrin*

(ROBIN JANVRIN)

W. Clement, Esq.

# President's Reception

1 July 1998, Stirling Castle

ON A beautiful summer evening 200 members travelled to Stirling to attend our President's Reception. Approaching the town, the castle was silhouetted against the early evening sky. Through the turreted gate-house we entered the magnificent Chapel Royal built over 400 years ago. The refurbished chapel not only looked magnificent, it had superb acoustics to benefit the music to follow.



The President welcomed those present. He spoke of the formation of the Society, its work to date and the future, stressing the importance of attracting young people to carry on the aims of the Society into the next century. The Chairman thanked the Earl and Countess of Mansfield for their presence and for The Earl's welcome.

There then followed the entertainment introduced by Angus McIver and Alastair MacFadyen. Stirling Branch demonstrated three dances published 25 years ago to celebrate the Society's Golden Jubilee. William Williamson sang two songs with Dumfries-shire connections in honour of Bill Clement, followed by a highland dance solo by John Wilkinson, accompanied by piper Andrew



Elizabeth Anne Harry  
playing the Clarsach

Kenny. Elizabeth Anne Harry sang to her own accompaniment on the clarsach and the first half ended with a further dance demonstration.

After an interval, the entertainment continued with further demonstrations by the Stirling team. Songs from William Williamson and Elizabeth Anne Harry and a ladies step display by Janet Johnston. Throughout the evening accompaniment had been provided by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. David Ross thanked all those who had entertained so delightfully and those who had organised the evening including HQ staff and particularly Historic Scotland.

RICHARD TURNBULL, *Richmond Branch*

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## Summer School

RIGHT, THEY told me that there was a whole host of special things on this year. Let's see what's on. Sunday, it must be the video on tonight of the Royal visit. Monday, Younger Hall Dance. Wednesday, must pace myself, I'm off to the Sherry Reception before dinner. Friday, that will be the Picnic Dance at Scone Palace (how lovely that the Earl and Countess were able to come and welcome us, and that it didn't rain). Saturday, phew, time for a rest. No such thing, it's down to the town for "Dancing in the Streets" in front of the TV cameras!

Week Two, will I survive all this action? Musn't miss the Celebratory Dinner, I would love to meet the President and the Earl of Elgin (Vice President) and to see Miss Gibson and the Chairman again. Final fairwell to St. Andrews for another year, but not before the Garden Party. Classes, oh yeah, they are fitted in between breakfast, coffee break and lunch. Who said Summer School was a quiet break away, I need a rest!



The Earl of Elgin with Summer School Director, Marjorie MacRae.

# First Extracts

*Extracts from Minutes of Meeting held in the Athenaeum, Glasgow, on 26th November, 1923.*

The Chairman, Mr F. H. Bisset, in addressing the meeting set forward the proposal to form a society, having as its aims the following objects:

1. To practice and preserve Country Dances, as danced in Scotland.
2. To collect old books, manuscripts or pictures, descriptive or illustrative, of Scottish dances.
3. To publish, from time to time, descriptions of Country dances with music and diagrams in simple form and at moderate price.

Mr Diack thought that the first thing was to appoint a Committee whose first duty it would be to publish, say, twelve dances. Once a book was in the hands of the Teachers and Festivals the thing would go ahead, then a second book could be got out.

Miss Montgomerie suggested that Mrs Kennedy Fraser might be asked to collect any dances she came across during her tours in the islands. Mr Gregson approved of forming a society, and publishing twelve dances, and getting hold of the children.

The following resolutions were then passed:

1. To form a Scottish Country Dance Society, having the above aims.
2. To form an Interim Committee whose duties would be
  - (a) To frame a Constitution
  - (b) To secure Members
  - (c) To act generally until the first Annual General Meeting
3. To appoint an Interim Secretary

The following were appointed to the interim:

Committee: Miss L. Dalmahoy, Miss Jean Milligan, The Lady Marjorie Dalrymple, Colonel J. D. Boswell, Mr J. Michael Diack, Mr J. S. Gregson (representing St. Andrews Society), Mr William Donald, Mrs Blackie, Miss M. L. Ross, Mrs Stewart, Mr F. H. Bisset, Mr J. E. Shaw

Mrs Stewart was appointed interim Honorary Secretary.

It was decided that Committees would at once be set up to arrange teaching in Edinburgh, Glasgow and the North. The Annual subscription of ordinary members was provisionally fixed at 5/-.

## First Life Membership

Members shall pay an annual subscription of 5/- of a Life subscription of £3-3/-. Any person who has been a member of the Society for four years, and whose subscription is not in arrears, shall have the option of becoming life members on payment of £2-10/-.

*Annual General Meeting  
19th October, 1927*

## First Summer School

It was decided that a holiday course of dancing be arranged for a week, to take place at St. Andrews during August 1927.

*Meeting of the Executive Council  
22nd October 1926*

## First Pocket Edition

It was agreed that a small edition of the Dance Books be published containing descriptions and diagrams of the dances with no music.

*Meeting of the Executive Council  
22nd October 1926*

## First Command Demonstration

Mrs Shand reported that she has played the music for a command demonstration of dances given by Ranger Guides at Balmoral, and that their Majesties The King and Queen had been much interested and expressed their good wishes for the future of Scottish Country Dancing.

*Annual General Meeting  
19th October 1927*

## The First Meeting of the Propaganda sub-committee was held in Queen Street Station Hotel, Glasgow on 21st January, 1932

*Present:* Miss Milligan, Miss Dow, Mrs Stewart, Mr Jamieson and Mrs Low. Mr Jamieson was appointed Convenor of the Committee.

*Cinemas:* Mr Jamieson reported that he had made enquiries regarding having Country Dance items introduced in the Pathé news films at Cinemas, but found the price was prohibitive.

## First "Bulletin"

*Magazine:* The Convenor suggested having a magazine. Mrs Stewart had had the same idea and submitted a list of notes which she suggested should be published. The Committee approved of the idea and agreed that such a magazine should be issued to members bi-annually, or sold to non-members at the price of 1/- or thereabouts. A 32 page booklet and cover would cost approximately £26 for 2,500 copies. It was suggested that the magazine be the same size as the books and that 3 new dances be included in each issue, these dances could ultimately be published in books of twelve.

*Broadcasting:* Miss Dow asked if arrangements could be made to have lessons and talks on the wireless – it was agreed that enquiries should be made regarding this idea.

# Anniversary Reports

We are delighted to have six branches celebrating special anniversaries this year: Glasgow are celebrating their 75th year, N.W.Ayrshire, Bath and Stonehaven their 50th year, and Hawaii and Victoria are in their 25th year.

## Glasgow

The Branch held a Jubilee Reunion on Saturday 27 June when members met for an afternoon of entertainment stimulated by an exhibition of memorabilia.

The sun shone all day on Sunday 28 June when George Square was filled with music and dancing. The day began with over 100 children dancing, then came the adults – both demonstrations and dancing for all. The Square was alive and visitors joined in the event organised in conjunction with Glasgow City Council.

On 18 September, members toasted the RSCDS and Glasgow Branch on their 75th Anniversary, and cut the celebration cake at the Jubilee Dance.

## North Ayrshire

Fifty years ago RSCDS Ayrshire (Northwest) branch was formed by 25 dancers meeting in Ardrossan. Within five years, membership had grown to 558. Within ten years the Branch had hosted a Society's AGM and in the years since, two Branch members, Leslie Currie then Alastair Aitkenhead, were elected as Society Chairman.

Celebrations for our 50th Anniversary started at New Year when Bill Clement joined members and guests in an Anniversary Ball, then continued with a Past-Members Day in May and an open-air ceilidh in the grounds of Brodick Castle in July.

Here's to the next fifty years.



RSCDS North Ayrshire Branch (l to r): Colin McDougall (Secretary), Fiona Grant (Chairman), Jean Holm (Founder Member), Alastair Aitkenhead (Branch President), Jessie Wilson (Founder Member), Bill Clement (Society Chairman).

## Bath

Bath Branch has celebrated its 50th anniversary during the 1997/98 season. The highlight of the year was the Anniversary Ball held at the Guildhall, Bath, on Friday 27th February, 1998.

Another major event was the Day School for both dancers and musicians.

The Branch demonstration team, "Corryvrechan", took part in 'Dancecomp '97' at Disneyworld, Paris, and danced at the international folk festival at Uetersen in Germany this year. "Corryvrechan" have also performed at major festivals in Canada, Slovenia, USA, Spain, Germany and Eastern Hungary over the past six years.

## Stonehaven

Stonehaven Branch celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a Dinner and Country Dance to the music of Alistair Hunter. Sixty Branch members including four founder members attended.

The picture shows the birthday cake being cut by one of the first child members of the Stonehaven class and this will be added to the 50 years of memorabilia which was on display.

A very happy evening was enjoyed by all.



## Hawaii

There is more to the Hawaiian Islands than palm trees and hulas – there is a group of enthusiastic Scottish Country Dancers! In 1972, David Brandon was transferred to the Honolulu with his work. He and his wife, Mary, were both SCD teachers, and together they created the Hawaii Branch of the RSCDS. Miss Milligan herself visited us in 1977. This year we not only celebrate our 25th year as a branch, but also our 20th Institute, our annual dance workshop which attracts dancers from the US mainland and Canada, and even as far away geographically and culturally as Japan. On 30th May, we danced in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Society. We've all come a long way.

## Victoria, Canada

Members of the RSCDS Victoria Branch have had a wonderful anniversary year. Six sets of dancers from all over Vancouver Island were featured performers at the Canadian Scottish Regimental Heritage Foundation Ceilidh. A thrilling and flawless performance.

A 25/75 Anniversary Ball, on 30th May, 1998, allowed enthusiastic dancers from the Island, Vancouver, England and New Zealand to dance to the sounds of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.

The first, of our hopefully annual, Beginners' Dance went off with a flourish on 17th April thanks to our newest teacher Sheila McCall.

Our best wishes also go to branches celebrating in 1999: Annan and Inverness & District celebrate their 50th anniversary, Edinburgh celebrates its 75th and Hunter Valley/Newcastle celebrates its 25th.

# A Day in the Life of . . .

## Summer School, St. Andrews

by John Wilkinson

*John is a fully qualified teacher and teaches both Scottish Country Dance and Men's Highland classes at Summer School*

IT'S FRIDAY. The sun is streaming into my room – just as it has done every other day. Having risen and showered, I go for a short stroll before the heat of the day. As I return the piper is taking position for *reveille*. Did I imagine that I'd recognised a couple of faces?

I now have a quiet seat before breakfast when, coffee in hand, I can review my schedule for the day.

Breakfast now beckons and I chat to those whom I meet and check the 'pigeon holes' and the notice boards on the way. The queues seemed a little shorter today! Am I earlier or later? Are people suffering the pace? The main topics of conversation are about the Younger Hall dance last night and hopes that the teachers will sympathise and 'go easy' on the class.

I set off on foot. It's refreshing to have the sun shining and the birds singing and I find this puts me in a positive frame of mind. Sometimes this euphoria can be spoiled by the howl of jets from Leuchars, but not today.

Class members are all on time this morning, but perhaps not quite so enthusiastic. I'm aware of some additional and quite exotic 'supports'. The class works well – a triumph of 'mind over matter' – although I can detect that we're nearing saturation point. The pianist has none of these afflictions and is superb as usual.

A most welcome cup of tea is now consumed at Holy Trinity Church Hall, served with an adequate quantity of gossip and chit-chat. There's a lot of secret goings-on today – presumably about tonight's ceilidh.

Swords in hand I visit the solicitors office to collect the key for my next class. The office staff believe it's a hold-up. This morning they've received a fax addressed



to "the dancer in the kilt" – coincidentally it's for me!

My class for the second hour is very small but very enthusiastic and extremely hard working, nevertheless we are all pleased to finish and get back to shower and change before lunch.

I've been invited to a 'party' before lunch. These events seem to be what sets Summer School apart. Some people tell me it's one of the reasons they come here year after year.

Lunch is enjoyed and conversations shared on all manner of topics. Heartfelt thanks must go to the University staff for the catering and service.

I have my first free afternoon of the week and decide to stroll round the town. This includes the compulsory ice-cream and strawberry tart. Boots the Chemist seems to be popular with Summer School people. The afternoon is not quite free as I'm on duty in the Chequered Court for afternoon tea.

A quiet half hour to review tomorrow's schedule, another shower and change and another 'party' before dinner. I do like the dress code for dinner, which I believe brings some equality, uniformity and dignity. Best behaviour tonight as I've been invited to the 'top' table.

The ceilidh lives up to all expectations with some unusual and extremely clever items. It is hotter and more crowded than ever but this is all part of the experience. What a wealth of talent and diversity there is to be found at Summer School!

One more 'party' to attend before a late evening stroll in the cool air and then to bed.

*What will tomorrow be like?*





# DAY/WEEKEND SCHOOLS

## 1998

DATE	BRANCH
Oct/Nov	San Francisco
<b>November</b>	
6-8	Northern Virginia
6-8	Kingston, Ontario
7	Exeter
7	Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario
13-15	Cape Town
14	Hamilton & Clydesdale
14	Toronto
14-15	The Hague District
20-22	Croydon & District
21	Calgary
27	Monklands
27-29	Carlisle & Border
<b>December</b>	
28-4 Jan	New Zealand

## 1999

<b>January</b>	
2	N.W. Craven
15-17	Falkirk
<b>February</b>	
	Nova Scotia
5-7	York & N. Humberside
6	Carlisle
6	South Wales
6-7	Cheltenham
12-14	Hawaii
13	Cambridge & District
13	Perth & Perthshire
20	Oxfordshire
20-21	Tokyo
26-28	Atlanta
27	London, Canada
27	Stirling
<b>March</b>	
	Banffshire
	Detroit
	Windsor, Ontario
	San Diego
3	Bath
5-7	Winnipeg
6	Somerset
6	Birmingham
12-13	Lorn, Argyll
13	Berks/Hants/Surrey/Border

13	Edinburgh
13	Leicester
13	Liverpool
13	Newcastle-upon-Tyne & District
20	Royal Tunbridge Wells
26-28	Leeds
Mar/Apr	Orange County

## April

	Washington DC
10	Sacramento
16-18	Helensburgh & District
17	Bournemouth
17	Doncaster & District
17	Winchester
24	N.W. Craven
24	South Wales
30	Isle of Islay

## May

	Pietermaritzburg
	Portrush
	St. Andrews
	Vancouver
2-5	Tokai
8	Aberdeen
15-17	New York
21-22	Isle of Skye
21-23	Duns & District
23	Melbourne & District
28-31	Chicago

## June

	Montreal
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## July

	Boston
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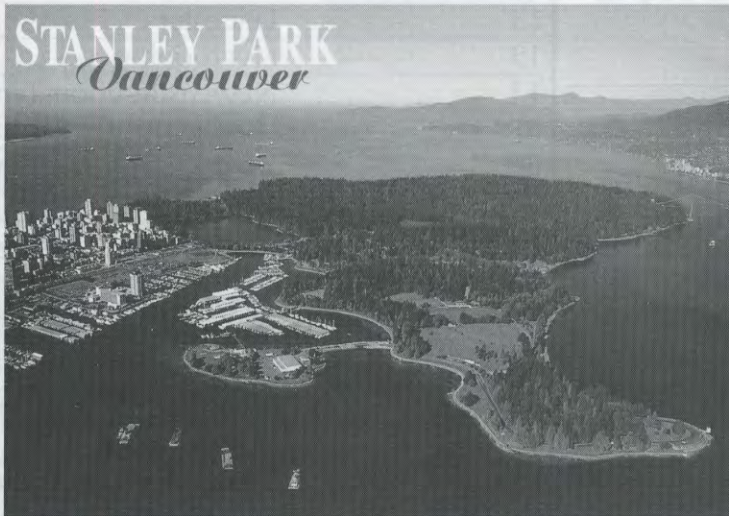
## September

	Johannesburg
4	Lochaber
10-12	Seattle
18	Buffalo
25	Ayr
25-2 Oct	Western Australia

## October

	Cheshire
	Glasgow
	South Argyll
15	Atlanta
16-18	Hamilton, Ontario
22-24	Sutton Coldfield
23	Sheffield

AS THE RSCDS is in the midst of celebrating its 75th Anniversary, not only in Scotland but in many areas of the world, the Vancouver Branch of the Society is actively involved in several special functions to commemorate this remarkable event. Scottish Country Dancing in the Vancouver area has been an ongoing activity for almost as long as the Society has been in existence. As long ago as 1929, dance classes initiated by the late Mrs Eleanora Bingham, who came to Vancouver from



Scotland with her husband in the 1920's. At approximately the same time, the widely known Mary Isdal MacNab was very actively involved in teaching Highland Dancing as well as Scottish Country Dancing in the Vancouver area, and was also well known as a collector of dances which had been lost to Scotland and rediscovered from various sources in North America. Many of the dances from the MacNab collection have now been copyrighted and published officially in two volumes by the RSCDS.

Since the formation of the Vancouver Branch of the Society in 1964, numerous groups have sprouted all over the province of British Columbia and, as a result, dance classes are available practically every night of the week, particularly in the Greater Vancouver area. When the dance season comes to an end, usually in

May of each year, the Vancouver City Parks Board makes it possible for the RSCDS to organise Monday evening Scottish Country Dance sessions outdoors in the beautiful location of Stanley Park, from June to August, where we frequently welcome visiting dancers from all over the North American continent as well as overseas. The very popular Stanley Park summer dance sessions have been ongoing for over 40 years, and as the Branch committee members are usually well armed with some pertinent informative material to "spread the word" with regard to dance classes, etc., it has proved to be a good source for potential Scottish Country Dancers.

During the annual dance session, from September to May, a popular venue on Monday evenings in The Scottish Cultural Centre, where the Vancouver Branch of the RSCDS is fortunate enough to be one of the shareholders under the auspices of the United Scottish Cultural Societies, along with such august bodies as The St. Andrews & Caledonian Society, The Saltire Society, The Moray, Nairn & Banff Society, The BC Highland Dance Association; The BC Pipes Association, Sons of Scotland - to name but a few.

Childrens classes in BC are very successful and growing, due to the efforts of some very dedicated teachers, with a view to the continuity of this ever-popular activity in this part of the world. Annual Weekend Workshops are held specifically for children and attendance at these events is very encouraging, which augurs well for the future of the RSCDS in Vancouver. Plans are well underway for another significant event to be held in August 1998, as the annual TAC (Teachers' Association Canada) Summer School, normally held in Ontario, is venturing west this year to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. This combined effort between east and west, TAC executive committee in Ontario along with a sub-committee in Vancouver, requires much time and expertise by all concerned in this undertaking, especially in communicating with each other from centres 3000 miles apart!

In April 1997, the Vancouver Branch organised its second weekend workshop in the very popular Whistler ski resort, made even more famous in March 1998 by a holiday visit from Prince Charles and his sons, Princes William and Harry. The number of dancers in attendance at the previous two Whistler weekend workshops, both local and overseas dancers, have provided evidence that the exercise should be repeated at this spectacular venue. As a result, a third weekend workshop at Whistler is planned for May 1999.

Through the initiative of our Branch Secretary, the week of 20th-27th June has been declared by our City Hall as "Scottish Heritage Week". During this particular week, all the Scottish organisations will be involved in promoting the very best of Scottish culture. One 27th June, the Heritage Week culminates in the BC Highland Games. This year, I have been invited to take on the exalted title of Honorary Cheiftain for the day. I am especially happy to accept the invitation on behalf of Vancouver Branch of the RSCDS, particularly during this 75th anniversary of our Society. It is indeed gratifying to be acknowledged by the other Scottish Societies for the contribution the RSCDS has made not only to the Scottish community in this part of the world, but to all those British Colombians of many different cultural and ethnic backgrounds who have discovered the joys in the grace, exercise, energy and social interchange which is the very essence of Scottish Country Dance.



MARY MURRAY

## Reviews Section

**Highland Balls and Village Halls** G. W. Lockhart  
Paperback published by Luath Press and available from RSCDS HQ £6.95

I found the book entertaining – it provides lovely anecdotes about people and events, most of which have some connection with the Society. It is written in an easy to read style and contains a lot of information. For example, I found the section referring to the “leaves from the Journal” by Queen Victoria particularly interesting. My only disappointment in the book was that the references to the Society, and in particular Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart, were so fleeting. Considering the chapters dedicated to the others, it seems a pity that their contribution to dancing seems skimmed over.

However, I think the book does give another view to dancing, music and heritage of Scotland and could well be of interest to a number of the Society, who may not be aware of the book unless it is sold by the RSCDS.

*Angela Young*

### **From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa'**

Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent

Available on CD and cassette, book of dance instructions also available from Teachers Association of Canada

Dance enthusiasts familiar with the “Farewell My Fancy” and “Glasgow Assembly” collections of dances devised by Bob Campbell of Ontario, will welcome this useful production, played in the style we have come to expect from Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent. There are arrangements of both traditional and modern tunes blending with original tunes and tempos well controlled.

*Jennifer Wilson*

If you know of a newly released book, recording or video that you feel should be reviewed, please send a copy to the Secretary at HQ

## RSCDS Courses in 1999

### **Potential Tutors' Course**

Date: 20 February Tutor: Mrs Johan MacLean

Open to members who hold a full Teachers Certificate with a wide and varied teaching experience who intend to run a candidate class in the near future.

### **Tutors' Course**

Date: 27 March Tutor: Miss Lesley Martin

Great refresher course for tutors with experience in presenting candidates for examination.

### **Musicians' Course**

Date: 16–18 April Tutor: Miss Jennifer Wilson

A course designed to assist competent musicians to play for classes. Covers instruction in the various styles and aspects of playing for Scottish country dancing. Depending on number of applicants may be adapted to cover accordion, fiddle or piano.

Application forms for all of the courses are available from your branch secretary or HQ. **All applications must be returned to 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF before 30th December, 1998.** All courses will be held in Edinburgh. *The cost of tuition and lunch will be paid by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. Students must arrange their own accommodation and travel.*

### **Examiners Seminar**

30th October, 1999. Director: Elma McCausland

A one-day course will be held in Edinburgh for RSCDS examiners. This course will allow examiners from around the world to meet and discuss standards, policy and procedure.

### **Adjudicators Assessment**

24th April, 1999

A panel of three adjudicators will conduct a one-day assessment of new adjudicators. This will involve both practical and discussion sessions, and will take place in Edinburgh.

## Summer School

18 July – 15 August 1999

MacIntosh Halls, St. Andrews

Approximately 1000 dancers join together each year to attend the Society's annual Summer School in St. Andrews, Scotland.

Classes are available to students of all levels from intermediate to fully qualified and include examination classes for Preliminary Test and Teachers Certificate.

Accommodation is in single study bedrooms, and this year we will be based at MacIntosh Halls. Students may attend on a residential or non-residential basis.

Please ensure to forward your completed booking forms as soon as possible. Forms are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope, marked “Summer School” to:

The Secretary, RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent,  
Edinburgh EH3 7AF, Scotland

Overseas members who cannot stamp the envelope should include an international reply coupon.

Application forms will not be available until January, but will be sent out, as soon as possible thereafter. They should be returned no later than 1st March, 1999.

Those hoping to enrol for an examination class should also request a syllabus and application form for candidate training.

**Note: residential places are limited and early booking is recommended**

# RSCDS Music Course

(funded from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund)



FOUR EXCITED, though somewhat pensive, individuals assembled outside HQ on the evening of Friday 17th April to be warmly welcomed by Vice-Chairman Linda Gaul (Pitlochry), and experienced musicians Alistair Hunter (Aberdeen) and Jennifer Wilson (Elgin). The occasion: the annual RSCDS musician's weekend. During the ensuing wine reception we quickly became acquainted with our course leaders and fellow tutees. The latter comprised a violinist from Leeds, and three accordionists, from the Manchester, Musselburgh and Ayr areas respectively.

The musicians reconvened the following morning at a local Haymarket hotel, and experienced a tiring but rewarding day (with appropriate refreshment breaks) playing through the sets that Alistair, as Course Tutor, had kindly prepared beforehand. The music studied proved to be highly appropriate, encompassing all the typical tempos and styles used for Scottish Country Dancing, and with a good range of technical standard. Jennifer kept herself busy too, and frequently entered the playing arena to listen to the play-throughs, and indeed occasionally provide her normal solid and very effective keyboard accompaniment.

By Saturday evening, all of the sets had "been aired", though its fair to say, by then, some players, this author very much included, had enjoyed (?) more than their fair share of wrong notes.

Throughout the day, frequent discussions and comments from all the participants served to throw up many useful ideas on the compilation and playing of tunes for Scottish dance occasions. Alistair's input was especially valuable, with his wealth of experience and knowledge. The atmosphere was informal and relaxed throughout, helped in part by some memorable anecdotes of former "playing experiences", both good and bad. Sunday morning's session consisted of a similar format, more play-throughs and discussion, but with a closer look at some of the more subtle interpretations and styles used by Scottish dance musicians.

Finally, thanks are due to Jennifer for her hard work in preparing for and administering the course, and also to Alistair for being such an excellent tutor. Special thanks however are reserved for the Trustees of the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, who, through their very generous donations, facilitated the running of the course. All the tutees left on Sunday very conscious of the fact that we all, in our own way, have plenty more "scope for improvement", but in no doubt that general awareness, understanding and interpretation of Scottish dance music had improved significantly. Moreover, we'd also all had a whole lot of fun and were unanimously of the view that the whole experience had been well worthwhile.

DAVE CUMMINS, AYR BRANCH

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

*My city, Ausburg in Bavaria, twins with Inverness, Scotland. From 9-16 May 1998 we had Mrs Irene Whyte and 12 of her dancers with us and I am very happy to report to you that this visit was an especially successful one.*

*The dancers had a full programme, dancing in 10 different schools, not only performing, but also teaching students between ages 10-18. This way about 2000 students were taught with their teachers present. We feel that this week was a very European one, as students came from as many as 28 countries. The country dancers had one public appearance in our Botanical Gardens, together with a Renaissance Dance Group and quite a number of citizens participating. The group was filmed and appeared on television. There were also talks with representatives of PTA and there was an official reception in the Golden Chamber of the Town Hall. Our two Mayors and our President, a member of Parliament greeted the dancers.*

*We do want to express our highest respect for the excellent performance the Inverness group gave and we look forward to further links.*

Best regards,  
LINDA LINDER,

Vice President, Ausburg International

## FUNDS

### *The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund*

The fund, which was established in memory of the Society's co-founder, Miss Jean Milligan, has again benefitted from donations from a variety of sources and legacies. All donations are gratefully accepted, from individuals, local associations, affiliated groups, etc. When the funding was established, it was agreed that only the interest accruing from this fund is to be used for grants for funding of projects. Therefore, the greater the capital fund that can be accumulated the more grants can be made available. The General Purposes Committee considers each application for funding carefully and they continue to ensure that the funds available are distributed to benefit a wide range of projects.

In 1998 grants were awarded for five scholarships to Summer School, as well as funding a reduction in Summer School fees for members under 21 years of age attending the School. In addition, funding was made available to cover the costs of the musicians course, as well as the potential tutors and tutors courses.

The Jean Milligan Fund also provides full funding for the Young Scottish Dancers Association (see page ??).

### *1998 Contingency Fund*

The fund, which was established in 1996, benefitted from the proceeds of the raffles held at both the 1996 and 1997 Summer Schools, and we are most grateful to all those who organised and took part in the raffles. The fund has now been utilised to offset the cost of some of the special events which are planned at the 1998 Summer School as part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations.

### *Further Information*

If you require any further information on either of the above funds, please contact the Secretary, Gill Parker, at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF. Cheques should be made payable to the "RSCDS".

## *The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund*

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

Received from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998

Date	Name	Branch	Affil Group	Individual	Total
03/07/97	Miss Kitty McLauchlan RSCDS East Angus in memory of Miss K. McLauchlan	£25		£76,883.00	£76,883
16/07/97	Miss B. R. Allan in memory of Miss K. McLauchlan			25	76,908
18/07/97	Beryl Fawdry (Deceased) bequeathed to the Society			500	77,433
13/08/97	Mr A. Patterson			25	77,483
13/08/97	Mr T. Toriyama			25	77,508
26/09/97	Miss L. Martin			16.98	77,524.98
17/10/97	Geneva Scottish Country Dance Club & friends in memory of Monika Phongsavata		£125		77,649.98
30/10/97	Frimley Green Scottish Country Dancing Class		80		77,729.98
17/12/97	Littlejohn & Co. in memory of Helen Gardiner Jones			1000	78,729.98
17/12/97	Mr G. Douglas			16.50	78,746.48
22/12/97	Urisa Reungsuwan & friends			200	78,946.48
10/01/98	Sales of "Dance with your Soul" 1992-1997 inc.			775.50	79,721.98
19/01/98	Miss M. MacFarlane			50	79,771.98
11/02/98	Mrs K. McAdam in memory of Marion Walker Grant			30	79,801.98
17/04/98	Ms. F. Neill			20	79,821.98
18/05/98	Donation - LPs			174	79,995.98
19/05/98	Mr & Mrs Haynes			100	80,095.98
19/05/98	Donation - LPs			2	80,097.98
20/05/98	Mr & Mrs Murayama			100	80,197.98
29/05/98	Donation - LPs			5	80,202.98
29/05/98	D. Granbury			10	80,212.98
08/06/98	Donation - LPs			10	80,222.98
08/06/98	Donation - LPs			8	£80,230.98

### *1998 Fund*

Name	Amount	Total
Total carried forward		£1,288.60
Raffle 1 1997 Summer School Raffle organised by Elizabeth McHardy, Barbara Peel, Helen Russell and Ruby Wilkinson	£245.85	
Raffle 2 1997 Summer School Raffle organised by M. Cameron, M. Inglis, B. Peel and E. Wallace	195.20	
Raffle 3 1997 Summer School Raffle organised by Janet Johnson, Fran Smith, Jane Eyre and Jim Burnett	371	
Raffle 4 1997 Summer School Raffle organised by Janet Johnson, Fran Smith, Jane Eyre and Jim Burnett	375	
	£1,187.05	<b>£2,475.65</b>

# 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 NOT LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER.

1. **Teachers 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 for 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.

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

.....



# Young Scottish Dancers Association

(Funded by The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund)

*"It was lots of fun! Please can I come again?"*

That was the request of 10-year-old boy, one of 17,000 children who took part in "Dance Scottish in the UK" in November 1997, initiated by the Young Scottish Dancers Association. The many letters, poems, drawings and photographs received show that the youngsters had a great time and wish to continue dancing. Some met in large gatherings of several hundreds, while elsewhere there were only groups of seven or eight. Favourite dances included The Dashing White Sergeant, The Flying Scotsman and The Gay Gordons.

*We did the Gay Gordons. It was cool.  
Craig turned the wrong way. I felt a fool.*



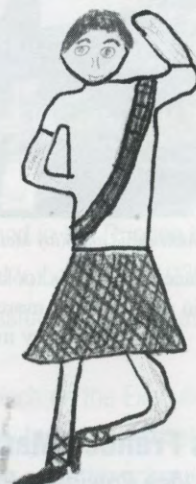
Clearly those who attended in 1997 enjoyed themselves.

Following last year's success, DANCE SCOTTISH WORLDWIDE extends an international invitation to dancers, old and young, to "celebrate in '98" during the 75th anniversary week on 23rd to 30th November. Many of the schools will return to dance again, this time along with branches, affiliated groups, clubs and schools from all corners of the world, all dancing from the same programme at the same time. Are you going to be among them? If not, why not?

You can help by encouraging dancing among young people in schools and youth groups in your area, then everyone can have fun just like Catriona (11yrs) in her poem.

## Scottish Country Dancing.

*I walked into the hall and there we go,  
Children having fun,  
Kilts and skirts were flying around,  
Feet were tapping on the ground,  
Whirling, twirling, dancing to the beat,  
Singing, clapping, laughing.  
The dance is finished,  
People red and panting,  
They all enjoyed the Scottish Country Dancing.*



# PEOPLE

## Kitty McLauchlan – an appreciation

### “Tea for Two – A Duet”

I first met Kitty McLauchlan at Summer School in 1977. As pianist for the Intermediate class I felt very inexperienced. One day the dancers for my classes were being used as stooges (volunteer students for the examination candidates) and I was allowed to dance in Miss Milligan’s class in the Younger Hall with Kitty as pianist. I was very impressed not only with her formidable technique but with her very relaxed style of playing and the excellent rapport between teacher and and pianist. I learnt a lot in that one class.

Our next meeting was in Edinburgh in March 1978 where Kitty and I were accompanists at the Competition Festival. I had to play the original tune for Montgomerie’s Rant for one team. I had practised well and was reasonably confident until Kitty came into the Hall! I struggled manfully through it and afterwards, over a cup of coffee, Kitty’s only comment was “That’s a great tune but difficult”. I discovered much later that was Kitty’s way of paying a compliment. She really was a very shy and private person and it took me a long time to get to know her well. It was worth persevering though, as she proved to be a very good, and surprisingly very entertaining, friend and hostess.

Her remarkable technique was perfected during the late 1940s when she studied with Harold Craxton in London. Her entire life was spent passing on this technique to her pupils. I performed in the under 12 class in Perth Festival in 1949 and came third. My success was diminished when I later discovered that first place went to a pupil of Kitty’s. Kitty even recalled the test piece 35 years later!

In the early 1980s Kitty approached me at Summer School and offered me some music to study. It was music for a piano duet. Two days later we discussed the music and I suddenly realised that



A. Aitkenhead and Kitty McLauchlan

she wanted me to play a duet with her in the Friday ceilidh. I agreed and used every spare minute to practice the lower part; Kitty always taking the upper part. At one rehearsal Kitty rapped me over the knuckles for not counting accurately! I think this was the real start of the friendship. We played at many ceilidhs after that and certainly had great fun.

I was then invited to her home in Arbroath where we spent many hours playing duets on her pianos. This became a regular

occurrence and always took the same form. Coffee, duets, a drink, lunch in a local hotel, more duets, a drink and high tea.

I miss Kitty very much, both as a friend and duet partner.

ROBERT MACKAY

## Miss Frances Martin

(Hon. Vice President, RSCDS Falkirk Branch)

The place . . . Falkirk Town Hall, scene of many RSCDS Falkirk Branch events over the last two generations.

The occasion . . . A tribute dance for Miss Frances Martin to mark her many (55) years of dedicated service to the Falkirk Branch.

Upwards of 250 members and guests led by Society Chairman, Bill Clement, danced a programme featuring Miss Martin’s favourites. A major highlight was the young folk’s charming demonstration of the medley “Miss Frances Martin” penned by Branch Chairman, Campbell Hunter and accompanied by two excellent new tunes, “Miss Martin’s Strathspey” and “Compliments to Miss Martin Reel”.



Bill Clement (Society Chairman), Miss Frances Martin, Campbell Hunter (Falkirk Chairman)

## Jim Nicholson – an appreciation

News sometimes travels by a roundabout route. Ron Wallace called me from California early one evening at the end of July 1997. He had just been on the phone to John Drewry in Aberdeen and John had mentioned that he had to go down to Edinburgh the following day for a funeral. Ron asked if it was anyone connected with SCD. “Yes” said John, “It’s Jim Nicholson”.

That name is well remembered by those of us who were teaching in the 1960s and 1970s. Live music for classes was rare in those days; teachers eagerly awaited any new records and tried out any new dances on them. His were no exception.

Jim was an excellent dancer as well as a musician. He and Mary Murray, now of Vancouver, were members of the Falkirk demonstration team that toured Sicily in 1958, and he was also selected to dance in the Scottish international demonstration team that toured South Africa in 1960.



Jim was a first-rate photographer. He joined the National Trust for Scotland in 1964 and later became their first Art Director. He was also one of the foremost Scottish landscape painters in water colours. In addition to his work for the National Trust, he designed the Society’s “Crown of Ghillies” logo which is still used today. The well-known graphics which have appeared on all the LPs and cassette inlay cards were also designed by Jim.

He was good at everything he did and yet was disliked by no-one. His sense of fun and good fellowship brightened the lives of everyone he met. He will be greatly missed.

MAURICE WHITBY, Kitchener-Waterloo Branch





# OBITUARIES

## **Bob Blackie**

*Died 25th May, 1998*

It was with much sadness that we learned of the death of Bob Blackie who was to have been presented with the Society's Scroll this year.

Bob was born and raised in the Border country of Scotland. He moved to Australia between 1961 and 1965 during which time he took up Scottish country dancing and Highland dancing. Back in Edinburgh for two years he soon got involved with the demonstration team and took his Preliminary Certificate before leaving for Canada in 1967.

He served as Chairman of the Teachers Association of Canada, was instrumental in establishing the first Summer School in Canada, taught dance classes in virtually every province of Canada as well as numerous in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. He was the first overseas teacher to be invited to teach at the St. Andrews Summer School.

*Hamilton, Ontario*

*The Society's Scroll of Honour was presented to Mr Blackie's mother at a memorial service in June.*

## **Margaret (Peggy) Dykes**

*Died 13th October, 1997*

The death of Peggy, following a short illness, has deprived the Society, and particularly N. Ayrshire Branch, of a much loved and valued friend, dancer and teacher. Peggy was an integral part of the life of N. Ayrshire Branch for 30 years, serving as Branch Chairman from 1989-92.

Whilst both an energetic and graceful dancer, it is primarily as a teacher that Peggy is remembered by members of the branch and past and present pupils of Mayfield Primary School and St. Andrew's Academy in Saltcoats. Many young people were introduced to Scottish country dancing through Peggy's cheerful and enthusiastic teaching style.

Peggy will be remembered for her work with the Branch demonstration team and the many primary and secondary teams who so successfully competed in local dance festivals. She is greatly missed by all who knew her.

*RSCDS North Ayrshire Branch*

## **Bessie Gilroy**

With the recent death of Mrs Bessie Gilroy, East Lothian in particular, and the RSCDS in general, has lost one of its stalwarts. She was of the same coterie as Miss Milligan, Miss

Adams, Mrs Leslie and others and as such, one of the early proselytes of Scottish country dancing. Her devotion and commitment to country dancing was total: the annual visit to Summer School in St. Andrews; the spelling out of the dances for others; the teaching all round and even as far as New Zealand and Canada; all show her precise approach to the work in hand. At the beginning, she was held like others of her kind in some considerable awe, but you don't teach a class of over two hundred dancers without some sort of order. In the end, however, she was a well beloved and much appreciated lady. With Bill, her late husband, the two made a powerful but very unassuming teaching team.

*RSCDS East Lothian Branch*

## **Helene Jensen**

*Died 8th March, 1998*

Mrs Jensen was born in Vienna in 1908 but came to Denmark after the First World War. She returned twice more and met her husband before moving to Australia for 20 years. Helene returned to Denmark in 1948 having taken up Scottish country dancing during her stay in Australia. She soon became involved with the St. Andrew Society of Denmark.

She regularly taught a large and enthusiastic class in Copenhagen, with the assent of Miss Milligan, although she never passed her Teachers Certificate. She also taught the present Danish Queen. Helene received the Society Scroll in 1988. We all miss "Mrs Mac" as she was lovingly known.

*Else Hartzberg*

## **George Mechan**

*Died 29th April, 1998*

George, a respected teacher, adjudicator and examiner who worked continuously promoting and teaching Scottish country dancing was awarded the Society Scroll in 1986.

A graduate of St. Andrews University, George learned Scottish country dancing from Miss Dow of Dundee, gained his Teachers Certificate in 1934 and danced in the Dundee team at the International Folk Dance Festival in London in 1935. His Claverhouse Dance Team were successful competitors at Festivals from the 1950s to 1970s.

George represented Hawaii Branch on the Executive Council for many years, travelled widely teaching Scottish country dancing and was well known to many branches in America, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.

*Bill Clement*

## **Charles (Bert) Raven**

*Died 8th February, 1998*

The Herefordshire Branch wish to record with great sadness the death of their Chairman, Bert Raven. Bert and his wife Peggy took up Scottish country dancing later in life, but participation and enthusiasm were ever their watchwords. He was, in turn, both Chairman and Treasurer of Ross Reel Club. He greatly enjoyed his visits to Summer School and made many friends there.

Bert was a past Mayor of Ross-on-Wye, had a passionate interest in people and was always ready to lend a sympathetic ear. Our thoughts are with Peggy and the family.

*RSCDS Herefordshire Branch*

## **Bobby Watson**

*Died 9th November, 1997*

Bobby was not only a champion Highland dancer, a leading teacher and competition judge, but also one of Scotland's cultural ambassadors, in demand as an instructor in many parts of the world including Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Japan.

Bobby started Highland dancing under the instruction of his mother and went on to pick up numerous awards including the World Championships.

He set up the Watson School of Dancing in Aberdeen in 1947 and performed on various television shows such as *The White Heather Club* and *The Kilt is My Delight*.

Bobby taught at Summer School in St. Andrews for more than 25 years and many dancers from around the world owe their technique to his teaching.

*Bill Clement*

## **RSCDS Price List**

A full list of Publications, recordings and videos is available from Society Headquarters. The list includes details of sale items, new releases, gifts and accessories, together with non-Society items.

All RSCDS members receive a 15% discount off the retail price of RSCDS books, recordings and videos (offer excludes sale items). All items subject to post & packing.

We accept credit card payments – VISA, Access, Eurocard, Mastercard, Delta and JBC – or cheques payable in £ sterling.

For full details contact:

RSCDS HQ

12 Coates Crescent

Edinburgh EH3 7AF

Scotland, UK

Fax: +44 (0)131 225 7783

## **NEWSBRIEF**

After much consideration it had been agreed that there will not be an immediate change to the title of the Newsbrief. As from this year the members' Newsbrief will be expanded.

The January issue will be doubled in size and the Summer issue will contain a leaflet of dances.

Look out for your copy of the Newsbrief and let us know if you feel it can be improved, or if there is an issue that you feel needs aired, write to the Editor.

We are also hoping to have a Review Section with reviews of newly released publications, recordings, etc., so if you know of a newly released book, cassette, CD or video, make sure that we receive one and we will try to include a short review.



# Teachers' Association (Canada)

*Affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society*

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

### Membership Services

- ★ **TACTALK**  
Quarterly magazine with articles on many aspects of Scottish Country Dancing, book and recorded music reviews, teaching hints, etc. Subscription information available for non-teachers through the Corresponding Secretary
- ★ **ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL SUMMER SCHOOL** (1 week)  
August 1998 - University of Waterloo, Ontario. B.C. Classes, evening social dancing, ceilidh, banquet and ball, optional

afternoon activities. Daily, part-week and weekend registration available.

- ★ **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.
- ★ **AREA REPRESENTATIVES**  
Area representatives provide local networking contacts and support.
- ★ **OUTREACH PROGRAMME**  
Provides sponsorships, advice and encouragement to new teachers.
- ★ **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.

### Corresponding Secretary *(For all general enquiries)*

Anne Harrison  
1232 Montclair Drive  
OAKVILLE ON L6H 1Z4  
e-mail: nrobharris@aol.com

### Membership Secretary

June Shore  
223 Victoria Avenue North  
HAMILTON ON L8L 5G3

### TAC Books *Managers*

John and Shirley Lanktree  
599 Dickinson Avenue  
OTTAWA ON K1V 7J2  
Tel: (613)733 1820  
dz938@freenet.carleton.ca

### TAC Sound *Managers*

John and Catherine Shaw  
PO Box 24152  
LONDON ON N6H 5C4  
Tel: (519)641 3929  
tacsound@sympatico.ca

### TAC Talk Editor

Marjorie McLaughlin  
4754 Vista Lane  
SAN DIEGO CA 92116  
rscdssd@aol.com



## The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch

### Summer School 1999/2000

*To Scottish Country Dancers throughout the world*

An Invitation is extended to attend the New Zealand Branch Summer School to be held in Wanganui from approximately 29th December 1999 to 5th January 2000.

Wanganui, with a population of 44,000, is located on the West Coast of the North Island, approximately 2½ hours drive north from Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.

Wanganui is situated on one of the most beautiful rivers in New Zealand and offers many attractive tours and activities such as jet boat rides, riverboat cruises, swimming, fine beaches, golf, theatre, deer parks, and a children's play park, etc. Wanganui boasts an excellent museum housing the finest collection of Maori artefacts in New Zealand and a first class art gallery.

Summer School will be held at the prestigious Wanganui Collegiate School, home to Prince Edward during his New Zealand Tutorship at the College. The venue is ideally suited to this occasion - all facilities being within the campus of the College.

The usual Summer School format of "Graded" Morning Classes, optional afternoon activities and a variety of evening functions (Hogmanay, President's Ball and many others) will cater for dancers of differing levels of expertise, enthusiasm and capabilities. Examination Classes will be offered if there is sufficient demand.

I will be happy to send you more information about the Summer School, the attractions of Wanganui and its surrounds. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Murray Corps and the  
Organising Committee*

**Wanganui**  
*The only thing missing is U*

RSCDS NZ Branch Summer School 1999/2000, PO Box 743, Wanganui, New Zealand  
Tel: +64 6 344 5300 Fax: +64 6 344 5454 e-mail: corpsmd@xtra.co.nz

## New Recordings from the RSCDS

### Collins CD Vols. I & II

*Colin Dewar \**

Two excellent volumes recorded to accompany the hugely popular Pocket Reference to Scottish Country Dancing published by Harper Collins.

### Anniversary Dances

*Craig McCallum \*##*

This new recording contains the dances within Leaflet 33, Leaflet 32 and the book "Five for 1965".

### Book 23

Gordon Shand

### Book 24

Muriel Johnstone

*Both recordings \* ##*

*\*available on CD (£12)*

*## available on cassette (£8)  
less 15% members discount*

These and other recordings, publications, etc. available from  
**your Branch or HQ**  
12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh  
EH3 7AF. Ask for details.



# 7th Festival of Dance

14th, 15th, 16th May, 1999

Come and join us in the beautiful heart of mid-Wales for an exhilarating weekend of dance. Have a purely Scottish weekend with leading teachers or taste other dance traditions from Britain and beyond with the other participating groups.

Of the 1998 festival our visitors wrote:

*"Once again I must congratulate you on a superbly organised weekend - it was an enormous success!" . . . "Many thanks for such a fantastic weekend - it was marvellous." "It was my first visit - it will not be my last!" "I had a great time!" "A very, very big thank you for a wonderful weekend - Everyone was so friendly that I felt that I had known so many of you for years." ". . . the food and festivities were quite splendid!"*

**Programme will include:** Roast Lamb Barbecue, Workshops, Street Procession, Demonstrations, Informal Scottish Dance, International Dance, Festival Ceilidh Performance, Small Harps Gathering, Pipers Get Together and much more!

Further details are available from:

Mrs Vicky Sennett, Wyeburn House,  
Castle Street, Built h Wells, Powys LD2 3BN  
Tel: 01982 552907



## the reel

A quarterly magazine for  
Scottish Country Dancers

News  
Views  
Interviews  
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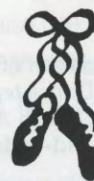
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