

Royal Scottish
Country Dance
Society
April
2011



Dates for your Diary

13 April Walk through for Saturday
Brice Hall Clarendon Park Road

16 April Leicester RSCDS Social Dance
Avenue Primary School
Leicester.LE2 3EJ
Contact Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

**7 May ASCDS Festival
The Dukeries, Ollerton**
Afternoon massed dancing and evening dance
Contact Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

14 May Corby SCD
[St. Andrews Church Hall,](#)
Occupation Road, Corby
Contact Marion Oram 0779 303 3647
Eileen Smith eileen79@btopenworld.com

21 May Nottingham RSCDS Saturday Social
Burton Joyce Village Hall
Contact David & Rhona Page
0115 981 3215
DPage60051@aol.com

4 June Market Harborough
Robert Whitehead
Assembly Rooms, Welland Park Road,
Market Harborough.LE16 9DR
Tickets from Sally Gardner
01858 464247 or Janet Marchand
janet@marchand.me.uk

9 July Leeds White Rose Festival
Afternoon + evening dance inc. supper
Band Marion Anderson
The Gateways School, Harewood, Leeds
Contact Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

Summer Tuesdays
19th July – 23 August 1.30- 3.45 Holy Cross Centre

13 August Leicester RSCDS Social Dance
Glenfield Church Hall, Leicester.
LE3 8DP
Contact Doris Buchanan
info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

**9, 10 & 11 September
Rutland Dance Weekend**
English, International & Scottish Dancing
Starts Friday evening The Community Hall
Cottesmore Rutland LE15 7DH
Contact Doris Buchanan
doris.buchanan@virgin.net

For details of classes, local dances,
programmes, maps, etc, try our website

www.leicesterrscds.org.uk

From the Office

It's been a busy time. The February dance was well supported and George Meikle's musical magic worked its charms (as it did at the Gallo-ways 40th anniversary dance last week.) A most enjoyable day school left us all tired but happy.

I know it is only April, but our last dance of the season is on April 16th and we are running a 'Walk through' class at Brice Hall on Wednesday 13th April. There is a minimal charge of £2 which covers the cost of the Hall and includes a cup of tea.

Our Tuesday and Thursday classes are usually planned around forthcoming dance programmes – as is the Caledonian Dancing on Monday nights – but trying to remember them all over a period of several weeks is not easy.

If you feel a little apprehensive when faced with a long dance programme full of those 'Well, I did it once six weeks ago but I'm blown if I know how it goes!' type dances then these walk through sessions are for YOU.

By now I'm sure most of you will know that Marion Turnock, who plays for the technique class, has been invited to join the Staff at St Andrews Summer School this year. She will be playing for classes in the second week of the course. This is the first time anyone from Leicester Branch has received this honour (and it *is* an honour, there's no pay!) Congratulations, Marion, we look forward to hearing all about it.

Summer reminds me that we will be running our 'Summer Tuesdays' again this year. It has proved very popular, giving us a chance to keep in touch and keep up with the dancing.

Doris has decided to organise the Rutland Dance Weekend in September again this year and already the tickets are selling well.

Well, that's summer and September dealt with, now I'm really getting ahead.

I understand, from the people who really do understand these things, that the rules forbidding the RSCDS giving to other charities have been relaxed. Knowing how generous you all are when appeals are made; Richard's LOROS Christmas carols, Tony's LOROS toys, John Long's cycling event, Rona and Rachel's race for life, Gill and my Rainbows race, Pam's quiz for Myeloma UK (do you remember Marion and David's Romanian villages Dances?) We have decided to make our 2012 February Dance a charity event. 'Which charity?' I hear you ask. Well, that's up to you. We propose a free lottery. Before Christmas you will be able to enter the name of your nominated charity and the draw will be made at the Christmas Social. It doesn't matter whether it is big or small, local or distant and you don't have to give a reason; the only rule is that it must be a registered charity, so put your thinking caps on.

Hauling you back from next year into the not too distant future, our AGM isn't that far away and we will soon be asking for willing volunteers to help us. Keith Oughton, our treasurer, must step down this year, so we are looking for someone who can take over that role, plus two other members, as Sue Tomkinson and John Long will both have completed their three-year terms.

Even closer to the present; "We are closed for Easter", as they say, Thursday 21st and 28th April and Tuesday 26th April. Re-open May 3rd & 5th

Happy Easter to you all, Barbara.

Skye News

Although I feel I am always busy, when it comes to putting pen to paper so to speak, there is not much to say!! However, lets start with the weather. Nothing to report except to say not a lot of snow here but wet and windy on some days.

The Waternish Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner was thoroughly enjoyed at The Stein Inn again. If you journey to Skye one day - do not forget there is a no toll for the bridge now - eat at the Stein, I am sure you will be pleased.

A little news for Doris and Vera, the Post Office has closed down opposite me and is now lodged at Hazel's house but only for two hours once a week. I shall use the P.O. at Dunvegan.

For anyone who is interested, the cost of premium petrol here is £1.39.9/ltr.

Kathie and Steve decided to let one car go recently, saying it was too expensive to have one standing on the drive not being used most of the time. Steve has retired recently.

Not sure whether I have told you that Dunvegan is a Fair Trade Village. Last Saturday, many folk gathered at the Dunvegan Hotel to enjoy the coffee etc. and of course chat and hear the latest news!

Saturday 21st March, Marie Curie Day, I had a table at the entrance to the Portree Co-op and collected change etc. from the shoppers. Most folk stop, smile, and delve into pockets or handbag - others pretend they have not seen you!! Takes all sorts. However, that evening over the 'phone, I was told that £541.80p had been collected that day.

Last Friday, after shopping at the Co-op, I noticed a group of firemen in the car park cleaning cars. I usually let the rain clean mine but this time I got in line and let firemen slosh soapy water over my little Agila, contributing a couple of pounds to their collection.

I am still collecting plastic milk bottle tops - my neighbour and I are off to Kyle again in a fortnight to take them to the chemist, Jaquie drives and I buy dinners.

Kathie and Steve have just set off for Inverness, staying overnight, returning tomorrow. No folk wanting bed and breakfast have appeared yet and when Kathie was offered part time work at the local wool shop she accepted. Often think of my Leicester friends, especially the dancers.

Love and best wishes to you all. Have a good Easter. Olive.

The dem team is always busy around January. They had four bookings for Burns Night celebrations this year and already have some for 2012 and even one for 2013!

On 22nd January 2011 the Rotary Club of Oadby Launde held its 3rd Burn's Night. 120 Rotarians and friends attended at the Coplow Centre in Billesden.

Colin Headley piped in the haggis and John Smith gave a spirited rendition "In Praise of the Haggis" after which a traditional Burn's supper was served.

During the evening Maureen Headley sang the beautiful Burn's love song "A Fond Kiss".

We were then treated to the dancing of the Leicester RSCDS Demonstration Team. The white dresses with tartan sashes, the sway of the kilts and the perfect footwork of the dancers was a sight to behold. Interspersed with the Dem. Team dances Doris Buchanan encouraged the guests to take to the floor. This they did with great enthusiasm and judging by the smiles and laughter they really enjoyed themselves.

All too soon the singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the evening to a close and many said how much they had enjoyed it and asked if there will be a repeat next year.

The second Dem. Of the Burns' season was to Botcheston Village Hall on January 28th. We arrived at 8.20pm to prepare for the 8.40pm display, only to find there was a delay in the proceedings. Those of us who had an important role to play - namely piping and addressing the haggis were already seated and tucking into their neeps and tatties. The village hall, being of minuscule proportions, and with only a tiny cloakroom - the main thoroughfare between kitchen and hall - meant there was no space for the remaining six members of the team. Ah well, what to do? Our quick thinking team decided that the village pub would be the best option. Here we met the rest of the village who were not at the Burns supper. We spent a pleasant hour by a roaring fire, before finally returning to do the Dem. This was followed by participation dances, taking evasive action to avoid being stabbed by stiletto heels or hobnailed boots! The evening ended with at least three crowded circles of Auld Lang Syne.

Diana & John Niblett

Sue Tomkinson

An excerpt from From 'Dance On' Magazine

The latest idea from the brain scientists, not yet proven, but interesting, is that the ability to retain instructions and then act upon them, (it is called the working memory,) is more important to you than your IQ, and of course we dancers all have at least 32 bars worth! Well, sometimes! The idea is that the amount of instructions a person remembers can be increased by training, perhaps, and this would be more successful than trying to increase someone's IQ.

So keep trying, Folks, you are doing the right thing!

Incidentally, the branch receives a copy of Dance on magazine & there are back copies available if you would like to read them. See Pam or Doris

Calpe 2011



We have returned from another very enjoyable dancing holiday in Calpe, Spain, although there were 4 of us who nearly did not make it. Greg, Margaret, Alan and I set off on Thursday night for the Travelodge at Stansted ready for an early start on Friday morning. The first set back was that it took us over half an hour to find the Travelodge – someone had renamed it 'Stansted Manor'. The second set back was Alan and I were still in bed at 4.40 a.m. when we were supposed to be in the foyer ready to leave for the airport – the alarm never went off!! Then we nearly missed the plane because of the enormous queues through security and we boarded the plane with 2 minutes to spare – a little too close for comfort.

All the Leicester gang met up at Alicante with all the flights arriving on schedule. On our flight there were George, Diane and Anne. From Gatwick came Maureen, her sister and friend, and from Manchester, Ken and Chris. Sue and Chris were already in Spain.

We arrived at the Hotel Diamante Beach in glorious sunshine and we were soon unpacked and walking along the promenade, taking refreshments and paddling in the sea. The water was icy cold but that did not deter 2 of our fellow dancers, Tony and John from going for a swim – mad Englishmen. The 4 star hotel has excellent amenities and buffet meals with plenty of choices. We danced almost every evening to fabulous music that Greg had recorded.

During the day there were plenty of places to visit as there is a very good local bus and train service. On Saturday there is a local street market in Calpe full of fresh fruit, vegetables and flowers as well as the usual handbags, tablecloths and jewellery. Walks were organised by our very experienced walker Keith Rose and were of varying difficulty. Two trips were arranged by George and John Aitken, one to Guadalest and one to Valencia – a beautiful city and well worth visiting again.

On the last night we have a bit of a Ceilidh. There are some very talented people in the group and we were entertained by monologues from Eileen Smith, the Swords danced by Keith Rose, a music quiz devised by Robert Senior and a dance display by Amanda Peart and her team. The star turn of the evening was put on by the Calpe Volunteers, who after many hours of practice managed to demonstrate The Kandahar Reel without crashing the helicopters!! (*thanks in no small part to our very capable teacher, Gill; says Greg*). If you would like to see the performance there is a link to YouTube via our own website under What's New 8/3/11 or go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK3SUAZvPH8>.

Our thanks go to George who works so hard to organise these holidays, and to his right-hand men, Mike Thompson and John Aitken, and to Keith Rose for all the walks. The organising team are already looking for a suitable venue for next year. If anyone has any ideas please pass them on to George.

Gill / Greg

The Kandahar Volunteers



Alan, Gill and Margaret climb the Calpe Rock. Greg is the one holding the camera, not the rope!

Leicester Day School



Thanks to a last minute flurry of bookings the 2011 Day School was again a great success.

Our two teachers, David Queen, from Ribble Valley (Alison's father - I keep getting told off for saying that!) and our own Senior teacher, Doris Buchanan worked us all hard and the day flew by with a mixture of interesting dances, good humour and an excellent lunch to keep us going.



The musicians, good friend Bob Shakespeare and Marion Turnock, lifted our spirits and our feet, encouraging us with their choice of music to complement the dances.

A small but hardy group managed to survive the evening dance, even pulling in an extra or two, before staggering home to a well deserved glass of cocoa.

Dick's Birthday

Our President, Dick Noden, celebrated his 90th birthday last month. As a gift to mark this very special occasion Colin Headley produced a framed copy of 'Dick's Dram'; the dance written for him by Doris Buchanan and published in our 'Crystal Collection' in 1992. Some of you may have seen it when Colin brought it along one Thursday evening recently.

In a letter expressing '1000 thank yous to the Branch for this gift' Dick goes on to describe the celebrations that took place.

"Last night, 16th March, I was taken to a party which was arranged for me BEHIND MY BACK, needless to say, for 'Dick's 90th Birthday'. It reminded me SO MUCH of the party you threw for my 80th, in that, as Jan and I entered the Hall where the Telford Reel Club dances every Wednesday night there they were, all lined up, and gave us a terrific round of applause. Just as you did.

Phyllis, who is the senior dance instructor, got in touch with all the people who had known me and invited them along so I met dancers I had known for years and others who, for one reason or another, had found other ways to spend their Wednesday evenings and were just memories.

And I can tell you, as on that March evening in 2001 I was hard pressed to remember some of their names. It was a truly memorable evening, with birthday cards and presents and a super buffet and a wonderful cake every bit as good as the one Ruby Hudston made for me ten years ago.

And then the Dem team demonstrated a dance for the party-goers, but especially for me. What was the name of the dance? DICK'S DRAM what else?

They did it very well and I told them a little bit about you and the circumstances of its composition. (*Dick worked for the Customs & Excise department, hence the 'Dram' and David Rawcliffe subtitled the dance 'The Very Civil Servant'*).

Now the family has descended upon us for yet another party."

(By the way, Ruby Hudston is still making wonderful cakes. She produced one for the Galloways 40th anniversary last week and the perfume of the brandy knocked you back at thirty paces!)

Barbara Sharp

Next edition of the newsletter will be issued on June 5th. If you have any stories, articles, details of forthcoming events, photos or other items that you would like included please let me have them by May 26th either by hand or by email.

barbara.sharp@virgin.net