

Royal Scottish
Country Dance
Society

February 2011



Dates for your Diary

From the Office

We are well into the 2011 season, now, and it's good to see so many people enjoying the Tuesday and Thursday dancing. If you find that's not enough you could add Monday evenings at Avenue Road, where the Caledonian Society holds a weekly Social Dance. See Doris for more details. Then you could use up any spare energy by dancing at the newly formed Sunday Class. George has information about this group, or you can contact Amanda at www.thesundayclass.org.uk.

All that is just a prelude for the big one, our Day School in March, when we welcome David Queen back again. The evening dance is made up of dances that we do regularly, so do come along. Just in case you want to 'bone up' on them, the programme is below.

Have you tried the updated mini-cribs site? It now allows you to paste in a dance list or programme and it comes up with the crib sheet. Very slick. I haven't tried it yet but George Shepherd has and has put some advice for the technophobes on our website

Bookings for Summer School should be open by now, The RSCDS holds an annual Summer School from 17th July to 14th August in St Andrews, Scotland. Approximately one thousand dancers from around the world attend this School each year to learn more about the dancing and dances, old and new, and to enjoy dancing together. You don't have to do the whole four weeks, usually one is sufficient, though some brave souls have been known to do two.

Happy dancing,

Barbara Sharp

Day School 12th March 7.00 - 10.00pm

Social Dance Programme

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| J Jubilee Jig | R The Reel of the 51 st Division |
| S Alltschellach | S Autumn in Appin |
| R General Stuart's Reel | J The Starry Eyed Lassie |
| J Pelorus Jack | R Clutha |
| S Bonnie Stronshiray | S Sugar Candie |
| R Polharrow Burn | J Gothenburg's Welcome |
| J Espie McNabb | S Neidpath Castle |
| S Culla Bay | R The Montgomeries' Rant |

Extras: R The Summer Assembly S Wind on Loch Fyne
J Wild Geese

Committee Matters

Minutes of the committee meetings are available for you to read on the notice board.

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

www.leicesterrscds.org.uk

5 February Nottingham RSCDS Saturday Social

Burton Joyce Village Hall, Trent Lane
Burton Joyce,
Nottinghamshire NG14 5EY
David & Rhona Page
0115 981 3215
DPAGE60051@aol.com

Friday 11 February

Derby Scottish Association & Burns Club
Ian Slater
Nunsfield House Alvaston, Derby. Tickets at door
julevarney@supanet.com

12 February Market Harborough SCDS

Congregational Church Centre Bowden Lane.
Tickets in advance necessary.
janet@marchand.me.uk
Sally Gardner 01858 464247

19 February Leicester RSCDS

George Meikle
[Avenue Primary School](http://AvenuePrimarySchool.com),
Leicester.
LE2 3EJ
Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

26 February Nottingham RSCDS

"Walk thru Dance" Wightman Hall, Stratford Road,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BA
David & Rhona Page 0115 981 3215
DPAGE60051@aol.com

5 March Stamford SCD

Queen Eleanor School, Stamford
mrbthompson@supanet.com
randm.senior@tiscali.co.uk

12 March Leicester RSCDS Day School.

Tutors = David Queen & Doris Buchanan
Musicians = Bob Shakespeare & Marion Turnock
(Evening dance starts 7.00 pm Tea/coffee & biscuits provided.)

[Avenue Primary School](http://AvenuePrimarySchool.com),
Leicester. LE2 3EJ

Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

19 March Nottingham RSCDS Annual Dance.

Including Supper
Burton Joyce Village Hall
David & Rhona Page
0115 981 3215
DPAGE60051@aol.com

SUNDAY 27 March. The Sunday Class

4.00 pm - 8.00 pm
MARION ANDERSON
(Bring & Share).
Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall
Amanda Peart amanda@microport.co.uk

2 April The Galloways 40th Anniversary Dance

George Meikle £10 including supper.
Grange Hall, Radcliffe on Trent.
Julia Varney 01332 757177

16 April Leicester RSCDS

[Avenue Primary School](http://AvenuePrimarySchool.com),
Leicester.
LE2 3EJ
Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

Skye News

I have discovered snowdrop shoots in my 'garden' for a start - can I hear someone saying 'We have snowdrops out in full bloom.? I shall ignore you!

I sit and watch the goldfinches squabbling over the bird feeders while the sun sets over the sea.

We have had snow, all gone now which is a relief. It kept me from taking the Agila out but I survived without a paper to read for a few days. I made plans for my summer visitors instead. Mike, my son, wants to come in May and other southern friends are also hoping to make the journey.

We are back to normal now. Indoor bowls has recommenced and my weekly visits to the Resource Centre in Portree are enjoyed. A minibus picks me up but numbers have dropped and we wonder for how long the Council will pay for transport.

Just before the price of petrol rose, my usual garage in Portree ran out. However, I survived. I meet my friend, Alison, who is a member of Skye RSCDS, in Portree for a coffee. She tells me that they have more than fifty applications for the Day School in May. David Cunningham will be playing and Anne Smyth from Fort William will be teaching.

I am about to have new neighbours. Builders are working in all weathers to finish the new house - they just don't suitable clothing. It's not too close, their drive will be near me, I can see it from my kitchen window. I think two ladies will be living there so I am hoping to make new friends.

Best regards to one and all - keep dancing.
Olive.



Meanwhile, not far away

This snowplough came into the Kyle of Lochalsh pier area to turn, and forgot that there was no grit on the ground in front to stop him sliding.

All the passengers were off this bus when the driver left it to go to the paper shop. The hand-brake slipped and it didn't stop until it hit the sea.

'After getting some local divers to secure a rope, we pulled it out.'



The Central Garage is located in Kyle of Lochalsh, in the North-West of Scotland and was serving the local community for nearly 50 years before it was sold to Morar Motors of Mallaig.

Type 'central garage photo gallery' into your favourite search engine to find out more.

Spotlight on

George Shepherd

An occasional series featuring our members.

George has been our Webmaster since the inception of www.leicesterrscds.org.uk. When not dancing, putting on Ceilidhs in his home village of Market Overton, or cycling to raise money for various charities he, with lots of help from Diane, organises dancing holidays for us and at the moment he is busy putting the final touches to this month's trip to Calpe, Spain - more of that in the next edition.

Even more of us enjoy the delicious jars of Rutland Honey his bees produce.

This winter has been particularly hard for the little creatures, as George recounts in his 'Bee Diary'.

WHAT'S ON IN THE APIARY – JANUARY

For the second time so far this winter we have experienced snow and very cold conditions lasting well over a week. I am pleased to say that the bees appear to have come through unscathed – at least, there were live bees in each hive when I treated them with a weak sugary Oxalic Acid solution to kill off Varroa on Hogmanay. The hives appeared "dead" as the bees huddled up in a cluster to keep warm – any bee coming out would quickly perish.

However, this has been a mild week (mid Jan) with temperatures just reaching double figures. After being cooped up for weeks on end in freezing conditions, the bees have been glad to get out and go to the toilet! They can store massive amounts of waste in their rectum and so you don't want to upset them prematurely (or have your washing hanging out nearby) when they are bursting to go to the loo. Proof that honeybees don't hibernate.

Just prior to it turning milder, I took the opportunity to move 6 hives to a new location about 100 yards away at the request of the local farmer. During the rest of the year the rule applies "3 feet or 3 miles" – meaning if you move them more than 3 feet they will only remember their old location and you need to take them away (even temporarily) to beyond their normal flying distance. But as they are not doing foraging flights in winter but only popping out (as explained above), and are huddled up inside most of the time, then they forget their immediate surroundings and you can move them short distances.

© George Shepherd. January, 2011

Try George's delicious recipe

Honey Drop Scones

Makes 15-20 scones

Preparation time: less than 30 mins.

Cooking time: 10-30 mins.

Ingredients

225g/8oz self raising flour

½ tsp mixed spice

55g/2oz caster sugar

1 tbsp clear honey

1 egg, beaten

300ml/½ pint milk

oil for cooking

Method

1. Place the flour, mixed spice and sugar in bowl making a well in the centre.
2. Mix the honey and egg together and pour into the centre of the flour mixture.
3. Gradually add the milk, beating well until smooth.
4. Use oil to lightly grease a heavy based frying pan or griddle and heat until moderately hot.
5. Drop 1 tbsp of the mixture into the pan and cook until bubbles appear on the surface and the underneath is golden brown. Turn over, cook the other side for a further 1-2 minutes.
6. Place between a tea towel or kitchen paper and keep warm. Repeat until all the batter is used.

You can buy Rutland Honey from the Oakham Farmers' Market on the third Saturday each month

(Of course, you can always ask him for a jar on a Thursday; he usually has some in the car!)

Please return your honey jars. Don't worry if you can't remove the labels.

A report from Southern California

Here the SCD community puts on one or more Burns evenings (often called locally Burns Balls rather than Burns Suppers) which are strictly SCD-orientated from the standpoint of the dancing. While there is generally a small number of non-dancers attending, the evening includes a full SCD program with live music as well as a dinner. Additionally there are the typical Burns commemorations, i.e., toasts to the lassies and the laddies, often with a some original and clever twist, the piping in of the haggis and recitation of Burns's address to it, often the reading of another Burns poem or song which may be the theme for the evening, and a short speech as the "Immortal Memory," an original essay on some theme directly or tangentially related to Burns's life and times.

While there may be other Scottish-related societies in the area holding Burns evenings with no SCD, most in the SCD community are involved primarily or exclusively with the SCD Burns event(s).

For the past decade or so until this year there have been two rather similar SCD events on consecutive weekends, one held jointly by the Orange County and San Gabriel Valley RSCDS Branches and the other by the Los Angeles RSCDS Branch. This year we had one "Tri-Branch Burns Ball" held by the three branches jointly.

Robb Quint
Thousand Oaks, CA, USA



"Since when have you been able to do the Gay Gordons, anyway?"

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



LEICESTER BRANCH



DAY SCHOOL

AND

EVENING SOCIAL DANCE

Saturday 12th March, 2011

Avenue Primary School, Avenue Road Extension,
Leicester, LE2 3EJ

Tutors: David Queen Musicians: Bob Shakespeare
Doris Buchanan Marion Turnock

Morning Classes 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

(A) ADVANCED - David Queen & Bob Shakespeare

For dancers with a good knowledge of all formations

(B) INTERMEDIATE - Doris Buchanan & Marion Turnock

For dancers with some knowledge of basic steps and formations

Afternoon Class 2.15 to 4.45 pm

(C) GENERAL CLASS - David Queen & Bob Shakespeare

For dancers of all abilities with some knowledge of basic steps and formations.

Cost

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Morning Classes (A or B) | £7.00 |
| Afternoon Class (C) | £7.00 |
| Buffet Lunch | £7.00 |
| Evening Social Dance | £3.50 |

Please apply with S.A.E. by Friday 4th March 2011 to:

Keith Oughton, 229 Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest East, Leicester,
LE3 3PH Tel: (0116) 2387385 Email: oughton@clara.net

Website: www.leicesterrscds.org.uk

Autolycus

Subject: A Blonde's Year in Review-

January: Took new scarf back to store because it was too tight.

February: Fired from pharmacy job for failing to print labels. Hellllloooo!!! Bottles won't fit in printer !!!

March: Got really excited. Finished jigsaw puzzle in 6 months. Box said "2-4 years"!

April: Trapped on escalator for hours. Power went off!!!

May: Tried to make cuppa soup. Wrong instructions. 8 fl.oz of water won't fit into those little packets!!!

June: Tried to go water skiing. Couldn't find a lake with a slope.

July: Lost breaststroke swimming competition. Learned later, the other swimmers cheated, they used their arms.

August: Got locked out of my car in rain storm. Car swamped because soft-top was open.

September: The capital of California is "C", isn't it???

October: Hate M & M's, they are so hard to peel.

November: Baked turkey for 4 1/2 days. Instructions said 1 hour per pound and I weigh 108!!

December: Couldn't call 911, there's no "eleven" button on the stupid phone!!!

Next edition of the newsletter will be issued on April 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 March 20th either by hand or by email.

barbara.sharp@virgin.net