

Royal Scottish
Country Dance
Society

October 2011



Dates for your Diary

15 October Nottingham RSCDS

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

22 October

Newark SCD 40th Anniversary Dance

Band Ian Slater
Oxton Village Hall NG25 0SZ
John Aitken 01476 577599
j_aitken@hotmail.co.uk

22 October

The Seaforth Highlanders Pipes, Drums and Dancers

The De Montfort Hall, Leicester
Steve & Helen Bozon stevebozon@hotmail.com
Suzanne McKenzie suz_mck@yahoo.co.uk

29 October Waltham SCD Group.

Band Ian Slater
Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall
Paul Woolston 01664 566415
hilary@misiuda.co.uk

5 November Stamford SCD Club

Band Ian Slater
Malcolm Sargent Primary School,
Empingham Rd. Stamford, PE9 2SR
Mike Thompson 01778 - 343299

Leicester RSCDS Annual Ball 7.00 pm

Band Nicol McLaren
Braunstone Civic Centre
Leicester LE3 2PP
Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

19 November, Lincoln Caledonian

St. Andrew's dance inc. Supper
Band George Meikle
Skellingthorpe Community Centre,
Lincoln. LN6 5UT
marion.rance@ntlworld.com

Sunday 27 November

4 - 8pm The Sunday Class
St. Andrew's Dance with Ian Slater
Waltham on the Wolds Village Hall
Amanda Peart amanda@microport.co.uk
www.thesundayclass.org.uk 3

10 December Leicester RSCDS

Christmas Dance
Band Phill Jones
Avenue Road Primary School
Leicester.
LE2 3EJ
Doris Buchanan info@leicesterrscds.org.uk

From the Office

Committee 2011/12

The results of the election at our AGM on June 23rd were as follows -

Chairman Barbara Sharp to serve for a maximum 2 years
Treasurer Ron Gregory to serve for a maximum 3 years
Hon Sec Doris Buchanan to serve for a maximum 2 years
Committee members -

Rona Stevens to serve for a maximum 1 year
Pamela Hood to serve for a maximum 2 years
Sheila Forryan to serve for a maximum 2 years
Keith Oughton to serve for a maximum 3 years
Lynne Carter to serve for a maximum 3 years
Diana Niblett to serve for a maximum 3 years

The RSCDS Annual Conference Weekend and AGM is forsaking Perth this year and moving to Glasgow and our delegates this year are Doris Buchanan and Pam Hood. If you would like to read the agenda or the profiles of the candidates for the committees go to www.rscds.org and follow the link.

The funeral of David Turnock was held on August 12th at St John the Baptist church, Kings Norton and a great many friends came to pay their respects and support Marion and her family. Graham and Andrew spoke movingly about their life together, and brought back many happy memories for all of us.

Marion has just received a letter of thanks from the Revd. John Morley, priest in charge, informing her that £453 was raised in memory of David for the Kings Norton Building Maintenance Fund and would like to thank everyone for their generosity.

Barbara



The Leicester contingent at the ASCDS festival in May

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

www.leicesterrscds.org.uk

Jigging in Jersey-

Scottish Country Dance Holiday
Saturday/Sunday 28/29th May Bank Holiday Weekend

Thursday found us flying to Jersey to arrive at our hotel around 5.30pm after collecting the hire car at the airport. A couple of hours later we were at the first practice for the dances to be held on Saturday and Sunday evening at the local girl's college

Friday evening a meal at a country restaurant had been arranged for around 60 dancers and non dancers where we had a chance to meet and chat with the local dancers.

Saturday morning there was a second practice in the girls college itself so it was good that we were able to familiarize ourselves with the lay out of the hall etc.

Both practice dances were free and coffee and cakes were provided as well.

Saturday evening saw us at the first dance-music being provided by Ian Muir and the Craigellachie band-who also played on Sunday.

The dances include many favourites such as Kilkenny Castle, John of Bon Accord. Quarries Jig, Mrs. Stuart Linnell and Miss Johnston of Ardrossan. There were a few new dances to us, including the interestingly named Hairy Mary!

Supper was provided on both occasions prepared by the local group including some trifles and pavlovas to die for. All this accompanied by tea, coffee and a glass or three of red or white wine-they certainly do things in style in Jersey

All in all we had a wonderful time and will consider going again.

The local group were very friendly and welcoming and are more than willing to meet the visitors at the ferry or the airport and run them between the various venues. They are very reliant on visitors supporting their annual weekend-there were around 45 or so there from England. France Germany and Guernsey and this is the only time they are able to dance to live music on the island

2012 Weekend will be on Saturday/Sunday 2nd/3rd June (a week later because Monday 4th June is to be late spring bank Holiday to celebrate Queens Jubilee)

Details will appear on the Jersey Website in due course.

Guernsey Scottish Dancers also have a dance weekend. usually at the end of April/beginning May and details for 2012 will be available later in the year.

This year they had playing for them Phil Jones and his Band who regularly play at the ASCDS festival at Ollerton and will be here in Leicester in December 2011 and at the Caledonian Dace in January 2012

Brian and Rona Stevens

The Mela Festival

Twelve intrepids comprising 8 dancers and 4 groupies arrived in Loughborough market square on Sunday 31st. August. We were apprehensive of this unknown event as past experiences of similar gatherings invoked memories of lots of hanging about and not much organisation. However.....

and hereby hangs a tale of a totally pleasant afternoon.

Initially, most of us were gathered by walkie-talkie carrying marshals ensuring us that the whole event was running EARLY. Then, we were shepherded to an improvised green room, escorted back at the appointed time to the stage and well introduced to a sizeable audience by a jolly chap who was the main M.C. The team danced Angus Macleod followed by Bonnie Brux to an enthusiastic audience who were then invited to join in. This a few of them did and we well filled our 15 minute spot going off to warm applause. Top marks to the organisers for a very well run event! We wondered about asking for a longer spot next time so as to try for more participation. Other spots had claimed longer times and once the folk had seen how easy it was more might have joined in to a second or third spot.



To round off a good dem. Glenda invited us all back to her pad where we sat in her lovely garden drinking tea and coffee, munching goodies and generally relaxing! We all went happily home around 6 with bunches of rhubarb. (see picture!) Many thanks to Glenda and David for their charming hospitality and can we come again next year?
Pam Hood



Land's End to John O'Groats - Via Leicester General Hospital

For many years I have wanted to cycle the length of the United Kingdom and when some colleagues from Emerson first suggested that they were going to do just that (with a support vehicle!), I jumped at the chance. It was going to be tough: around 90 miles per day in whatever weather and over hill and dale. However, we were going to go south to north with the prevailing wind and not, on average, uphill as some have suggested.

I consider myself reasonably fit (for an old 'un) what with Scottish Country Dancing, skiing, allotment work and (some) cycling. The other six riders are all younger, some only half my age, and from the start it was obvious that most of them are fitter as well. I started training in March and had my first setback: a high speed crash which caused considerable damage to both cycle and body. After a week, I got back on the (repaired) bike and re-started training. Another week, another setback: blood in my urine led to a diagnosis of bladder cancer. "Could I wait for the operation until after the ride?", I asked. The answer was another question, "Do you want to do only this one ride or would you prefer to be able to do others in the future?" I had the operation - at Leicester General Hospital.

Five weeks and two days after the operation, I started out from Land's End, more in hope than expectation. My colleagues expressed their fears for me, but I said that I'd start early and finish late each day. Friends and relatives suggested that the Scottish Highlands would be the most difficult, but Day Two (from Boscastle to Halse) was the hardest with steep (one in three) gradients and miserably cold and wet weather. The lowest point for me came on Day Five, when, after fighting rain, headwinds and fatigue, I was too tired to miss a couple of drunk teenagers and (literally) ran over them when they fell into my path. They were too drunk to feel any pain, but I feared for my safety and called on the support team and missed out 12 miles of the ride.



The "on the job" training meant that I progressively got fitter and cycled faster and with Muriel's support on the rest day near Penrith, I was cheered up and started to believe that I really would finish! More rain at Fort William (No! Really! Stair Rods!) and a cycle path that wasn't really there (15 mile detour!) meant that I more than made up for the earlier missed miles.

The last day was brilliant! Beautiful sunshine, a well-deserved tail wind, a short day ("only" 81 miles!) and finally making it to John O'Groats with the others gave me a euphoria which is indescribable.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me, my endeavours and my two charities. We've raised nearly £2000 for LOROS and Cancer Research UK! For more on the ride, see: <http://johnlongslejog.wordpress.com>.

John Long



RSCDS Garden Party

This year the RSCDS celebrated the 80th anniversary of Summer School with a garden party.

The weather was kind to us and we enjoyed cakes and champagne in the sunshine.

Rona, Barbara and Doris are seen here with Sarah-Jane Paterson from Coates Crescent.



Skye News

Greetings, all happy dancers in the South. Now let me see - no more plastic bottle tops are needed at the Plastic Factory in Stornaway - they have quite enough at the moment, in fact, they are swamped. For those folk who do not know what I am talking about, folk on that Island crush them etc. and turn them into fishing creels. This is Scotland, nothing is wasted.

Hot off the press - The local members of the Scottish Rural Women's Institute are not wanted at their usual venue any more - too much hassle. For a long time, the group have used a room opposite the Dunvegan Bakery, in the Old School Restaurant, but not any more. It seems the owners have to spend too much time warming up the room for us. However, we are looking forward to the first meeting of the season at a different place i.e. Dunvegan hotel. We are not too old to make a change so there!!

Another change. Cyril and wife Andrea who organise a monthly luncheon at the Stein Inn - the oldest on Skye (the Inn, not Cyril and Andrea) - wanted to be relieved of the responsibility and Jaquie and Moraig have volunteered, or were they pushed to take over? You do not know who I am talking about but you get the drift!

My son-in-law, Steve, has retired from paid work and I am pleased to say he has taken up clay pigeon shooting.

He still cuts the grass!!

In May, Joanne and my son Mike spent a few days with us in Hallin and when it was time for them to get back to their work, I went with them. Jo and I visited Bourton on the Water. I was very pleased to find the village unchanged and still as pleasant. We enjoyed a rum and raisin ice cream there.

However, it wasn't long, I am sorry to say, before Mike and I were driving down to Falmouth to attend a funeral of a much-loved nephew.

Somewhere along the way, we stopped for a Cornish Pastie - wish I had not made the suggestion - it was rubbish and certainly not as I remembered pasties of the past.

Sheep Dog Trials in Waternish have taken place on a fine day. It was good to be amongst the locals listening to comments etc. The dogs were so keen to do their part!

The Island's Highland Games have been and gone but having attended three times I thought I would give it a miss. No seats; take your own or sit on the ground. Not keen now.

I think your attention must be wandering by now so I will sign off. Oh, it's raining again but we enjoyed some beautiful sunny days this summer - I feel as if I am on holiday all the time!!

Regards to all, Olive.

Sumi stars in a musical



I found this on Sumi's Facebook page

Can you believe it? I'm on an amateur musical! It's about a Japanese doctor who's been helping the Afghans. Spot me on the photo -- live performance at Osaka castle to promote it, 'Doctor Sahib'. Come to Japan and see me on the musical!?

Popular Dance List

John Marshall, from Cheltenham, writes – In the year from 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011 I attended 44 dances (excluding club nights or classes) at which 840 dances were performed; of which 285 were different dances.

This year's Top Ten are

The Dream Catcher	14
Mr Iain Stuart Robertson	13
Mairi's Wedding	12
The Irish Rover	12
Pelorus Jack	11
St Columba's Strathspey	10
Cherrybank Gardens	10
Midnight Oil	9
The Dancing Master	9
The Recumbent Stone	9

Committee Matters

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

The next edition of the newsletter will be issued on December 1st 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 November 21st either by hand or by email.

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