



St Andrews Branch Autumn Newsletter

Volume 1 issue 1

September 2011

Special points of interest:

- Irene at the Palace
- Charity Dance
- Lyon Branch's 25th
- Workshop
- 75th Anniversary
- Course for MCS

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Upcoming issues

From the Editor
Do you have an interesting SCD story that you would like to share?

Please get in touch with the branch Secretary.

A Reception at Buckingham Palace

I was very fortunate to be selected by the Society to be one of their representatives at a reception in Buckingham Palace on 9th May. I was accompanied by Heather Battson, one of our young dancers from Glasgow Branch. The information which came with the invitation stated: "The reception is being held to recognise the achievement of young people in the performing arts, those that support them and those organisations with Royal Patronage."

Heather and I arrived at the palace on a warm spring evening. We entered by the front gate, walked across the

concourse and proceeded to the entrance. In an upstairs reception room we were served champagne and canapés and met many interesting groups of people. All 450 of us were presented to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, then we were shown to our seats in the ballroom.

We were entertained to a wonderful performance of music, dance and drama with a Romeo and Juliet theme. Dame Kiri Te Kanawa introduced the artists. Among the audience were many well-known faces — Dame Helen Mirren, Sheila Hancock, Gareth Malone,



Michael McIntyre, Fiona Bruce and Andrew Marr to name but a few.

Heather and I left the palace feeling extremely privileged to have been part of such an amazing experience.

Irene Bennett



RSCDS Fife Branches Charity Dance

9th September

The Fife Branches, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews are jointly organising a Charity Dance in aid of Fife Schools Scottish Country Dance Festival.

The funds raised will help transport dancers to the various venues and

train teachers.

The dance will be at The Corn Exchange, Cupar on Friday, 9th September at 7:30pm.

Tickets cost £6 payable at the door. David Cunningham and his band will provide the music.

There will be a raffle and refreshments at the interval.

Help start the season with a lively enjoyable evening in support of Fife's young dancers.

See you there!



From the Chairman

Welcome to the new season of Scottish Country Dancing, Whether you have been dancing here or elsewhere or just following other pursuits, I hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

I was pleased to welcome the return of Elizabeth Gray to the committee and David Cordes who joins the committee for the first time. Your committee members are hard at work planning a busy year for your enjoyment.

The autumn session starts with a Charity dance in aid of Fife Schools SCD Festival. The dance will be run by us together with the Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy branches. I hope that our mem-

bers will give this dance their fullest support. We do not need to be reminded that our future lies in supporting and teaching the young!

If I may, I would like you to cast your mind back to April when the St Andrews demonstration team danced at the Wedding Breakfast Celebration of the Royal Wedding. The participation of so many of our branch members at such an event was a very proud moment. It was certainly their best performance ever!

I am delighted to report that we have some very keen dancers among the beginners and intermediates. So keen, that they are al-

ways disappointed when the classes finish at the end of March. For this reason your committee has decided to replace the technique classes in favour of two extra classes in April to which members of the Experienced class are welcome.

We are very fortunate that we have a number of experienced MCs available to us. A workshop is to be run by Irene Bennett on how to be an MC. Do sign up!

Have a happy dancing season!

Moira Mackenzie

Free Open Evening

Tuesday 20th September

The Open evening will take place in the supper room of the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Moira and Shelley will MC.

Over the years this sort of evening has been very successful at recruiting dancers to the beginners and even occasionally to other classes as well.

Offering the first class free to newcomers gives them encouragement

to try out an actual class. A further incentive is given by operating a 'pay as you dance' policy which allows time for dancers to settle into their class.

Eventually it is hoped that these dancers will have sufficiently enjoyed their dancing and what we have to offer them as a branch to take out full membership.

Members, please come and help

the evening to be as enjoyable as possible for our guests.

Let us give them a warm welcome and lots of encouragement.

*FREE FIRST CLASS
TO NEWCOMERS!*

Autumn classes

Thursday 8th & 15th September

Before anyone remarks on the date order, the placing of this item is deliberate.

The customary two autumn classes will be held in the Victory Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Since there is to be no new book of dances this year, it has been de-



cided to use these two classes to teach some of the dances submitted for our anniversary booklet and for the royal wedding.

The Autumn classes will be taught by Moira and Shelley.

These classes are open to all members. Less experienced dancers will find that it is both rewarding and a pleasure to learn along side experienced dancers.

There will be a charge of £3 per evening which includes refreshments.

Lyon Branch's 25th Anniversary

A Reminiscence by Ross Colwell

Five years ago we went to the Lyon Branch's 20th Anniversary. This event was in a lovely chateau complete with a balustraded terrace and gardens with fountains. This year, their 25th Anniversary was celebrated in April. Not on the same scale, no black jackets or ball gowns were required.

Classes were held in "Maison Ravier" a multipurpose building. The teachers were David Queen and Mervyn Short and the musicians were Andrew Noble and our own Calum Mitchell. Teachers and musicians took it in turns between the main



class and the highland class. There was also a music course run by Diane Sarren. The group consisted of various abilities but no beginners. There were people of different nationalities including some Swiss, a Hungarian living in Freiburg and a Japanese living in Stuttgart.

The event started with an informal dance on Friday with Andrew and Calum playing. There were two classes on Saturday morning. We were lucky to be included in a special group to have lunch at Fourviere. This is a hill with a church overlooking Lyon with good views, part of our jour-

ney was by funicular railway. On a good day you can see Mont Blanc—the weather has never been good enough! Having enjoyed good food we had to rush back for afternoon classes.

That evening, an anniversary buffet dinner, which included nettle quiche was provided by the Lyon branch. We then enjoyed a dance to "Creaking Gaits", a seven piece band including Calum, Andrew and Gordon Simpson.

Sunday! No lying in beds—another morning of dancing followed by lunch at "Brasserie George" a wonderful ending to a most enjoyable weekend!

Want to learn how to recap dances or be an MC?

Now is your chance to find out under the expert guidance of our own Irene Bennett.

We are very fortunate in the number of people we can call upon from either our own or other branches to MC and recap at our dances and annual ball. This should not make us complacent nor should we assume there will be someone who can do it.

Many of you know the dances well and may have a desire to have a go at either being an MC or to recap.

The one does not necessarily mean that you have to do both. In the past these jobs were often shared.

Even if you don't become either one

or both, do come and join in the fun of the workshop to be held on:-

Saturday, 24th September from 10am to 12.30pm.

Members from Perth and Dundee are interested in joining us at the workshop!

To be fair to all travellers, the venue will be Craighrothie village hall.

Annual Ball

Friday 25th November

Once again this beautiful event will take place in the Younger Hall, on Friday 25th November from 7.30pm to 11.30pm.

We are looking forward to some wonderful music from Jim Lindsay and his band.

The buffet will be once again catered by Elmwood



College. The very helpful comments received last year about the menu have been addressed.

As customary, there are 120 tickets available.

Members will have purchase priority up to **13th October** after which point they will be sold on a first

come first served basis.

Payment by cheque only!

Postal applications must include a **C5 SAE**. Personal applications require only an unstamped C5 envelope for distribution at the Thursday class. (C5 is A5 size)

Important dates !



Saturday 13th October 2012
75th Anniversary Dinner
 The Links Club House
 7:00 pm for 7:45pm

Saturday 24th March 2012
Half Day School & Dance

Teacher: Eric Finley

Musician: Robert MacKay

Band: Spring Fling Musicians

“Spring Flingers” will be joining us for the Evening Dance

The Demonstration Team



Performance at the Royal Wedding Breakfast

The branch received a request, in 2009, to put on a demonstration. The teams first appearance was on 11th of July 2009 when they performed for the International Christian Dance and Creative Arts Conference in Younger hall. Since then they have represented us at various conferences, ceilidhs and fetes. The Royal Wedding breakfast being the grandest of all. Everything had to come together very fast for this event but the team put on a top-notch performance that really represented the Branch in the way we want it to be seen. It is our hope that they will share the joy of dancing with many others in the years to come. If you have any ideas how they could promote the branch, please get in touch!

Classes start week beginning 26th September! for forthcoming events see table below

Charity Dance	9th September 7:30pm	£6	Corn Exchange, Cupar	David Cunningham
Autumn Classes	8th September 15th September	£3	Victory Memorial Hall	TBA
Open Night	20th September 7:30 - 9:30 pm	Free	Town Hall, Supper room	Luke Brady
MC Workshop	24th September 10:am - 12:30pm	TBA	TBA	TBA
Red Cross Dance	28th October 7:30pm - 11:00pm	£7	Corn Exchange, Cupar	Stewart Warrender
Society AGM	4th - 6th November		The Kelvin Hall, Glasgow	
Annual Ball	25th November 7:30pm - 11:00pm	TBA	The Younger Hall	Jim Lindsay
Christmas Party	8th December 7:30pm - 10:00pm	Free	The Victory Memorial Hall	TBA