



RSCDS Bristol

Volume 1 Issue 1

August 1998

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY IN BRISTOL

Chairman's Idea Becomes Reality

What started out some time ago as a passing thought in our chairman's head you now hold in your hands. We are pleased to show you our very first attempt at a newsletter for the Bristol branch of the RSCDS.

At this time of year, the chairman usually sends out a letter to members with details of term dates and dances for the forthcoming season. This year's innovation we hope will not only be informative, but be attractive and possibly a useful item to hand on to anyone you meet who might be interested in joining us at the dancing.

We want to let all of you know what the committee has been deliberating over during committee meetings (apart from consuming chocolate cake). In addition, we hope that future editions will provide an opportunity for any members to let us and everyone else know what they think about our activities, report on other events they have attended elsewhere, and suggest yet more innovative ideas.



Bristol City Council House

A few tickets are still available for the Ball on Saturday 3rd October, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Society. Apply to Fiona Grant, 7 Maurice Road, St Andrews Park, Bristol BS6 5BZ, enclosing cheque for £14.50. s.a.e. appreciated.

RSCDS 75th Anniversary Ball

The celebrations planned by RSCDS Bristol to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Society are imminent, with preparations almost complete.

In the impressive meeting hall of the City of Bristol Council House, dancers from all over the South West will be welcomed. After the Grand March into the ballroom, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant will say a few words on behalf of our patron, The Queen, before the dancing begins to the music of the Craiggellachie Band.

Dancing will continue throughout the evening, interrupted only by the supper break and a demonstration by Corryvreckan dancers.

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St Andrews Summer School

Some dancing fanatics just cannot keep their feet still over the summer.

Especially in this 75th Anniversary Year, all the additional events being organised for the summer school just cannot keep the man in green away.

In his absence at time of going to press, see below (use Pilling code) for confidential excerpt from his 1997 diary ...

ΞSt As,
(Ξ,B.,ζ1ζ2,L.,√,D.,√,zzz)x6,
ΨBristol, Rpt

Up to St Andrews: one of the UK's oldest universities. RSCDS Summer School going since 1927. Nervous at being with all the experts. Remembered "ex" means "has-been" and "spurt" is "a drip under pressure". Encouraged by positive feedback, decided to apply. Necessitates prior choice of two classes from broad selection. Arrived to find swarms of people from all over the world greeting each other. Archive film show.

Monday to Saturday: Get up, roused by piper outside Hall, before breakfast. (Being where we were, even the water was piped in!) To class 1 then class 2, held in various halls round town, with home-made biscuits in between. Teachers and pianists characterful. Lunch. Afternoons free to go out and back, various optional classes. Dinner. Out and back to dances in evening, most with talk through and live music. Showcase dance at Younger Hall with demonstration. Public dancing on streets Saturday p.m. Sleep. Inexorably on to the end of the week, i.e x 6!

Down to Bristol: Sunday morning tired but happy.

Repeat: Must go again. A great experience.

Andrew Smith, Scottish Correspondent.



The Green Man and his two Village Maids!

The St Andrew's Summer School runs for 4 weeks every July and August. Classes are organised for all levels of ability. Both residential and non-residential places are available. Courses run for one or two weeks. Application forms are usually available before Christmas each year, and need to be completed speedily as there is great demand for the most popular weeks.

RSCDS Review Strategy

At the last AGM of the Society held in Aberdeen, the Executive Council was instructed to prepare a strategic plan for the Society. A process of consultation with Branches and Executive Council Representatives led to construction of a wide-ranging questionnaire.

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Opinions were invited on topics covering publications of dances and music, teachers courses and examinations, branch administration and communication with members. A SWOT(strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis led to thought provoking questions asking for ideas on what the Society did well, what it needs to improve on, and what we could be doing in the future.

At the last Executive Council meeting, which Fiona Grant attended as our representative, preliminary results revealed that communication with members was a big issue, and that there was a need to promote a more modern image of the Society.

A more detailed report will be presented at the next meeting, which may also consider plans to re-organise the Executive Council itself.

There is still time to make your own personal opinions known. Fiona would be more than pleased to hear any suggestions individual members have for promoting Scottish country dancing or improving what we do now.

Help Please?

75th Anniversary Ball:

If members would like to help with stewarding on the evening, offers of help would be gratefully received: duties to include welcoming guests, directing to car parking on arrival, looking after special guests.

A Walk on the Wild Side

By The Mendip Ranger

One year on from another marathon walk, Greta and I are reliving every step of our 500 mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Most days we walked 20 miles and there were a few of 30, in tremendous heat across the deserted Meseta of Northern Spain.

It was a most rewarding experience, making friends with so many young pilgrims and raising £9,000 in sponsorship to help our grandson Sam's school rebuild its hydrotherapy pool. Sam has cerebral palsy, and he and his young friends in a special school in Chesham, Bucks, will derive so much healthy pleasure from it when it is completed this winter.

We really enjoy the freedom of trekking, usually in the mountains and always on our own. Long distance trekking is a challenge, not just to your physique, but to your ability to plan and find a route. You have to understand the terrain, weather, map, compass, altimeter and the language. There are no mountain rescue teams around the corner as in the UK.

There is no doubt that many years of Scottish dancing have kept us fit and above all have given us strong thigh muscles (Greta did forbid me to say this about her). Amazingly we can walk for most of a day without talking much – after all, when you have been married for 40 years you have said most things, and there is a deep understanding between you.

We are resting up this year, but hope to make a trek to celebrate our Ruby wedding. In fact I bought Greta a new ruck sack for Valentine's Day. No-one can accuse me of being unromantic! So instead of celebrating a marriage milestone with a posh event, we shall probably be curled up in some distant mountain in a very small tent, in which you have to be very good friends to survive.

Selworthy '98



Three Little Maids

Who could they be, these three glamour girls pictured at the annual RSCDS Bristol Week-end Away in the depths of rural Devon last March. Answers please on a post card to the Chairman (not pictured). Prize of a free evening's attendance at Thursday's class, and the honour of having their necessary article published in the next issue of the newsletter to the winner of the competition.

Two Committee Vacancies

Please mention to Caroline or Alan if you would like to help on the Committee next Winter 98/99.

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Newcomers' Dance 99

Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Band will set everyone's feet tapping and put lift in the step of all dancers, no matter how competent or incompetent, at our Newcomers' Dance on Saturday 30 January 1999, in Monks Park School Hall, Southmead, Bristol.

Data Protection Act 1984

The Secretary would like to inform dancers that information is now held on computer. Names, addresses and phone numbers will be held and used for the purposes of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society only, and will in no circumstances whatsoever be provided to any other organisation. If any dancer objects to such information being so held or wishes to inspect their details, please will they inform the Secretary, Mrs Caroline Dunn.

Hallowe'en Day School 1998

By popular consent, Jim Rae from Lockerbie in Scotland will make a return visit to Bristol on Saturday 31 October to teach at our day school.

Jim, who is deputy director of the St Andrews Summer School, and has taught at day schools from Boston to Tokyo is sure to provide a challenging and enjoyable day for dancers of all levels of ability.

Enquiries for application forms may be made to Margaret Pinder, Tel 0117 962 2520.

The day school will be followed by a Party Dance hosted by the inimitable Brian Cooper. Definitely not an event to be missed!

Summer Dance 99

Green Ginger make their first visit to play in Bristol for us on Saturday 15 May 1999, at the New Friends Hall, Stapleton, Bristol.



Winter Class Season Dates Announced

Classes will be held each Thursday evening from 10 September, at 7.30pm in the Sts Peter and Paul School Hall, in Aberdeen Road, Redland, Bristol.

Term Dates:

Autumn: 10 Sept 98 – 17 Dec 98

Winter: 7 Jan 99 – 25 Mar 99

Summer: 15 Apr 99 – 10 June 99

Committee 97/98

Alan Norrie: 01275 846636
Chairman

Caroline Dunn: 0117 924 9226
Secretary

Ruth Davies: 0117 968 3057
Treasurer

Stuart Grant: 0117 924 7800
Chairman Elect

Margaret Pinder: 0117 962 2520
Ticket Secretary

Ruth Illston: 0117 973 7833
Catering

Brian Machin: 0117 942 5424
Catering

Brian Cooper: 01934 852072
Publicity

Class Teachers 97/98

Peter Wright: 01761 462874
General Class

Peter Collins: 01454 312655
Beginners class

Executive Council Representative

Fiona Grant: 0117 924 3595

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Following our successful 1997/98 season of dancing, we are pleased to invite all members of the branch to the AGM of RSCDS Bristol, to be held on Thursday 29 October 1998 in the main hall of Sts Peter and Paul School, Aberdeen Road, Redland, Bristol at 8.30 p.m.

Short and concise AGMs are the custom in Bristol and there is still time for a couple of hours dancing. The special incentive is that no charge is made to members attending the dancing on the AGM evening.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of RSCDS-Bristol AGM held on 16th October 1997.
3. Matters arising therefrom and not otherwise on the agenda.
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Accounts
6. Committee:
 - Election of Treasurer
 - Election of Secretary
 - Election of two members of the committee – Brian Cooper and Brian Machin retiring by rotation
7. Any other Business

(Items to the Hon. Secretary before the meeting please.)