

# THE REEL NEWS

Volume 21, Issue #4 March 2015  
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH  
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to  
[kmaccrone@rogers.com](mailto:kmaccrone@rogers.com) by August 5, 2015

## Chairperson's Message

Marel Fielding

After the brutally cold months of January and February, I am eagerly looking forward to spring. The word for spring in my Scots/English dictionary is "spoot" or "voor" and I must admit I have never heard either of those words used when I was in Scotland. However, with spring hopefully in the air, maybe we will have more spring (v. Lowp in the dictionary) in our dancing legs.

Our schedule over these winter months has been busy with the Burns' Night Supper and Dance and the Ceilidh and Workshop. Both had a few changes in format as well as location. From the feedback we obtained, the changes were well received by most. Having the workshop during the day and at the Polish Hall seemed to encourage more people to participate.



The spring months include the Basic class dance on Friday, March 27th at Elmwood Church hall- always a fun event and our gala event of the year -our Annual Ball on May 2nd in the Great Hall at Western University. This is an opportunity to dress up, enjoy a tasty dinner, dance to the music of Laird Brown and *Scotch Mist* and greet old friends from out of town who join us for this wonderful evening. There will be a practice for the ball at Elmwood on April 24.

I also want to mention that we are again offering free classes on May 6th and 13th and that our Annual General Meeting will be held on May 20th. There are more details about all these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are in the process of arranging for an opportunity to have dancing in the summer. The plan is to have dancing once a month at a location in the city and on a different week from that selected by the Ailsa Craig group. There will likely be a small fee for these evenings. As soon as plans are firmed up we will announce and post them.

So let's cast off our winter weariness and enjoy our spring dancing.

*Every day brings a chance for you to draw in a breath, kick off your shoes, and dance. - Oprah Winfrey*

## Branch News

### ***Congratulations***



Gayle and Norm Frisa welcomed their 13<sup>th</sup> grandchild on November 27, 2014. Ellen Mackenzie Frisa is the second child of son Alex and daughter-in-law Shannon. A little sister for Lillian.



Gayle and Norm Frisa announce the birth of their 14<sup>th</sup> grandchild, Kai Asher Overton, on January 21, 2015. Proud parents are daughter Koreen (Frisa) Clements and son-in-law Paul Overton. A baby brother for Alice and Molly Overton and Merrett and Aidan Clements.

### ***News from the Thrift Store***

Janet Schreiber

I would like to thank Gayle Frisa, Sheilagh Manning and Thyra Knudsen for helping with the Thrift Store at the Workshop. It was greatly appreciated.

Are you spring cleaning your closets? If you find anything suitable for Scottish County Dancing, the Thrift Store inventory is low. I am looking for men's tweed kilt jackets sized at least 42/ 44 and ladies formal and semi formal dresses (full or A-line styles) suitable for dancing. You may bring your donations to class.



### ***Calling All Banners!***

Peter Auksi

Our annual May Ball is renowned for its display of clan banners, which punctuate the walls of the Great Hall with flashes of colour and history. No other Branch has comparable decorations! Could those with banners please bring them in to our Wednesday or Friday dance evenings in the last two weeks of April ... or hand them to someone who will be coming then. Please indicate somewhere the owner of each banner. I will collect and return them; banners will be installed in the Great Hall on Friday, May 1st. Many thanks!!!



### ***AGM Announcements***



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN  
**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

Members are encouraged to attend our Annual General Meeting which will be held at Carling Heights on May 20th, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

At the up-coming AGM, two positions on the Committee of Management will complete their two year terms - these are Newsletter Editor and Publicity Co-ordinator. Both incumbents are eligible for re-election. If you are willing to stand for nomination, please contact Maureen Graham ([moe.graham@hotmail.com](mailto:moe.graham@hotmail.com)).

### ***Tartan Day - April 6<sup>th</sup>***



This year Tartan Day falls on Easter Monday. This date commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath (aka the Scottish Declaration of Independence) in 1320.

**To mark this occasion, the Committee of Management asks that you wear tartan (a shirt, tie, kilt, skirt etc.) on both Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## Burns Nicht

Nancy Duncan



The London Branch held it's Burn's Supper on January 24th, at the Air Force Association Hall in celebration of the "bard's" 256<sup>th</sup> birthday (January 25th, 1759). Although there was "Frost and Snow" outside, it was warm and friendly inside.

Our evening began with the piping in of the haggis by Patrick Taylor to the lively tune "Scotland the Brave". Brian Campbell carried in the haggis and was accompanied by Mary "Queen of Scots" Woods and Peter "Man-at-Arms" Auksi.

Once again Bill "oor Willie" McLennan recited the "Ode to the Haggis" with his usual vim and vigour. This was all followed by supper which included neeps, tatties and haggis along with various meats, vegetables, salads and home-made desserts.

The evening continued with a dance with briefing done by our Branch teachers. A friend of Peter and Sheila, Rob Hoffman, from the Irish Dance Community brought along his accordion and played for one of the dances. The evening ended with a favourite dance - Shifftin' Bobbins.



## Carolside Gardens



A traditional and romantic garden set in a beautiful 18th century landscape, made up of lawns, shrubberies, mixed borders, a secret garden, a winter garden and an oval walled garden containing herbaceous borders, fruits, vegetables, parterres and a collection of roses that has been carefully assembled over 24 years. Kenneth Cox in his book "Scotland for Gardeners" describes Carolside as "one of Scotland's finest private gardens".

The gardens are open to the public Friday and Saturday, July 3rd to the 18th inclusive this year and are located one mile north of Earlston, Scottish Borders. If you happen to be in the area during this time, you should definitely consider a visit. Otherwise, you will just have to settle for the slide show of the various gardens found on their [website](#).

Maybe you will get inspired to create your own amazing garden!



# London Ceilidh Evening

Libby McLachlan



About 60 people came out to Byron Legion on Friday, February 27th to enjoy some dancing and some laughs at the annual pre-workshop Ceilidh. This year's 'John Angus Dornoch Award for Excellence in Show Business' went to Helen, Alasdair, Scott and Karen, and Joe and Goretta for their hilarious skit, "At the Movies" - truly a case of the moviegoers being more entertaining than the movie!



There were other worthy contenders for 'The Dornoch Award'. Our RSCDS committee highlighted Old Dancers' Complaints, as they hobbled and griped their way through a dance (*refer to the lyrics below*). Valerie

tossed her inhibitions – and her traditional garb – to the winds, revealing a flashier wardrobe as she read the poem "Warning", a wonderfully defiant approach to aging. Marg Campbell's



reading, "The Places I've Been", told of wide-ranging travels 'in' various places, from 'In-cognito' to 'In-continent'.



Then there was the skit depicting "Austerity Methods at Wrinkle Ranch" - obviously the nursing home we all hope to avoid! We watched as Nurse Helen administered the daily routine to residents Lesley, Doris, Elfriede, Alison, Sheilagh M. and Sheila B. Catherine favoured the audience with her annual visit from Maxine and Brian called for 'lights out' as he told his Newfoundland ghost story with a surprise ending.



Kudos to all who took part in the program. Our thanks go to the Workshop chairperson Maureen Graham, MC Lesley Craigan and the teachers who briefed the dances for putting together a delightful evening. A special note of appreciation goes to Lori Ferguson for providing a 'just right' table of refreshments at intermission.

## The Old Dancers' Complaints

<p>Shoes with orthotics and good sturdy laces, Muscles that stiffen and knees that need braces, Legs needing supp-hose and heads that feel faint These are a few of old dancers' complaints.</p>	<p>Back pains, confused brains, forgetting our places, More need for practice and lots of blank faces, Wishing for no need to dance with restraint, These are a few of old dancers' complaints.</p>
<p>Skip change is a shuffle, the strathspey's a drag, By bar forty-two, our feet generally lag. Short cuts round corners, fast moving we ain't, These are a few of old dancers' complaints.</p>	<p>Walk-throughs and Youtube with dance briefs for aiding, Help for the memories that seem to be fading, Screw ups that have teachers praying to saints, These are a few of old dancers' complaints.</p>
<p><i>When the knees ache, when the legs cramp, When our feet are sore, We simply remember to pop a few pills, And then we can dance some more.</i></p>	<p><i>When the knees ache, when the legs cramp, When our feet are sore, We simply remember to pop a few pills, And then we can dance some more.</i></p>

Done to the tune of "My Favourite Things" by Richard Rodgers. Lyrics by Marg Allan and Karen MacCrone.



Winner of the free London Workshop ticket for a member of the Beginner class, courtesy of the Bursary fund, was Isabel Paterson. Congratulations!

## The Story Behind a Dance

**AILSA CRAIG** (S3x32) 3C set Eric Forbes SC Dances

No, I'm not talking about the little town northwest of London on Highway 7, but the island found approximately 10 miles (16 km) off the Ayrshire Coast of Scotland. The name Ailsa Craig is thought to come from the Gaelic words meaning "Fairy Rock". It is also known as "Paddy's milestone" as it is half way between Belfast and Glasgow.



The island is what is left of a volcanic plug from an extinct volcano believed to be over 500 million years old. It is roughly 2.5 miles (4 km) in circumference and rises steeply to an elevation of just over 1100 feet (338 m) above sea level.



In 1818, the English poet John Keats, after having seen the island of Ailsa Craig, wrote a sonnet titled *To Ailsa Rock* in which he described it as a "craggy ocean pyramid".

Ailsa Craig is primarily known for two things. First, it is the breeding ground for one of the largest colonies of gannets in the world and second, it is home to a granite quarry, and this particular granite is used to make the world's curling stones. There are only two sources for all the stones used in the sport, with the other being a quarry in Wales.

## London Workshop Weekend & Tea Dance

Gayle Frisa

2015 was a time of change for the London Branch Workshop. It was at a new venue and had a new format. Both worked very well! Although it was a cold weekend, the driving was excellent for the attendees that travelled to London from Belmont, Clinton, Elmira, Fergus, Guelph, Ingersoll, Kitchener, New Hamburg, Peterborough, Petrolia, Sarnia, Springfield, Strathroy, Tillsonburg, Waterloo and Windsor. We had 64 attendees for the workshop and 8 more joined us for the Tea Dance.

The Polish Combatant Hall on Ann Street was warm and welcoming for the attendees, as they arrived for registration at 9:00 am. Sheila Brown's decorative touch on the tables and stage, as well as in the room upstairs where the basic class was held, gave the appropriate Scottish Country atmosphere to the venue. After registering with Mary Lou Howard and receiving their name tag (Doris Guy's handiwork), Helen Bell presenting the attendees with a personalized water bottle to keep us hydrated for the day. Before the workshop started, people had a chance to mingle and socialize, as well as shop at The Thrift Store (which was open all day). Janet Schreiber reports that the profits from the sales were approximately \$600.00. Well done Janet!



Our two guest teachers, Teresa Lockhart from Toronto and Louis Emslie from Fergus were excellent. Teresa instructed us to 'grow an inch' and while foot work is important, one must keep the heart and head up for really good dancing. Lou maintained that Scottish Country Dancing should always be fun and he demonstrated this during his classes, as well as at the Tea Dance.

We have come to expect great food at this venue and we were not disappointed! Lunch was served between the two classes. It was delicious and plentiful; with soup, two salads, buns, vegetarian pasta, shepherd's pie and lasagna. Coffee and tea were available all day.

The Tea Dance was a great time to enjoy some familiar and favourite dances, as well as having a couple of dances that were taught during the workshop. Thanks to the London Branch teachers for having prepared us so we could enjoy the dances, and make the dances enjoyable for the other dancers in our sets!

Fred Moyes' music for the advanced classes was greatly appreciated and even though we had 2 workshop classes of 1.5 hours each before the Tea Dance, when Fred started to play his accordion, he put a spring back into our tired feet and the dance floor became alive!

After the Tea Dance, sandwiches and sweets were available to enjoy as we socialized with our fellow dancers. Smiles were plentiful and it was evident that a good time was had by all!

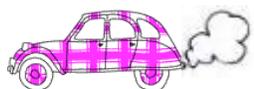
Some comments from the attendees were: "Great food !!!, Great workshop rooms, Wonderful teachers, Lovely decoration, Nice to have easier dances for the Tea Dance, Always a very warm welcome, Good dance programme, and Enjoyed Fred's music". The consensus was that the weekend was a success.

Thanks to Maureen Graham as Workshop Coordinator, the Committee of Management and the many, many London Branch helpers for making this workshop a highlight of our dancing year! Plans are underway for the 2016 London Workshop. I am already looking forward to it!

## Workshop Wrap-Up

Maureen Graham

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this past Workshop weekend such a success. Attendance was up over previous years with 100 registrations, 64 of those for the full workshop. Others came for the always hilarious Ceilidh on the Friday evening or just for the pleasure of the late afternoon tea dance. The Polish Hall was a new and welcoming venue for the Workshop and there was unanimous approval for Chef Andrej's delicious food. Most liked the new format which condensed the day into three sections: lessons morning and afternoon and a Tea dance with a light lunch at 5 pm. Out-of-towners were especially happy to be able to travel home before dark. There was lots of opportunity to visit and renew old friendships.



The workshop was a GAS!!!



Dear Miss Millie Ganz,

Your question and answer section in the London newsletter is always interesting and informative often reminding us of points of etiquette we should be putting into practice at classes and social events. I do not have a question, but a comment. This is not about etiquette during actual dancing time, but about the period between dances particularly at social events.

Depending on the venue, it may not be possible to actually "clear the floor" between dances, but dancers should wait until the dance has been announced before actually making up sets. The MC/briefer tries to pace the programme so we finish in the allotted time. Musicians, when we have them, need a little time between dances to recoup and it can be rather disconcerting to look out and see sets made up. It's almost like saying "Hurry up, hurry up". Let the musician(s) relax a little and they will probably give us their best performance. The time between dances should also be used to find a new partner, READ OVER your crib sheets if necessary, and to have a little social time. After all, this is social dancing, not a marathon. Waiting to make up the sets after the announcement also gives all dancers a fairer chance to choose where on the floor they would like to be-closer to the band or down the hall a little rather than the same group always claiming a certain area for themselves.

Once the sets have been made up and counted, then the musician(s) and MC/briefer are ready to do their part. The dancers should also be ready at this time-that means standing quietly (NO TALKING or SOCIALIZING-you have been given time for that) and listening to the briefs. It is not pleasant for anyone if we have to wait because someone is still chatting and even less pleasant if the MC/briefer feels compelled to ask for quiet. This has a negative effect on the whole assembly.

By all means, enjoy yourselves, socialize, express your pleasure in the dancing, but be mindful that, at the same time, you should be courteous to others- the other dancers, the musician(s) and the MC/briefer.

Commenting Candace

Dear Commenting Candace,  
I could not have said it any better myself.  
Miss Millie Ganz

*If you have a question for Miss Millie Ganz, just send it to [kmaccrone@rogers.com](mailto:kmaccrone@rogers.com) and I'll be sure to forward it on to her.*

## Basic Class Dance Programme

Friday, March 27, 2015 7:30 p.m.  
 Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, 111 Elmwood Avenue

- |  |        |                          |
|--|--------|--------------------------|
| 1. <a href="#">Eva Three Step</a>              | R + R  | Collins Book             |
| 2. <a href="#">Catch the Wind</a>              | R-8x32 | RSCDS Book 45            |
| 3. Espie McNabb                                | J-8x32 | MMM 1                    |
| 4. The Caterpillar                             | S-4x32 | Let's All Dance, Too     |
| 5. <a href="#">Domino Five</a>                 | R-5x32 | Carnforth Collection 4   |
| 6. <a href="#">Waverley</a>                    | J-8x48 | RSCDS Book 15            |
| 7. <a href="#">Balquidder Strathspey</a>       | S-8x32 | RSCDS Book 24            |
| 8. <a href="#">The Flowers of Edinburgh</a>    | R-8x32 | RSCDS Book 1             |
| 9. <a href="#">Riverside</a>                   | J-4x32 | Anonymous                |
| 10. <a href="#">The Dashing White Sergeant</a> | R-4x32 | RSCDS Book 3             |
| 11. <a href="#">St. John River</a>             | S-4x32 | Centennial Collection    |
| 12. <a href="#">The Royal Deeside Railway</a>  | R-8x32 | RSCDS Book 40            |
| 13. <a href="#">Postie's Jig</a>               | J-4x32 | Ormskirk 5               |
| 14. <a href="#">The Marquis of Lorne</a>       | S-8x32 | MMM 2                    |
| 15. <a href="#">A Trip to Bavaria</a>          | R-4x32 | Collins Pocket Reference |
| 16. <a href="#">Shiftin' Bobbins</a>           | R-8x32 | Ormskirk 6               |
| 17. <a href="#">St. Bernard's Waltz</a>        |        |                          |



The briefs for this dance programme as well as the Spring Ball can be found on the [RSCDS London Canada Branch website](#).

Ye dancin?  
 Ye askin?

The Basic class has been busy getting ready for this wonderful evening, so make sure that you get them up on the floor so they can show you just how good they are! The cost for this dance is \$15 and includes a light lunch.

Fred Moyes will be providing the live music for this fun event.



## Dancing Around the World



### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scottish Country Dance Weekend St. Helier, Jersey September 11-12, 2015

Their annual Ball and Dance Weekend is being held at the beautiful Town Hall in the parish of St. Helier (shown at left). Music will be provided by Ian Robertson. St. Helier is the largest of the Channel Islands found in the English Channel. The event coincides with the International Air Display featuring the Red Arrows.

Tickets are £35 and include the Friday night Ball, the Saturday night dance and a buffet meal and a glass of wine each evening.

There is also a pre-Ball practice for £5 on Thursday evening which also includes refreshments. Dance programmes for the two nights as well as more information can be found on their [website](#). Click [here](#) to download the Jersey Ball Weekend application.

# Spring Ball Programme

Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.  
The Great Hall, Somerville House, Western University

1. Edinburgh Castle Reel	R-8x32	Children's Book
2. Espie McNabb	J-8x32	MMM1
3. <a href="#">Sugar Candie</a>	S-8x32	26-9
4. Promise of Spring	R-8x32	Coast to Coast
5. <a href="#">Jennifer's Jig</a>	J-8x32	Silver City
6. The Northern Meeting	S-8x32	Farewell My Fancy
7. <a href="#">A Trip to Bavaria</a>	R-4x32	MacGregor-Brown
8. <a href="#">Blue Bonnets</a>	J-6x32	3-5
9. <a href="#">City of Belfast</a>	S-3x32	Belfast Diamond Jubilee or bk 48
10. <a href="#">Balgeddie Reel</a>	R-5x32	Mary Brandon
11. <a href="#">Rodney's Rant</a>	J-8x32	Diamond Jubilee (RSCDS)
12. <a href="#">Culla Bay</a>	S-4x32	41-2
13. <a href="#">The Dancing Bees</a>	R-8x32	24 Graded and Social Dances
14. <a href="#">The Wild Geese</a>	J-8x32	24-3
15. <a href="#">Cape Town Wedding</a>	S-8x32	39-4
16. <a href="#">The Montgomeries' Rant</a>	R-8x32	10-1



There will be a Ball Practice at Elmwood Presbyterian Church on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. **This practice is open to everyone attending the Ball.**

Laird Brown and *Scotch Mist* will be providing the live music for this annual event.

The cost of a ticket for this year's Ball is \$65 for dancers and \$40 for non-dancers. A Brunch on Sunday (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) is being hosted by Marie and Bill McLennan at their home - 945 Woodhaven Road in London. There is an additional cost of \$10 per person, but it is limited to 35 guests so get your registration in early. The Ball flyer can be found on our [website](#).

## D.u.K Update



This is the group that won the RSCDS "Music for the Future" competition last year. Made up of one Englishman and five Danes, they play both traditional and contemporary Celtic and Scandinavian folk music.

In case you were wondering what they have been up to, check out five tracks of their music on their [website](#) and this [Youtube video](#).

How smart are you regarding all things Scottish? Check out this [Ultimate Scottish Quiz](#) and find out.

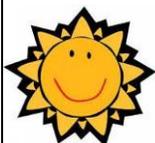


## Upcoming Out of Town Events

Mar 20-21, 2015	Border Cities Workshop (Troy Michigan)	<a href="#">Border Cities Workshop</a>
Mar 28, 2015	Blair Ball (Cambridge)	<a href="#">Blair Ball website</a>
Mar 28, 2015	The 30 <sup>th</sup> West End Workshop (Brampton)	<a href="#">West End Workshop flyer</a>
Apr 11, 2015	Montreal Spring Tea Dance	<a href="#">Montreal Spring Tea Dance flyer</a>
Apr 17-19, 2015	Tartan Tea Weekend Workshop (Picton)	<a href="#">Tartan Tea Registration form</a>
Apr 18, 2015	Sarnia Spring Dance	Contact Lyn <a href="mailto:scottlynmunro@gmail.com">scottlynmunro@gmail.com</a>
Apr 18, 2015	Ottawa Branch Ball	<a href="#">Ottawa Ball flyer</a>
Apr 25, 2015	60 <sup>th</sup> John Middleton Ball (Hamilton)	<a href="#">John Middleton Ball webpage</a>
May 2, 2015	St. Catharines Spring Ball	<a href="#">St. Catharines Ball program</a>
May 9, 2015	West Toronto Beginners Ball	<a href="#">West Toronto Ball flyer</a>
May 20, 2015	St. Andrew's of Brampton Spring Dance	<a href="#">St. Andrew's of Brampton webpage</a>
May 22-24, 2015	Stoney Lake Weekend	<a href="#">Stoney Lake Weekend webpage</a>
May 30, 2015	Ailsa Craig Spring Fling	Contact Marie <a href="mailto:marwil@sympatico.ca">marwil@sympatico.ca</a>
June 6, 2015	End of Season Potluck Dance (Windsor)	<a href="#">Potluck Dance Briefs</a>
June 6, 2015	White Heather Ball (Oshawa)	<a href="#">Highlands of Durham SCD webpage</a>
Jul 26-Aug 23/15	St Andrews Summer School (Scotland)	<a href="#">RSCDS website</a>
Jul 26-Aug 2/15	TAC Summer School (Farmville Virginia)	<a href="#">TAC Summer School webpage</a>
Aug 24-28, 2015	Scotch on the Rocks (Nova Scotia)	<a href="#">2015 Scotch on Rocks flyer</a>
Sept 18-20, 2015	Scottish Weekend XXVII (Highview WV)	<a href="http://www.scottishweekend.org">www.scottishweekend.org</a>
Oct 24, 2015	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball (Windsor)	<a href="#">Advance notice Ball flyer</a>

## TEST DRIVE

We are again offering two FREE dance classes this May (the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>) at 7:30 pm at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre. It's kind of like test driving a car to see if you'll like it. So tell your family, friends, neighbours, co-workers and anyone else you can think of and let them know how much fun they could be having. The more the merrier!



- **Ailsa Craig** will be offering 3 chances to dance this summer – June 4<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Ye Olde Towne Hall (air-conditioned).
- **London Branch** is looking into summer dancing opportunities. We will let you know when details have been firmed up.
- [Toronto Dancing in the Park](#) (Edwards Gardens) June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm until dusk (weather permitting). Music by *Scotch Mist*.
- [St. Catharines Dancing in the Park](#) (Montebello Park) every Tuesday night in June at 7:30 pm.
- [Peterborough Summer Dancing](#) (Millennium Park) Tuesday nights at 7 pm, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## Committee of Management for 2013-2014

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