

Island Fling



November 2008

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
P.O. Box 30123, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet
Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
Web address: www.viscnds.ca

Executive Committee

President	Joan McIntosh	250-477-2512
Publicity	Edna Kinnon	250-727-2977
2nd Vice President and Membership	Maralynn Wilkinson	250-592-2234
Secretary	Keith Wilson	250-920-7599
Newsletter Editor	Gael Forster	gael@shaw.ca
Treasurer	Jamie Orr	250-478-5338
Social Convener	Kathryn Deegan	kdeegan@shaw.ca
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	250-479-6719

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The brilliant outdoor fall colours we are surrounded by this month were duplicated indoors very attractively by the decorating committee for the Harvest Social on October 16th. The hall was **filled** with exuberant dancers who obviously had fun and enjoyed the evening's program and tasty snacks. Thanks to the hard work and talent of the host Intermediate class and teachers, this first event of the new dancing season was a great success.

Looking ahead to 2009, which is not far off, four executive positions will need to be filled in April: President; Treasurer; Membership and 2nd Vice-Pres.; and Publicity and 1st Vice-Pres. (currently have an interested member for this position). Please give some thought to serving in one of these roles. In January, a nominating committee will be appointed to contact members prior to the AGM regarding these positions.

A committee has been formed to look into the redesign of our outdated website. We will keep members posted when the new look has been finalized.

As many of you are aware, our Society rents a storage locker with Target. A leak caused minor damage to several items about 2 years ago. In the past year Target built a second facility and the executive has made the decision to transfer to the new site located at 505 Tolmie Lane (off Dupplin –

across from Mayfair). Kathryn Deegan, Keith Wilson and I have keys to this locker – if any members need items in storage, please contact one of us to make arrangements.

I hope to see everyone at the November 22nd St. Andrews Social.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Social Convener

Wow, what a great start to our social year! On October 18, 2008, over 7 sets of people came to enjoy the hospitality of the Intermediate class. The class outdid itself with beautiful decorations all in fall colours - both natural and 'augmented'. Rob, Sue and Bob (due to a conflict in Una's schedule) led us in a variety of dances at all levels. Thank you to one and all, and the helpers from other classes, for a wonderful start to the year. See you all at the St. Andrews Social on November 22, 2008.

Kathryn Deegan

Newsletter

Class representatives will retain any unclaimed newsletters for members who have indicated they will pick up their newsletter at class until the next time they attend class.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER is NOVEMBER 19, 2008.

Gael Forster



Summer Dancing 2008

During the summer months that verdant splendour known as Beacon Hill Park echoed to the strains of Scottish music. Due to our good behaviour over the year all but one of the sessions were blessed with fine weather.

Against the magnificent backdrop of the Cameron bandshelter could be seen the radiant faces of the enthusiastic dancers. Some sadly only seen during the summer months, some new (to us) whom we hope will become familiar during the dance season, and some from far flung places fortunate to be visiting Victoria at the time. Plus a pleasant blend of Branch and Society members unable or reluctant to give up dancing for two months of the year. Generally three or four sets were raised, swelled by press ganged spectators and casual bypassers. Dances were chosen and directed by teachers from both the branch and society to a mixture of dancers aged from 8 to 80(+), guiding them through the basic formations necessary to complete the chosen dances. A gratifying scene would greet the eye of any casual spectator of some thirty individuals of all ilk cavorting, skipping, sashaying, strathspeying, and reeling their way through the fallen leaves and mosquitoes.

I'm sure that those who attended had no regrets (they keep turning up every July) and those missing don't know what they're missing (then perhaps they do).

Thank you to all teachers from both organizations for guiding us through the dances and all others who helped organizing, setting up, and promoting the sessions. Hopefully their efforts will be rewarded by new recruits in this year's classes.

Gordon Hawkins



Harvest Social

The social on Saturday 18th October was hosted by the Intermediate Class. Decorations in fall colours and floral displays set the scene for a great time of dancing. Our teachers Una Lennam, Sue and Rob Langridge put together a wide range of basic, intermediate and advanced dances.

At the social Una was unable to be with us and we look forward to her return. Our thanks to Bob Anderson for joining Rob and Sue in guiding us through the dances. For most of the evening there were seven sets and it was good to have several of our new dancers with us. There were smiles and laughter accompanying the perfect patterns of jig, strathspey and reel as well as the unscripted variations that occurred infrequently.

Our thanks to all who organized set up, food, decoration, flowers, serving and clean up.

NOTE: Thursdays 7.30-9.30 pm we encourage you to come to the Intermediate Class where excellent instruction and fun are assured. Here one dancer at least hopes to unravel the deepest mysteries and convolutions of Bratach Bana and Quarrie's Jig, and by such achievement to reach for the stars!

Noel Kinnon



Class Schedules

Experienced Social	Monday	last class before Christmas is December 1 2008
Daytime Social	Tuesday	there is a class November 11
Basic	Tuesday	there is a class November 11



VISCDS Spring Ball and Workshops March 27th to 29th 2009

With the closing of the Legion Hall we have been looking for a new location for our Ceilidh and ball workshops. We've found a great place at the Colwood Community Hall and Old Firehall (fire trucks not included!). Our committee has tested the wooden floors and they are wonderful for dancing. There is plenty of space, a stage for the musicians and a good kitchen. The Ball and Banquet will continue to be held at the Wardroom and the Sunday brunch at the C&PO's Mess, CFB.

If you have some good items which need a new home please save them for our silent auction...the better the quality the better they will sell. The money we raise through the auction raises funds which help us to bring in the teachers and musicians which enhance our weekend programs.

Also we have had requests for billets this year. Please contact Maureen Orr (250-478-5338) if you can offer a home from home for visiting dancers for two nights.

Dora Dempster for the Ball Committee



Over the Hills and Far Away (Thoughts about Scotland #6)

Mountaineering in Scotland

Scotland has long had a fine tradition of climbing, and climbers who have exemplified the taciturn, adventurous nature of its people. Scots climbers have made first ascents in the Himalayas, the Andes, the Rockies, the Alps and almost everywhere else that there are mountains. Contemporary Scots climbers are well aware of names like J.H. Bell, and Dr. Norman Collie—climbers who made many first ascents in the late Victorian era and early twentieth century. (Collie makes a brief appearance in Richard Hillary’s classic WWII autobiography ‘The Last Enemy’.)

Hamish Brown’s epic ‘walk’, in which he climbed all 289 Munro peaks in Scotland (every mountain over 3,000 feet, using only his bicycle and the MacBrayne ferry system as transport in between) is still spoken of, some thirty five years after it was completed; a journey of well over 1,500 miles in 112 days.

W.H. (Bill) Murray was the first to make his way round the whole, dangerous, difficult length of the Cuillin Ridge (on Skye) in a single day—in an era of hob-nailed boots and rawhide ropes. He later wrote his classic book ‘*Mountaineering in Scotland*’ almost entirely from memory—on toilet paper—while he was a prisoner of war in Oflag VIIIIF during the Second World War.

This fine book is a work of surpassingly good literature, rather neglected now. But it is superb, lyrical writing, very easy to read whether or not you have any interest in climbing or mountains. I first came across it thirty years ago and found it impossible to put down. Much more than a book about climbing, it is a work of philosophy and observation, of exploration and discovery. Here is one of Murray’s revelations, written while he was sitting beside the dark waters of Loch Coruisk on Skye, after a day on the tops:

“. . . I knew, what until then I had not known, that the one Beauty pervades all things according to their nature, they having beauty by virtue of participation in it; and that in the degree of realising its presence among us, so is life lived in fullness.”

The title of Murray’s autobiography ‘*The Evidence of Things Not Seen*’ comes from a passage in the King James version of the New Testament - “faith is the evidence of things not seen”. This is a variation of one of the guiding quotes of my experience—from the words of the fox in Antoine de St. Exupery’s wonderful parable ‘The Little Prince’: “What is essential, is invisible to the eye.”

They do say that climbing mountains transports you to other worlds...

Michael Elcock



2008 Joint Christmas Social

Start the party season by putting on your festive wear for the Christmas Social hosted by the Branch.

Saturday December 6, 7:30 p.m.
at Cadboro Bay United Church
Cost: \$15

program devised and briefed by Joan Axford and Anita Mathur
 M. C. will be Ed Pitkin

Music by Muriel Johnstone

Machine Without Horses	32 J 3	B	Book 12
Maxwell's Rant	32 R 3	B	Book 18
Summer on the Clyde	32 S 4	B	Scottish Archives Catherine Dewar 1977
Pines of Pitlochry	48 J 3	I	Scottish Archives Sam Frith 1976
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	32 S 3	I	Leaflet #10
Angus McKinnon's Hornpipe	32 R 3	I	Lothian
Ladies Fancy	32 J 2	B	Book 13
Adieu Mon Ami	32 S 3	B	Book 24
Bratach Bana	32 R 3	A	Bon Accord Book
Laird of Milton's Daughter	32 J 3	B	Book 22
Robertson's Rant	80 S 4 set	I	Book 39
John of Bon Accord	32 R 3	I	Book 33

Break

Jubilee Jig	32 J 3	B	Leaflet #19
Polharrow Burn	32 R 5	A	Glendarroch
Minister on the Loch	32 S 3 set	I	4 dances 2008
Reel of the Royal Scots	32 R 3	I	Leaflet #7



2009 Burns Social

January 24 2009, 7:30 p.m.
 at St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue,
 Cost: \$8

PROGRAM

Good Hearted Glasgow	8 x 32 J 3	B	C
Shiftin' Bobbins	8 x 32 R 3	B	C
The Lea Rig	6 x 32 S 2	I	C
Napier's Index	8 x 40 J 3	I	C
The Barmkin	1 x 88 R 4	B	C
Butterscotch and Honey	8 x 32 S 4	B	C
Jennifer's Jig	8 x 32 J 3	I	C
A Reel For Alice	5 x 32 R 5	I	C
The Silver Tassie	8 x 32 S 3	I	C
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8 x 32 J 3	I	C
The Glengarry Homestead	4 x 32 S 4	I	The Kangaroo Paw
The Pines of Pitlochry	8 x 48 J 3	A	C
Break			
Montgomerie's Rant	8 x 3 2 R 3	I	C
The Robertson Rant **	1 x 80 S 4	A	C
The Luckenbooth Brooch	8 x 32 J 3	I	Glendarroch
Mairi's Wedding	8 x 40 R 3	A	C
Extras			
Bonnie Stronshiray	8 x 32 S 3	I	C
Irish Rover **	8 x 32 R 3	A	C

** No Briefing

Hosted by the Monday Social class

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Nov 22** **VISCDS St. Andrew's Social** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed. Program in October's Island Fling
- Dec 6** **JOINT Christmas Social** at 7.30pm at Cadboro Bay United Church
- Dec 31** **Victoria Branch, Hogmanay /New Years Potluck** at 6:30pm at St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall
- Jan 17 2009** **Victoria Branch, Winter Celebration** at 7:30pm at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Hall, an event that embraces everything good about the winter season. The dance program will reflect things wintry and the dancers are asked to wear some of their cosiest winter clothing. \$6 at the door. Contact Kathryn Knowles at 250-598-3490.
- Jan 24 2009** **VISCDS Burns Social** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Jan 25** **Burns Memorial Tea and Concert** sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council (the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns). Heather-laying Ceremony at the Burns statue at 2pm in Beacon Hill Park followed by concert and tea at the Kirk Hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Courtney Street at 2:30pm. by donation.
- Feb 21** **VISCDS Valentines Social** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed
- Mar 27-29** **VISCDS Ball and Workshop Weekend**
- Apr 18** **VISCDS Spring Fling** St. Martin In-The-Fields Hall, 550 Obed

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Dec 6** **PORT ALBERNI CLUB** beginner-friendly **Christmas Dinner/Dance** at 6pm. Contact Rosemary Drayton at rad07@shaw.ca
- Feb 14 2009** **COMOX VALLEY SCD VALENTINES BALL**
- March 7** **PORT ALBERNI CLUB St PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE** with music by Mary Ross
- March 14** **PORTLAND BRANCH 30th WORKSHOP & BALL**, at Friendship Masonic Lodge. Teachers: Bill Zobel (Courtney BC) and Marjorie McLaughlin (San Diego CA). Musicians: Muriel Johnstone, Calum McKinnon and Lisa Scott (workshop)
- April 4** **OCEANSIDE** (formerly NANOOSE) **SCD 4th ANNUAL SPRING GALA**, not March 28th as previously announced.
- Apr 3-5** **LETHBRIDGE SCD & MUSIC WORKSHOP** at Lethbridge Lodge Hotel. Contact Fiona Miller 403-329-3582 or Joanna Fraser 403-320-0357 jo-jo@telus.net.
- Jun 12-14** **SALT SPRING ISLAND SIMPLY SCOTTISH** at Harbour House. Teachers are Jean Dodds, Simon Scott & Bill Zobel. Musicians are Muriel Johnstone, Calum MacKinnon & Mary Ross. Contact Rita Robertson (Registrar) struan2@telus.net or <http://saltspringsscottishdancers.org/>
- Dec 28 2009** **NEW ZEALAND BRANCH SUMMER SCHOOL**, AUT, Akoranga Campus, North Shore City, Auckland. Registration opens January 1 2009.
- Jan 5 2010 <http://ssakl.rscdsnz.org.nz> organiser.ssakl@rscdsnz.org.nz

NOTE: Dance Programs for many of the listed events are available from the VISCDS newsletter editor or the listed contact/websites.