

Island Fling



September 2014

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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VISCDS Open Houses

We will have two fall Open Houses in early September. The first one will be for the **West Shore class** and it will be held at Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Avenue, Colwood, on Friday, September 5 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Our **'Victoria'** Open House will be held on Tuesday, September 9 at the City Light Church Hall on Obed Avenue, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

Bring your friends, neighbours, relatives – anyone who might be interested in trying Scottish Country Dancing. Come to either Open House – or both! There will be no charge for the evening. Refreshments will be served.

President's Corner September 2014

Welcome back to all returning dancers as we enter the new season of Scottish Country Dancing, with a new opportunity to begin dancing in the West Shore.

There have certainly been many opportunities for dancing in the off season since our regular classes came to an end. The extra basic classes were popular as well as the spring mini socials, which continued from April until late May.

The 40 + 40 Anniversary dance on May 24th, sponsored by Rosemary & Walter Balfour, and Maureen & Jamie Orr, was a wonderful night with live music by Mary Ross. The floor was always full of dancers enjoying the evening wholeheartedly, as we danced the night away. Thanks again to the Orr's and Balfour's.

Following along, May 31st to August 2nd was the always popular summer dancing Saturdays with Bob Anderson, which I have been told usually hosted 3 – 4 and sometimes 5 sets. Amazing that so many of you like to keep dancing with the hot weather, and all the other possibilities for entertainment during the summer, well done! Thanks to Bob for your faithful commitment every summer.

We wanted to follow up from our presence at the Highland Games, and so a Ceilidh was held on June 12th at Obed Avenue. Despite good promotion and live music with Mary Ross, the turnout was small with a total of 29 dancers – 18 members and 11 guests. The guests came mainly through club connections and contacts Dora made

through e-mail. However, the feedback was positive in that they really enjoyed the Ceilidh, so perhaps we shall see some new dancers in September.

We now begin the work of gearing up for the new season of classes. Some exciting news: there will be a new basic class offered in Colwood, after an absence of many years, with Joan Axford and Liz Gray sharing the teaching. The Open House at Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Avenue, Colwood, V9B 2B1, will be on Friday, September 5th from 7:30 – 9:30 pm; please come and support this new initiative. We will then hold weekly classes on Friday nights at the Children’s Hall beside the Colwood Community Hall, 2219 Sooke Road, Colwood, V9B 1W8, where there is plenty of parking with ease of access. We are hoping this class will grow and reach a new group of dancers.

The full explanation of fall classes will be noted further into this newsletter.

Thanks to all who make Scottish Country Dancing so enjoyable, and welcome to the new season.

Happy Dancing,

Margaret Mercer

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **October 25, 2014**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

Membership

The registration form for 2014/15 is available on the website or at the September classes. Please submit your forms promptly to Rick Deegan. Fees are due September 1, 2014.

DROP-IN FEES

You’ll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60.00 on the membership form; please be sure to mark Punch Card, and it will come to you through your class rep. Cards do not expire, and more can be purchased as yours run out.

Class Reps Needed

Another year is over and a new year of classes is just around the corner. Once again I would like to thank all of the members who volunteered to be class reps for the past year. I cannot do my job as Social Convener without you. Anyone wishing to volunteer as class rep for a second term will be welcomed with open arms. If you cannot commit for a second year another member will have to step forward to fill your position.

Every class needs a class rep to take attendance, keep the class informed of upcoming events and once a year coordinate with the Social Convener, when it is your class’s turn to host a social. I encourage everyone to take a turn with this responsibility to keep our society running smoothly.

Sincerely,

Sheila Eaglestone, Social Convener

Recipe Corner

Members and guests who attended our workshop lunch in late March will remember the scrumptious soups that three of our members made for us. Out of these delicious soups has come the idea for a “Recipe Corner” in our newsletter. We would like to publish some of your favourite recipes in upcoming issues, space permitting. Perhaps you have a specialty that you bring to our socials and which everyone always enjoys. If you would like to share a recipe with us, send it (or them!) to me, Edith, at enchapma@shaw.ca. If you send a recipe that is copyrighted, please include the name of the cookbook and publisher.

- Sincere thanks to Sarah Kell, who came up with this idea.

Edith Chapman

**Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society Classes
2014/2015**

EXPERIENCED SOCIAL Mondays 7:30 – 9:30 PM, City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue.

Teacher: Bob Anderson

Experienced Social for dancers with good knowledge of all common formations and wish to dance more challenging dances and formations.

BASIC CLASS Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:30 PM, City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. Teacher: Sheila McCall

In the basic class you will learn the five basic steps of Scottish Country Dancing and the various formations that make up the dances. You will become familiar with the concept of sets, progressions, technique and teamwork and you will experience the joy of moving to the lively music in a relaxed social setting. By the end of the year you will be able to dance many basic dances with some degree of confidence.

DAYTIME SOCIAL Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:30 PM, City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue.

Teacher: Pat Blair

A class for those who prefer a daytime class, learning formations, phrasing, covering, handing and dances from upcoming socials.

WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASS 7:30 – 9:30 PM, City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue.

Teacher: Joan Axford and Others

If you want a class with variety, this is it! Dancers are welcome to attend all or some of the classes.

The two Wednesdays before the Socials will be Social Program Review - shared by all Teachers (October 8, 15; November 5, 12; December 10) – 7:30 – 9:30 pm.

Other Wednesdays will be a class for Demonstration and Performance Dancing (September 24; October 1, 22; November 19, 26) taught by Joan Axford.

This class will provide instruction for two teams of dancers. All dancers attending will be part of a **Demonstration Team** who will demonstrate at senior's homes, hospitals, ceilidhs, and other functions where we are asked to demonstrate Scottish dancing for promotion and community goodwill. We will focus on simpler dances and patterns that those watching can easily recognize. It will be helpful if dancers know their basic formations. The more important aspect is the love of dancing with and for others. This part of the class will run from 7:30 to 8:30 pm.

Interested dancers can also join the **Performance Team** where choreographed routines will be created for performances such as the Performing Arts Festival, Tartan Days, Heritage Days, Burns functions, where an honorarium is being offered. This part of the class will run from 8:30 – 9:30 pm.

For September 10, 17; October 29 and December 3, 7:30 – 9:30 pm.

Joan Axford will teach a **Workshop class** for any dancer who is interested. The format will be similar to the workshop provided by Mary Murray last March. There will be some footwork and formation work and putting those skills into a dance(s).

- Sincere thanks to Joan for her help with the above class description.

BEYOND BASIC SOCIAL CLASS Thursdays 7:30 – 9:30 PM, City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. Teacher: Gordon Robinson

In this class you will enjoy learning popular dances and their formations. A number of dances on social programs will be covered so that newer dancers will be able to enjoy our monthly socials. This class is for those who have learned the basics and are ready to learn the next level of formations, and dance more challenging dances with increasing skill and confidence."

WEST SHORE BASIC CLASS Fridays 7:30 – 9:30 PM, Children's Hall, beside the Colwood Community Hall, 2219 Sooke Road. Teachers: Joan Axford and Liz Gray

Learn the Basics. See the description for Tuesday's class.



Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
2014 2015 Classes
All classes (except the afternoon class) run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

2014

Mondays, September 8 to December 8, 2014 (**excluding Thanksgiving October 13**)

Tuesdays, September 9 to December 2, 2014 (**Open House September 9**)

Wednesdays, September 10 to December 3, 2014

Wednesday **afternoons**, September 10 to December 3, 2014 (**1:30 to 3:30 pm**)

Thursdays, September 11 to December 4, 2014

Fridays, September 12 to December 5, 2014

2015

Mondays, January 5 to March 30, 2015

Tuesdays, January 6 to April 7, 2015 (**Open House, January 6**)

Wednesdays, January 7 to April 1, 2015

Wednesday **afternoons**, January 7 to April 1, 2015 (check times)

Thursdays, January 8 to April 2, 2015

**Note: Easter Weekend Friday, April 3 to Monday, April 6
April 16, 2015 Annual General Meeting**



Celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the Commonwealth games in Victoria

The VISCDs was very proud to have been asked by the Producer/Director Jacques Lemay, to perform in the Opening Ceremonies of the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Of course, we said yes but little did we know what we were getting into. Practices started in January for a performance on August 18, 1994. We found out that all the ethnic dance groups would be doing a common piece and then our own choreography to common music. The other challenge was that the music was being written specially for the event and we practiced for the first four months to just the beat of the music called the click clack tape. When the music finally arrived we held our breath that our Scottish country dance routine would work and miraculously it did!! What fun to dance Scottish country dancing to the same music as the Hungarians, Ukrainians, Norwegians, Highland, etc. danced their forms of dance.

We danced on with the Indian ladies and their saris were beautiful against our tartans and white dresses.

As you all know, the Queen attended the event and is the patron of the RSCDS. Jacques knew this and positioned our group directly in front of her so she would see us dance. When the dancing started she was looking away from us but Prince Philip nudged her and pointed us out and she immediately turned to watch and smiled throughout our performance.

With an estimated audience of 500 million, there were TV cameras everywhere and one ambitious camera crew decided to film in the middle of our set which was a challenge but we did make the broadcast up close.

Members of the group who performed: Bob and Alice Anderson, Mike and Mary Hanna, Michael and Valerie Woodhead, Peter and Irene Pabsdorf, Jamie and Maureen Orr, Barb Walker, Joan Axford, Liz Gray, Leslie Brennan, Barbara Watt, Linda MacDonald and Pattie Whitehouse.

It was a once in a lifetime experience!

Joan Axford



Harvest Social, October 18, 2014
7:30 p.m.
City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue
\$10.00

Dance Name	Bars/Music	Level		Source
The Rothesay Rant	4X32 J	B	C	Birmingham Book
Seann Truibhas Willichan	6X32 S	B	C	RSCDS Book 27
Catch the Wind	8X32 H	I		RSCDS Book 45
Follow me Home	8X32 J	I	C	RSCDS Book 38
Auld Friends Meet	8X32 S	I	C	Roy Goldring
The Montgomeries' Rant	8X32 R	I	C	RSCDS Book 10
Farewell to Auchterarder	1X128 J	A	C	William Hamilton
Butterscotch and Honey	4X32 S	B	C	J Attwood
Pelorus Jack	8X32 J	I	C	RSCDS Book 41
Bratach Bana	8X32 R	A	C	Bon Accord Book
Culla Bay	4X32 S	I	C	RSCDS Book 41
The Sailor	8X32 R	B	C	RSCDS Book 24
BREAK				
Roaring Jelly	8X32 J	B	C	Glendarroch Coll
The Minister on the Loch	3X32 S	I		24 Graded/Social
The Irish Rover	8X32 R	A	C	James Cosh-22+2
A Reel for Alice	5X32 R	I	C	A Reel for Alice
EXTRAS				
MacLeod's Fancy	4X32 J	I	C	RSCDS Book 33
The Garry Strathspey	4X32 S	I		James Cosh-22+2

Dances in the core book = C

In Memoriam – John Drewry

Dancers from all over the world were saddened to learn of the recent passing of John Drewry, dance deviser extraordinaire. Some of his dances that we enjoy include “The Bees of Maggie Knockater”, “The Blooms of Bon Accord” and “Autumn in Appin”.

John was born in Melton Mowbray, home of the famous pies, in 1923, the year that the Scottish Country Dance Society, later ‘Royal’, was formed. He started Scottish Country Dancing in Cumbria as part of a ramblers group. Hugh Foss, another well-known dance deviser, encouraged him to begin to create dances.

John was appointed to the biochemistry department of the University of Aberdeen in the 1960’s, and he remained in that city for the rest of his life (hence the “Bon Accord” in the titles of several of his dances). The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) published several of his dances, and Roy Goldring, author of many popular social dances, devised “John of Bon Accord”, which is inscribed to John, and which appears in the RSCDS Book 33.

John taught at a Van Isle workshop in the late 1980’s and he devised “Victorian Strathspey” in our honour. He also taught at our workshop in 2004, and he devised “Victoria Plums” for us. He brought us a new book of then-unpublished dances, including “Dancing in the Right Circles”, which has since been published in *The Stonewood Collection Vol 2*.

We are all indebted to John for his legacy of many wonderful dances.

Sincere thanks to Joan Axford for her help with the information about our workshops.

Edith Chapman

2015 Workshop and Dance, March 28, 2015

After a very successful event last March, Van Isle is once again organizing a workshop and dance for the last weekend next March at the Colwood Community Hall. The workshops will follow the same format as this year with an experienced class in the morning, a lunch and a basic/intermediate class in the afternoon, followed by a dance in the evening.

We are very fortunate to have **Fiona Miller** as the instructor this year. Born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, Fiona learned to dance almost as soon as she could walk. Her SCD enthusiastic parents were her first teachers. Fiona trained at Dunfermline College in Physical Education and Health and in 1978 she took her dance teachers' certificate under the watchful eye of Miss Milligan. Fiona and her husband, David, immigrated to Lethbridge, Alberta in 1981. As the founding teacher, Fiona has taught the social class, seniors, children, technique and at the demonstration group for the Lethbridge Scottish Country Dance Club. Fiona has also taught at the TAC Summer School, week-long summer camps and weekend workshops throughout North America. Fiona has tutored and mentored candidates to take their RSCDS Teachers' Certification. In her other life Fiona has just retired from teaching "English as a Second Language" (ESL) to Middle School-aged refugee children. It is Fiona's philosophy that everyone should have fun dancing, while learning a little bit about Scottish Culture. With Mary Ross providing the music for the workshops, this is an event not to be missed.

The Tartan Players, who we so much enjoyed dancing to last year, have agreed to once again be our evening dance band. The **Tartan Players**, formed in 2005, is a Scottish Dance Band which has rapidly become a sought after group, with their lively playing and signature sound. **Julie Smith** (piano/bandleader) teaches music in public schools, directs choirs and plays for Scottish Country Dance ("Music is my life"). She has attended Master Workshops in Scottish Country Dance music. **Deborah Jones** (fiddle) has more than thirty years' experience of Scandinavian folk fiddling and has played in the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra since 1990. **Carole Berger** (flute/whistle) has augmented her BMus with the study of Traditional music at workshops in Boston, Goderich and Vancouver. She has played for Scottish and Irish dancing for over ten years. **Lukasz Wieczorek** (fiddle) has played in the West Coast Fiddlers for almost ten years.

Further information will be posted on the website. Please mark your calendars now and plan to support this very affordable and enjoyable event.

Hilary Fedoruk

August 16th Ceilidh

Our summer ceilidh was held on Aug 16th at Dance Victoria on Quadra Street, and was well attended by about 31 members and 34 guests. The weather cooperated by being a little cooler, which facilitated some rousing dancing.

Live music was performed by our lovely Mary Ross whose enthusiasm and lively playing keeps everyone on their feet. Even those sitting out at times were toe tapping to the music.

Joan Axford led the group in some new to us dances, which helped get everyone up and moving around the room in the circle dances.

A group of eight members did a demo dance of Shiftin' Bobbins as a Ceilidh act, and then we all advanced to regular set basic dances. We even managed a square set dance. It was amazing to see all the newcomers gamely keeping up with the dances, some very competently.

The second Ceilidh act was Ian Rothnie, a friend of Mary Ross, who has a lovely singing voice. He sang several Scottish favourite tunes, including Flower of Scotland, the unofficial Scottish anthem. He was a crowd pleaser for all those loyal Scots in attendance who sang along. I think he and his wife also got some dancing in.

We finished the evening with the usual amazing refreshments, thank you to the club members who contributed fresh fruit and home baking, etc. Most of the crowd hung around talking and enjoying the fellowship afterwards, and several applications were picked up for the fall season.

Thanks again to Dora for her extensive promotion of this event, many people who attended noted that they came due to the e-mail invitation.

Special thanks to Sheila Eaglestone also for her tireless work in the kitchen, her ever present help makes everything run smoothly, and clean up seem a breeze.

Margaret Mercer

St Andrews Social, November 15, 2014
7:30 p.m.
City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue
\$10.00



Dance Name	Bars/Music	Level		Source
St. Andrew's Fair	8x32 J	B	C	RSCDS 5 for 1982
John McAlpin	8x32 S	B	C	RSCDS 3 by Foss
West's Hornpipe	4x32 H	B	C	RSCDS 5 for 1965
Quarrie's Jig	8x32 J	I	C	RSCDS Book 36
Neidpath Castle	3x32 S	I	C	RSCDS Book 22
Scott Meikle	4x32 R	I		RSCDS Book 46
Scottish Reform	8x32 J	B		RSCDS Book 3
Linnea's Strathspey	8x32 S	I		RSCDS Book 47
The White Cockade	8x32 R	B	C	RSCDS Book 5
The Dancing Master	1x96 J	A	C	Donside Book
The Northern Lights	3x32 S	I	C	TAC Silver Anniversary
The Australian Ladies	8x32 R	I		Glasgow Assembly
BREAK				
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32 J	I		RSCDS Book 22
Clutha	4x48 R	I	C	RSCDS Book 31
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32 S	I	C	Glendarroch Coll
The De'il Amang the Tailors	8x32 R	B	C	RSCDS Book 14
EXTRAS				
Jennifer's Jig	8x32 J	I	C	Silver City Book
The Dream Catcher	1x96 S	I	C	RSCDS Book 45

Dances in the core book = C

Dance information – here is some information on a few dances on upcoming programs. The information is from various websites.

Culla Bay – a bay on the Isle of Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, very scenic. The dance was devised by Ann Dix

Rothsay – a town on the Isle of Bute, southwestern Scotland. It lies along the coast of the Firth of Clyde. A major attraction is the ruined Rothsay Castle. The dance, "Rothsay Rant", was devised by Anna Holden.

MacDonald of the Isles – or Lord of the Isles, historical roots go back beyond the Kingdom of Scotland, to the Norse/Viking days. At their height, the island chiefs were the greatest landowners and most powerful Lords in Britain; their territories included the Hebrides and parts of the Scottish mainland. Nowadays, the Title belongs to the ruling British monarch. HRH Prince Charles is styled Lord of the Isles. For further information, see Wikipedia's fascinating article, "Lord of the Isles". The dance was devised by Derek Haynes.

Auchterarder – a town in Perthshire. The famous bandleader, Ian Powrie, owned a hobby farm in the area. When he emigrated to Australia, Bill Hamilton devised the popular dance "Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder" in his honour.

COMING EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Events

2014

- Sep 5th** West Shore Open House, 7:30 pm, Church of the Advent, 510 Mount View Avenue, Colwood.
Sep 8th Classes start this week.
Sep 9th Open House, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue.
Oct 18th Harvest Social, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. \$10.00. See program in this issue.
Nov 15th St Andrews Social, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. \$10.00. See program in this issue.
Dec 13th Christmas Social, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. \$15.00. Music by Mary Ross.
Dec 31st New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner and Social, 6:30 pm (dancing, 8:00 pm), \$12.00 plus potluck donation (dance only, \$10.00).

2015

- Jan 6th** Open House, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue.
Jan 17th Robbie Burns Social.
Feb 21st Valentines Tea Dance (Saturday afternoon).
Mar 28th Workshop and Social Dance.
Apr 18th Spring Fling Social..

All Socials take place from 7:30 to 10:30 pm Saturday evening with the exception of the **February 21st Tea Dance** which will take place in the afternoon from **2:30 to 5:30 pm**.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Events

2014

- Oct 4th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Soft Shoe Ladies' Step Dance Open House, Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. A chance to try this dance form. Further info – Kay Sutherland, kay_sutherland@hotmail.com.
Oct 17th – 19th Ardbrae Dancers, Ottawa, Ardbrae 50th Anniversary Workshop Weekend. Classes at intermediate and advanced levels. Info – www.ardbrae.org
Oct 18th RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch Fall Workshop. Morning classes and afternoon social. Info – www.rscdsNovaScotia.ca/Oct_2014_Ad.html.
Oct 25th Bellingham Scottish Country Dancers, Masquerade Ball. Formal/masquerade attire. Info – www.BellinghamSCD.org.
Nov 11th Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance, Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, 1:00 – 5:00 pm. \$10.00. Further info – www.rscdsvancouver.org.

2015

- Feb 13th – 15th** RSCDS Honolulu Branch Aloha Winter Weekend. Info – www.RSCDSHawaii.org.
Feb 14th RSCDS Vancouver Branch Love to Dance Scottish Workshop and Tea Dance. Further info – www.rscdsvancouver.org.
Feb 22nd – 27th RSCDS Winter School, Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry. Online booking available in early September. Book early to avoid disappointment. Info and registration - www.rscds.org.
Mar 21st RSCDS Vancouver Branch Golden Jubilee Ball. Further information later, or check their website, www.rscdsvancouver.org

In Memoriam – Mary Farrell

Mary started SCD 4 years ago and was excited about her new found experience. She was always interested in dance and often pursued other forms of dance. Mary started in the beginners and was very keen on learning the footwork and formations correctly. Unfortunately her experience was short lived as she became ill which she soon succumbed to.

A request from Mary made to me was, “would any of the dancers and/or teachers that were involved with my dancing experience dance ‘The Glasgow Highlanders’ for me.” I managed to form a 5 couple set and we danced it on Thursday, July 24th at her "Celebration of Life". The dancers were delighted to perform for Mary and it showed in their performance.

Mary will be remembered fondly by us all as an exuberant and delightful dancer. We will miss her.

Patricia Blair