

Island Fling



March 2015

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **April 26, 2015**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

President's Corner March 2015

Where does the time go to, it seems just a few days ago we were welcoming the New Year of 2015, and here we are in March.

Our successful Open House on January 6th set us off to a good start with 42 attendees, 11 guests and 5 new memberships. Well done team!

Also in January, we had a wonderful Burn's Night Social dance, hosted by the Monday night class. Bob Anderson devised the well-chosen program, which was enjoyed by a record number of dancers with a door count of 69, meaning 8 sets at some points. While we originally anticipated live music for this event, due to unforeseen circumstances we relied on recorded music, and lively dancing was enjoyed throughout the night.

Midway through the evening, Jamie Orr piped in the haggis, followed by Rick Deegan, Robin Gubby, Walter Balfour, and David Godkin, as the honor guard. Walter again treated us to a memorable Address to the Haggis, before all the dancers could partake of the groaning table of goodies, including tasting the haggis, a once a year treat.

Thanks to Sheila Eaglestone for her labour of love in the kitchen, receiving, prepping and displaying all the amazing food brought by the volunteers. And then clearing and cleaning up with her team of helpers.

However, the air in the kitchen was turned blue briefly when she found she had forgotten to put the tea bags in the urn just before the break. This was quickly remedied and no one was the wiser, until now, ha!

The 50/50 was won by Janet Bailey, thanks to everyone for purchasing tickets.

Although I was unable to attend the Valentine Tea, I'm sure it was again a roaring success, due to the hard work of the Wednesday afternoon class. It's so nice to enjoy dancing, with fine china cups and plates for the tea break.

As most of you know, one of our longstanding members and qualified teachers, Michelle Campbell, had a stroke in January. We are happy to report she is coming along well in rehab, and is happy to receive visitors to pass the time with her. She is currently at VGH.

VISCDS has broken a new record with 150 members signed up now, ensuring the club will continue in a healthy way for the future. Our enthusiastic new members are sure to spread the word of the fun exercise and socializing that our club offers.

I would encourage many of you to attend our March workshop classes and social as it is a wonderful opportunity to brush up on your skills and enjoy dancing to the Tartan Players.

Also don't forget the Spring Fling coming up in April, as well at the AGM on April 16th, which will be my last official duty.

This is my last newsletter as President, and I am thankful to all of you for your help and encouragement this year. I have been affiliated with VISCDS since 1992, and hope to continue that involvement for many more years to come.

Margaret Mercer, President

VISCDS Annual General Meeting Second Notice

Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 16th, 2015

City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave, 7:30 p.m.

All members are encouraged to attend. Please submit any business and/or proposals for the AGM in writing to Janet Yonge, Secretary, no later than April 1st.

Nominations for Executive positions for 2015/2016

The nominating committee consists of Maureen Orr and Jane Matthews. Please contact any member of the nominating committee if you are interested in applying for, or want to know more about any of the vacant positions. The following position is being vacated by the current Executive member:

President

This is an essential positions that needs to be filled to ensure the continuation and success of our Society. Please consider contributing your expertise or skills by taking on this executive role.

Nominating Committee

Maureen Orr, phone 250-478-5338

Jane Matthews, phone 250-478-0143

Class Reps

Mon. Social Class	Robin Gubby	250 - 595-6813
	Linda Foley	250 - 881-1536
Tues. Basic Class	Jan Beckett	250 - 598-0464
	Susannah Andersen	250 - 812-9303
Wed. Afternoon Class	Ian Danks	250 - 477-0346
Wed. Evening Class	Ellen Campbell	250 - 592-3938
Thurs. Beyond Basic Class	Theresa Harbidge	250 - 658-3834
Fri. West Shore Class	Marcia Farquhar	250 - 474-6890

Handle with Care

Several of our members suffer from arthritis and other painful conditions in their hands. Unfortunately, some of their fellow dancers are a bit heavy-handed when giving hands. Giving "a firm grip" doesn't mean "squeeze the life out of the other person's hand". A limp hand is useless, however, so a "gently firm" grip is necessary. Most of the strength when giving hands should come from the upper arm. Another very painful – and dangerous – fault is giving a hand at shoulder height and then yanking the other person's arm sharply downward. Hands should be given at shoulder height of the shorter person and kept there throughout the figure (turns, hands round, rights and lefts, etc).

2015 Workshop and Dance

This year's workshop and dance is coming up on **Saturday March 28th**. Time is running out for you to get your workshop registration in before the **March 15** deadline. Receiving registrations in good time is much appreciated by the planning committee who work hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly. The venue is once again the Colwood Community Hall, 2219 Sooke Road. The parking lot is not paved so be prepared for a few mud puddles in case of inclement weather.

We are excited to have Fiona Miller as guest teacher for the workshops (10:00 am for Experienced and 1:30 pm for Basic/Intermediate) and to have our own Mary Ross accompanying her on the accordion. This is a chance to learn from a highly regarded teacher with a skilled class musician. Having a musician changes the flow of the class and is a treat to experience.

Four members of The Tartan Players will again be providing the wonderful music for the dance in the evening. Please remember that this year it will be starting at **7 pm**.

Anybody wanting to carpool and not sure who to ask, please speak to your class rep or a committee member. (committee members: Gael Forster, Robin Gubby, Joan MacIntosh, Hilary Fedoruk, Sheila McCall, Margaret Dohan, Jamie Orr, Maureen Orr).

The registration form with full information is available on the www.viscdis.ca website and there will be some printed copies available from class reps. You can pay at the door, but knowing numbers in advance makes things much easier for the organizers, and it will cost you **\$5 more per event (including lunch)** if you wait to pay on the day.

Everyone is asked to bring their own plates, cups and utensils for the lunch and social. Bowls will be provided for the soup at lunch.

We are all looking forward to an enthusiastic response for this fun event.

Hilary Fedoruk



Workshop Class, Lunch and Social Dance 2014



Spring Fling

April 18, 2015

\$10.00



Dance	Bars	Core	Level	Source
Good Hearted Glasgow	8x32J	C	B	Knapman
The Flowers of Edinburgh	8X32R	C	B	Book 1/6
John McAlpin	8x32S	C	I	Hugh Foss
Swashbuckling Iain	6x32J		B	San Francisco Coll, Vol 2
The Irish Rover	8x32R	C	A	Cosh 22+2
Friendships	4x32S		B	3rd Graded Book
Roaring Jelly	8x32J	C	I	Glendarroch
Netherby Hall	6x32R		B	Bon Accord Book
The Flower of Glasgow	3x32S		I	Book 46/9
The White Heather Jig	4x40J	C	A	22+2 Cosh
The Enchanted Garden	8x32S		B	Ian Boyd
The Lass of Richmond Hill	8x32R	C	B	2nd Graded Book
Break				
Granville Market	8x32J		B	2nd Graded Book
12 Coates Crescent	4x32S	C	B	Book 40/5
Currie Mountain	8x32R		I	New Brunswick Coll
Pelorus Jack	8x32J	C	I	Book 41/1
Cherrybank Gardens	3x32S	C	I	Bankhead Book 1
Deil Amang the Tailors	8x32R	C	B	Book 14/7

Perfumes and Other Scents

Members are asked not to wear perfumes or other strong scents to classes or socials. Some members are sensitive to these odours, and can become quite ill if exposed to them. This goes for you men, too, with your after-shave lotions. Your fellow dancers who suffer from these allergies – and their noses - will thank you!

Nanaimo Workshop and Tea Dance

Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers would like to invite you to our upcoming Workshop and Tea Dance to be held on 11th April 2015 at Dover Bay School in Nanaimo. Teachers are Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Ruth Jappy. The Workshop includes 3 classes at the Basic Level and 3 at the Intermediate level. Full details and the brochure are available to be downloaded at our website, nanaimoscd.com.

Hazel MacDonald

Spring and Summer Dancing 2015

There are plans in the works to hold six weeks of spring classes on **Tuesdays from April 21st to May 26th** followed by a windup **Ceilidh on Tuesday June 2nd**. This would be an opportune time to introduce friends and acquaintances to Scottish country dancing and we hope you will spread the word. Classes will be held at the City Light Church, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Cost \$36 for six classes.

We will also be holding our usual Spring mini-socials on **Thursday nights April 23rd to May 28th** from 7:30 to 9:30 pm \$5 drop in fee. Bob's summer dancing will start on **Saturday May 30th and run until August 1st**, 7:30 to 10:30 pm.

Dora Dempser

There will be an extra class on **Tuesday, April 14**, which will be open to all levels. Teacher Sheila McCall will go over some of the dances on the Spring Fling program. There will also be dancing after the AGM on April 16.

VISCDS Spring and Summer Dancing 2015 City Light Church Hall 550 Obed Avenue

Spring dancing 7:30 to 9:30 pm:

Tuesdays (spring Classes) \$36.00 for 6 classes

April 21, 28

May 5,12,19,26

Tuesday, June 2 Ceilidh Dance (7:30 to 10:00 pm). Still in the planning stages. Further information later.

Thursdays (Mini socials) \$5.00 drop in

April 23, 30

May 7,14,21,28

Summer Dancing Saturdays 7:30 to 10:30 pm \$8.00 drop in

May 30

June 6,13,20,27

July 4,11,18,25

August 1

Report on St. Valentine Dance.

In spite of the beautiful spring day, there were more than 60 dancers turned out for the St. Valentine's Social, hosted by the Wednesday Afternoon Class.

Teacher, Pat Blair, devised the lively dance programme with dances for all abilities, including four dances created by our own Bob Anderson.

The tables looked great, with the flower arrangements and fine china, and dancers had the time to catch up with fellow members while enjoying the excellent "goodies". The host class worked hard to keep the tea flowing and a special thank you must go to our Social Convener, Sheila Eaglestone, for all the work she does at this and all of the socials.

At break time the 50/50 was drawn and the prize of \$38.50 was won by Edith Chapman. Well done, Edith!

As the dance ended around 6:15 pm with at least four sets still on the floor, I think "a good time was had by all" as the saying goes!

Many, many thanks to the Wednesday afternoon class for their hard work and enthusiasm, it was certainly a case "of many hands make light work"!

Ian Danks, Class Rep.

The 152nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

The 152nd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will feature an inaugural third day of events in 2015 and will take place on **Saturday May 16 – Monday May 18 at Topaz Park**. On Saturday and Sunday gates are open from 8am – 6pm. Monday gates are open from 10 am to 4 pm. In true Scottish (*and west coast*) fashion, the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place rain or shine.

It is traditional for VISCDS to have a booth at the games and this year will be no exception. This is a good opportunity for us to promote our love of dancing and we will be looking for volunteers to help entice potential members. You will have the opportunity to sign up at the Annual General meeting April 16. We usually ask for people to commit to a 4 hour shift but this depends on the number of volunteers we have.

The dem team will be performing on stage and appreciate your support!

Volunteers generally get a pass into the grounds so if you are available, please sign up.

If any volunteers from previous games, or attendees, have any suggestions for us to make our booth more exciting and interesting this year please share your ideas with Dora Dempster or Hilary Fedoruk.

For more information on the games, go to www.victoriahighlandgames.com.

Hilary Fedoruk



The dem team after their performance at the games last year.

Burns Social

The Burns Social on 17th January, one of the key events of the Van Isle SCDS season, was attended by 69 guests, many in formal Highland evening dress, giving the event a very distinguished air. We welcomed guests from Duncan, Ladysmith and Nanaimo. Many thanks to Bob for providing the music at short notice.

The Hall, beautifully decorated by Linda and Thelma, showed plaques depicting various events in Robert Burns' relatively short, but very full, life, nicely set off by a colourful array of Tartans.

The excellent dance program had something to suit everyone's taste, from the (unintentional) high-speed body checks of "Muirland Willie", through the stately elegance of "The Belle of Bon Accord", to the barely restrained exuberance of "The Reel of the Royal Scots", keeping the floor full for most of the evening.

The Haggis Party was rousing piped in by Jamie, with Rick proudly acting as Bearer, followed by Walter, who gave a magnificent Address (a wonderful blend of wit and wisdom), not forgetting Robin with the whisky, and, last but not least, David Godkin providing the ceremonial guard.

Janet Bailey was the lucky winner of \$55 from the 50/50 draw.

A big thank-you to everybody else that helped make this event such a success; Jane for selling the tickets, Sheila McCall for doing the 50/50 draw, Margaret, Rosemary, Linda, Pat, Catherine, Terry, Maureen, Dora, Jacquie, June, Joan, Janet, Heather, Tony, Alan, and, most of all, our marvelously efficient Social Convenor (who specifically asked that her name not be mentioned, so I haven't), for organizing everything so perfectly, as always. My profuse apologies to anyone I may have missed - without the dedication of our volunteers, none of these events would be possible!

Robin Gubby

Monday Class Representative

COMING EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2015

- Mar 28th** Workshop and Social Dance. Further information and registration forms are in this issue. **Note that the social dance starts at 7:00 pm.**
- April 14th** Class to go over dances for the Spring Fling Social. 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.
- April 16th** Annual General Meeting, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. See notice in this issue.
- Apr 18th** Spring Fling Social. The program is in this issue.
- Apr 21st – May 26th** Tuesdays. Extra classes, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. \$36.00 for 6 classes.
- Apr 23rd – May 28th** Thursdays. Mini socials, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. \$5.00 per night.
- May 1st – 3rd** Youth Weekend West (YWW) Workshop. The Ball on May 2nd is open to everyone. Further info: <http://www.youthweekendwest.com/>, and in the January 2015 newsletter.
- May 30th–Aug 1st** Summer Dancing, 7:30 pm. City Light Church Hall, Obed Avenue. \$8.00. Further details are in this issue.
- June 2nd** Tuesday. Possible ceilidh, still in the planning stages. Further info later.

All VISCDs Socials take place from 7:30 to 10:30 pm Saturday evening. YWW will have its own times.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2015

- Mar 21st** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Golden Jubilee Ball, Hellenic Centre, Vancouver, 6:30 – 11:30 pm. Music by the Torridon Scottish Dance Band and guest musicians. Tickets: \$100.00. Further info: www.rscdsvancouver.org
- Apr 10th – 12th** Lethbridge SCD Club SCD Dance and Music Workshop and Ball. Dance Friday night; classes all day Saturday; Ball Saturday evening; Brunch Sunday noon – 3:00 pm. Info: www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org.
- Apr 11th** Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers Workshop and Tea Dance. 2 levels; 3 classes each. Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Ruth Jappy. Live music for classes and socials. Further info: www.nanaimoscd.com.
- May 1st – 3rd** RSCDS Winnipeg Branch Workshop Weekend. Bob Anderson is one of the teachers. Info – <http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca/LandA/LandADecember%2020142column.pdf> - (*Light and Airy* - Branch newsletter, December 2-14 issue, page 4).
- Jul 26th-Aug 2nd** Teachers Association (Canada) (TAC) Summer School, Farmville VA. Open to all levels of dancers. Info - <http://www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school/summer-school-2015>.
- Aug 24th – 28th** Valley Scottish Country Dancers, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, “Scotch on the Rocks”, SCD classes and excursions. Further info - keppie@eastlink.ca, or Phone 902-542-5320.
- Sep 11th – 13th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend, Port Townsend WA. Gordon Robinson is one of the teachers. Live music for classes and socials. There will be a musicians’ workshop on the Friday. Info and forms: www.rscds-seattle.org.

The dances below appear on the Spring Fling program. Here is some background information.

Currie Mountain is an extinct volcano near Fredericton NB. It is owned by the University of New Brunswick and is used for geology and forestry field trips as well as hiking and mountain biking. It is open to the public. The dance was devised by Mary Pugh and is from the New Brunswick Collection. See <http://www.geocaching.com/>.

Netherby Hall is near Longtown, Cumbria, and is the seat of the Clan Graham. Parts of the hall date back to the 14th Century. It is the setting for Sir Walter Scott’s poem, “Young Lochinvar”. The dance was devised by John Drewry and is from the Bon Accord Book. The first sixteen bars of the dance illustrate the story of the poem. Information on the Hall may be found at <http://www.clangrahamsociety.org/files/netherbyhallsale.pdf> (it looks like the Hall is for sale). The poem may be found at <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/183947>.

12 Coates Crescent is the address in Edinburgh of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. The dance was devised by the Publications and Research Committee in 1998 and is from the RSCDS Book 40. The postal code, EH3 7AF, is the name of another dance.