

# Island Fling



**May 2016**

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society  
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland  
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## **President's Report May 2016**

Happy Spring everyone! We're off to a good start with twenty-three dancers signed up for the Tuesday night Spring classes, including five newcomers. We will finish with a windup **Ceilidh** on **Tuesday May 31st** and I hope you will all put the date in your calendar. Mary Ross will be playing and it is one more opportunity to introduce newcomers to Scottish country dancing. We'll be spreading the word at the Highland Games, May 21st to May 23rd. If you'd like to help out at our booth that weekend please contact our publicity director, Martha Morrison, [mg.morrison@shaw.ca](mailto:mg.morrison@shaw.ca), or 250 595-6089.

The highlight of our season was the fabulous April 2nd Workshop, Banquet and Ball. I heard high praise from those who attended the workshops, and the Ball was wonderful. Thanks to Workshop teachers Louise McGillivray and Linda Mae Dennis, and to the musicians Mary Ross and the Tartan Players, who contributed so much to the success of our Workshop and Ball event. The Banquet and Ball were held at the Eidelweiss Hall and the staff there went out of their way to ensure everything ran smoothly. The food was delicious and the hall was beautifully decorated, due in large part to the special talents of Ann and Ned Easton. The Workshop/Ball committee did a grand job of organizing this event and much credit goes to Ned Easton who coordinated the whole event, ably supported by Anita Mathur, Ann Easton, Robin Gubby, Gael Forster, Hilary Brown, Marjorie Sandercock, Margaret Dohan, John and Jonelle McLellan, Ina Wong and Brett Watters.

I would like to thank Sheila McCall and the Basic classes for hosting the Spring Fling Social on April 16th. We had over five sets of dancers who thoroughly enjoyed the evening and the plentiful offerings of goodies. The Thursday mini socials continue until May 26th, with the teachers taking turns leading the dancing. Bob Anderson's summer dancing will start on Saturday June 2nd. He is handing out booklets which list the dances for each of the socials, and we will eventually post them on the website. Practice dates for the Saturday Socials are being offered on the following dates, **Thursday June 2nd** and **Tuesday nights from June 7th to July 26th**. A summer Ceilidh dance on Saturday, August 20th at the City Light Church is still in the early planning stages.

Have a lovely summer, and if I don't see you at summer dancing, I hope to see you all again in September!

**Dora Dempster, President**

## Spring and Summer Dancing

Classes have ended for the season, but don't put away those dance shoes. There will be plenty of opportunity to dance in the coming months. All classes and socials will be held at the City Light Church Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

**Mini socials** – these popular socials are held on Thursday's, April 21 – May 26, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Van Isle teachers are taking turns running the socials. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$5.00 per night.

**Ceilidh** – Tuesday, May 31, 7:30 pm, \$5.00. Mary Ross will be playing. Suitable for non-dancing friends, etc.

**Summer Dancing** – once again, Bob is running his ever-popular socials on Saturday evenings, June 4 – July 30, 7:30 to 10:30 pm. All levels are welcome. The cost is \$8.00. Refreshments will be served, with dancers taking turns bringing the goodies, so watch out for the sign-up sheets.

**Practice Sessions for Summer Dancing** – held for the first time last year, these practice sessions proved so popular – and useful – that Bob is running them again this year. The first class is on **Thursday, June 2**; the others will be on **Tuesdays**, starting on **June 7**. All classes are from 7:30 – 9:30 pm, \$5.00 per night.

**Ceilidh** – Saturday, August 20, 7:30 pm, \$5.00. Mary Ross will be playing again. Here is a chance to introduce your friends and relations to SCD. Fall classes will start a few weeks later.

## The 153rd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

The 153rd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival will again be 3 days this year and will take place from **Saturday May 21– Monday May 23 at Topaz Park**. On Saturday and Sunday, gates are open from 8 am – 7 pm. On Monday, gates are open from 9 am to 5 pm. In true Scottish (*and west coast*) fashion, the Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival takes place rain or shine. Along with other dancers, our dem team will be performing on stage on Saturday and would appreciate your support! See notice below.

Check the web site [www.victoriahighlandgames.com](http://www.victoriahighlandgames.com) for more information.

It is traditional for VISCDS to have a booth at the games. We will have a booth on Saturday and Sunday and hopefully also on Monday if we have enough volunteers. This is a good opportunity for us to promote our club and to entice potential members. Volunteers generally get a pass into the grounds so if you are able to spare a few hours, please contact Publicity Director Martha Morrison, [mg.morrison@shaw.ca](mailto:mg.morrison@shaw.ca), or call her at 250 595-6089.

Thank you to those who have already signed up.

**Submitted by Hilary Fedoruk, former Publicity Director**

## Demonstration Team and Audience Participation Dancing

The demo team is dancing on Saturday, May 21 at 2:30 p.m. on the Entertainment Stage. Joan is also holding 4 workshops at the Games for one half hour each with audience participation at the following times:

- Saturday, May 21 at 11:30 am and 1:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 22 at 11:30 am and 1:30 p.m.

It would be great if some of our members came along to help out similar to our Open Houses. This will be on the Feis Stage. Let Joan and Dora know which sessions you will attend. [joanaxford@shaw.ca](mailto:joanaxford@shaw.ca).

**Joan Axford, Teacher and Demonstration Team Leader**

**The Social Convenor executive position** is currently vacant and we are looking for a member who is willing to serve in this position. For further information and to apply for the position, please contact Dora Dempster.

The duties of the Social Convenor are as follows:

- Appoint committees as necessary to plan and direct the functions of the Society
- Purchase regular supplies as needed
- Confirm with the head teacher which class will sponsor each social
- Work closely with Class representatives and advise them as needed; supplying them with signup sheets for the social for which their class is responsible; providing directions for making the coffee; provide instructions for receiving entry fees at the door etc.

## Kilt for Sale

Joan and Graeme Ruxton are former members of Van Isle. Graeme passed away earlier this year and Joan would like to sell his kilt, sporran and socks. The socks are men's, size small. I don't have any other information. If you are interested, contact Joan, [jaruxton@gmail.com](mailto:jaruxton@gmail.com)

## **Spring Fling 2016**

Everyone had a lively, and laughter-filled time, at the Spring Fling on April 16th hosted by the Basic Classes at the hall on Obed Street.

There was a good turnout with forty-four dancers in attendance. For many of the beginners this was their first dance. Sheila McCall selected and briefed a varied program. She chose a good number of basic dances that were great for beginners, and as a result there were very few times over the course of the evening when dancers were sitting on chairs rather than dancing. Always a good sign!

Hats off to Velma Fenty for cheerfully taking our money at the door and to Susan Jones for ensuring we all had a chance to buy 50:50 tickets. Sheila Eaglestone, the lucky and deserving 50:50 winner, took home \$44.00.

Tuesday and Friday classes provided a vast array of delicious treats that were served at the break.

Thanks to those who set-up the hall, provided the treats, ensured they were out on the table for the break and cleaned-up the hall after the dance.

Finally, a very special thanks goes out to Sheila Eaglestone, our fantastic Social Convenor, for helping us to organize this Social.

## **Sandy Currie**

### **Tuesday Basic Class Rep.**

## **Dem Team Success**

*Recently our Demonstration Team danced in the Performing Arts Festival and were very successful; they won an award and were chosen to perform in the Honours Performance. Their teacher, Joan Axford, writes the following:*

The rules of the Performing Arts Festival is that the demonstration be no more than 5 minutes in length so we work out a routine that shows as much of our dancing as possible. We have been practicing since we finished Burns functions. Our routine involved a dance on of 32 bars, 64 bars of Dancing Master, transition to a strathspey called Trysting Place and back to reel time for Scott Meikle and Polharrow Burn and a dance off.

The dancers competed on April 8, 2016. The adjudicator was Dan Costain who is an accomplished highland dancer so knew our form of dance and what was expected. He gave us some very positive feedback and we were chosen for an ethnic award for social dance and performed in the highlights concert on April 22nd.

Thank you to the dancers – Penny Catton, Ed Pitkin, Amanda Cavanaugh, Fiona Warman, Thelma Legge, Sheila McCall, Sheila Eaglestone, Robin Gubby, Gael Forster, Janet Yonge, and Gordon Robinson (who stepped into the breach at the last minute to dance in the highlights concert).

Congratulations, Team!

## **Newsletter**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, August 21, 2016**. Please send submissions to [enchapma@shaw.ca](mailto:enchapma@shaw.ca).

## **In Memoriam**

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Mary Shoolbraid Brandon, of the Los Angeles Branch.

Mary was born into a family of Scottish Country Dancers. She emigrated to Canada, settling in Vancouver, and after marriage, she lived in various places in the US. Wherever she lived, she was instrumental in setting up a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). Mary was a teacher and examiner for the RSCDS. In 1987, she was awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour, for her contributions to the various Branches.

As well as being an accomplished teacher, Mary devised many dances, including the perennial favourite, "Mamie's Jig", named for her Mother; Sandy Butterly, Fife Ness and The Double Sixsome.

We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

- with help from the article in the Vancouver Branch's newsletter, *The White Cockade*.

## **Edith Chapman**



## 2016 Workshop, Banquet and Ball

This year's Workshop Committee felt, after due consideration and considerable discussion with Van Isle members, that a return to a workshop, banquet and formal ball format would be in order. And so the committee set to work to make it happen. They added a second workshop teacher - Louise McGillivray – to join Linda Mae Dennis. They booked Mary Ross and Julie Smith to play for classes, and they also booked The Tartan Players for the evening Ball. Moonlight Catering was engaged for the Banquet. Venues included the White Eagle Hall and The Church of Truth for the classes; and the Victoria Edelweiss Club Hall for the Banquet and Ball.

Thirty-six dancers signed up for the two workshop classes; and sixty-eight dancers and guests - including eighteen from out of town - attended the Banquet and Ball. Those dancers who attended the classes said they learned a lot, and they appreciated the different perspectives our guest teachers gave. They also appreciated having the two musicians play for the classes, and they could see that working with a musician made the teacher's job a lot easier.

Upon arrival at the Edelweiss Hall, dancers and guests were greeted by John and Jonelle McLellan, who pointed out the lists that gave us our table assignments. Among the nice touches were place cards, printed menus and crib sheets in booklet form. It was nice to see the booklets; we haven't had them in several years. And we appreciated having the bar available throughout the evening. Moonlight Catering outdid themselves; the meal was 'to die for'. Those of us with special diets – lactose and gluten allergies – appreciated having a choice, too.

After the tables had been cleared away, everyone lined up behind piper Jamie Orr for the Grand March. Non-dancing guests were also given the opportunity to participate in the Grand March. Then, dancers formed sets for the first dance of the evening – Joe MacDiarmid's Jig – and the program got underway. Various Van Isle teachers, plus our two guest teachers, briefed the dances, and The Tartan Player provided some fabulous music. During the break, we enjoyed some welcome coffee plus dessert in the form of petit fours. But all good things must come to an end, and all too soon, the dancers were enjoying a final waltz. The Committee, with plenty of help from dancers and guests, cleared things away and tidied the hall, before going home to a well-earned rest.

Kudos go to Chairman Ned Easton and his Workshop Committee: Anita Mathur, Ann Easton, Robin Gubby, Gael Forster, Hilary Brown, Marjorie Sandercock, Margaret Dohan, John and Jonelle McLellan, Ina Wong and Brett Watters. You all put a lot of hard work into organizing this event, and it showed! Thank you, also, to guest teachers Linda Mae Dennis and Louise McGillivray; and to the Tartan Players: Julie Smith, Pianist and leader; Deborah Jones and Lukasz Wiczorek, fiddles; and Carole Berger, flute and whistle. Well done, everyone!

### Edith Chapman

*Here is some information on a few of the dances that you will be doing at Bob's Summer Socials.*

**Jubilee Jig** – one of three dances devised by the then-Publications Committee for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's (RSCDS) Golden Jubilee in 1973. The other two dances are "Miss Milligan's Strathspey", which we also do on occasion; and the reel "Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich", which is more difficult and is rarely done here.

A **Barmkin** (obsolete term) was a defensive outer wall which surrounded a small castle or other buildings. It would have contained ancillary buildings and could be used to house cattle during a raid. Barmkins are found in the north of England and in Scotland. The dance is a reel.

- from Wikipedia

**The Forth Railway Bridge Centenary Reel** was devised by Roy Goldring to celebrate the Bridge's centenary in 1990. The bridge is just outside Edinburgh and connects the villages of North Queensferry and South Queensferry. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A tour guide once told me that a bunch of Edinburgh locals had some overseas visitors convinced that the train goes up and down the bridge's humps, rather than through the middle!

**Jennifer's Jig** was devised by John Drewry and is inscribed to the pianist Jennifer Wilson of Elgin, Scotland. Jennifer has been playing for classes at St Andrews Summer School since the 1970's.

**The Dancing Master** was devised by John Drewry to mark the retirement of Bill Ireland as teacher of the London Branch Demonstration Team in 1989. It is a jig.

**From the Broomielaw** – the Broomielaw is a major thoroughfare in the City of Glasgow, running adjacent to the River Clyde on its North Bank. Named after Brumelaw Croft, it runs from Jamaica Bridge to Finnieston Quay. Glasgow's first quay was built at Brumelaw in 1688. Paddle steamers ran from here to the coast for daytrips to the seaside and for some business people to commute. The dance is a strathspey.

- from Wikipedia.

## **EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events**

### **2016**

- May 21st – 23rd** Victoria Highland Games, Topaz Park. See article in this newsletter.  
**May 31st** Ceilidh, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, \$5.00. Mary Ross is playing.  
**Jun 2nd** Thursday. Practices for summer dancing begins, 7:30 pm, \$5.00/night.  
**Jun 7th – Jul 24th** Tuesdays. Practices for summer dancing continues, 7:30 pm, \$5.00/night.  
**Jun 4th – Jul 30th** Summer Dancing, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall.  
**Aug 20th** Summer Ceilidh, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, \$5.00. Mary Ross is playing.

All summer dances are held at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue, 7:30 pm, \$8.00/night.

## **OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events**

### **2016**

- May 20th – 22nd** Youth Weekend West, for dancers 16 – 35 years of age; the Ball is open to everyone. This year it is being held in Seattle WA. Info - <http://www.youthweekendwest.com/>.
- Jun 7th – 28th** Tuesdays. RSCDS Toronto Branch Dancing at Edwards Gardens, 7:00 pm – dusk. Music by Scotch Mist. Admission by donation. Info - [dancescottish.ca/The\\_Park.html](http://dancescottish.ca/The_Park.html).
- Jun 20th – Aug 15th** Mondays. RSCDS Vancouver Branch Dancing in Stanley Park, Ceperley Playground, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Info - <http://rscdsvancouver.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/wc201605xd.pdf>.
- Jun 24th – 30th** Prague Scottish Country Dance Week. Teacher – Ron Wallace; Musician – Muriel Johnstone. Info - <http://www.dvorana.cz/>.
- Jun 25th** RSCDS Seattle Branch and Friday Harbor Dancers “Puget Sound Crossroads”. US \$15.00. Donations of finger food appreciated. Bring your group name tag. Check Washington State Ferries for schedule; there appears to be only one (1) ferry to/from Sidney each day. <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/pdf/2016Spring.pdf>. You will need to arrange overnight accommodation.
- Aug 15th – 19th** Valley Scottish Country Dancers “Scotch on the Rocks”, Wolfville NS. SCD classes, ceilidh dance with live music and massage, plus local excursions. Accommodation is separate. Info from Duncan Keppie, [keppie@eastlink.ca](mailto:keppie@eastlink.ca); or phone 902 542-5320.
- Sep 9th – 11th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Teachers – Sharon Osborne Barker, Linda Henderson, Ron Wallace and Andrew Smith. Musicians – Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Further info - <http://www.rscds-seattle.org/ftworden/index.htm>. Application forms are available now. Register soon, as this Weekend will be very popular.
- Sep 30th– Oct 1st** RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch Workshop, Banquet and Ball, held in Saskatoon. Teacher – Elinor Vandegrift, Seattle; music by Ron Krug and Dennis Orr. Info - [rscdssask.org](http://rscdssask.org).
- Oct 28th – 30th** RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend, Asilomar State Park, Pacific Grove, California. Excellent teachers and musicians. Info and forms – [www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org](http://www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org).
- Dec 2nd – 4th** December Weekend in Curia, Portugal. Info - [www.moonluza.pt](http://www.moonluza.pt). From the information in the brochure, this weekend is suitable for intermediate or advanced level dancers.

