

Island Fling



September 2016

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
PO Box 30123, Reynolds RPO
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Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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Executive Committee

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President's Report September 2016

Welcome back! I hope you've all had a lovely summer. Many of us have continued to dance at every opportunity and I would especially like to thank Bob for hosting his summer socials at which we get a chance to dance many of our favorite dances and to try out a few new challenging ones! Bob has devised many unique and creative dances over the years and on Saturday August 6th we gathered together to dance a program featuring and celebrating Bob's dances.

We've continued to promote the club through the many performances of the demonstration team; by hosting a booth at the Highland games and through our spring/summer ceilidhs. Thank you to all of you have helped in all these efforts. Your contributions ensure the continued viability of our club.

Over the summer we have consolidated all the resources for the socials in our cupboard at the church hall and are still seeking a Social Convener. Several members have approached us to say they would like to be involved and work with the social convener. What we need now is a team leader, someone who will sit on the Executive; coordinate the running of club socials; ensure that classes are given the guidelines they need to host their social and that the necessary supplies are in stock. Please contact me if you are willing to join the Executive in this vital role as Social Convener.

On August 20th thirty eight dancers including twelve visitors joined us for our summer ceilidh dance. The very talented accordionist Mary Ross entertained us with her imaginative renderings of a variety of lively jigs and reels including both Scottish and Irish tunes. A team of our dancers performed *Roaring Jelly* and *City of Belfast* to entertain our visitors and Mary once again excelled with her ceilidh performance of a haunting bagpipe melody called * Highland Cathedral followed by the strathspey, Laird of Dunbar and two reels, Mason's Apron and Soldier's Joy. Joan Axford hosted and prepared a varied dance program which kept us all on our toes! There was a lot of laughter and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Up next we have an Open House on Tuesday September 6th at the City Light Church, and on Friday September 9th at the Colwood Community Hall. Our full range of classes will continue this season so check the following pages for the dates and descriptions of the classes which will start on Monday September 12th.

Dora Dempster, President

* Click on this link to hear a beautiful bagpipe rendition of Highland Cathedral.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oieFS785QPk>

Membership

The registration form for 2016/17 is available on the website or at the September classes. Please submit your forms promptly to Rick Deegan. Fees are due September 1, 2016.

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.

VISCDS Open Houses

We will have two fall Open Houses in early September. The first one will be the **Victoria** Open House, on Tuesday, September 6 at the City Light Church Hall on Obed Avenue, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

The Open House for the **West Shore class** will be held at the Children's Hall, beside the Colwood Community Hall, 2219 Sooke Road, on Friday, September 9 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.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society 2016 2017 Classes All classes (except the afternoon class) run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

2016

Mondays, *September 12 to December 12, 2016 (*excluding Thanksgiving Oct. 10*).

Tuesdays, September 6 to December 6, 2016 (*Open House September 6*)

Wednesdays, September 14 to December 7, 2016

Wednesday **afternoons** September 14 to December 7, 2016 (*1:00 to 3:00 pm*)

Thursdays, September 15 to December 8, 2016

Fridays, September 9 to December 9, 2016 (**Open House September 9**)

2017

Mondays, January 9 to April 10, 2017

Tuesdays, January 3 to April 11, 2017 (*Open House, January 3*)

Wednesdays, January 4 to April 5, 2017

Wednesday **afternoons** January 4 to April 5, 2017 (*1:00 to 3:00 pm*)

Thursdays, January 5 to April 6, 2017 (*April 20** AGM*)

Friday January 6 to April 7, 2017

Notes:

***Labour Day is Monday September 5 2017.**

Easter Weekend Friday April 14 to Monday April 17 2017

****Annual General Meeting April 20 2017, City Light Church Hall**

In Memoriam – Howard Sturrock

Howard and Faye Sturrock were regular dancers in the 1990's. Prior to that their dancing was organized around their community commitments as Howard was mayor of Saanich in 1987-1990. I remember them as friendly and very social members of the club. Howard was the ultimate gentleman and always escorted his partners to and from the dance floor. They danced mainly on Monday nights. Howard and Faye were always interested in their fellow dancers and I remember they inquired about my son whenever I saw them. They have been described as gracious, friendly, social people who loved Scottish dance and music. I think that defines perfectly a Scottish country dancer.

Joan Axford

**Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society Classes
2016/2017**

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 who 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 steps used in Scottish Country Dancing. You will learn basic formations and become familiar with the concept of sets, progression and teamwork while you experience the joy of moving to lively Scottish music. You don't need to come with a partner, just come and join us for fun evenings as you learn the dances.

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 INTERMEDIATE CLASS Evenings 7:30 – 9:30 PM, City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. Teachers: Gael Forster and Sarah Kell

This class is suitable for all dancers who have attended a basic class and learned the basic steps and formations. The Intermediate class will continue to build a range of formations and their variations, along with the phrasing, technique and etiquette of Scottish Country Dancing. Join us for fun, fitness and friendship on Wednesdays. Improve your dancing and gain experience so you can dance with confidence!

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

For dancers who want to move beyond basic formations and enjoy a new challenge, this class will cover a range of old favourites and newer dances. It will be an opportunity to review dance formations for use in social dancing at a variety of levels. Dances from upcoming social programs will be included.

WESTSHORE CLASS Fridays 7:00 – 9:30 PM, Children's Hall, beside the Colwood Community Hall, 2219 Sooke Road. Teachers: Joan Axford and Louise McGillivray

This class combines basic and intermediate level dancing. New dancers will learn the steps and formations of Scottish Country Dancing and more experienced dancers will improve their dance skills and learn more complex formations. Dancers will better understand the concepts of progression, covering and the social character of the dance. You will improve your dancing while learning popular dances from our social programs. If the basic numbers warrant, the class will be scheduled as follows:

- 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. Basic dancing
- 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Basic and Intermediate dancing
- 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. Intermediate dancing

In Memoriam – Barbara Watt

Barbara Watt was a founding member of the VISCDS in 1974. She was a loyal and dedicated member who loved to dance. She was a member of the demonstration team in the 1990s and danced in the Opening Ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games in 1994. She was Ball and Workshop Chair a number of times and her Weekends were well organized and ensured that everyone had a good time. Barbara was a true leader, organized and very good at getting people to come to consensus on a reasonable solution to any problem. She led the society twice as President, first in 1985 to 1988 and then again in 1997-2000. For her work with VISCDS, she was given a life membership in 2001. Most of all she was a true friend to many of us and we will miss her.

Joan Axford

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, October 23, 2016**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca.

Harvest Social

October 15, 2016, 7:30pm

City Light Church Hall

\$10



Dance name	Bars Type	Level	Core	Source
Joie de Vivre	8x32 J	B		Book 39
The St John River	4x32 S	B	C	Edwards: New Brunswick
The Music Will Tell You	4x32 R	B+		Book 41
Quarries' Jig *	8x32 J	I+	C	Book 36
Midsummer Common	8x32 S	I	C	Book 49
Maxwell's Rant	8x32 R	B+	C	Book 18
John Cass *	5x32 J	I+		Book 49
Sandy's Scotch Broth	3x32 S	I		Sibley: Katannuta
Crossing the Line	6x32 R	I		Drewry: Bankhead 6
Break				
Shifin' Bobbins **	8x32 R	B		Clowes: Ormskirk
Butterscotch and Honey	4x32 S	B	C	Attwood: Alexander
The Bees of Maggie Knockater	4x32 J	A	C	Drewry: Canadian
A Trip to Applecross	6x32 R	I		Book 50
Autumn in Appin	4x32 S	A	C	Book 31
Links with St. Petersburg	8x32 J	A		Book 46
The Reel of the Royal Scots	8x32 R	B	C	Goldring: Leaflet
Extras				
The Dancing Man	8x32 R	I		Goldring: 10 Social
Thirteen Fourteen	2x64 M	A		Drewry: Rondel
Early in the Morning	5x32 R	I	C	O'Connor: Island Bay
* brief only				
** no briefing				
Hosted by the Wednesday Intermediate Class				

The St John River, originally from “The Centennial Collection”, was the winning dance in a competition held in celebration of Canada’s Centennial in 1967. The dance describes the river as it meanders through New Brunswick, under bridges, through whirlpools, and through the reversing falls located in the City of St John, before dispersing into the ocean. The dance was devised by Prudence Edwards, and it is a strathspey.

A Trip to Applecross. Applecross is a peninsula in Wester Ross. The name is at least 1300 years old, and it is now used locally to refer to the 19th Century village that lies on Applecross Bay. Until the late 20th century, the only road to Applecross was notoriously treacherous. There is now a winding coastal road which travels around the peninsula. The old road was featured in several episodes of the television series “Hamish McBeth”. The dance is a reel.

- From Wikipedia

St Andrews Social

November 19th 2016

7:30 pm

City Light Church Hall

\$10.00



Dance name	Bars type	Level	Core	Source
St Andrew's Fair*	8x32 J	B	C	RSCDS Five for 1982
Jessie's Hornpipe	8x32 H	B	C	RSCDS Book 8
The Paisley Weavers	3x32 S	B		RSCDS Third Graded Book
The Pines of Pitlochry	8x48 J	A	C	Scottish Dance Archives
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	5x32 R	I	C	14 Social Dances for 2000
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32 S	I	C	RSCDS Leaflet
The Comeback Jig	8x32 J	B		Moments in Time
The Countess of Dunsmore's Reel	8x32 R	A		RSCDS Book 49
Balmoral Strathspey	4x32 S	B	C	RSCDS Book 22
Return of the Loons	8x32 J	I		Prairie Gold
It's About Time	8x32 S	A		Moments in Time
Mairi's Wedding	8x40 R	I	C	Twenty-two SCD's plus Two
Break				
The Machine without Horses	8x32 J	B		RSCDS Book 12
The Inimitable Derek	8x32 R	A		RSCDS Three Dances for 2006
The Dream Catcher	1x96 S	I	C	RSCDS Book 45
The Montgomerie's Rant	8x32 R	I	C	RSCDS Book 10
Extras				
The Moray Rant	3x48 S	I	C	Silver City Book
Black Donald	6x32 J	B		Second Carnforth Collection
* Briefing only, no walk through				
Hosted by the Thursday Intermediate Social Class				

Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan is, of course, Muriel Johnstone, distinguished pianist and musician. Ardrossan is a town on the North Ayrshire coast. Its roots can be traced back to the twelfth century. Further information about Ardrossan maybe found on the Internet at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardrossan>.

The Machine Without Horses is thought to refer to the sedan chairs used in Glasgow and Edinburgh during the 18th Century. There were stands of sedan chairs, just as there are stands of taxi cabs today. The dance is taken from a publication of the year 1772. It is a jig.

- from "Scotland Through Her Country Dances", George S. Emmerson, 1967 Ed.

The Inimitable Derek, devised by Roy Goldring, was inscribed to Derek Haynes from the Lancaster area. He was a teacher and deviser of dances. He taught at workshops and weekend schools throughout Great Britain and beyond. Two of his dances with which we are familiar are Domino Five and Miss Gibson's Strathspey. The dance is a reel.

Black Donald is a colloquialism for the Devil in Scottish Mythology. The defining characteristic of Black Donald is his cloven feet, which betray whatever disguise he assumes. The dance is a jig.

Save The Date!!! 2017 Workshops & Ball - Saturday 25th March 2017



Following the resounding success of this year's event, advance planning has begun for 2017, which will take place on **Saturday 25th March** - make a note in your diary!

Experienced and Intermediate/Basic levels will again be held as for this year, but if enough interest is expressed we may split off Basic as a separate class in 2017. We have again secured the Edelweiss Club as the main venue, with the James Bay Athletic Association hall as a second venue for one of the workshops. Our last Workshop format, with back-to-back sessions in the morning, allowing everyone to rest up for the evening's dancing, proved very popular, so will be followed again for 2017. Mary Ross and Julie Smith will provide the music.

The evening Ball will be a formal/semi-formal event and we will once more have our favourite band, the Tartan Players. After much deliberation, the committee has chosen to forego a formal dinner in lieu of catered hors-d'oeuvres/canapes/finger-food at the break.

The Teachers and the dance program will be announced in forthcoming issues of the Island Fling. Registration will open approximately 6 weeks before the date, with on-line registration and payment available as before.

Robin Gubby, Workshop Committee Member



The gentle art of encouraging new dancers

This is the time of year when we hope to see new faces at our dances and events. All of us wish to welcome them, and all of us want them to stay and become part of our dance community. But whether they stay or not depends largely on our behaviour towards them. Here are a few guidelines which may help us keep those new dancers coming back:

- Don't make a headlong rush for the head of the hall at the start of every dance! Instead, try to dance in different parts of the hall, and with different partners.
- Do invite a beginner to dance, but first make sure that the dance is within his or her capacity. Make a point of introducing yourself.
- Resist those desperate cries for "One more couple!" if they make you pressure a reluctant new dancer into joining you. A good MC will always find alternative ways of arranging the sets for most dances.
- Don't push or pull a hesitant dancer, and don't shout instructions. Instead, use subtle gestures, or give simple and quiet clues like "This way" or "Turn with me." If possible, the dancer's own partner should give the guidance; trying to listen to seven people at once can be disorienting and unpleasant.
- Don't underestimate the difficulties faced by a new dancer. A formation like "rights and lefts" which is second nature to the experienced can be confusing at first, and offers many opportunities to go astray. Terminology, steps, formations – the new dancer may be struggling to absorb all of these at once.
- When the dance ends, make a point of thanking all members of the set. Whatever their level of performance, all have contributed to your enjoyment.
- Don't blame a beginner for "spoiling" a dance for you, or show annoyance. This experience can be so traumatic that the new dancer does not return. Good humour should be part of the dancing experience from the beginning.
- Do notice when people are sitting out at a party and invite them to do the next dance with you. That's how many dancing friendships start. Your reward will come in a year or two from now, when the hesitant newcomer has become a confident, smiling, seasoned dancer ready to tackle "Polharrow Burn" with you!

Rosemary Coupe, Vancouver Branch RSCDS

- From the Vancouver Branch RSCDS newsletter "The White Cockade", September-October 2016 edition. Reprinted by permission.





L – R – Robin Gubby, Sheila Eaglestone, June Robinson, Penny Catton (mostly hidden), Gordon Robinson, Janet Yonge, Thelma Legge, Sarah Kell, Gael Forster, Ed Pitkin Front row – Macy, Fiona, and Kaya
 Missing from photo – Joan Axford, MC and choreographer extraordinaire

Photo – Ellen Campbell

The 153rd Victoria Highland Games & Celtic Festival

The VISCDs attendance at the Highland Games in May was most successful. Thank you to the many members who volunteered their time to man the booth over the 3 days. Their support and energetic imparting of information was inspiring and greatly appreciated. We gave out approximately 75 Ceilidh posters, 50 brochures, took in 31 entries for a draw for free classes and 24 signed up for e-mail notifications. A large number of the new names were younger people who seemed keen.

The demo team’s wonderful performance was followed up with two participation dances which were enjoyed by those who took part.

Martha G. Morrison, Publicity Director



EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2016

- Oct 15th** Harvest Social, 7:30 pm, \$10.00. The program is in this issue.
Nov 19th St Andrews Social, 7:30 pm, \$10.00. The program is in this issue.
Dec 10th Christmas Social, 7:30 pm, \$15.00. Mary Ross is playing. Further details later.
Dec 31st New Year's Hogmanay Potluck Dinner and Dance. Further info later.

2017

- Jan 28th** Burns Social, 7:30 pm, \$15.00. Mary Ross is playing. Further info later.
Feb 18th Valentine Social Tea Dance, 3:00 – 6:00 pm. \$10.00.
Mar 25th Annual Workshop and Ball. See article in this issue.
Apr 20th Thursday. Annual General Meeting, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall. Dancing will follow the meeting.
Apr 22nd Spring Fling Social, 7:30 pm, \$10.00

All VISCDS Socials take place from 7:30 to 10:30 pm Saturday evening, except for the Valentine social which takes place from 3:00 – 6:00 pm. All socials are held at the City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue, except for the Workshop social, which will be held at the Edelweiss Hall, 108 Niagara Street.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2016

- 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>. Applications are now closed, but you might get in if you have your own housing – unlikely, as this is also the weekend of the Wooden Boat Show, held at Port Townsend.
- 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.
- Oct 28th – 30th** RSCDS Medicine Hat 41st Annual Workshop, Banquet and Ball. Further info - <http://nonprofit.memlane.com/scottish/workshop.html>.
- Oct 29th** Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club Fall Dance, 7:30 – 11:30 pm. Further info - <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/gleneagles-fall-dance/>.
- 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. There is a short waitlist, but it is worth adding your name to the list as spots become available closer to the event.
- Nov 11th** Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance, Scottish Cultural Centre, 1:15 – 5:00 pm. \$10.00. Details - <http://rscdsvancouver.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/wc201609cp.pdf>.
- Nov 12th** RSCDS Toronto Association Workshop and Afternoon Dance. \$90.00. Various teachers; live music. Info - www.dancescottish.ca/Workshop.html.
- Dec 2nd – 4th** December Weekend in Curia, Portugal. Info - www.moonluza.pt. From the information in the brochure, this weekend is suitable for intermediate or advanced level dancers.
- Dec 11th** Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club Gleneagles Ball, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, 1:30 – 8:00 pm. \$110.00. Tickets purchased by November 1 are eligible for the early bird draw. Details and program - <http://rscdsvancouver.org/cms/wp-content/uploads/wc201609cp.pdf>.
- Dec 28th** Wednesday. RSCDS Vancouver Branch Betwixt & Between Social, 7:30 – 11:00 pm. Music by Mary Ross. Check their website - <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/betwixt-between/>.

2017

- Feb 18th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Further info – <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/love-dance-workshop-tea-dance/>.
- Mar 10th – 11th** St Giles Scottish Country Dance Club (Calgary) Workshop and Ball. Teachers are Bob Anderson, Ferne Katzberg and Gail Michener. Music by Glenmorin. For info, Contact Karen Hyde karenhyde@telus.net; or Janyne Bertram 403-585-3842 janyne_bertram@hotmail.com.
- Mar 18th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Heather Ball 2017. Music by Luke Brady. Further info – <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/heather-ball-2017/>.