

Island Fling



January 2017

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
PO Box 30123, Reynolds RPO
3943C Quadra Street, Victoria BC V8X 1J5, Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
Web address: www.viscnds.ca

Executive Committee

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President's report January 2017

The weather has not been our friend this past season, starting with our Harvest Social which had to be postponed due to warnings of fearful storms which never materialized. Several classes had to be rescheduled in November and some just had low turnouts when faced with snow flurries and sometimes unpredictable icy roads, and most of our socials have had lower attendance than usual. We ended up having our Christmas dance program being delivered by Joan in October while Gael and Sarah had to do a mad scramble to revise their program for Christmas.

The November St Andrews Social went off without a hitch with a program full of favorites. Many thanks to Gordon and to the Thursday class for giving us a splendid evening. Gael and Sarah hosted the Christmas Social and we finally got a chance to dance our "in tandem diagonal dolphin reels" in the tricky dance "John Cass" and to perform the lovely Strathspey "Sandy's Scotch Broth" devised by Gail Sibley. As always, Mary Ross gave that added festive touch to our evening.

This year, Sheila McCall suggested we insert some socials into the Basic class season and after about six classes she and the class hosted a Tuesday night two hour mini social which featured the dances learned in classes. The second social was held on December 13th. Many experienced dancers joined us and it was a very good way for the basic class members to meet other dancers.

By the time you read this we will be in to the new year and I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a chance to celebrate the new year. Open houses were held on Tuesday January 3rd at Obed and on January 6th at the Colwood Community Hall.

Hope to see you all soon.

Dora Dempster, President

Newsletter

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, February 26, 2017**. Please send submissions to enchapma@shaw.ca. My thanks to Robin Gubby for his suggestion to put the class names next to the dates on page 2.

Membership

This is a reminder to members who are paying their class fees in half-year installments that January to April fees are now due. Please give these fees (\$60.00) to your class rep, or to Membership Secretary Rick Deegan. Thank you!

Edith Chapman for Rick Deegan

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 runs out.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

2016 2017 Classes

All classes (except the afternoon class) run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Experienced social	Mondays, January 9 to April 10, 2017
Basic class	Tuesdays, January 3 to April 11, 2017
Intermediate	Wednesdays, January 4 to April 5, 2017
Daytime social	Wednesday afternoons , January 4 to April 5, 2017 (1:00 to 3:00 pm)
Intermediate social	Thursdays, January 5 to April 6, 2017 (April 20** AGM)
Westshore class	Fridays, January 6 to April 7, 2017

Notes:

Easter Weekend Friday April 14 to Monday April 17 2017

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

Class Reps

Experienced Social:	Robin Gubby	250-595-6813
	Jan Beckett	250-598-0464
Basic class:	Sandy Currie	250-595-0533
Intermediate:	Sheila Eaglestone	250-727-6225
Daytime social:	Heather Hermanson	250-595-5868
	Lori Morrison	250-478-7897
Intermediate Social:	June Robinson	250-477-8317
	Tony Lambert	250-477-2052
Westshore Class	Vicki White	250-361-0024

Kilt for Sale

Kilt, good condition, 33" waist, BC Tartan. Also 2 sporrans and 2 belts. If you are interested, call Sheila Brown, 250 595-0920.

Edith Chapman

Burns Heather Laying Ceremony, Concert and Tea

This event, sponsored by local Scottish groups, will take place on Sunday, January 22nd. The heather-laying ceremony at the Burns Statue in Beacon Hill Park takes place at 2:00 pm. It is followed by the concert and tea at St Andrews Kirk Hall, starting at around 2:30 pm. Use the Courtney Street entrance. Our Demonstration Team and the Gaelic Choir will be performing. There is a nominal charge of around \$2.00. Donations of finger food for the tea are always welcome.

For more information contact Lianne Hunter at lhunter@islandnet.com or 250 385-8744.

Edith Chapman



Valentine Tea Dance

February 18, 2017

3:00 pm

City Light Church Hall

550 Obed Avenue

\$10.00

<u>Dance name</u>	<u>Bars type</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Core</u>	<u>Source</u>
Shadow	3x32J	B		RSCDS Book 50
Nice to See You	5x32R	B		RSCDS Book 40
Midsummer Common	8x32S	I	C	RSCDS Book 49
Follow Me Home	8x32J	I	C	RSCDS Book 38
Blooms of Bon Accord	4x32R	I		Deeside 2
Gang the Same Gate	8x32S	I	C	RSCDS Book 36
Tribute to the Borders	8x32J	B	C	Collins Reference Book
The Falls of Rogie	8x32R	I	C	J Alexander Book 1
Culla Bay	4x32S	I	C	RSCDS Book 41
Break				
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	8x32J	B		RSCDS Book 16
The Flowers of Edinburgh	8x32R	B	C	RSCDS Book 1
The Belle of Bon Accord	4x32S	I	C	Deeside Book 2
The Waratah Weaver	4x32J	B		2nd Graded Book
A Trip to Bavaria	4x32R	I	C	Collins Reference Book
Bonnie Ina Campbell	8x32S	A	C	RSCDS Book 37
Napier's Index	8x40J	I	C	RSCDS Book 45
The Montgomeries' Rant	8x32R	I	C	RSCDS Book 10
All dances will be briefed and walked through.				
Hosted by the Wednesday afternoon class				

Christmas Dance

The club's Christmas Dance was held on December 10th and attended by 45 members. Fortunately the weather co-operated, the snow melted and the rain washed the remnants away.

Lively music was provided by Mary Ross and we were led merrily through the program by Sarah Kell and Gael Forster.

There must have been a break-out at the Vancouver Aquarium as we were entertained by a flock of Penguins, some were of the rare bearded variety. Obviously they have YouTube at the Aquarium, as they clearly had instruction! They were piped in by Jamie Orr.

As usual there were lots of treats from sausage rolls and pate to ginger snaps and fruitcake. Very little was left over.

Merry Christmas to all.

Theresa Harbidge



Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
Workshop and Ball
Saturday, March 25, 2017
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Morning workshops - featuring Irene Townshend, Edmonton, and Hazel MacDonald, Nanaimo

Afternoon - at your leisure to sightsee in beautiful Victoria

Evening: Semi-formal Ball with the Tartan Players

Information contact: viscdsball@gmail.com

Registration: www.viscds.ca

Registration is now open for the spring workshop and ball to be held in James Bay, Victoria, BC on Saturday, March 25. Cost: \$35 for the Workshop, \$40 for the Ball (early registration fee until March 17). We would like to encourage all members of the club, experienced, inexperienced and in-between to come to this event which is one of the highlights of the Van Isle dancing calendar. Teaching and practice of the dances will be held at classes throughout the winter. Please include this event in your dancing plans and go online soon to register.

June Robinson
Ball Committee Publicity
VISCDS

TACBooks is coming to our workshop.....

Well actually, Irene Townshend, one of our guest teachers, is now the manager of TACBooks and she has offered to fill west coast orders and bring the goods with her to Victoria.

Why buy books when you can get the words to dances free from the Internet, you ask (if you are not a teacher)? It's always good to have the "real" words, those folks who post to mini-crib sometimes make mistakes. The original source often has better explanations of tricky figures. And you might find other dances you'd like your teacher to teach - he or she doesn't work from mini-cribs, only the "reel" thing. ☺

If you are interested, go to www.tac-rscds.org and check out the book store. You can pay via PayPal before Irene comes, or when she brings orders with her in March, she will collect cash or cheques and not charge you any shipping!

Louise McGillivray

Harvest Social

It was the day of October 15th. The cookies were in the oven. The sandwiches were made. The veggies all cut up and the fruit plate was piled high. Last chance to study up on "A Trip to Applecross." This was the day of our Harvest Social, hosted by the Wednesday Evening Class. But, this was not meant to be. The radio and TV announcers were shouting out warnings of impending extreme weather conditions waiting just around the corner. Better to hunker down, get out the flashlights, candles and have a thermos of tea ready. One week later, let's try again. A few changes to consider. Gael and Sarah are not available. Joan Axford comes to the rescue with a new program and volunteers to call the dances. We have only one week to practice but everyone is eager to try. The Wednesday Evening Class is once again called upon to supply the goodies for our break and with a few adjustments comes through with flying colours. It wasn't a huge crowd, but they were a fun-loving bunch who enjoyed a night of familiar dances in a warm, comfortable atmosphere. This was Theresa Harbidge's first opportunity as our new Social Convener to organize a social and it was great to see our members coming forward to support her.

Sheila Eaglestone

Yes, but, the thing is....

FACT: the sum total of Music + Dancing + Friendship = FUN

SKILL TESTING QUESTION: Where can you get this amazing package of music, dancing, and friendship?

FACT: there are many more reasons to attend the (answer to above question) than not to attend... and yes we are talking about the workshop and ball, 2017.

Now, what's going through your mind? Are you thinking about the fun of the event or the reasons you might not attend? I hope...really hope... you're thinking about attending the event and having fun - but just in case you're in the throes of "yes, but, the thing is....", let's talk about some popular misconceptions that people use as deterrents from attending and having fun.

"I haven't danced long enough to attend a workshop." Actually, workshops are a training ground and there's no better way to gain experience. We hope to have three levels including a beginner level. Every time you hear an instruction given by a new voice, you will process it differently and find the memory aids that work best for you. Ask me about my early epiphany on circles when you see me next!

"A workshop AND a ball? That's such a long day." You have the afternoon free to recover! We have found that this formula works! Classes in the morning and a ball at night.

"I can no longer do technique without suffering." Really? Remember dancing technique includes many things: feet, legs, arms, and heads. If you need to stick to upper body technique, speak to the instructor at the beginning of the class and explain this.

"I don't know all the dances on the ball programme." Who does? Dance what you feel comfortable dancing and enjoy the music the rest of the time. That said, you may want to take yourself out of your comfort zone just a little as noted below.

"What if someone asks me to dance a dance I don't know?" There are many ways to play this, but this is my formula. Start with the honest response "I've never done this dance before". This gives the other person an option to say "OK, let's plan on another dance" or "that's all right, just follow my lead". It all depends on the confidence of the person asking - and if you do have a confident partner, hold your head up and watch for the cues you know will come!

"I've never been to a ball and don't know that I have the right attire." There is no strict dress code. Look on it as an opportunity to wear some of your finery - but not an obligation. Wear what you might wear to any party - being sure it's something that allows you to move comfortably. Check list: can you take a nice, long strathspey step without either pulling on the garment or stepping on it? [Ladies, that includes the underskirt: more than one of us has been tripped up, literally, when our nice, flowing dress had a pencil-straight underskirt!] Can you raise your arm as if for an allemande? Do a few pas de basques to check that the garment retains its integrity. Consider what you will do when you get too warm - can you shed that jacket?

"All right- I'm nearly convinced - but what if I have more questions?" Ask them. As your classmates, your teacher, and definitely your workshop committee - that's why we're here!

Anita Mathur

Ball Committee Chair

Comox Valley Scottish Country Dancers

Annual Snowdrop Tea Dance

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017

Florence Filberg Centre (lower level) Rotary Hall

411 Anderton Ave.

Courtenay, BC

Doors Open at 11:30

Lunch Served at 12:00

Dancing from 1:00 to 3:30

Tea at 3:30 to 4:30

\$20.00 for lunch, dancing and tea and goodies

Program will be posted shortly on <http://cvscottishcountrydance.org>

As we had last year there will also be a book sale after the dance. Gently-used books for \$1 each!

SCD BALL SURVIVAL GUIDE

Flying Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers

So you're going to a Scottish Country Dance ball! Congratulations! If you've been to one before, you might have a pretty good idea what to expect. However, if you've never been to a ball, you might be wondering what to expect when you get there. What follows are some hints from your teachers, based on our experience, that we hope you will find helpful.

Before you go: One question we often get from first-time ball attendees is, "What should I wear?" Well, we don't have "fashion police" patrolling SCD events and issuing citations for improper dress, but there are some general guidelines you can follow. Regardless of the formality of the event, for women it's very important that whatever you wear allow you full freedom of movement for dancing. A dance event called a "ball" is usually formal, which means black tie for men and a formal of some kind for the ladies, but a jacket and tie for men and party dress/skirt for women are fine, also. Sometimes even for an event called a "ball," less formal attire may be specified, like "semi-formal." Other SCD events, such as a semi-formal evening dance or an afternoon dance ("tea dance"), are less formal. Men often wear a jacket and tie to a semi-formal dance, and an open-collar shirt to a tea dance. Ladies might wear a party dress to a semi-formal dance, and a casual skirt and blouse to a tea dance. But these are just guidelines based on common practice, not "rules." As we say, "It's not important what you wear, it's just important that you're there."

When you get there: If the event offers pre-registration and you have already paid, there will probably be a registration table of some kind where you can sign in and, for some events, be handed a booklet of briefs for the dances on the program (but this isn't universal). If there is no pre-registration, you will have to pay admission on arrival. How this is handled varies; in The Flying Ghillies, it's usually on the honor system with a basket to put your money in. You'll want to hang up your coat somewhere and find a chair along the wall to sit down in to change into your dance shoes (street shoes usually wind up under the chairs). Sometime before the scheduled start time of the ball, the band will usually play some march tempo music to which you can do a warmup walk. There might even be an organized "Grand March." It is unusual to have any organized stretching at a social event (unlike a class), so if you want to stretch before the dance, be sure to arrive well before the appointed start time.

The dance begins: After the warmup marches, the Master of Ceremonies (MC) will invite the dancers to form sets. Sometimes, that will be preceded by the band playing eight bars or so of the lead tune for the upcoming dance. The MC will tell you what kind of set to form, and how many people should be in the set, and the name of the dance (i.e., "Please form four-couple longways sets for Campbell's Frolic"). It helps to pay attention to the MC's instructions so the sets can be formed quickly with minimal milling about. Sets should be formed by couples from the top of the room down. It is considered bad manners to cut in front of a couple already in the set, so new couples should join existing sets at the bottom. It is also frowned upon to join the set as a single dancer – one should ask another dancer to dance, then join as a couple. And who does the asking? Anyone! Men can ask ladies to dance, ladies can ask men, ladies can ask ladies, and (least common) men can ask men.

During the dance: In SCD, if you take the floor for a dance, it is best if you either know the dance, or are reasonably confident you can do the dance from a brief, or have been assured that your partner can "get you through it." If you aren't sure about a dance, or the program indicates the dance is recommended for experienced dancers only, consider sitting it out. If asked, responses like, "I'd like to sit this one out" or "Can I give you a rain check for a later dance?" are perfectly acceptable and often heard. AND, don't let yourself be coerced on to the floor by the MC saying, "We need one more couple!" Many of us at some point in our dancing careers have identified "bathroom dances" on a ball program. (A "bathroom dance" is one where we you retreat to the bathroom until after the dance starts to avoid having to decline a request to dance or have your arm twisted into a dance you don't feel up to.) And on that note, it helps to familiarize yourself somewhat with the program before the dance starts. You don't have to memorize the program or every dance, and no one will be upset if you make a mistake on the floor (we all do), but it will help if you have an idea of what dances you might want to sit out and know when they are coming up. The ball program is often posted on the walls of the dance hall, and will be in that booklet of dance briefs you may have gotten on arrival, so occasionally checking either will help you keep track of what is coming next. If in doubt about whether you should attempt a dance on an upcoming program, ask your teacher. In North American SCD, the common practice is to give a verbal recap, or "brief," of a dance before it starts. On rare occasions, for obscure or especially difficult dances, the dance may be walked through once before it is danced. However, this is the exception to common practice and will likely only happen once or twice on a ball program, if at all. Dancers should stand quietly in sets and listen to the briefing. After the briefing, the band will play a chord for dancers to bow or curtsy to their partners and the dance will begin. After the dance is over, there will be another chord for bow and curtsy, and normal practice is to thank your partner and others in the set for the dance and wait until the band plays or the MC announces the next dance before forming new sets.

Mistakes: Everybody makes them. When (not if) you make a mistake in a dance, just smile and do your best to get to where you need to be to start the next phrase or round of the dance. If anyone criticizes you for making a mistake, they are the one in the wrong, not you! If you find yourself lost, it will help to keep your head up and look

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INTRODUCING A NEW VENTURE

As Miss Milligan implored us let's
Dance with our Souls

The aim of this class is to follow the traditions of the RSCDS and introduce some of the long-time favourite dances that sadly do not appear on dance programs now, along with some newer dances that have variations on a traditional theme. This class is for you if you are a confident dancer who can dance most dances after a good briefing with a walk through for the tricky bits. We plan to emphasize, teamwork, phrasing, covering and support to bring out the fun, enjoyment and spirit of the dance.

Teachers

Irene Paterson (250-334-3387) (cell 250-650-9743)
eimacpat@gmail.com

Judi Pedder judipedder@shaw.ca

Please let one of us know if you are coming.

This will be an afternoon class in Qualicum Bay Lions' Rec Hall,
280 Lions Way, Qualicum Beach
(Lions Way is opposite the Sand Bar Café on 19A)
2pm to 4pm, 3rd Thursday of the Month
January 19th
February 16th
March 16th
April 20th

The cost will be 4 classes for \$20 or \$6 per class
A map is available from Van Isle's newsletter editor upon request.

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at your partner or the other dancers in the set. If they are experienced dancers and good at helping others, they will give you subtle, preferably nonverbal, cues as to what comes next and/or where you need to be. If all else fails, go to the position you will be in at the end of this round of the dance and wait for the next round to start. If that fails, drop to the bottom of the set and wait there for the new top couple to start the next round of the dance.

The Inviolable Rule of SCD: If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing it right. Just relax and enjoy the great music and good company! This is a social event, not a performance!

Written by Lee Fuell and Friends. Reprinted by permission. My thanks to the Flying Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers.

A Thank you from Lorraine

Dear dancing friends,

Thank you for your continuing support for orphans in the Karanda area of Zimbabwe. Thank you Pat Blair for organizing the dance and to all those who attended and helped in any way. Several friends who were unable to attend or no longer dance donated to admissions and to VIDEA. Once again the church has donated the use of the hall. The amount from admissions is \$520.00 and donations to VIDEA is \$2,115.50. As in the past, all donors to VIDEA receive a tax receipt, and all school fees get a receipt for every child, with name of school, name of child, age, grade and gender. VIDEA charges a fee of 10% and all donations are changed to American dollars. Admissions funds will receive a receipt for each child and I will bring these and report in a newsletter the total number of children we are able to help. [Lorraine's report is on page 10 of this newsletter.]

There is a very special dancing couple that wish to remain anonymous, but I know you will share my respect and appreciation for their kindness and generosity. This couple have changed the admissions to American dollars at par and this will help several more children. Their kindness is an inspiration to me and they have my special thanks.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a healthy happy New Year.

If anyone has any questions please feel free to phone me any time, 250-658-5919.

Lorraine Irvine

New Year's Social

About forty-two dancers and guests gathered together on December 31 to celebrate the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017 with a potluck dinner and dance. As well as local and Island dancers, we had guests from Sault Ste Marie, White Rock, Nelson and Whitehorse.

We began the evening with a delicious potluck dinner. After the floor had been cleared of tables and chairs, we got to work on the dance program which was compiled by Sheila McCall. The dances were briefed by teachers Sheila McCall, Penny Catton, Ed Pitkin, Sarah Kell and Anita Mathur. We stopped for dessert, tea and coffee at around 10:00; and for *Auld Lang Syne* at 11:00. About two sets continued to dance until we reached the end of the program.

How wonderful it was to see Raymond Thomson, who along with Kathryn Knowles, dropped in to say 'hi' to all their dancing friends! Raymond did a couple of circuits round the room with dancers who were warming up for the evening. We sincerely hope to see both Raymond and Kathryn back on the dance floor someday.

Heartfelt thanks go to everyone who helped with the work necessary for the social to be successful: to the kitchen staff under the capable direction of Janet Bailey; to everyone who helped set up and decorate under Penny Catton's able guidance; and to Sheila for a great dance program. Thanks, also to ticket sellers Bob Barbulak and Duncan Cameron; to 50/50 draw ticket seller Glyn Williams; and to everyone who helped clear up at the end of the evening. Congratulations to Andrew Harley, who won the 50/50 draw of \$45.00.

Organizers feel that this New Year's social was the most successful so far. Certainly the number of dancers and guests was up. We would like to thank everyone who supported us, and who contributed to the scrumptious potluck dinner and dessert.

Edith Chapman

Dem Team

Our Demonstration Team has been busy over the past few months. On November 30th, they did a fun event at Central Middle School when the school had a Cultural Fair. The Team performed for the entire school and then taught dances to classes of students. The students were great and caught on quickly.

Upcoming events include performances at Centennial United Church, the Burns Concert and Tea (see related article), Berwick (Royal Oak), Sandringham Care Centre and the Alexander Mackie Retirement Community. These performances are all in celebration of Robert Burns Day.

The Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society thanks the members of the Demonstration Team and their teacher Joan Axford for the many hours spent in preparation for the performances.

- Thank you to Joan for the information contained in this article.

Edith Chapman

Fragrance Free

Just a reminder that all our classes and events are fragrance-free. Some of our members have severe allergies to strong scents. Please leave the perfumes, after-shave lotions and other smelly stuff at home. Thank you!

The 2017 heather ball weekend

The RSCDS Vancouver Branch is excited to announce the 2017 Heather Ball Weekend. Two great events and only \$95 when you purchase a combination ticket. Mark your calendars and do not miss this gala weekend of dancing and listening enjoyment. Tickets available from our website in early January, via PayPal or credit card.

Saturday, March 18

THE HEATHER BALL

Scottish Cultural Centre - Reception 5:45 pm - Supper 6:15 pm

\$80



Start with a champagne reception, followed by supper, the Grand March and dancing to the fabulous music of Luke Brady's Scottish Dance Band! After the dance mingle and enjoy a hot cider or shandy and shortbread.

Sunday, March 19

LUKE BRADY IN CONCERT

Holy Trinity Anglican Church - 3:00 pm

\$20

1440 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver



Luke Brady is a talented and versatile young accordionist and pianist from Scotland. His concert highlights musicians who have inspired him and reflect events and travels in his life as a musician. Dancers and non-dancers alike will love listening to his lively Scottish tunes. The concert also boasts a variety of music genres and styles.



St. Andrew's Day is the feast day of Saint Andrew. It is celebrated on the *30th of November*. Saint Andrew is the patron saint of Cyprus, Scotland, Greece, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, San Andres Island, Colombia and Saint Andrew, Barbados.

St. Andrew's Day Social, November 19

A small but lively crowd gathered on Saturday, November 19 at City Light Church Hall on Obed Avenue for a social to celebrate St. Andrew's Day.

The Thursday Intermediate Social class hosted the dance and the teacher, Gordon Robinson, devised the program and briefed the dances for the evening. The selection of music included recordings by musicians Muriel Johnstone, Stan Hamilton, Jim Lindsay and many others.

St. Andrew's Fair led off the program of 18 dances including the extras. Old favorites such as Jessie's Hornpipe and Mairi's Wedding were included. Gordon spent time in the classes prior to the social teaching some of the less familiar dances including The Inimitable Derek, which if you can pronounce it you can dance it.

Members of the class helped with all of the tasks, including selling tickets, setting up, and working in the kitchen. Thanks to the new social convener, Theresa Harbidge, for assisting with the details and thanks to all who brought food and refreshments and helped clean up. Lucky winner of the 50/50 draw was Tony Lambert. We welcomed a visitor from 'awa', (Ottawa) Elspeth Paulin, Dora Dempster's sister. It was a very enjoyable evening and thanks to all who attended including dancers from up-island.

June Robinson

Report from Zimbabwe

Every year, Lorraine Irvine, one of our members, volunteers at the hospital in Karanda, Zimbabwe, and we hold a benefit dance to help raise funds for Lorraine to take with her in order to pay school fees for the numerous children who are left orphaned as a result of AIDS. Here is Lorraine's report, giving the disbursement of the funds we raised at the dance held last November, as well as funds from other sources.

Dear friends, Happy New Year. The school fees for 2017 went very well. Thank you for your continued support to these children. The Zimbabwe government is now issuing bond notes? Paul and family are well and send greetings. Much needed rain started and hopefully crops will be good after the drought last year.

Lorraine

Donations not involving VIDEA

Total US\$745.00, this includes the admission fees from the benefit dance and donations from two other donors.

Howard area	\$225.00	5 Primary students
Miriwa area	\$210.00	1 Secondary student, 2 Primary students
Chimumvuri Secondary	\$285.00	3 Secondary students

Assistance with rent for an adult upgrading his pharmacy assistant course - \$25.00

Fees for Secondary schools vary from 90.00 to 120.00 per student per year.
Some of these receipts are pending as fees were paid during the Christmas holiday.

Total of above is 745.00 Total number of students is 11.

The total number of students having school fees paid for 2017 is 264: VIDEA – 253; other donors including benefit dance – 11.

VIDEA report on school fees paid in December 2016 for the school year 2017 in the area around Karanda Mission, near Mt Darwin, Zimbabwe

Total amount in American dollars - \$11,410.00 {eleven thousand, four hundred and ten}

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Amount (US\$)</u>	<u>Number of students</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
Chawanda Primary	4,500.00	100	61	39
Chibara Primary	2,295.00	51	32	19
Chironga Primary	2,250.00	50	24	26
Nyamuti Primary	2,340.00	52	31	26
Driver	25.00			
Totals	11,410.00	253	148	105

Dr Jim Watt and Dr Paul Thistle provided the vehicle and fuel for transportation. I have a receipt for each child with the school name, name of student and grade, as required by VIDEA, and also a separate list of all students. Fees for the school year for primary students is \$45.00.

In Memoriam

Those who knew her will be saddened to learn of the recent passing of **Ruth McKendrick**. Ruth and her husband Jamie danced with Van Isle for several years before moving to Comox. Our sincere condolences go to Ruth's family.



EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

2017

- Jan 22nd** Burns Heather Laying Ceremony, Concert and Tea. See article in this issue.
- Jan 28th** Burns Social, 7:30 pm, \$15.00. Mary Ross is playing. The program was in the November 2016 issue.
- Feb 18th** Valentine Social Tea Dance, 3:00 – 6:00 pm. \$10.00. The program is in this issue.
- 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 Ball, which will be held at the Edelweiss Hall, 108 Niagara Street.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

2017

- Feb 11th** Comox Valley Scottish Country Dancers Annual Snowdrop Tea Dance, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. \$20.00 for lunch, dancing, tea and goodies. The program is available on their website – www.cvscttishcountrydance.org. There will be a book sale after the dance, \$1.00 per book.
- Feb 11th** RSCDS San Francisco Branch Valentine’s Ball. Music by Reel of Seven. Registration required. Further info – <http://www.rscds-sf.org>.
- Feb 17th – 19th** RSCDS Hawaii Branch Aloha Winter Weekend. Registration deadline – January 15, 2017 – past, but worth a try. Further info - <http://www.rscdshawaii.org/home/workshop/>.
- Feb 18th** RSCDS Vancouver Branch Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Teachers – Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Ruth Jappy. Music – Tartan Players. Further info – <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/love-dance-workshop-tea-dance/>.
- Feb 18th** RSCDS Toronto Association 54th Tartan Ball. Music by Scotch Mist. Further info - www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html.
- 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 Janyn Bertram 403-585-3842 janyn_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/>. See also the poster in this issue.
- Apr 7th – 9th** Lethbridge SCD Group Weekend Dance and Music Workshop. Teachers – Marjorie McLaughlin, Arthur McNair and Vicky Zeltins. Teacher for music workshop – Fiona Carnie. Further info - www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html.
- Apr 21st – 23rd** RSCDS Winnipeg Branch Weekend Workshop. Further info later.
- Apr 22nd** Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers Spring Tea Dance. Info – Hazel MacDonald, 250-758-6224.
- Jul 16th – Aug 13th** RSCDS Summer School at St Andrews. Classes for all levels of dancers; also classes for junior dancers and musicians. Further details - www.rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017.
- Jul 23rd – 30th** Teachers Association (Canada) – TAC – Summer School 2017, UBC, Vancouver. Classes are held for all levels. Further info - www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school.
- Aug 14th – 18th** Duncan and Maggie Keppie - “Scotch on the Rocks”, Wolfville NS. Classes, excursions, ceilidh, dance, massage. Limited to 32 dancers. Further info – Duncan Keppie, 902-542-5320, or keppie@eastlink.ca.
- Sep 8th – 10th** RSCDS Seattle Branch Fort Worden Weekend. Further details later. Details also available on their website - <http://www.rscds-seattle.org/fort-worden-workshop.html>.
- Oct 6th – 8th** RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch - Dartmouth 35th Anniversary Fall Workshop. Teachers – Ron Wallace (USA) and Jim Stott (Scotland). Registration will start on March 1, 2017. Further info - www.rscdsnovascotia.ca.
- Oct 24th - Nov 6th** Dancing tour of New Zealand, by Chris Grobler. Limited to 8 or 9 dancers. Further info – www.toursbychris.com; email - chrisgrobler@cox.net; or phone (949) 412-2088.