

# Island Fling

SEPTEMBER, 2002



Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

P.O. Box 30123, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet

Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada

Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Our new news letter editor is just as bad as the last one. She has been harassing me to get my column done and I am just 'NOT YET' ready to give up summer that has been very busy with kilt orders.

It was most unfortunate that the Parliament Lawn dancing had to be cancelled which was due to a bureaucratic mess-up, but maybe we can try again next summer.

We have not yet had a volunteer for Ball chairperson so I hope someone out there will do so soon. All they are required to do is call a couple of meetings to make sure all is coordinated. The venues are booked as are the teachers and hopefully the musicians so most of the work is already done.

For those of you who have noted my absence from dancing this summer, the reason was, I was cutting back some very large shrubs (almost trees) alongside the ramp on my house and leaned over at an awkward angle. There went my back. That was the worst pain I have ever felt and even holy water would not give relief. However, it feels fine now and hopefully will allow me to dance in the season coming up soon.

My friend from California, Mary Tindall, spent a week with me and we visited Salt Spring and toured around trying to keep out of trouble. I also did my annual Pender camping with no injuries again this year.

I am looking forward to another year of good dancing and am lining up some new trips with or without the Bell Bus.

See you all soon.

***Thelma Bell, President.***

## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SUMMER DANCING

### FOLKFEST

Folkfest is an opportunity for Victorians to showcase their cultural roots through wonderful food, song and dance. Locals and visitors flock to this popular event to experience the tastes, sights and sounds of our heritage including the swirl of the kilt and the lilt of the bagpipe.

**Gordon Robinson** said, “Our demonstration team put on a great show for Folkfest -- Scottish Country dances including a number of old favourites like Robertson’s Rant and De’il among the Tailors, as well as less familiar items including a new piece called The Thistle Dancers Waltz devised by John Wood which is danced to a waltz step to the tune The Wedding Gift by Rawlins Cross. The overall performance was linked together with choreography created by Joan Axford to bring dancers on and off the stage as well as to move from one dance to another.

As well, the audience enjoyed piping by Jamie Orr and “step dancing” by Joan Axford and Lisa Gray (Liz Gray’s daughter).”

The demonstration team included Joan Axford, Barb Walker, Michelle Campbell, Lorne Duncan, Jamie Orr, Thelma Bell, Joan McIntosh, Edna Kinnon, Ray Thomson, Katherine Taylor Patti Whitehouse, Gael Forster and Gordon Robinson.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO SUMMER DANCING AT THE LEGISLATURE?

Yes, due to a change in booking procedure we were not able to book every Sunday for dancing on the lawn of the Legislative Buildings this summer. Thank you to all who were willing to help lead the dancing and we will see what next year brings. *June Robinson*

### Friday Harbor Impressions Why You Should Go to the Puget Sound Crossroads

On June 22, the Friday Harbor club hosted their annual afternoon dance – the Puget Sound Crossroads. This event is scheduled so that mainland dancers can catch the Washington State ferry at Anacortes, enjoy their afternoon in Friday Harbor, then catch the ferry home in the evening. Hosts and visitors met at the ferry and 60 odd (some odder than others!) dancers were

pipied up to the nearby Grange Hall, where live music (by *Up in the Air*), food and an excellent floor were waiting.

The program was mostly old favourites, and the dances were briefed but not walked. This format worked extremely well, allowing us to complete 17 dances, the occasional repeat and two breaks for (great) refreshments, all in under three and a half hours. This was the first time for Maureen and I, and we both enjoyed meeting folks from all over – they came from anywhere between the Fraser Valley and Seattle, according to my (admittedly weak) geography. It was a super-friendly gathering, it almost felt like we were coming back to it, rather than making our first visit.

Laura Norris generously invited everyone out to her home for a barbecue after the dance, arranging for a bus to run us out and back. Her house is unique, with rough stone walls and steep shingled roofs – I immediately thought of the farmhouse in the movie “Babe”. We took the bus back to town, even though we weren’t catching the ferry, a few hardier souls stayed on to make absolutely sure the day was seized. We had a good visit with Andrew and Jenny Harley, then hit the sack fairly early.

Victoria was represented by seven of us, Andrew and Jenny, Sheila McCall, Larry Lindahl, Anita and ourselves. Being too cheap to pay for the ferry, Maureen and I travelled over in our own boat, Wayward Lass, and Anita joined us. It took about 4 1/2 hours each way, at a blinding 5 knots. Being as Wayward Lass is under 20 feet, and pretty light, there was a lot of agonizing over weather forecasts and tide tables. In the event, we had a good trip both days – a bit lumpy on Saturday morning despite a lack of wind, but Sunday was far better than anticipated. Sunday morning brought a nice breeze too, so we managed a bit of sailing on the way home. And I’m happy to report that Anita hardly ever pushes the tiller the wrong way any more.

We enjoyed ourselves hugely, thanks to our Friday Harbor hosts, some very live musicians and a whole lot of dancers out for a good time. See you there next year!

### *Jamie and Maureen Orr*

PS *Up in the Air* did a great job, if you get an opportunity to dance to them, take it!

## **DEMONSTRATION TEAM NEWS**

The demonstration team will be putting on two more performances in the coming weeks. On Saturday September 21, the team will perform at Craigflower School at 1:45 p.m. to celebrate Victoria Heritage. Then on Saturday October 19 the team will be at Church of the Advent, Mt. View Road, Colwood at 7:30 p.m. for a Scottish Show.

**Demonstration Team: Information contact Joan Axford 474-1018**

## **DON'T BE OVERDUE WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES**

It's time to renew your VISCDs membership and Treasurer Maxine Dell is eagerly awaiting your membership applications and your cheques. So fill in that membership application form that was mailed to you a couple of weeks ago and mail to Maxine at 3915 Ascot Drive, Victoria, B.C. V8P 3S2.

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## **TEACHERS' MESSAGE**

We hope you have all had a relaxing summer and enjoyed the pleasant warm weather. The new dance season will start on Monday, September 9, 2002 with the Open House at McKenzie Ave. School. Regular classes will commence the week of September 16, 2002.

There is some change of location this year for the Lower and Upper Intermediate classes due to School Board cut backs. I am sure most people will be familiar with St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall where we hold most of the monthly socials and will feel comfortable dancing there. There is ample parking behind the church.

In this newsletter there is a brief outline of the class structure and expectations, so please take time to read it and decide which level best suits your capabilities and interests. If you feel you are ready to change to a different level, please check with your previous or current teacher before you do this. Remember, members may dance in more than one class (all for the same class fee) at or below their class level, and we would want to encourage you to dance more than once a week if you can.

***Monica Roots***

## **CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPT 16**

There will be twelve sessions ending the week of Dec. 9.

### **BASIC CLASS:**

**Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. McKenzie Elementary School (small gym)**

**Teacher: Liz Gray**

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

### **LOWER INTERMEDIATE CLASS:**

**Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.**

**Teachers: Una Lennam, Rob Langridge and Sue Langridge**

For those who have attended a basic class and are familiar with basic formations and dances. This class will continue to work on all basic steps and formations as well as introduce new formations and appropriate level dances.

### **UPPER INTERMEDIATE CLASS:**

**Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.**

**Teacher: Monica Roots**

For those who have been dancing for a number of years and who wish to improve all aspects of technique. This class is designed to provide dancers with the opportunity to experience a broader range of formations and movements.

### **ADVANCED CLASS:**

**Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. McKenzie Elementary School (small gym)**

**Teacher: Liz Gray**

For experienced and upper intermediate level dancers who wish to maintain and improve their dancing skills. Emphasis will be placed on continued improvement of all aspects of technique. This class will provide an opportunity to "tidy up" old formations as well as to introduce more complex formations and transitions. Dancers in this class must express a desire for continued improvement for all aspects of the dance and should have danced at an upper intermediate level for at least two years.

### **EXPERIENCED SOCIAL:**

**Mondays 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.**

**Teacher: Bob Anderson**

For those truly experienced dancers who do not wish to choose the intensity of an advanced technique class but wish to dance the more challenging dances and formations. Dancers in this class should have a good knowledge of all common formations and steps and be able to dance those dances with common formations with just a brief walk-through.

### **LOW IMPACT CLASS:**

**Mondays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.**

**Teacher: Bob Anderson**

A daytime class for Scottish Country Dancers with mobility problems or difficulty performing steps. Some technique will be taught but emphasis will be on formations and phrasing of popular dances.



## INTERESTED IN YOUR CELTIC HERITAGE?

"Newsletter readers might be interested to know that the bi-monthly magazine **Celtic Heritage** is publishing a series of three articles written by one of our members, **Michael Elcock**. The first of these – entitled "**Encounter With The Bonxies**" -- appeared in the July issue. While the Bonxie is a colloquial name for the Arctic Skua (a bird known to attack unwary hikers and climbers!), the article is largely about the changing way of life on the Sleat peninsula on the Isle of Skye.

The September issue of Celtic Heritage will carry a second piece, called "**Sollas**". Sollas sits at the top of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides. It was harshly cleared of tenants twice in the nineteenth century, with the active assistance of police authorities and the church. The Clearance at Sollas was interesting in part because of the strong physical resistance of the community's

women, whose uprising took several days to subdue.

"**Cauldstane Slap**" will come out in the November issue of the magazine. The Cauldstane Slap is one of the old Scottish drove roads and was used up until the beginning of the last century as a route for cattle heading to the big trysts in Falkirk. It's a wild, remote place, but actually lies within a short distance of Edinburgh -- among the hills where the 17th century Covenanters used to hold their illegal conventicles.

For any RSCDS members who are interested, Celtic Heritage is an interesting, eclectic magazine that covers a wide variety of Scottish and Irish matters - including music, folklore and literature. It should be available at local newsstands, or by subscription from the web site <http://www.celticheritage.ns.ca/>

## COMING EVENTS -- LOCAL

- Sept. 6** **RSCDS OPEN HOUSE** at 7:30 p.m. Monterey School, 851 Monterey Ave. Everyone welcome to this free event. For further information, please call Jim at 595-7901 or Anne at 472-0221.
- Sept. 7** **HOWARD HOSPITAL BENEFIT DANCE** 7:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave., Victoria.
- Sept. 9** **VISCDS OPEN HOUSE** at 7:30 p.m. McKenzie School 4005 Raymond St. N., Victoria. Everyone welcome to this free event.
- Oct. 19** **HARVEST SOCIAL** Brentwood Bay Community Hall, 7082 Wallace Dr., Brentwood Bay.
- Oct. 19** **HIGHLAND DANCE COMPETITION** - sponsored by the Sons of Scotland in the Main Hall, North and South Saanich Fair Grounds beginning at 9:30 a.m. (Stelly's XRoad, Saanichton)
- Nov. 8/9** **RSCDS VICTORIA FALL WORKSHOP** Cadboro Bay United Church. Teachers: Allan Twigg of Mountain View California, Maureen Lyon of Surrey and Ruth Jappy of Delta.
- Nov. 16** **ST. ANDREW'S SOCIAL** St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church Hall. 550 Obed Ave. Victoria.
- Dec. 7** **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** Joint with Victoria Branch, Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Rd., Victoria.
- Jan. 18 '03** **BURNS SOCIAL** St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave., Victoria.
- Feb. 22 '03** **VALENTINE'S SOCIAL** St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave., Victoria.
- Mar. 29 '03** **VISCDS ANNUAL BALL**
- Apr. 5 '03** **VICTORIA JOINT SCOTTISH COUNCIL ANNUAL BALL**  
at the Edelweiss Club in James Bay

May 3 '03      SPRING FLING

## OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Aug. 31-Sept. 2

### KELOWNA SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS WORKSHOP

Teachers - Bill Zobel from Scotland and Wendy Swaine from Vancouver with music by Alex Jappy. e-mail [davina\\_crowe@telus.net](mailto:davina_crowe@telus.net). Registration forms at the "Fling".

Sept. 13-15 **FORT WORDEN XXV111 SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE AND STEP DANCE WORKSHOP** Fort Worden State Park Port Townsend, Washington hosted by the Seattle Branch. On-line registration at [www.rscds-seattle/ftworden/](http://www.rscds-seattle/ftworden/)

Sept. 21 **NSCD SOCIAL DANCE AFTER THE TAC WORKSHOP** at 7.00 p.m. at Pleasant Valley Hall, 6100 Doumont Road off Metral Drive in NW Nanaimo. Cost \$5.

Sept. 28 **SONA Monthly Social** Chemainus Senior Citizens Centre.

Oct. 19 **VANCOUVER** Branch Pearl's Party/workshop

Oct. 19 **SEATTLE** Branch teachers' workshop

Nov. 1/2 **BELLINGHAM** workshop and dance

Dec. 28 '02 - Jan 5 '03

**RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH INC., ILAM SUMMER SCHOOL, CHRISTCHURCH** invite members to join them for the Annual Summer School. Details from Doug Mills [doug@mitton.co.nz](mailto:doug@mitton.co.nz)

Mar. 22-29 '03

**SCOTTISH DANCING IN HAWAII** with Muriel Johnstone and Alasdair Fraser organized by Ken McFarland

Feb. '04 **PITLOCHRY WORKSHOP,**

There is a proposal that if enough dancers are interested, a party might go from Van Isle to the workshop. I've been asked by Thelma to coordinate planning and would welcome expressions of interest from dancers. We'll need about 20 or so to approach Air Canada for special group status, but before taking things too far, it would be useful to know the level of interest. *Alex McAuley* (595-1607 or [amcauley@uvic.ca](mailto:amcauley@uvic.ca))

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWS LETTER, Oct. 1, 2002**

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