

Island Fling



May 2020

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

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President's Report, May 2020

Well, our world has changed beyond what we could have imagined this time a year ago. The COVID-19 virus has changed everything we like to do and take for granted. And, unfortunately that has also meant Scottish Country Dancing. Social distancing? What does that mean, we would have asked even two months ago? Social distancing is the opposite of what Scottish Country dancing is all about. Socializing is such a part of dancing. Two metres between dancers? Are you kidding? Think of all of the formations – four hands across; no one has arms one meter long even if we were wearing gloves. Many of our other formations such as lead down the middle and back, allemande and poussette are now considered downright scandalous. If you have looked at videos on YouTube of no hands dancing you see that an important part of dancing is reaching out for the other dancer. Does this mean that no hands cueing such as gesticulating vigorously, raised eyebrows and pointed stares and giving loud verbal directions will replace our current courteous dancing practices? I hope not. No, we can't dance for now but in the meantime think of all the great times we have had dancing and know that those times will return.

Due to the cancellation or postponement of many events that would normally be reported on, this issue of the *Fling* will feature members of the society who contribute to running the club. This issue includes the Executive and our all-important class reps. Editor of the *Fling*, Edith Chapman, says that the next issue will feature our teachers, hopefully in time for class start up in the Fall.

Our spring events through to the end of May are cancelled. As of this issue, a decision on Summer dancing has not yet been made. We will have an AGM as soon as we are able to meet again. We are still looking for a Publicity person to serve on the Executive. A memorial dance for Dora Dempster is still being planned for a future date.

June Robinson, President

BE CALM ♥ BE KIND ♥ STAY SAFE

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, August 16, 2020**. Please submit any material to Edith Chapman at enchapma@shaw.ca. Beginning on page 7, you will find notes from the members of the Executive Committee plus two Class Reps, with information on what their positions on the Executive or as Class Reps entail. They have also included how they originally became involved in SCD. My sincere thanks to the Executive members, as well as to class reps Jan Beckett and Lori Morrison, for their contributions. My thanks, also, to June, for coming up with this space-filling idea.

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.

Upcoming Events

As everyone knows, all our social events have been either cancelled or postponed. Here is a list of events that have been affected. This is accurate to the time of writing; things could change quickly.

Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival – originally scheduled for the May Long Weekend, they have been postponed until late summer. According to their website, further information with location, dates and schedule of events will be available later in the spring. Check their website <https://victoriahighlandgames.com/games/> for information.

A decision on whether there will be Summer Dancing this year is pending on the opening of City Lights Hall for activities and when applicable health regulations are lifted. Ditto for the Monday night practices.

Annual General Meeting – The AGM scheduled for April 16 is postponed until such time as we can meet to have the meeting, hopefully late summer or early fall. Reports from the Executive Committee will be sent out shortly.

At this time we are looking for someone to serve on the Executive as Publicity chair/First Vice President. Please contact June Robinson if you are interested in this position.

Dora's memorial dance – likely postponed until the fall. The exact date will depend on when her family can make the trip out to Victoria. The program is being compiled and it will contain many of Dora's favourite dances.

Open House – will hopefully take place on Tuesday, September 1, 7:30 pm, at City Light Church Hall. Bring all your friends, relatives and acquaintances and encourage them to join in the dance. There is no charge.

Multicultural Festival at CFB Esquimalt

This event, scheduled to take place at Naden Base on May 30, has been **cancelled**.

Mini Ball Report

On March 14th 2020 a special event was held at Obed Ave, our first Mini Ball. The dance was led by Sheila McCall and the majority of the dances were at the beginner level in the hopes that the newer members would be encouraged to enjoy this social event. Thank you to Jamie Orr for piping the Grand March.

Thirty-five members attended and all seemed to have a very good time. There was, as usual, plenty of good food.

It was at the very onset on this nasty Covid-19 and we think this may be why fewer people attended than we were hoping. Thankfully we had lots of hand sanitizer and opportunities for hand washing.

Obviously the Beginners' Spring Fling will not take place. I hope you all follow the rules and stay safe.

Theresa Harbidge

"The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley"

The cancellation of the 2020 Ball and Workshop was not as dire as the destruction of the poor mouse's nest in the Robert Burns' poem of 1785 quoted above!

True, the Ball and Workshop Committee decided after much deliberation to cancel the 2020 event due to concerns about the Covid-19 virus. The good news is that the teachers and musicians have agreed to participate in the April 10th, 2021 event. Additionally, the Edelweiss Club is already reserved for next year.

The venues and caterer were very understanding, and we have recouped almost all of deposits made (one is still pending). The airfare for the teachers was issued as a credit towards next year's fare. I understand we can look forward to a new and different program at the 2021 Ball. It looks like the only expenses out of pocket for this year will be for printing and supplies.

I would like to compliment the Committee on all their hard work and diligence, both in making and cancelling all the arrangements; they are a strong and efficient team! Speaking of which, we are looking for additional members, especially for the position of publicity. If you are interested please contact myself or June Robinson.

Kathryn Knowles

On behalf of the Workshop and Ball Committee 2020

Same Time Next Year!

The TAC Summer School scheduled for Calgary July 26 – August 2 has, understandably, been cancelled.

But like so many things in our *adapting to Covid-19* life, we are forging ahead with plans to hold it next year – same place (Mount Royal University, Calgary), same great teachers, and same terrific musicians. And by next year we'll have so much pent up energy and thirst for dancing that it just might be the best Summer School ever! The online classes have been great, but dancing by yourself really hasn't been that much fun, has it? So you can look forward to the 200 plus dancers you'll meet next year.

Folks who had registered for this year have already been contacted about getting a full refund.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and plan on Summer School next year in Calgary.

Louise McGillivray



Forty Years and Counting



Maureen and Jamie Orr invite you all to an evening of Scottish Country dancing on Saturday, September 19 at City Light Church, 550 Obed Avenue, with live and lively music by Mary Ross. Come and help us celebrate our forty years of dancing, and if you want to celebrate the return to normal life, that's okay too!

So circle September 19th on your calendar now!

**Cheers and stay safe,
Jamie and Maureen**

Teachers' Corner

Welcome back to Dancing

When we return to dance classes and socials, there are a few considerations to ensure that we enjoy the return and do not incur an injury. Your teachers are planning classes to provide for this safe return.

Remember we dance for fun!

No matter what your past dance experience, you will need to take it slowly on your return and your teachers will encourage that with a structured warm up and lesson plans that increase your flexibility, strength and fitness. Move at your own pace. Stay hydrated throughout the class.

You may find that your ability to concentrate on the teaching or visualize the formations when briefed will be slower than before; just give this time, it will all come back to us.

You can prepare for a return to class by doing some other forms of exercise to get back into shape, such as yoga, brisk walking, or cycling.

Warming up and cooling down correctly is always imperative but especially as we return after some time away. Your teachers will start the class with a good warm-up that prepares you for the increase in activity and at the end of class with a cool-down that allows your heart rate to return to a normal resting rate, so don't miss these important parts of the class. Muscles that have not been accustomed to strenuous activity for a period of time will experience some form of soreness and you may be tight and achy for 24 - 72 hours after your dance class. A proper cool-down session can reduce some of this soreness.

We look forward to a return to classes and happy dancing!

Joan Axford

Mystery Photo

Betsy found the photo below in a box of items that she inherited when she became Secretary. We are appealing to the membership: does anyone know who these people are? If you do, please let Betsy know. Her phone number and email address appear on the front of this newsletter.



The writing on the back: some sort of location, maybe "Kirk House, Whit???, Jan 4, 1923"

Then "Dear Alice

You will guess who this group is I am sending you

Wishing you a [something] New year With love [can't read the first letter but the others are essie"]



Louise's "Ditties"

Thank you to Martha for suggesting that Louise have her "Ditties" published!

The members of the Tuesday afternoon class will tell you that I do a lot of "chanting" during class to remind folks what comes next and to remind them of the path of certain figures. I'm sure they sometimes wonder if I have a "ditty" for every figure in Scottish Country dancing!

I have taught dancing for 43 years (I'd like to say I started very young but the white hair gives me away!) and much of that time I taught adult beginners or children. I found that having a ditty that told folks the movements, in time to the music, was very helpful. In fact, the children got so they'd chant the ditties along with me.

My favourite ditty is for the two couple allemande. The first couple follows the words and the second couple follows closely behind. Warning – this does not work for the three couple allemande which we all know has a slightly different first few bars!

Out to the side (bar 1)

Across the top (bar 2)

Around the corner (bar 3)

Down the side (bar 4)

Into a line (bar 5)

In and under the arm (bar 6) – notice it is IN and then under the arm

Fall back (bar 7)

Fall back (bar 8)

If you are a newer dancer, put on some music and try saying those words as you walk or dance in time to the music. The words help you to be in exactly the correct spot in time to the music.

Another ditty I like is for the poussette in reel or jig time. I find that figure can become a bit of a random swirl if folks do not go to exactly the right position.

First, make sure you know which way you want to go in the first movement (first couple to men's side, second couple to ladies' side) **and for all turns, pull back your right arm:**

Out to the side

Quarter turn (both of you pull back by the right, and the turn will be correct)

Up or down (no turns!!)

Quarter turn (both of you pull back with your right)

In to the middle (don't turn yet!)

Half way round (yup, big pull back with right arms)

Fall back

Fall back

The poussette is one of my favourite figures and it can look so sharp when done well.

I look forward to dancing with you all again, once this terrible time is over, and hope to see "perfect" allemandes and poussettes. ☺ Chant on!

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of *Murray Shoolbraid* of Salt Spring Island in February. Murray played piano for Scottish Country Dancing, especially for his sister Mary's classes. He was pianist for Vancouver's Schiehallion Band, which released two LP recordings that our teachers still use. He was also pianist for Victoria's SCD Band, Barley Bree; and – going 'way back – pianist for Murray Black and the Teuchters (this is the first band I ever danced to, 'live'). Murray composed numerous tunes for dances, including "Mamie's Jig" and "An Officer and a Gentleman". His sister Mary devised the dance "Mamie's Jig" for their mother, and the music for the dance was recorded on one of Schiehallion Band's LP's. We send our condolences to his family.

Edith Chapman



Photo – Martha Morrison

Irene Booth celebrated her 92nd birthday at a Tuesday Afternoon Social class on March 3. Congratulations, Irene!

VISCDS Membership Report

It was another amazing year for Scottish Country Dancing in Victoria. We had 15 new members join the Society at all levels of dancing. Ten joined in the September - December period and five joined in the January – April period.

We started our year with 125 members, including 9 life members, and ended the season with 127 members (8 life members). Twelve members did not renew from the previous year for a variety of reasons, and we hope to see many of them again in the near future.

As the numbers go, we had 76 members pay for the full season of classes, while six opted to pay for just the first half season. In January we had 16 members, including five of the new members, paying for the second half season. In addition, we had 15 members who used the drop-in punch cards. We had one youth member this year.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the VISCDS this past year as your membership chair.

Rick Deegan, Membership Chair





June Robinson, President

I am currently serving on the VISCDS Executive as President. I was elected as president a year ago, April 2019. The official job description of the President lists only two responsibilities: presiding at the meetings of the Society and supervising the other officers in their duties. This description is deceptively simple, as being President entails other responsibilities not listed. However I have enjoyed being President this year, due to the wonderful members of the Executive currently serving in the various positions. Everyone on the Executive, (see bios) does a great job and that makes my job easier. I miss consulting with our past president, Dora Dempster, but several members of the Executive have had long experience in the club and are very helpful. Before becoming president I was membership chair, chair of the Workshop and Ball committee, and at one time I served as secretary.

Gordon and I have been members of Van Isle for 21 years. We started Scottish country dancing in Yellowknife about 1995 when I was introduced to SCD at a Brownie girls' workshop. Our first teacher in Yellowknife was the late Wendy Swain from Vancouver, who made SCD so interesting to us. We are very fortunate to have the level of SCD that we do in Victoria and everyone in the Society contributes to this success.

Martha Morrison, First Vice President and Publicity

I have just completed my 4th and final year as Publicity Chair. I accepted the position in April, 2016, at the end of my first year of dancing.

Many people have said that the Publicity chair is a huge job. In fact it is not. It entails producing posters for any Ceilidhs, Open Houses and Spring Classes and the Month of free classes in September.

This has been made very easy thanks to Robin Gubby, who updates the very smart posters with the tartan borders that he designed. The posters are then taken to Staples and printed. Along with the signup sheet they are taken to class and with the generous support of members the posters are disseminated throughout the community.

For each event, on-line notices are sent to all the local papers.

Other events such as Greek fest, and Folkloria might require materials also; these are generally a generic flyer with club information that is always ready to go, or a small poster for an upcoming event such as free classes, open houses or Ceilidhs.

There is the Highland Games. This requires a bit of organization but for the most part, once people have signed up, it goes smoothly. In the early spring the application for a table, chair and tent is made, the form and cheque are then sent to the organizer. A volunteer signup sheet is taken to classes in April and typically there is a good amount of help offered. The Setup of the booth for the Games is before 8am on the Saturday and take down at the end of the Games. It is such a fun environment that it does not seem like work at all, and I find I spend more time there than required.

That, in a nut shell, is the description of a year in the life of the Publicity Chair.

I began Scottish Country Dancing in September 2015. I retired from a fulfilling career as a Speech Language Pathologist and wanted something that would give me the exercise I needed while keeping my brain active.

Truth be told, I was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing when I was in grade 9. For a couple of months my younger brother's nanny, Christine Wallace, who hailed from Edinburgh, decided to teach our grade 9 class a dance or perhaps two. It apparently went well as she then had us do a performance. I do not remember much about it, just that we practiced at school, and for the performance wore our white dresses, (it was an all-girls school) and danced somewhere in Winnipeg. I had watched Chris go out to dance on her nights out, often in her white dress and sash, with her beau in his kilt. I still remember what a wonderful sight that was. It has stuck with me over the years, and came to mind clearly when I was looking for that something to fill the early days of my retirement. When I began to dance and found I had a passion for it, I tried to reach out to Chris. She had been very active in the Winnipeg Branch, so I decided that was the initial contact to make. Sadly she had died suddenly earlier in 2015, and never knew the gift she had given me. I am eternally grateful to her for planting a seed, for without her I would not be enjoying the gift of Scottish Country dance - four to five times a week.

Rick Deegan, Membership Secretary

My name is Rick Deegan. I am your Membership Director and 2nd Vice-President. As the Membership Director, I am responsible for creating, printing and distributing the New and Returning members forms each year, as well as collecting the completed forms and associated membership and class fees. Using the completed forms, I can maintain the database (spreadsheet) of members and the class lists to which those members attend.

I have been a member of the VSCDS for over 20 years, starting in Liz Gray's basic class which met at McKenzie Elementary School. My wife and I joined the Society after a number of years attending the summer dance "classes" at the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park put on by both Societies as a way to draw interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

Betsy Lockhart, Secretary

The main requirement of the Secretary for the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society is to attend meetings of the Executive and the AGM and to make a record of those meetings by way of writing up Minutes which are then circulated back to the Executive with copies to the teachers. A minor requirement is to check the VISCDS mailbox in the postal outlet on Quadra Street and to deal with any mail that comes in. Incoming mail is quite infrequent, so the box only needs to be checked every few weeks. Another minor task is to assist the Editor Edith Chapman with the production of the newsletter (*Fling*). Once Edith has composed it, she emails a copy to me in PDF format, and I email it to one of the Monk copy centres for them to print. Of late we have been printing 30 copies, 24 of which go to members who wish to have a printed copy instead of reading it on the website. Once printed, I pick up the copies, add name labels for the members who have requested hard copies, and take them to the next dancing night, often a Tuesday. Extra copies are made available to visitors or new members.

I've been involved with VISCDS for 4 years. I've always enjoyed dancing, pranced around in ballet classes as a child and later enjoyed folk and square dancing offered occasionally at school. One of my older brothers taught me my first folk dance when I was about 4 or 5. It was a simple thing called "Put Your Little Foot." My other brother, who was a teenager at the time, whirled and threw me around in variations on the kind of jitterbug dancing popular in the 1950's – I loved it! There was little to no dancing for many years and for many reasons, and then after reading in the *Times Colonist* about an Open House for Scottish country dancing that was about to take place, I showed up on a Tuesday night 4 years ago and have been returning ever since. It's great exercise and a lot more fun than doing reps in a drafty rec centre!



Sue Langridge, Treasurer

Having been a Van Isle Treasurer in the past, I am finding this term easier as good software and online banking are a great help.

I write cheques, record deposits and withdrawals and make sure my numbers agree with the Bank's. I work closely with the Membership and Social secretaries who often make Bank Deposits, too. At Executive meetings, I report the current state of our finances, and once a year produce an Annual Report for the AGM.

Being part of the Executive is a way to volunteer my time in thanks for so many years of happy dancing.

My interest in a Scottish Country Dancing started when I was at High School in England. If the hockey pitch was too muddy for a game we girls filed to the Assembly Hall and reeled and jigged instead. I much preferred this activity.

Rob and I started dancing in Victoria over 44 years ago and have been members of Van Isle since 1982, both as dancers and teachers.

My claim to fame: I have been in the presence of The Miss Jean Milligan, Victoria 1976.



Theresa Harbidge, Social Convener

As Social convener you are asked to communicate with each class responsible for the month's social through their class rep. The Social convener provides a form for the class to fill in with tasks around the dance. SC checks the supply box to make sure there is enough coffee and tea, sugar, paper cups and napkins for the event. For the dance the convener arrives about 45 minutes early to set up the admission table and hand over the cash box and 50/50 supplies to whomever has volunteered for that task, as well as a sheet of paper and pens for members to sign in. The SC usually brings the milk and cream for the tea service. As of the last few years with limited cupboard space the SC has been storing the coffee and tea urns and bringing them for the events. Generally the convener helps set up and take down the kitchen. Often the SC counts the 50/50 money and facilitates the draw. The SC collects the money from the draw and the admissions and deposits the proceeds. It is a flurry of activity in a short period of time! Finally the Social Convener attends the monthly meetings and writes a report for the Newsletter.

I first heard of Scottish Country Dance 7 years ago when a friend asked me to go to an Open House with her. We had such fun that we signed up for the beginners' class from January to April. My friend developed foot problems and left in March but I was hooked! Everyone was so encouraging and helpful and I loved the music. So I hope to continue and encourage others after me.

Editor's note – Theresa is also the Class Rep for the Beyond Basics class.



Sarah Kell, Teachers' Rep

I have served as Teachers' Rep since completing my Full Certificate in 2017. The Teachers' Rep is a non-voting advisor to the Executive, and is selected by the teachers. I am VISCDS' newest teacher, but I was promoted to chair of the teachers' committee because everyone else had already served! The Teachers' Rep provides communication between the Executive and the teachers, especially around scheduling and payments, and purchases new dance books and music for the club. The Teachers' Rep also coordinates the development of resources like the Core Book, the class level self-assessment guide, and the travel subsidy policy for new teacher candidates.

I started dancing with the Veselka Ukrainian Dancers as a teenager. I met Joan Axford and the VISCDS dem team during the multicultural dance performance in the 1994 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremonies, and started dancing Scottish in 1997. I love how Scottish Country Dancing strikes a balance between technical standards and sociability!

Jan Beckett, Experienced Social Class rep

I took an interest in SCD after attending an Open House Ceilidh during Dance Days in 2013. A good friend had recently joined and encouraged me to come along for the exercise. In September I went to Sheila's class and quickly realized that more than my body was getting a work-out. We were about 40 minutes into the class when I thought my brain was going to implode. So many instructions to remember! However, I loved the music, the teachers were terrific and all the other dancers were so encouraging and kind, I was hooked. In 2016, I took on the role of "second-class rep" (Robin's exact words) for Bob's Monday night class and when Robin stepped back, I was duly promoted. Since then, David Walde has been my able assistant, or I his, not sure which. The chief responsibility of the Monday night rep is the organization of the Burns Social in January. With so many people pitching in to help and the tasks well laid out from previous years, what remains is to procure the haggis (from Fraser Orr or else there'll be complaints!) and cook and present it at intermission. (I'm up to four by my records and really hope that number goes much higher.)

Our thanks go to the following class reps as well:

- ☆ David Walde, Back-up for Monday Social class
- ☆ Anne Miller, Tuesday Evening (Basic) class
- ☆ Kathy Grant, Wednesday class



Edith Chapman, Newsletter Editor

I was elected as Newsletter Editor for Van Isle for the first time in the late 1980's, and I served in the position for the three years that were allowed under our Bylaws of the time. I served as Newsletter Editor for the Branch for most of the 1990's. This was an appointed position, rather than an elected position, so the incumbent could serve in the position for as long as he/she wanted. I was elected as Newsletter Editor for Van Isle in 2013, and served for the four years that are currently allowed under our Bylaws. After a year's hiatus, I was re-elected and I have just finished my second year.

I compile five newsletters each year, gathering together articles and photos submitted by various members. I compile the lists of Coming Events, both local and out of town. Where necessary, I write articles and notices. I act as contact person for the "Scottish Newsletter", published locally each month; and for the "Intercity Scot", an online source that lists classes and social events for dance groups in Canada and the US.

I think it was the music that attracted me to SCD. I first heard SCD music when I was about seven or eight years old on a radio program that was dedicated to Scottish music. Along with various vocal and instrumental artists, there were SCD bands: Jimmy Shand, Tim Wright, Ronnie Munro and – later on – Jim MacLeod. I listened to these programs religiously for years until the radio station ceased to broadcast them.

Imagine my delight when my Grade 6 teacher, Miss Becker, who was a Scottish Country Dancer, taught us dances such as "Cumberland Reel" and "Strip the Willow". Our class did "Petronella" for the Music Festival, earning a mark in the 90's. We did our winning dance in the Honours performance. Maureen Orr was a member of that class, too!

I eventually started dancing again in 1969, joining the Victoria Scottish Country Dance Society, which became the Victoria Branch of the RSCDS. I joined Van Isle in the mid-1970's. I have been dancing ever since!



Lori Morrison, Tuesday afternoon social class rep

1955 Loraine Walker – Five Years old

I was born in North Vancouver, Mary Loraine Walker. My Mum is from Scottish background and my Dad from Irish roots. My sister, Jill, and I were raised in a dancing world and I started Highland dancing when I was 4 years old as did my sister. We competed in many competitions into our teen years, very successfully winning many medals and trophies.

I am married with 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. It was my husband that started calling me Lori and I have gone by that ever since. We have lived in Vancouver, then moved to Duncan for employment, also 10 years up north in Mackenzie when our boys were young. After retirement we moved to Victoria to be close to our grandkids which was 14 years ago.

Because of my love of dance, Scottish Country dancing brings me much joy and I have been a member of VISCDs for 16 years. The first 2 years were in Duncan when Bob Anderson and Shelia McCall came up to teach in a church hall one night a week. After we moved to Victoria, I became involved in several classes.

I am a member of the Demonstration team and have been a Class Rep for the Tuesday afternoon Social for the past 3 years, the first 2 as back-up for Pat Warman as Rep. I have enjoyed my duties which include, set up (sign-in sheet, punch cards, newsletters, flyers and occasion cards) announcements, greeting out-of-town guests and arranging thank you gifts and cards for the teachers. I have also been involved for many years volunteering for the Valentine Tea Social, back to the days of Pat Blair's fine china, flowers and white linen table clothes.

During this pandemic, I am truly missing all the dance classes that I attend along with the camaraderie of all the fine folks and teachers in VISCDs. Hope we can all get back to kicking up our heels on the dance floor soon!

Slainte Mhor, Lori

EVENTS – LOCAL Scottish Country Dance Events

These events are listed on the understanding that they could be cancelled due to the current Covid-19 situation.

Sep 1st Open House, 7:30 pm, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm. No charge.
Sep 19th Orr's "40 Years and Counting" Dance, City Light Church Hall, 7:30 pm. Music by Mary Ross. No charge. The Club will be catering this event. See notice in this issue.

All VISCDS Socials take place from 7:30 to 11:00 pm Saturday evening. All socials are held at the City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue.

OUT OF TOWN Scottish Country Dance Events

The events below are listed on the understanding that they could be cancelled due to the current Covid-19 situation.

2020

Jun 20th Puget Sound Crossroads, San Juan Grange Hall, Friday Harbor. US \$15.00. 2:00 – 5:00 pm. This event is going ahead, according to Seattle Branch's website. <https://rscds-seattle.org/event/puget-sound-crossroads-2020/>.

Jul 10th – 13th RSCDS Boston Branch Pinewoods Session 1. Classes, socials, ceilidhs and more. Info - <http://rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html>. **CANCELLED.**

Jul 13th – 18th RSCDS Boston Branch Pinewoods Session 2. Info - <http://rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html>. If you plan on attending either of these sessions, get your application form in asap as forms received after March 1 run the risk of being waitlisted. **CANCELLED.**

Jul 26th – Aug 2nd TAC Summer School 2020, Mount Royal University, Calgary. **CANCELLED.**

Oct 2nd – 3rd RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch Workshop, Banquet and Ball. Teacher – Irene Townshend. Musicians – Ron Krug and Mary Ross. Info - <https://rscdssask.org/>.

Oct 16th – 18th RSCDS Ottawa Branch Annual Workshop. Music by Marian Anderson and her Band. Info – www.rscdsottawa.ca.

Oct 17th RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch Dartmouth Annual Fall Workshop. Teachers - Martin Mulligan and Todd McCall. Musicians for Social - The Macadians. Refreshments and lunch included. Casual attire. \$40. Billeting available. Info – www.rscdsnovascotia.ca. Contact Lydia Hedge lydiahedge@accesswave.ca.

Oct 30th – Nov 1st RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend. Contact Sheena MacQueen 925-784-3662 macqs@comcast.net. Info - <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>.

Dec 13th Sunday. Gleneagles SCD Club 57th Annual Gleneagles Ball, Pacific Ballroom, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Includes luncheon, dancing to the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and a dessert buffet. Further info in September. Contact Gillian at 778-279-3995 or muirnet@shaw.ca, to reserve a ticket.



In Memoriam – Tom Alexander

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Tom Alexander early this year. He was one half of the famous folk duo, the Alexander Brothers. Tom played the accordion and his brother Jack played the piano and provided the vocals. They grew up in Cambusnethan, near Wishaw in North Lanarkshire; and they made their professional debut at the Webster Hall, Arbroath. They had many hits; their rendition of "Nobody's Child" ensured their fame. They toured extensively and their shows were always very popular. In 2004, they were awarded MBE's for their services to Scottish music. Jack passed away several years ago. Our condolences go to Tom's family, friends and show-business colleagues.

- Info and photo via Wikipedia Tom (left); Jack (right)