

# Island Fling



## March 2022

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society  
c/o 2070 Renfrew Road  
Victoria BC V8P 1S4  
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland  
**Web address:** [www.viscds.ca](http://www.viscds.ca)

### Executive Committee

President	June Robinson	250-477-8317	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>
1st Vice President and Publicity	Louise Perry		
2nd Vice President and Membership	Barb Currie		
Secretary	Betsy Lockhart		
Newsletter Editor	Edith Chapman		
Treasurer	Sue Langridge		
Social Convenor Committee	Ellen Campbell		
	Donna Clements		
	Sheila Eaglestone		
	Lori Morrison		
Teacher Representative	Gordon Robinson		

### President's Report, March, 2022

Well, we are BACK dancing again. Two of my reports over the past 6 months have begun with those words. I hope we won't be using them again except as they apply to a regular dancing schedule. This is in fact my last report as President of VISCDS. I have completed three years as President. The term limit to serve on the Executive is four consecutive years and I had served two years prior on the Executive as Membership chair. All prior members of the Executive served again this past year including those whose 4 year terms had been completed to enable the Society to have a smooth transition past the Covid pandemic. We hope it is indeed past.

It has been 3 years of ups and downs, that is for sure. I was elected President at the AGM in April 2019. Our beloved past President Dora Dempster died that December. By March 2020 the pandemic hit with our last social gathering on March 14. Little did we know we would not dance at an indoor social again until October 2021. Through that time we kept in contact by e-mail, our newsletter and Zoom. Zoom Ceilidhs, Zoom dance classes, Zoom meetings and Zoom by phone. We learned how to use it and also learned there were benefits such as no traveling time, no renting meeting rooms etc. and of course remaining safe.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive who have been outstanding in serving the Society through this difficult time and wonderful to work with. Also leaving the Executive this spring will be Treasurer Sue Langridge, Secretary Betsy Lockhart, and our editor of the *Fling* Edith Chapman. The AGM will be held, by Zoom, on April 20. Zoom in and support the work of the VISCDS.

**June Robinson, President**

BE CALM ♥ BE KIND ♥ BE SAFE

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sunday, April 24, 2022**. Please submit any material to Edith Chapman at [enchapma@shaw.ca](mailto:enchapma@shaw.ca).

## Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society Winter 2022 Classes

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

Mondays, January 3 to May 23, 2022

Tuesdays, January 4 to May 24, 2022

Tuesday afternoons, January 4 to May 24, 2022 (**1:15 pm to 3:15 pm – note change of times**)

Wednesdays - amalgamated with the Thursday class

Thursdays, January 6 to May 26, 2022

**Wednesday, April 20 – AGM via Zoom, 7:00 pm. Note change of date and time.**

Ending dates of the classes have been extended to make up for classes missed due to the Covid 19 restrictions imposed at the beginning of the year. All the classes are held at the City Light Church, 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria V9A 1K5.

## Class Reps

Monday	Jan Beckett	<a href="mailto:beckettjanice@gmail.com">beckettjanice@gmail.com</a>	250 598-0464
	Barbara De Leebeeck	<a href="mailto:bdeleebeeck@yahoo.com">bdeleebeeck@yahoo.com</a>	778 677-3124
Tuesday afternoon	Lori Morrison	<a href="mailto:bruce.lori.morrison@telus.net">bruce.lori.morrison@telus.net</a>	250 478-7897
	Martha Morrison	<a href="mailto:mg.morrison@shaw.ca">mg.morrison@shaw.ca</a>	250 595-6089
Tuesday evening	David Morrical	<a href="mailto:dmorr@telus.net">dmorr@telus.net</a>	250 686-2811
Thursday	June Robinson	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>	250 477-8317
	Louise Perry	<a href="mailto:louise@fischerperry.com">louise@fischerperry.com</a>	250 896-4176

## Membership/Class Fees

This is a reminder to members who are paying their class fees in two (half-year) installments that the February to May fees are due now. Please give these fees (\$60.00) to your class rep, or to the Membership Secretary, Barb Currie. Thank you.

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20 via Zoom, starting at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to tune in. Please submit any business and/or proposals for the AGM in writing to Secretary, Betsy Lockhart, [lockhart001@gmail.com](mailto:lockhart001@gmail.com), no later than Wednesday, April 6.

At the time of the newsletter production, the Society is pleased to report that members have come forward to fill all of the vacant positions on the Executive; that is, President, Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor.

Zoom in to the AGM on April 20 to vote for the members volunteering to stand for these positions. If you have any questions please contact Martha Morrison, [mg.morrison@shaw.ca](mailto:mg.morrison@shaw.ca) 250-595-6089. Thanks to Martha for her efforts in recruiting members to run for these positions, and thanks to Lori Morrison for her assistance to Martha.

## Drop-in Fees

You'll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60 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.

**Riddle:** What is the difference between a Scotsman and canoe? Answer on page 5.

## Workshop and Ball 2022

The Workshop and Ball Committee is SO excited to be able to provide a day of social dancing for you on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022!

There will be a single multi-level workshop from 10AM to noon, taught by Richard Bennett from Salt Spring Island with accordion music provided by Mary Ross.

Doors will open for the evening at 6:30 PM and we will be ushered into the ball at 7PM with a Grand March, Jamie Orr piping for us and Maureen Orr acting as our Grand Marshall. Both these events are included for a single registration fee of \$25, and will be held at the City Light Church on Obed Avenue.

Registration forms will be handed out in classes, with a registration deadline of March 25<sup>th</sup>. Those not attending classes may register by contacting Barb Currie at 250-595-0533 or [barbcurrie@telus.net](mailto:barbcurrie@telus.net).

Participants are encouraged to wear their name tags, and bring their own water bottles and snack to the workshop.

In the evening we will have a refreshment break; its format will depend on the current COVID restrictions/recommendations. We are hoping to be able to provide tea and coffee and some sweet treats for everyone, details to be confirmed in late March. We suggest you all bring your own drinking vessels to the ball regardless!

We expect that proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks will still be required.

It is such a delight to be able to dance socially again! See you on April 2<sup>nd</sup>!!

**Kathryn Knowles**

**(for the Workshop and Ball Committee)**



### Memorial Dance for Dora Dempster

Dora passed away suddenly in December 2019. We have wanted to have a memorial dance in her honour but the restrictions due to the Covid-19 virus kept that from happening. We are pleased to announce that, the restrictions having been eased, we can now have that dance.

Dora's memorial dance will be held on *May 7*, 7:30 pm, at the City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue. Further details and the program will be available soon.

We are pleased that Dora's sister Elspeth and family from Ottawa are planning to join us for the evening. (*photo via Oak Bay Recreation*)

### In Memoriam – Jacquie Storey

It is with deep regret that we announce the recent passing of former member *Jacquie Storey*. Jacquie had been dancing at least since the 1980's; she was a member of both Victoria Branch RSCDS and Van Isle. She was an enthusiastic dancer and was great fun – I always enjoyed dancing with her. Jacquie and her daughter Lynne attended the last New Year's Eve event we were able to hold, pre-Covid. Our sincere condolences go to her family.

**Edith Chapman**

It is with great regret that we announce the recent passing of *Elaine Donaldson* and *Maria Abbott*. They were members of Victoria Branch RSCDS during the 1980's and 1990's. They both served on various committees. Although they have not been involved with SCD for many years, former Branch members and long-time Van Isle members will no doubt remember them.

The photos of the February 26 social on page 9 are by Ray Fischer. My thanks to Ray for submitting them.

## Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Mark your calendars for May 21 and 22 – the Highland Games are returning to Topaz Park. Some of the featured events will be Highland and Irish dancing; pipe bands, including the Canadian Invitational Drum Major Challenge; International Heavy Events Challenge (eg. Caber tossing); Whisky, Gin and Wine Tasting Schools; and – we hope – Scottish Country Dancing; *see Joan's article below*. Further information will be posted on the Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival's website in early March. <https://victoriahighlandgames.com/>.

**Edith Chapman**

## Mark Your Calendars and Attend the Festivals:

The Greater Victoria Folk Festival Society is holding a *dance party* at Vic West Community Centre on March 20 from 6 to 9 pm. Many of the ethnic dance groups will be there to share their dances and get everyone up to try them out. There is no entry fee so come along and enjoy some dancing.

The Greater Victoria Folk Festival Society (GVFFS), has announced that the City of Victoria has given a “**Go Ahead!**” for *Folkloria* to be held at Centennial Square. Folkloria will be returning in person on Saturday, June 4, and Sunday, June 5, 2022. Folkloria will be celebrating *five years!* Folkloria is a two day festival of music and dance.

The *Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival* is being held in Topaz Park on May 21 and 22, 2022.

This year, due to COVID restrictions, the demonstration team has not practiced. We would normally have performed at these two events. I am hopeful that members of the team and others are interested in demonstrating our Scottish dances at these events. The routine will be comprised of familiar dances. Practices will take place in April and May.

Please consider contacting me about participating in one, or both, of these events.

**Joan Axford**

250-415-2540

[joanaaxford@gmail.com](mailto:joanaaxford@gmail.com)

## Summer Dancing

Summer dancing will likely start with a practice session on May 30. Further details are unknown at this time; everything depends on how the Covid-19 situation unfolds. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

## Welcome Back Social

The Welcome Back Social was hosted by the Tuesday afternoon class and Louise McGillivray is the teacher but, she unfortunately had to be in Edmonton. So, Joan Axford, Sheila McCall, Gael Forster and Gordon Robinson briefed the nice easy program. It was great to have some of the new dancers join in on many of the dances. June started the afternoon off by welcoming all the dancers back. There was a good turnout with 41 dancers in attendance.

Sue Langridge brought several kilts that had been donated for the kilt sale. Two kilts sold for \$20.00 each. Martha Morrison sold the 50/50 tickets which totalled \$65.00, and David Walde won the \$32.50 which he very kindly donated back to the club. Ray Fischer took pictures throughout the afternoon. Barb Currie brought the registration forms in for the Workshop/Ball and she did a great job of announcing the details planned.

The dance ended with a waltz and June thanking everyone for coming out. A good time was had by all.

**Lori Morrison**

**On behalf of the Tuesday Afternoon Class**



**Registration begins in early March!**

**2022 TAC Summer School**  
Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada  
**July 24-31, 2022**



**Welcoming, supportive classes**

**For dancers of all levels**

**Basic | Intermediate | Advanced**

**Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet  
evening after parties | ceilidh | silent auction**

**Teachers**

Raphaëlle Orgeret (France)  
Robert McOwen (USA)  
Jeanne Moody (USA)  
Barbara Johnston (Canada)

**Musicians**

Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins,  
Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins,  
*not pictured:*  
Terry Traub, Mary Ross



**For registration information, go to:**

**[tac-rscds.org](http://tac-rscds.org)**

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)



It's time to kick up your heels again!

After a long time, we are back dancing! If you were dancing before the pandemic shut-down, we would be very pleased to have you back dancing again when you feel comfortable re-joining. Also, if you know someone who loves Scottish music and would love to learn how to dance, invite them along. Couples, singles, young people, not so young people are welcome! Check out the website for information [www.viscds.ca](http://www.viscds.ca).

**Answer** to the riddle on page 2: A canoe sometimes tips!

- From "The Little Book of Scottish Jokes", Summersdale Publishers Ltd. Used with permission.





**John Drewry** was born in the town of Melton Mowbray, home of the famous pies, in 1923 – an auspicious year, as the Scottish Country Dance Society, later ‘Royal’, was formed that year. He took up Scottish Country Dancing in Cumbria as a member of a ramblers group. He joined the Carlisle Branch and was awarded the Society’s teaching certificate. Hugh Foss, another gifted dance devisor, encouraged John to create dances. Later on, John took up a teaching post at the University of Aberdeen – hence the ‘Bon Accord’ in the titles of several of his dances. The Rondel was among several of the formations that he devised, and Miss Milligan, co-founder of the RSCDS, bestowed on him the title of ‘Mr Rondel’. John passed away in 2014. (*from “The Scotsman”, July 9, 2014*)

*Louise McGillivray found this article in the RSCDS Toronto Branch’s newsletter ‘Set and Link’, and she thought that Van Isle members would enjoy it, too. My thanks to Louise for sending it to me. Reprinted with permission.*

### A Musing Drewry

I never actually met John Drewry (1923-2014), that Bard of Scottish country dance. I’ve only encountered him through his numerous dances and dance books. He wrote over 800 dances and 16 were published by RSCDS. I used to read his dance books on the subway <sup>[1]</sup>en route to work. He’s laugh-out-loud funny, and I became inured to weird looks from other passengers as I sat snickering. Drewry is one popular dude — it’s a rare program without at least one of his dances. As one dancer enthused: “I see his name and I know, oh, that’s going to be a good dance”. Who doesn’t know *Bratach Bana*, *The Bees of Maggie Knockater*, *The Silver Tassie*? Through his writings, I learned John was a biochemist, with a life-long interest in gardening, botany (grew exotic plants), hill-walking, photography, dancing, and music. A well-travelled man, his books reflect trips to Australia, Canada, Japan, and Turkey. He was a friend of Hugh Foss, a Bletchley code-breaker and dancer and devisor. Foss encouraged John to write dances.

You may think you don’t know Drewry (dubbed Mr. Rondel by Miss Milligan), but you’ve met him by dancing his fab formations — Rondel, Inveran Reels, Set & Rotate, Diagonal rights & lefts, Petronella in Tandem, Corners pass and turn, half turn & twirl, the Espagnole, La Baratte, or Dance to each corner and set, etc. Whew!

A shy, self-deprecating man, John told this story: “At a ball, I was sitting next to a woman whom I did not know, when the next dance, one of mine, was introduced. ‘Not another dreary dance’ she said – and was a little surprised when I became convulsed with laughter!”

Always fond of a pun or joke (e.g. *A Pawling Reel*), here are some of his many humorous references that kept and keep me giggling.

All notes are Drewry’s.

— < \* > —

***Bound and Gagged***, R8x32, *Greenburn 2*: “A dance which is bound to leave you speechless”.

***The Monster on the Rocks***, S4x40, *Greenburn 3*: “The Monster refers to a rock formation to the north of Cruden Bay, that looks “like a monster trying to climb out of the sea”. “It is quite safe to be near the monster because it is very friendly. In fact it is “pally”olithic.”

***The Obelus***, R8x32, *Stoneywood*, written for the dancers in Morland.

“The obelus is “a dagger-like symbol used in printing. There does not seem to be one on my computer keyboard. “It is a pity that the famous “dagger” quotation comes from *MacBeth* because Morland and Newby are just Wee Hamlets!”

*Stainless Steel*, R4x32, *Stoneywood 2*, we are instructed “To be danced flawlessly and with great polish!”

*Neaps an’ Haggis*, R8x32, *Rondel Book*. Drewry differentiates between “the common right-handed Haggis (*Haggis Normalis*), which lives mainly on Lilly leaves and neaps. It is quite distinct from the rare left-handed Haggis (*Haggis Widdershinsia*), which was last seen on the Witches’ Step in Arran”.

*General Bossiness*, R8x32, *Australian Book*, for Jessie Middelmiss of Canberra. “As the last item on the agenda for a meeting of the Canberra Branch Committee, Jessie put “Other General Bosiness” in error for “Other General Business”. A real Freudian slip!”

*La Donna È Immobile*, J8x32, *Bankhead 5*, for the statuesque ladies of Strathspey. At the three-day Winter break at Coylumbridge in November 1994, some of the ladies were very static and inspired me to produce this dance as a joke. 1<sup>st</sup> woman stands still for the whole dance apart from stepping down at the end.

*The Jewel in the Navel*, J8x32, *Australian Book*, for Dr Heinz Duewell of Newcastle, N.S.W. Drewry notes: “Heinz divides SC dancers into two categories:

1. Below the navel dancers,
2. Above the navel dancers.

“Below the navel dancers” are those who think that perfection of technique is the only thing of real importance in Country Dancing. They spend hours practicing footwork and foot positions. The choice of dance is not of great importance to them so long as it allows them to show off their technical excellence.

“Above the navel dancers” admit that technique is of importance especially if that rare experience of a near-perfect performance of a dance is to be achieved, but they dance for the sheer joy of dancing, for the pleasure of moving to stirring music and meeting other like-minded people. To these people the choice of dance is of primary importance because they love to experience flowing movements and to work through challenging ideas.

I pointed out that “At the navel dancers” are belly dancers whose technique is not normally relevant to SC Dancing. The title of this dance is a play of words on Heinz’s name and his theory”.

*Slains Castle* or *Dracula’s Jig*, J4x32, *Bankhead Book 2*, “A dance to send you batty”. While staying near Slains Castle, Bram Stoker had the inspiration to write *Dracula*.

*Starkers Fell*, J4x32, “to all who walk alone”. When two of the dancers at the Morland Week were walking near Ullswater, they met a solitary hiker. He wore a straw hat, a rucksack, climbing boots and nothing else! This dance is a light-hearted depiction of this incident and is not to be taken too seriously!

*Three Naked Men*, J8x48, Leaflet. Drewry’s suggested tune: Cold and Raw.

*The Apple Tree*, H4x32, Leaflet: “A dance to mark the 300th anniversary of the publication of Newton’s *Principia* in 1687”.

———> \* <———

Jim Stott shared how John liked...

“...the imaginative dances of Roy Goldring. His favourites among the traditional dances are *Monymusk*, *Braes of Breadalbane*, and *The Montgomeries’ Rant*; and among his own dances: *The Blooms of Bon Accord*; *The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord*; *The Colonel’s Bed*; *Miss Florence Adams*; *Strathmore*; *The Royal Yacht Britannia*; and *The Duchess Tree*.”

John has written many dances, some busier than others. *The Eternal Flame or Perpetuum Mobile*, R4x32, from The Turkish Set, “is a dance that has everyone dancing all the time”. It certainly will be a most welcome distraction when we move away from our current *Perpetuum Immobile* situation. Thanks to a man, a conjuror, who magics his unique designs into unforgettable dances and keeps us laughing, and dancing, and dancing.

...Teresa Lockhart

A lucky discovery unearthed an online treasure trove of [pictures of John Drewry and his travels](#), including [his time in Toronto](#), showing Toronto faces you may know. (No account needed to view Flickr).

For more information about Drewry:

[Set & Link, Feb 2009](#) and [Set & Link, Oct 2014](#)

John Drewry





## Edith Chapman, Editor

On behalf of the Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society members, I would like to thank Edith Chapman for being editor of the *Fling*. Edith's term as Editor is up for now and as you can see from her bio she has served as newsletter editor a few times! This is her last edition before the AGM. Edith goes above and beyond in putting out this newsletter. Her patience in waiting for articles, attention to detail and meeting deadlines, not to mention hours of work to provide us with 5 newsletters a year is unbelievable. Edith has agreed to continue working on compiling the History of the VISCDs. Thank you, Edith, as this will be a valuable contribution to the Society in the future. We thank her for her dedication to our Society and for sharing her love of Scottish Country Dancing and her many other skills as editor of the *Fling*!

**June Robinson, President**



### 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!

- from the May 2020 *Fling*



Jennifer and Andrew Harley  
St John River



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

### **2022**

- Apr 2nd** Workshop and Ball. See article in this issue. The program was in the January newsletter.  
**Apr 20th** Annual General Meeting via Zoom, 7:00 pm. Note change of date and time.  
**Apr 23rd** Spring Fling CANCELLED.  
**May 7th** Tribute to Dora Dempster. See notice in this issue.  
**May 21st – 22nd** Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Topaz Park. See article in this newsletter.

*All events are tentative*, subject to the guidelines set by the provincial health authorities. All events are held at City Light Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue, **including** this year's Workshop and Ball. **Proof of vaccine is required at all our classes and social events. Masks are optional but are recommended for the time being.**

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

**All events that have not either been cancelled or postponed are subject to the local Covid-19 conditions at the time the event is to take place.**

### **2022**

- Jul 8th – 11th** RSCDS Boston Branch Pinewoods Scottish Dance Session I.  
**Jul 11th – 16th** RSCDS Boston Branch Pinewoods Scottish Dance Session II. Online applications for both sessions are due by April 1. Info for both sessions – <http://rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html>. (Not secure)  
**Jul 24th – 31st** Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) (TAC) Summer School, Calgary AB. Registrations open in early March. See notice in this issue.  
**Jul 24th – Aug 14th** RSCDS Summer School, St Andrews Scotland. Registrations are now open. Info - <https://www.rscds.org/events/summer-school-2022>.  
**Nov 4th – 6th** RSCDS San Francisco Branch Asilomar Weekend, Monterey California. Further info later. Info - <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>.

### **2023**

- Mar 31st - Apr 2nd** RSCDS Lethbridge Branch Milestones Workshop and Ball. Info (not secure) - <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>.



Thank you to Robin Gubby