

# Island Fling



**November 2022**

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o 3290 Woodburn Avenue

Victoria BC V8P 5B9

Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Web address:** [www.viscdis.ca](http://www.viscdis.ca)

## **Executive Committee**

President	Kathryn Knowles	250 598-3490	<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	Dawn Schell		
Newsletter Editor	Ray Fischer		
Treasurer	Martha Morrison		
Social Convenor Committee	Ellen Campbell		
	Donna Clements		
	Sheila Eaglestone		
	Lori Morrison		
Teacher Representative	Gordon Robinson		

**In This Issue:** Late summer dems, Who's Who, Harvest Social, New Year's, and 1978!

**A Special Request:** As some of our members are sensitive to perfumes and colognes, please skip them for club events.

## **President's Comments, November 2022**

The weather does indeed make it feel like autumn, and doesn't the vegetation look relieved to see the rain?

We've all had a chance to get settled into our fall routines, and I hope dancing is fitting well with your schedule. Our teachers are encouraged by the turn out for the classes, and the Harvest Social saw five sets in attendance.

The St. Andrew's Afternoon Social is coming up on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 2p.m., the hope being that daylight driving will allow more people to attend. That would be an ideal day for the rains to hold off!

Now that Halloween is over, we'll be thinking forward to Christmas! The Christmas Social is on Dec. 3rd, so creeping up fast!

What are you doing for New Year's Eve? Perhaps you would like to join our group for a potluck dinner and dance. If you're not comfortable sharing a meal yet, you can always just come to the dance portion of the evening (where the treats will be individually wrapped), and a rendition of Auld Lang Syne to end the evening's festivities. We'll be circulating a sign-up sheet for the potluck at the Nov. 19th dance to get a better sense of expected attendance – do consider joining us!

Plans are underway for the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Workshop and Ball, details to be shared soon...

Kind regards,  
Kathryn

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. Please submit any material to Ray Fischer at [ray@fischerperry.com](mailto:ray@fischerperry.com).

**Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society**  
**Winter 2022 Classes**  
**All classes (except the afternoon class) run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm**

Mondays, September 12<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Tuesdays, September 6<sup>th</sup> to December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Tuesday afternoons, September 13<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (1:15 pm to 3:15 pm – note change of times)

Thursdays, September 8<sup>th</sup> to December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

All classes are held at the City Light Church, 550 Obed Avenue, Victoria V9A 1K5.

**Mondays: Experienced Social. Teacher: Bob Anderson**

Experienced Social for dancers with good knowledge of all common formations and who wish to dance more challenging dances and formations.

**Tuesdays: Basic Class. Teacher: Sheila McCall**

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

**Tuesdays 1:15 – 3:15 pm: Daytime Social. Teachers: Louise McGillivray and Joan Axford**

A class for those who prefer a daytime class. We learn/review formations, work on phrasing, covering, handing and the "teamwork" in Scottish Country dancing. We do old and new favourites, and dances from upcoming socials. A friendly group that would love to have you join them, regularly or occasionally!

**Thursdays: Intermediate. Teachers: Gordon Robinson and Gael Forster**

This class is suitable for dancers who are comfortable with basic steps and formations, reels, and corner figures. This class will teach a range of formations in a mix of traditional favourites and different dances. Build your knowledge of Intermediate formations so you can dance with confidence and have fun! For more experienced dancers, this will be an opportunity to review dance formations and dances from upcoming social programs.

If you are new to the area or visiting from out of town, please contact us if you require directions on how to get to the classes.

**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.

**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 Morrival	<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**

A reminder to members who are paying their class fees in two (half-year) instalments 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. It's not too late to pay! Thank you.

## Upcoming Events

Saturday evening socials are at 7:30pm

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 Christmas Social

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Burns' Night

Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Spring Fling

Saturday afternoon socials are at 2:00pm

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 St. Andrew's Social

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Valentine's Social

Dec. 31st, 2022 New Year's Social at 6:00pm – See the dance program below!

Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 Workshop and Ball, venue still to be decided

## Out of Town Events

### 2022

November 25<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Ceilidh - <https://www.vancouverceilidh.org/>

### 2023

Mar 31<sup>st</sup> - Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> RSCDS Lethbridge Branch Milestones Workshop and Ball.

Info (not secure) - <http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org/workshop.html>.

July 30<sup>th</sup> - Aug 6<sup>th</sup> TAC Summer School, Halifax



**2023 TAC Summer School**      **July 30-Aug 6, 2023**  
at King's and Dalhousie Universities,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

**Celebrate!**  
**65**  
1958-2023

**SAVE THE DATE**

**tac-rscds.org**

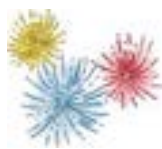
Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)

The poster features a background image of a large white sailing ship with multiple masts and sails, docked in a harbor. In the background, there are several modern high-rise buildings, including one with a BMO logo. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts. A blue starburst graphic contains the text 'SAVE THE DATE'.

# New Year's Eve Social 2022-23

8:00pm

Dance	Bars / Type	Level	Core?
Gay Gordons	old time		
The Machine Without Horses	8 x 32 J	B	
A Trip to Expo	8 x 32 R	BB	
Butterscotch and Honey	4 x 32 S	B	C
The Evergreen Line	3 x 32 J	B	
Clutha	4 x 48 R square	I	C
Return to St. Martin's	4 x 40 S	A	
Magic Moments	6 x 32 J (6c set)	BB	
The Flowers of Edinburgh	8 x 32 R	B	C
The Silver Tassie	8 x 32 S	I	
The Shetland Shepherdess	8 x 32 J	BB	
The Highland Rambler	8 x 40 R	B	



**9:30 pm Dessert, Tea and Coffee**

Dance	Bars / Type	Level	Core?
Waltz of the Bells	old time		
Light and Airy	8 x 32 J	B	
Neidpath Castle	3 x 32 S	I	C
The Lass of Richmond Hill	8 x 32 R	BB	C
The Belle of Bon Accord	4 x 32 S	BB	C
Pelorus Jack	8 x 32 J	I	C
The Reel of the Royal Scots	8 x 32 R	BB	



**11:00pm Auld Lang Syne**

## Membership

Thank you to all the members who have paid their membership dues and class fees. Fees were due Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> for returning members and Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> for new members. Membership fees are allocated to expenses such as website, insurance, Zoom and office supplies. Class fees cover the hall rentals and the teachers' salaries. I especially appreciate those dancers that have paid their membership fees but can't dance now for one reason or another. We look forward to dancing with you before too long.

If you haven't signed up yet, there is still time to do so. Forms for 2022/23 are available on the VISCDS website and at all classes.

Please keep your contact info up to date. It is sometimes necessary to contact members directly in case of cancellations and other emergencies. If your contact information changes be sure to let Barb Currie the Membership Director know.

If you have lost your name tag please let me know and I can order a new one for you for \$7.50.

- Barb Currie

## Teachers' Corner

To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dances  
*The Manual of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society*  
the first of five objects of the Society

It would be easy to conclude from the 'rules' of dancing mentioned frequently by teachers, that we are dancing in the same way as the dancers in Scotland two centuries ago. In fact, there is considerable uncertainty about how certain dances and figures were done in the past.

The RSCDS was founded in 1923 and, in its early days, it focused on the traditional dances, publishing versions of dances which had been preserved in manuscripts or publications from 1700s and early 1800s. However, the old directions weren't always clear, and there were certainly variations in how these dances were actually danced. The society also wanted to standardize the dancing so that dancers from different areas could dance together easily.

As an example, in 2021, the RSCDS published a book of dances to honour the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott. *The Heart of Mid-Lothian* draws on an old book of dances of the same name published in 1820 as well as two others from around the same time. *The Heart of Mid-Lothian* was a wildly popular novel by Scott and the dances are named for characters in the book and titles of three Scott novels. The new book contains the original directions and modern interpretations. To get a sense of the original, consider *The Laird of Dumbiedyke's Favorite* (sic):

*1<sup>st</sup> and 2d Cu: 4 hands round, set and back again.*

*1<sup>st</sup> Cu: Lead 3 outsides opposite, back again to places*

*\_poussette & right and left*

Notice that the directions don't explain outsides opposite or say who is to dance the rights and lefts. There is also uncertainty about how a poussette was to be danced and even rights and lefts. There isn't a video yet of the new version, but you can watch an earlier modern interpretation at: <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/dance/3656/>

The new version is quite different.

- Gordon Robinson

## Demonstration Team Performs at Greekfest in 2022

The demonstration team has been dancing at Greekfest since 2016. It is a great venue, and the audience is very appreciative of our performance, and we always get a good group of volunteers to try audience participation. This year the performance routine was made up of dances from our Ball program. The timing of the event just before our open house works well to invite people to join our classes.

We may not fit the Greek theme, but they appreciate the cultures of others, and our music is a change of pace.

OPA!!

- Joan Axford



## Who's Who

A (mostly) new VISCDS board was elected this summer. The old board members had generously agreed to continue their jobs past the limits of terms of office during recent events, but with a little step back towards normalcy it was time to elect new members to many of the VISCDS board positions.

So, who are these new board members, you ask? Their names are on page one of this newsletter and here are the faces to go along with them, from a recent Zoom board meeting.



## Harvest Social



The first social event of the year, the traditional Harvest Social, was held at City Light Church hall on Saturday, October 15. It was a great success with five full sets of dancers and a few spectators out for the evening. Gordon Robinson organized the program and was joined in briefing the dances by Sarah Kell. Dancers assembled and the evening started off by dancing “The Findlay’s Jig”. There were several favorites in the program including a harvest social tradition, “Staffin Harvest”. Accompanied with spooky music, “Ferla Mor” provided the opportunity for some scary dancing. Dancers met the challenge of dancing “Major Ian Stewart” and the fall theme continued in the second half with “Autumn in Appin”.

Ten dances were enthusiastically danced before the break at 9:30 at which time tables laden with packaged treats were brought out. The social committee crew, Lori Morrison, Donna Clement, Sheila Eaglestone and Ellen Campbell served tea and coffee and provided the treats. It was great to see so many dancers, some out for the first time in the season and dancers from the basic class attending along with guests.

Included among the guest was a turkey. The turkey had somehow “escaped” being an offering at Thanksgiving the previous weekend and couldn’t stop whistling in delight at his good fortune. Eventually the whistling proved too distracting, and he was put out of the hall. I don’t know if he will be invited back again next year if he is around. Thank you to Gordon and Sarah and the Thursday night class. Thanks to Martha Morrison for bringing decorations and many thanks to the social committee for their work and hospitality. President Kathryn Knowles thanked everyone for coming and expressed the sentiment that we were all feeling at the end of the evening which was, “it is great to be back dancing again!”

- June Robinson



In Scottish folklore, Am Fear Liath Mòr, the Big Grey Man, the Big Grey Man of Ben MacDhui, or simply the Greyman, is the name of a presence or creature which is said to haunt the summit and passes of Ben Macdui, the highest peak of the Cairngorms.

Those who have seen it describe it as an extremely tall figure covered with short hair, or as an unseen presence that causes uneasy feelings in people who climb the mountain. Other eyewitnesses describe it as a large humanoid standing over ten feet tall and having olive toned skin with long arms and broad shoulders. Nearly all reports of Am Fear Liath Mòr include the sound of footsteps crunching in the gravel just out of sight.

<https://www.scottishcountrydanceoftheday.com/daysoftheyear/ferla-mor>

In Ferla Mor the first couple dances a reel of three with first corners “as closely as convenient”. There were some other dances as well.





APRIL 28-30TH, 1978

Vancouver Branch Workshop and Ball,  
Hotel Vancouver, Schiehallion Band.

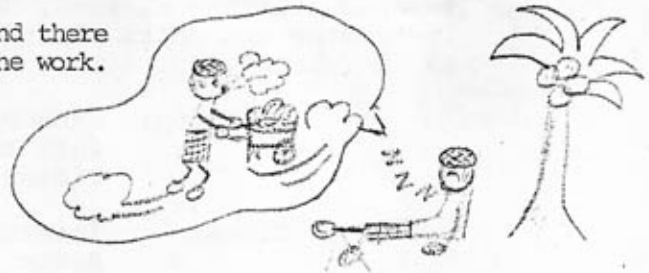
APRIL 7TH, 1978

"A Scottish Fancy" presented by Ian Brady and featuring Alasdair Gillies, Catherine McKinnon and Bill Hosie. The concert will be held in the Royal Theatre at 8:30 p.m. - don't miss a terrific performance.

The following cartoon was donated to us anonymously by one of our members and the drawings altered to suit our purpose - I'm sure you'll agree that it refers to almost any club you could possibly belong to!

MEMBERSHIP IN EVERY CLUB IS MADE UP OF FOUR KINDS OF BONES:

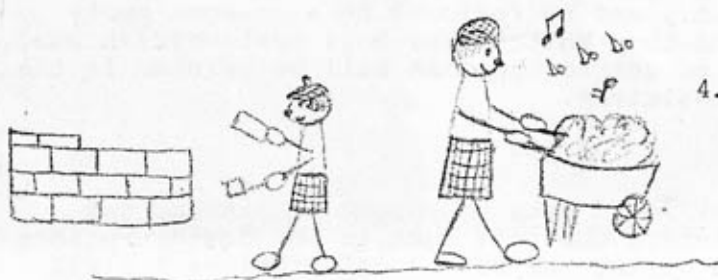
1. There are the WISH BONES who stand there wishing someone else would do the work.



2. There are the JAW BONES who do all the talking but little else.



3. There are the KNUCKLE BONES who knock everything anyone else tries to do.



4. Then thank goodness, there are the BACK BONES who get under the load and get the work done.