



Chiswick Dancer

chiswickscottish.org.uk



A termly newsletter for **Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club**

January 2018

Club Night at Chiswick Scottish — Sunday 22nd October 2017

On 22 October I had the pleasure of attending Club Night at Chiswick Scottish Dance Club. Gaynor Curtis was the MC and Calum Mitchell was playing the accordion.

I was very lucky to find the event on the Internet that same morning, while I was planning my day, and even luckier that there was still a ticket left to what I understand is a very popular event. The dance programme was a lovely mix of more demanding dances and old favourites of mine (Sugar Candie and Pelorus Jack, to mention just two) and I always enjoy dancing to live music.



Michaela Beijer dancing with Peter Dixon

Coming from a small group with limited space and opportunity to dance advanced dances, it was a treat for me to stretch my legs and challenge my brain in more complicated ones (though I have to admit that I never really managed to wrap my head around Mrs Stuart Linnell!).

A very heartfelt moment that evening was dancing The Ambassadors' Reel with

Danielle Reinstein as we both knew and miss its deviser Susi Mayr (one month later and my eyes are still tearing up). If we seemed to reminisce to the point of getting lost, don't fret, it was all done purposely in the spirit of the dance!

I always enjoy meeting new dancers and the Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club really made me feel welcome. Thank you!

Michaela Beijer

Stockholm/International RSCDS Branch



Chiswick Dates this term:

7 Jan	Class at St Michael's Hall
14 Jan	Class at St Michael's Hall
21 Jan	Class at St Michael's Hall
28 Jan	Burns Night Social Dance - St Michael & All Angels hall
4 Feb	Class at St Michael's Hall
11 Feb	Class at St Michael's Hall
18 Feb	Class at St Michael's Hall
25 Feb	Class at St Michael's Hall
4 Mar	Class at St Michael's Hall
11 Mar	Class at St Michael's Hall
18 Mar	Class at St Michael's Hall
25 Mar	Club Night - St Michael & All Angels hall

Spring Term Fees

Class fees for members for this term are only £25 if you pay for the whole term in advance. If you pay per evening, classes will be £4 per session and £6 per session for non-members.

Membership subscriptions are due in January and are £10 a year, from January to December. Members have a discount on tickets for special events. It is great value for money!

You can now pay online—please email tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk for details.

Class Times

6.00—7.00	Beginners and improvers
7.00—7.45	Beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers
7.45—8.00	<i>Tea break</i>
8.00—9.15	Intermediate and advanced dancers

Burns Night Social Dance

St Michael & All Angels hall

Sunday 28th January 2018
6.30pm — 10pm

Music by Ken Martlew

MC Jim Cook

see www.chiswickscottish.org.uk
for programme, videos, diagrams
and cribs

Tickets at the door or online -
tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk

Tickets £8 members, £10 non-members
students/juniors £4

*Haggis, neeps & tatties provided -
a glass of wine included*

Club Night

will be on Sunday 25th March
at St Michael & All Angels Hall

6.30pm—10pm

Tickets will be available nearer
the date from
tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk

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[www.youtube.com/feed/
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Chiswick Dancer is published each term — contributions welcome to
secretary@chiswickscottish.org.uk

We're delighted to welcome Emma Allsop to the teaching staff at Chiswick Scottish.



Emma Allsop

Dancing has always been a huge part of my life. I started at the age of two and have been dancing ever since. I grew up learning ballet, modern, tap, highland and Scottish Country and while at University even gave Salsa dancing a try!

I learnt Scottish Country Dancing up in Aberdeen at the Airyhall Children's class. My mum is also a Scottish Country Dance teacher and encouraged me to go along. Mrs Young is an excellent teacher and her passion for dancing fell onto me. I stayed at this class all through school and started helping out with the younger children as I got older. When I attended University, I stayed on and helped teach the class. Mrs Young encouraged me to take my teaching certificate as soon as I was old enough and I went off to St Andrews Summer School to sit the course.

Since completing my Teaching Certificate I have continued to teach at Airyhall, as well as for RSCDS Aberdeen and over the years taught their beginners, intermediate and advanced classes. I also taught at the Aberdeen Youth Day School. I have also taught at other smaller branches and groups in the North East Scotland, (Stonehaven and Banchory).

I have been on the RSCDS Youth Services Committee and also on the Planning Group for their Business Plan. It is so interesting getting involved with the activities that go on in HQ. One of the highlights of serving on YS was organising a Flashmob in a shopping centre in Aberdeen. The atmosphere with all the dancers and live music was unbelievable.

Since moving to London, I have kept up with dancing and have taught occasionally for the London Branch and other groups; Richmond and Chiswick included. I have also been asked to teach at the London Branch Day School in 2018 which I'm very much looking forward to.

Scottish country dancing has also given me so many opportunities which I am grateful for. I have danced on Blue Peter, also on a BBC documentary about Scottish dancing as well as dancing in Holyrood Palace for the Queen! All of these were such great experiences.

I am also a qualified Highland Dance and Ballet teacher. I really love dancing and teaching and trying to spread the joy of dancing. It's such a social activity and a great way to get fit.

Emma Allsop

Children In Need Appeal

On **Sunday 12th November 2017**, a team of our Chiswick Scottish dancers performed The Teddybears' Picnic in front of assembled members. Pudsey Bear's "girlfriend", Blush, joined in the dance too!

Sheila Miles provided the decorated Pudsey Bear cupcakes (members seen in the photo holding a cupcake each!) for the tea break.



We raised £200 for the Children in Need Appeal. A big thank-you to everyone for their contributions to this worthwhile cause!



Scottish Country Dancing in Paris

RSCDS Paris Branch

As many of you know, Danielle and I pop over to Paris once a month (thank you Eurostar!) to see friends and family there and to dance with the Branch as often as possible – at the weekly classes on Mondays and on the roughly monthly dances on Saturday.



We, along with three other dancing friends, founded the Paris Branch in 1984 from a Club called the Tartan Plaidie, and I was Chairman of the Branch for 4 years before we moved to London. Danielle had been president of that Club when I joined in 1978, a few years after moving to Paris. There we met and, as they say, the rest is history. Both Danielle and I maintain our RSCDS membership through the Paris Branch but are also members of the London and International Branches.

What is exciting about the Paris Branch as chairman, in addition to having Antoine Rousseau (Philippe's son) an excellent dancer and internationally recognized teacher, is that for the past 10 or so years we have had an intake of young dancers, a number of whom are also musicians. That meant that we now have not only a rejuvenated average age of the members but also that we now have, for the first time, a Paris SCD Band to play at our dances. Of course, we also have a good number of, shall we say, very experienced dancers, a few of whom come to London and Chiswick occasionally and dance with us. For the Centenary of the Entente Cordiale between Britain and France in 2004 Paris Branch was invited by London Branch to a dance in Pont Street where a dem of mixed (French and British) couples was filmed by Angela Young. The following year Paris Branch invited London Branch to Paris to celebrate the 101 Anniversary of the Entente Cordiale. In addition to a dance, we also arranged a tour of part of Paris and a lunch at the famous Montparnasse restaurant, La Coupole, where we had a visit to the kitchens and a local historian give a talk on the interesting history.

We enjoy being the link between RSCDS Paris and London and would encourage Chiswick members to check the Paris Branch website (rscdsparis.fr) to see if any courses and dances are of interest when they are visiting Paris.

Jerry Reinstein



iPad Mini4 128gb Wi-Fi

Our Club iPod has been coming to the end of its natural life and is now causing delay and difficulties for teachers with providing recorded music because it uses old technology, not to mention how difficult it is to find tracks on a tiny phone-sized screen. We need a device that can store our entire dance music library so that we will not be constrained by the absence of one or two people to prepare music for classes and dances. So we have now bought for CSCDC an iPad Mini4 as it fits the bill best. It is easy to use, to put Playlists on it and to utilise during the class. With 128GB, we will never run out of memory!

The music will be backed up, for safety, on our Club's computer laptop.

Scottish Country Dance - A Beginner's View

It was my husband Dave's idea to start Scottish Country Dance lessons. He would be the first to admit that he is more John Sergeant than John Travolta but, being half Scots, he has long wanted to keep up with his cousins North of the Border at family parties.



David & Alison Clausen-Thue

Some years ago, we dipped our toes into the Scottish Country Dance waters and went along to a club recommended by an acquaintance. However, we found it rather too advanced for us and spent most of the evening sitting on the side-lines admiring the expertise of the dancers but too nervous to join in for fear of spoiling things for the regular members of the club.

Last autumn, through the Internet, Dave finally hit upon the Chiswick Scottish Dance Club, based at St Michael and All Angels church hall, which is close to Turnham Green Tube Station and very convenient for us to get to from our home in Ealing.

We turned up to our first Sunday evening session feeling somewhat apprehensive but were immediately made welcome. Everyone wore name badges and the more experienced (advanced) dancers had a tartan strip on theirs to distinguish them from those with less experience (beginners and improvers). The first part of each evening was dedicated to the beginners and improvers. We were taught basic steps and

started to put dances together, guided by a qualified teacher, with the more experienced dancers ably partnering the novices. There were so many beginners at our first lesson that a special beginners' class was arranged for the following week. Half-way through each evening, there was a tea break, after which beginners and improvers left the floor to the experienced dancers. By week three or thereabouts, we were on the tea rota for clearing up after the break and were fully involved.

To date, Dave and I have not danced together, which means that both of us have learned far more than we would have by partnering up our joint inexperience. Besides which, Dave seems to enjoy dancing with the lovely ladies of the group who push and pull him around with the utmost good humour. All my partners, both male and female, have been delightful too, giving me expert guidance and genuine encouragement. Everyone has been extremely tolerant of our mistakes.

Last month, we felt confident enough to join in at the informal social dance with live music, to celebrate the end of term. We had planned to sit out some of the dances, especially the harder ones, but were rarely off the dance floor. It was great fun.

We will be back dancing with enthusiasm this term and I would encourage anyone tempted to try Scottish Country Dancing to come along to St Michael and All Angels and give it a go too. You will be made very welcome and given plenty of encouragement. It's great fun, very sociable and brilliant exercise for the mind and body.

Alison Clausen-Thue

Dancing visitors from Japan

We were delighted to welcome four Scottish dancing visitors from Japan at the beginning of our dancing season, on Sunday 24th September 2017.

The four members of the Tokyo Scottish Country Dance Club Circle Higasi-Nakano were visiting and exploring the UK and chose to spend an evening dancing with us. They were excellent dancers and quickly assimilated our dances, some of which were new to them.

Our four friends are seen here on their travels around the UK, visiting Cardiff. We hope they will join us again when they return to Britain.



Kilts & Posh Frocks XVI—17th December 2017

The party spirit at "Kilts & Posh Frocks" started straightaway with a glass of fizz on arrival at St Benedict's school in Ealing. The party scene continued in the dancing hall where enthusiastic helpers from the Club had transformed the recently refurbished main hall with banners and Christmas decorations.

Jerry Reinstein, Vice-Chairman, opened the programme by introducing Kay Senior as the founder of Chiswick Scottish who warmly welcomed dancers to the Club's XVIth "Kilts & Posh Frocks" event.

Jim Henderson was the excellent MC for the evening who introduced the three-piece Strathallan band led by Chris Oxtoby. In the spirit of the season they wove some well-known carol tunes into the traditional dance music. One of the musical highlights of the evening was their rendering of "Broadway" which put some real New York swing into the three-couple Strathspey.

Club members provided exceptional Bring & Share contributions for the interval and all enjoyed sitting at the long tables for some relaxing chat after a vigorous "Recumbent Stone". One comment was heard afterwards that there was nothing recumbent about that dance.



In the second half there was a most enjoyable "Schiehallion" which, by popular demand, was pleasingly repeated.

The magic hour approached all too quickly and Jim Henderson brought the dancing to an end with the "Reel of the 51st Division".

With an enjoyable evening like this there are many who contributed to its success. Special thanks are due to Nick Haimendorf who organised the decorations, wine for supper and welcoming fizz at the beginning to put us in the party mood.

Duncan Campbell

Duncan Campbell & Danielle Reinstein

A word from the Chairman of Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club

I hope you are all enjoying Chiswick Scottish's Spring dancing term.

Following positive comments from members, we are extending the trial of the different class structure for the next few weeks, to allow us to assess it more fully. As a reminder, the pace and level of difficulty will increase at stages during the evening and members are free to choose for how much of the evening they participate. We aim to cater for a very wide range of dancers at Chiswick and I hope that this format will enable us to do so in a less formal way. It is encouraging to see some of our 'improvers' staying on after tea to try some of the more advanced dances.

Looking ahead to the AGM next term, we would like one or two new people to join the Committee. There are also some jobs which people may be able to take on as part of a rota. If you may be able to help, please have a word with me on a Sunday evening or email me at chairman@chiswickscottish.org.uk.

It is less than a week now until our Burns Night celebration on 28th January, when we shall enjoy social dancing with a haggis supper and it will be great to have Ken Martlew back to play for us at Chiswick. If you haven't bought your ticket yet, please contact our new Ticket Secretary, Tracy, to book your place email tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk.

Graham Miller



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN CHISWICK

BURNS NIGHT Sunday 28th January 2018

6.30pm to 10pm
(doors open 6.20pm)

St Michael & All Angels Church Hall, Chiswick, London W4 1TX

Music by Ken Martlew

MC – Jim Cook

● New Year Jig	J32 3/4L	● Laird of Milton's Daughter #	J32 3/4L
● Castle of Mey	R32 3/4L	● Silver Tassie	S32 3/4L
● Gang the Same Gate	S32 3/4L	● The Clansman	R32 2/4L
● Ian Powrie's Farewell #	J128 4Sq	● Starry Eyed Lassie	J32 3/4L
● Ramadan-ce	R32 3/4L	● Montparnasse #	S32 4/4L
● Broadway	S32 3/3L	● The Australian Ladies	R32 3/4L
● Red House #	J40 2/4L	● Duke of Perth	R32 3/4L
● Deil Amang the Tailors	R32 3/4L		

Extras: ● College Hornpipe R32 3/4L ● White Heather Jig J40 4/4L

● West's Hornpipe R32 4/4L

● Easy ● Intermediate ● Advanced

Dances will be recapped: dances marked # will be walked

Haggis, tatties & neeps will be provided - a glass of wine included

Members £8, Member juniors/students £4
Non-members £10

Email: tickets@chiswickscottish.org.uk

See www.chiswickscottish.org.uk
for more details, videos, diagrams and cribs

www.chiswickscottish.org.uk

