



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS NEWSLETTER NO 22 SPRING 2016



TOM

It was with great sadness to learn of the passing of Tom McLelland. He had been such a prominent figure for so many years, dancing both with the Weymouth group and running the Charminster group too along with his soul mate Valerie, for whom we, as a group of fond old friends, hope that we have been of some comfort at a difficult time. Tom really will be much missed by all of us and the wider dancing community as well. It will never be quite the same without him. Rest peacefully old friend. We will think of you often.

BURNS NIGHT

Wow what a sell out this was. A great evening at the Crown Hotel who know how to put on a good meal for many with excellent service - not always the case in some places. Some excellent speeches and song and also a rather good explanation of that 'old chestnut' of which we can't understand a word - the Address to the Haggis. So now we know what it's about! Dancing to Skara Brae afterwards completed the evening. If you were unfortunate enough not to obtain a ticket for this years, make sure you get in early for next years. He who hesitates is lost - as the old proverb goes. And we can't help it if we are mega popular!! Ahem!

DAY SCHOOL WITH BARBARA SAVILL

This was well attended at the Southill Community Centre by a good number from the beginners class and other areas too, taking full advantage of Barbara's skill, knowledge and know how, delivered with much kindness and good humour. A very useful and rewarding day enjoyed by all culminating in a delicious array of home made cakes before departing. We know how to lure 'em in! Many thanks to Judie for organising it.

SKITTLES NIGHT

Another popular one held at a comfortable venue in Wellworthy's social club with a rather better buffet than the last couple. Lovely friendly group enjoying the sociable side of the main society with a fun game requiring no particular skill - so no pressure, (unlike learning Ball dances!). Unless of course you are particularly keen and competitive.

OUR BALL

Attended by dancers from far and wide, this regular feature of our dancing year was once again held at the Herrison Hall where a lovely floor can be enjoyed - rather kinder to ageing feet than some of the hard floors we sometimes endure for our passion for dancing. Craigellachie did it again. What a great band they are and the excellent Andrew White as our Caller / M.C. completed the happy picture. Many weeks of learning the dances paid off with any odd mistakes passing more or less unnoticed. Even so tensions tend to run high until we get that first couple of dances out of the way when there appears to be a quite palpable relaxation in atmosphere as everyone relaxes into it. And before you know where you are it's all over. The time really does seem to go that quick. Many many thanks to our splendid committee plus ancillary helpers and to dear Val our organiser extraordinaire.

CARY GRANT

Remember Cary Grant? Eye candy in his day - for the ladies anyway! If you would like to see him dancing an Eightsome Reel (from the 'way back then' 1958 film 'Indiscreet') (with Ingrid Bergman, - eye candy for the men maybe?) - then type this into your computer - Roddyboddy 69 - which will hopefully take you to YouTube where you can have a looky. It's quite interesting, though I wouldn't go so far as to say his footwork is that great!! But fun though.



CALLERS

It's not until one 'calls' a Scottish Country Dance for the first time that one realises quite what goes into it - if it is to be clearly understood. For dancers, too much information is confusing. Too little is just as bad. (And we all know how difficult it can be at times to grasp instructions. How many of us still don't know our left from our right? I will be first to hold my -left or right hand up - not sure which!) For novice callers to learn just one dance requires time, effort and courage. For more experienced teachers to call dances for a whole evening or even half an evening, successfully, requires a great deal of time and effort. To gain qualifications for such - well I am in awe and full admiration for those who do it. True dedication required in all it's mind boggling complexity. So hats off to all those new beginner callers having a go and going from strength to strength for the benefit of our group. And enormous thanks to those who have gone the extra mile and call multiple dances on a regular basis. Our group couldn't function without you.

BEGINNERS CLASS



Here is a picture of Judie with our new sign, now in place outside the beginners class venue, the very nice Southill Community Centre. We don't want anyone to be deprived of the pleasure of S.C.D. simply by not

knowing that it's on! So now anyone walking by can see at a glance evidence of our existence. I feel a crowd coming on! Though I have to say numbers are very healthy with happy people enjoying a very fun class in spite of it's frequent complexities and resulting mayhem. Long may it continue. A warm welcome to all new comers. I promise, it does get easier. And it's a great way to make new friends and get some exercise too. It's great to see 'old' beginners being helpful to 'new' beginners giving the odd discreet nod and wink when necessary.

CEILIDH

A fun evening was enjoyed at this event with a goodly turn out of Caledonian members with their friends and guests. Popular choice John Hickman played for us with a variety of dancing from Ballroom, Old Time and fun Ceilidh dances. Interspersed with some entertaining Ceilidh items from talented musicians, singers and the odd Fairy or two!! A great buffet too all brought by attendees for a shared American supper.

To Bake a Chickin Pie

An Elizabethan recipe

To bake a Chickin Pie, after you have trust your chickins, broken their legges and breast bones; and raised your crust of the best past, you shall lay them in the coffin close together with their bodies full of butter; Then lay upon them and underneath them currants, great raysons, prunes. Cinamon, sugar, whole mace and salt: then cover all with great store of butter and so bake it. After, powre into it the same liquor you did in your marrowbone pie, with the yelks of 2 or 3 egges beaten amongst it: And so serve it foorth.

(In this instance the schpelling missteaks are not mine!)

1 pound skinned and boned chicken
2 tablespoons butter
¼ cup raisins
¼ cup currants
8 prunes chopped
1 tablespoon sugar
½ teasp Mace
2 teasp salt
1 teasp cinnamon
½ cup sweet white wine
½ teasp rosewater
¼ cup broth
2 eggs slightly beaten
Pastry for a 9 inch 2 crust pie

Place chicken in saucepan and cover with water. Simmer 15 mins or until just barely tender. Meanwhile combine butter, raisins, currants, prunes, sugar, mace, salt, cinnamon, wine and rosewater in a large bowl and allow to marinate till chicken is done. Drain chicken reserve ¼ cup of the broth. Dice meat and add to the fruit mixture with the broth. Add the eggs mix well and spread in the unbaked pastry shell. Cover with the rest of the pastry and seal edges. Prick crust. Bake in preheated oven 190° deg 40 mins till brown. Delicious hot or cold.

TA FOLKS

With thanks to the New York branch for their contributions to this edition of the old 'Rag'.

Having typed that last I decided to look it up to get the definition of Rag and here's what came up -
- a newspaper, typically one regarded as being of low quality.

Low quality? Well!! - really!! I'm cut to the quick!!

WHA 'S LIKE US DAM FEW AND THEY 'RE A ' DEID

(Or, translated - who is as good as us? Damn few, and they're all dead)

An Englishman enjoys his breakfast of toast and marmalade invented by Mrs Keiller of Dundee, reaches for his raincoat patented by Charles Macintosh from Glasgow to dash to the station on his bicycle invented by blacksmith Kirkpatrick Macmillan of Dumfries, whose tyres invented by John Boyd Dunlop of Dreghorn run on a Tarmac road by John MacAdam of Ayr. The journey by train whose steam engine was invented by James Watt of Greenock takes him to work at the Bank of England founded by William Patterson of Dumfries. While opening his mail with its adhesive stamps invented by James Chalmers of Dundee, he puffs on a cigarette first manufactured by Robert Gloag of Perth. He later calls his wife on a telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell of Edinburgh. She tells him his dinner will be his favourite traditional roast beef from Aberdeen Angus cattle raised in Aberdeenshire. He arrives home to find his daughter watching a programme on television, invented by John Logie Baird of Helensburgh, about the U.S. Navy, founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean, and his son reading Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson of Edinburgh and on lifting his bible he finds that the first name mentioned is King James VI who authorised it's translation. The Englishman is unable to turn from the ingenuity of the Scots. He could turn to Whiskey but Scotland provides the best, or to end it all he might put his head in a gas oven - coal gas was discovered by William Murdoch of Ayr. He could shoot himself but his Breach Loading Rifle was invented by Captain Pat Furguson of Pitfours. If unsuccessful he could be injected with Penicillin discovered by Alexander Fleming of Darvel, or given an Anaesthetic discovered by James Young Simpson of Bathgate. His last hope, a transfusion of Scots blood, then he could ask - 'Wha's like us dam few and they're a' deid'.

I'm not sure why I've included this gem! I'm a Sassenach! But - such is my love for my Scottish friends, the most beautiful of Scottish scenery - from mountain crags, lochs and waterfalls to 'Heeland Coos' and kilts and - well, the whole Scottish thing really. (Though if you ask me that Robert Gloag has a lot to answer for doesn't he!) And who invented that weather? I guess every silver lining has a cloud!

ENGLISH TRIVIA

Being a Sassenach, I'm feeling a bit guilty of treason and I'd hate to be sent to the 'Tower' so I thought I'd better redress the balance a bit for fear of a lynching mob! So here's a bit for the poor old English in recompense. I think in the final analysis it's safe to say that we're all jolly clever fellows.

Joseph Aspdin, Portland Cement. Roger Bacon, Magnifying Glass. Tim Berners-Lee, World Wide Web. John Bentley, Internet on Television. Michael Faraday, Electric Transformer. John Ambrose Fleming, Vacuum Diode. Tommy Flowers, Colossus (early electronic) Computer. William Friese-Greene, Cinematography. John Harrison, Marine Chronometer. Rowland Hill, Postage Stamp. George William Manby, Fire Extinguisher. Isaac Newton, Reflecting Telescope. Alexander Parkes, Celluloid. Stephen Perry, Rubber Band. Joseph Priestley, Soda Water. Henry Shrapnel, Shrapnel Shell Ammunition. J.J. Thomson, Mass Spectrometer. Jethro Tull, Horse - Drawn Seed Drill. Barnes Wallis, Bouncing Bomb. Edward Weston, Weston Cell. Frank Whittle, co-inventor of the Jet Engine. Arthur Wynne, inventor of the Crossword Puzzle. I'd also like to give an enormous thumbs up for Alan Turing too. Genius.

NOTICE BOARD

Just a reminder to keep your eye on the notice board at St Edmund's. The local Dance diary is included overleaf but other events do materialise from time to time. And you don't want to miss out do you! Also you can Google The Carswellian S.C.D. Magazine for information about other events and dances a little further from home. A hard copy of this magazine is available for purchase. £8 for the 5 copies published each year.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Do please let me have anything of interest that could be included in the next Newsletter. I'm boring on my own! How about some more individual sorties into S.C.D. How did you get into it? You can email me - Daphne Stevens dandas2@hotmail.co.uk Or come see me. Comments and suggestions gratefully received.

YOUR DANCE DIARY

MAY

- Wednesday 4th Dance Group AGM at St Edmund's
- Wednesday 11th Our end of Season party at St Edmund's Hall
- Thursday 19th Beginners end of season party at Southill Community Centre
- Saturday 14th Charminster Scottish Country Dance Club Charity Dance at Broadmayne Village Hall
- Thursday 26th Last Callers night

JUNE

- Wednesday 1st Bridport end of season dance at Salway Ash
- Wednesday 8th Summer Social here at St Edmund's – Barbara Savill
- Wednesday 22nd Garden Dance at Roger and Sally Pinhey's. 664 Dorchester Rd Weymouth. 6pm American Supper. Indoor social if wet.
- Saturday 25th Taunton Caledonian Society, Dance at Barrington Village Hall
- Wednesday 29th Bridport Summer Social at Church House – Sue Tyler

JULY

- Wednesday 13th Summer Social here at St Edmund's – Andrew White
- Saturday 16th Bridport Garden Dance at Brook House, Loders
- Wednesday 27th Bridport Summer Social at Church House – Barbara Savill

AUGUST

- Wednesday 10th Summer Social here at St Edmund's – Bob Gordon
- Wednesday 24th Bridport Summer Social at Church House – Robert & Maggie Morgan

SEPTEMBER

- Wednesday 14th Dancing re-commences here at St Edmund's
- Thursday 15th Thursday class re-commences

OCTOBER

- Weekend of 7 – 9 Halsway Manor Weekend