

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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From the Chair....

This message comes to you as we finish shoveling out from our most recent snowfall with a deep freeze forecast for at least another week. Just what we need to get us in the holiday mood?? But nothing can keep us from dancing! I say this as classes wind up for this term and we look forward to our wee parties. We hope that all of you have enjoyed the classes of the fall term and eagerly await the classes in January.

A big thank you to the Tuesday Technique Class for hosting a rousing St Andrews Day celebration. A great time was had by all, as we danced to the lively and beautiful music of our own Scotch Measure. The band was in especially fine form as they christened their new sound equipment. The sound was simply fantastic, the program enjoyable and the refreshments delicious. Nice to have a good turnout from the Thursday night class. We enjoyed meeting you and look forward to seeing you out at our next event.

Mark your calendars for our last event of the year, 'The Betwixt n' Between Dance/Ceilidh, Saturday, December 28. It promises to be a lot of fun. Dancers and non-dancers alike are welcome. Our dancers are particularly encouraged to bring family, friends and acquaintances to the event. The program will be a mix of ceilidh type participation dances, as well as dances that will appeal to the experienced dancers. If you have a party piece, bring it along and we will fit in a bit of entertainment. See details about the evening elsewhere in the L&A.

Also mark your calendars for the Open House Thursday January 9, 2014. We look forward to seeing all the Thursday night dancers back again and hope that many new faces turn up to join them. You, our dancers, are the best advertisements on how wonderful this activity is. Spread the word to the people that you encounter and invite them out to the open house. We are looking for an exceptional turnout. This is possible if we all do our part!

We are gearing up for our first social event of 2014, our traditional Burns Supper and Dance which will take place January 18th. Through the diligence of your social committee, a great evening is planned so don't miss out on a delicious dinner accompanied, of course, with a taste of haggis, a salute to the Bard and superb dancing and music. Get your tickets as soon as you can.

And now, on behalf of the Committee of Management, I would like to wish all of you a happy, healthy Christmas season with family, friends and loved ones and

A Guid New Year. May it be Peaceful, Happy and Prosperous.

Happy Dancing!

Joyce Cormack

2013/14 Dance Season

Thursday, September 5	Welcome Dance/Open House – No charge 8:00 pm
Week of September 9	Fall Term Regular classes begin
Thursday, September 12	Fall Term Basic classes begin
Thursday November 21	Last Basic class of Fall Term
Tuesday, November 26	St. Andrew's Social (hosted by the Technique Class)
Week of December 9	Last Regular classes of Fall Term
Monday, December 16	Make up class for Social Class. Open to Social & Technique class members
Saturday, December 28	Betwixt & Between Ceilidh 8-10:30 \$5 charge
Thursday, January 9, 2014	Welcome Dance/Open House – No charge 8:00 pm
Week of January 13	Winter Term Regular classes begin
Thursday January 16	Winter Term Basic classes begin

Saturday January 18	Burns Dinner and Dance
Saturday, February 8	Ceilidh. Silver Heights United Church
Monday, March 3	Class Social (hosted by the Fort Garry Class)
Thursday March 20	Last Basic class of Winter Term
Thursday, April 3	Spring Social (hosted by the COM and Teachers)
Week of April 21	Last Regular classes of Winter Term
Friday-Sunday May 2-4	Workshop Weekend

Please note: All dates are subject to change – please check the calendar each month. Socials are at St. Paul's Church Hall, North Drive and Point Road, at 8:00 pm, with admission of \$10.00, unless otherwise noted.

From the Editor...

Oh the weather outside is frightful. I have no fire that's delightful. I do have somewhere to go. Man, it's cold, man it's cold, man it's cold! It's a good thing that when we arrive at dance class, it's a room full of warm, friendly people and we do warm up once we start moving (well at least I do!), but it sure is hard to leave my nice, warm house.

I hope everyone had a good time at the St. Andrew's Social. There was a good turnout for the evening (now am I talking numbers or footwork??). I want to thank those that were able to make it out to the candidate classes in November and December. It was so helpful for me to see the dances and being able to dance them myself. We made it through 11 of the 12 dances. I appreciate those who were able to come out at such a busy time of year. Not only was it very cold outside but you paid \$2 and then had to spend the time to work through the dances. Thanks especially to Maureen for her teaching and patience as she taught us how to dance the 'something different' in each dance and taught me what to look for.

Christine Wallace received a card from her sister with a picture of the re-bronzed Greyfriars Bobby. I've included the picture below with the article about the dog. I'm sure most of you have read the story before but I enjoyed reading it again.

Classes are winding up for the term so much socializing and eating is going on. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Don't forget to come out to the Betwixt and Between Ceilidh and bring your family and friends...and your leftover Christmas goodies. If your house is like mine though, *leftover Christmas goodies* is an oxymoron.

Sheila Careless

Branch News

Fall class information

The teachers for classes starting in September 2013 are as follows:

Fort Garry Social Class (Mondays):

1st term: Maureen Burnham

2nd term: Peter McClure

Technique Class (Tuesdays):

1st term: Joyce Cormack

2nd term: Cheryl Durnin

Basics of Scottish Country Dancing (Thursday nights):

1st term: Cheryl Durnin

2nd term: Maureen Burnham

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class (Mondays):

Fort Garry class has been working on a number of dances devised by John Drewery. (We are told that John Drewery, now in his nineties, is still alive and living in a retirement home in Scotland .He is living proof that Scottish Country dancing is a healthy, life-prolonging activity.) Two of his dances, “The Duchess Tree” and the “Kenora Reel” both exhibit his signature dance flow and our class really enjoyed learning these dances.

Maureen Burnham also hauled out the “Prairie Crocus Strathspey” that uses the Knot formation. More recently we were blessed with two five couple sets, which inspired several dances written for just such sets, those being the “Rakes of Glasgow” and a newer dance titled “Vintage Simon”. Maureen was less than amused with our use of hands, so we all were drilled on strong arms and firm hands. I think we got it now, Maureen!

Just for fun, we blasted through “Reel of the 51st Division”, Hooper’s Jig “and our absolute favourite “Shifting Bobbins”.

May I also take this opportunity to remind all dancers to complete the “Yes I dance” Canada survey recently distributed to all members. I completed the survey while waiting for my wife to put her face on, proof that this is indeed a short survey. Ultimately, this survey will render the kind of statistics that help to measure healthy activity in Manitoba and Canada. Who knows, if we maintain this dance activity, we too might live meaningful lives well into our nineties, like John Drewery.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class (Tuesdays):

We are into December with several recent snowfalls and beautiful crisp winter days. Our technique class has had some casualties with Lynne McClure and Anne Morrison being away for several weeks due to not being in top form for dancing. For folks from milder climes reading our newsletter, yes, we do “have to shovel it”. By comparison, we spent three weeks in Vancouver the beginning of November and our friends had to shovel as well—soggy, wet leaves but not snow. Good exercise.

Joyce Cormack has challenged us with some older dances with different formations. Recently we danced a strathspey Altshellach which includes a formation call the tournee. When done properly the tournee looks elegant.. Prior to our St. Andrew’s social we worked on a number of dances that were on the program celebrating the Patron Saint of Scotland.

History of St. Andrew’s Day

The Reformation in the Sixteenth Century tried to sweep away all the symbols of the Roman Catholic Church, including saints (and even Christmas). Not much is known about the life of St. Andrew or exactly how he came to be patron saint of Scotland but he was believed to have been a fisherman and one of Jesus’ first Apostles. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion by the Romans in Greece, but he requested to be crucified on a diagonal cross as he felt he was not worthy enough to die on the same shape of cross as Jesus. Legend has it that relics of the saint were brought from Patras in Greece to Kinrymont in Fife in the Fourth Century by St. Regulus, following his ship wrecking off the east coast of Scotland. The church at Kinrymont subsequently became the cathedral of St. Andrews and developed into a major centre of medieval pilgrimage. Another version relates that in the Ninth Century, the Pictish king, Angus mac Fergus, adopted St. Andrew as patron following the appearance of a saltire in the sky immediately before his victory at Athelstaneford. In 1390, St. Andrew was first used as a national symbol on a coin, a five-shilling piece minted in the reign of Robert III. The diagonal cross on which St. Andrew died also features on Scotland’s national flag, the Saltire. St. Andrew’s Day falls on November 30 in Scotland and was declared a bank holiday by British parliament in 2006 with many organisations enjoying a day off and events taking place across the country to celebrate. St. Andrew’s day is also a national holiday in Romania and is also the patron saint in Greece, Romania, Russia, and the Ukraine.

Reg and Joan Curle

Basics of Scottish Country Dancing Class (Thursdays):

The first term of the Basic class is over now. We finished off the term dancing some of the dances just done at the St. Andrew's Social. They were familiar to the dancers that had attended so we spent more time dancing and less time learning a dance. Then of course we enjoyed quite a nice spread of goodies that everyone had brought. Thank you to Cheryl for a wonderful term. I can't believe how much they learned in the 10 weeks! We hope to see the group of dancers return in January and we look forward to see what Maureen has in store for the class. Hopefully we'll see some newcomers as well.

Sheila Careless

Upcoming Events

Betwixt 'n Between Dance/Ceilidh

Saturday Dec 28 8PM to 10:30

St Paul's Church Hall

Admission \$5.00 (to pay for the hall)

Donations of goodies for the food table would be most appreciated.

Guests are welcome so bring your friends and family. The program will include dances for all levels, as well as dances for our non Scottish Country Dancing guests. Wee bits of entertainment can be interspersed throughout the evening so if you have a party piece, please think about sharing it with us. We are hoping that this will be a good old fashioned party and it is also an opportunity to introduce dancing to our non dancing friends.

Any questions? Call Joyce 204 224 2291.

Burns Dinner & Dance

Burns Walk-Through

January 17, 2013

A walk-through of the dances on the Burns Program will be held on Friday, January 17, at Silver Heights United Church, from 8 - 10 pm. Admission will be \$2.00.

Burns Dinner and Dance

January 18, 2013

The Burns Dinner and Dance will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at Silver Heights United Church, 199 Garrioch Avenue. Doors open at 5:30 pm, with dinner served at 6:00. Dancing will start at 8:00 pm. Music will be provided by Scotch Measure.

Tickets for the evening are \$35.00 and **must be purchased in advance**. Please contact Betty Poole at 204-888-3173 or Jean Highmoor at 204-832-8117. Tickets will only be sold until January 10, 2014. Since our classes do not resume until after that, you may mail a cheque to Betty and tickets will be held at the door. Her address is 1046-20 Fort Street, Wpg, R3C 4L3

Due to difficulties in obtaining a liquor permit, no wine will be available at the event.

The Dance Program includes a number of Burns-related Scottish Country Dances as well as dances that can be enjoyed by all. The crib notes will be on the website soon.



Burns Program 2014

1. Edinburgh Jigs	32-J-4	Misc 1
2. Ha! Ha! The Woon O' It	32-R-2	Misc 1
3. Mistress Mary	32-S-3	SCD Mary Nixon
4. The Dusty Miller	32-J-3	Border Bk
5. Fox Trot / Polka		
6. Tam O'Shanter	32-R-3	LAD
7. Oh Whistle and I'll Come Tae Ye My Lad	32-J-3	Bk 24-6
8. A Man's A Man For A' That	32-S-3	Bk 30-5
9. Gay Gordons		
10. My Love She's But A Lassie Yet	32-R-2 RR	Bk 9-4
11. Highland Mary	32-J-3	LAD
12. Silver Tassie	32-S-3	Leaflet
13. The De'il Amang the Tailors	32-R-3	Bk 14-7
Burns Waltz		

Auld Lang Syne



2014 RSCDS Workshop and Ball Committee

First, we would like to thank our members and friends from out of province for the fine response we had to our recent questionnaire about options for the 2014 Workshop and Ball. We received a total of 41 responses, 9 from out of town friends and 32 from our general membership!

Option 2 (Friday – Saturday) received a total of 24 votes and Option 3 (Friday through Sunday) a total of 16 votes. Many individuals stated that they would support either option chosen. Our Committee met and reviewed the many comments that individuals wrote and we thank you for your feedback.

After our discussion, we decided that if we went with Option 3, we would be meeting most of our membership's requests. People preferring not to participate in Sunday's events would have the option of registering for Option 2. The cost would be pro-rated accordingly.

We have prepared a working budget that is based on 45 participants, with the Full Workshop cost being \$150. There will be opportunities offered to register separately for the Ceilidh; Saturday Workshop and lunch; Banquet and Ball; or Sunday Workshop and Brunch on the Registration form.

Our recommendations were submitted to the COM at its December meeting and the Registration form should be on the website by end of January.

Mark the Workshop and Ball, May 2-4, 2014 on your new calendars. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Here and There...

Note from Headquarters:

Headquarters has decided to postpone the vote regarding the re-structure until November 2014.

2014 Winnipeg Scottish Festival

The WSF will take place on Saturday February 15, 2014 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. with Solo events in the morning and Full Band events starting at 1:00 p.m. Confirmed Judges are Terry Lee and Reid Maxwell from SFU Pipe Band, Bob Worrall and Ken Eller.

The party continues with an All Ages Ceilidh starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Tavern United 260 Hargrave (across from the convention centre). Tickets are \$15 and comes with a burger and fries, and a beverage (domestic beer, spirits or soft drink).

For more information, please contact Evan at 2014wsf@gmail.com or 204 803 3703. If you are interested in a registration form, please email info@rscdswinnipeg.ca.

To All Participants in Scottish Country Dance:

The link to the [Yes I Dance Survey](#) was sent by email a couple of weeks ago. The survey is very easy to complete and will only take a few minutes. Thank you to everyone who has completed the survey.

If you have not yet participated in the [Yes I Dance survey](#) by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council, here is your chance to be counted in.

This survey will be open throughout December, but we ask you to participate in this important survey now and ensure we are well represented. All dancers over 16 years of age are invited to participate.

This survey will help us and the whole dance field better understand the diversity of dancers and dances practiced in Canada.

This is an exciting time for all of us who love dance. Let's make our voices be heard. Be counted and pass on the survey link (<http://www.ekos.com/yesidance-survey>)

The Story of Greyfriars Bobby

3 June, 2013 By [JohnTheJock](#)

From the Discover Scotland website

Over 150 years ago, a wee Skye Terrier was about to become the most famous dog in Scotland's history. Greyfriars Bobby is a remarkable story, and a heart warming tale.



Picture of Greyfriars Bobby in the article



As he looks now that he has been re-bronzed as so many tourists patted his nose that the coating wore off! (Picture courtesy of Christine's sister)

On 15th February 1858, in the city of Edinburgh, a man named John Gray died of tuberculosis. Gray was better known as Auld Jock, and on his death he was buried in old Greyfriars Churchyard.

Bobby, a wee Skye Terrier, belonged to John, who had worked for the Edinburgh City Police as a night watchman, and the two were virtually inseparable for approximately two years. Bobby led his master's funeral procession to the grave at Greyfriars Cemetery, and later, when he tried to stay at the graveside, he was sent away by the caretaker. But the little dog returned and refused to leave, whatever the weather conditions. Despite the efforts of the keeper of the kirkyard, John's family and the local people, Bobby refused to be enticed away from the grave for any length of time, and he touched the hearts of the local residents. Although dogs were not allowed in the graveyard, the people rallied round and built a shelter for Bobby and there he stayed, guarding Auld Jock.

For fourteen years Bobby lay on the grave, leaving only for food.

When the firing of the one o'clock gun sounded from Edinburgh Castle each day, Bobby would leave his post, and run to the eating house which he had frequented with Auld Jock. News of Bobby's loyalty spread, and people would travel far and wide just to see him. Crowds would gather for the firing of the gun, to see Bobby run for his midday meal. In 1867, the Lord Provost presented Bobby with a new collar, which is now on display, with a brass plate inscribed with the words:

"Greyfriars Bobby – from the lord Provost, 1867, licensed"

Bobby was well cared for by the people of Edinburgh, but he still remained loyal to his master, and he continued to stay faithfully guarding Auld Jock's grave for all those years, until he died on January 14th 1872, aged 16. Bobby's grave is also in Greyfriars Kirkyard, just 75 yards from his masters grave. He has a red granite headstone, which was unveiled by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester CCVO, in 1981.

**The inscription reads : "*Greyfriars Bobby – died 14th January 1872 – aged 16 years
Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all*"**

Over the years films and videos have been made about this remarkable story, including a Disney movie, and an Edinburgh toy company came up with the popular Greyfriars Bobby toy. Guided tours of the kirkyard are given by a number of groups, including the Greyfriars Bobby Walking Theatre and the Greyfriars Kirkyard Trust.

The statue of Bobby, beside the pub named "Bobby's Bar", is a well known tourist attraction, with visitors from all over the world coming to Greyfriars to learn his story and have their pictures taken beside him. Edinburgh is so rich in culture and history, but surely nothing touches the heart like the loyalty and devotion of this wee Skye Terrier. He is remembered to this day!

Get the Most out of Golden Years

From the Winnipeg Free Press, Nov. 30, 2013

"LONDON – It's never too late to start exercising to improve your health, even if you're about to retire, according to a study. People who took up exercise over a four-year period were more than three times as likely to be healthy agers as those who did nothing, according to the study of 3,454 people in England whose average age was 64. Active adults who continued to exercise during that time were seven times as likely to be healthy agers as those who were consistently inactive. The study, published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, is one of the first to focus on how exercise affects health in the elderly.

~Bloomberg News

Kilt for sale

Hunting Chisholm

Waist: 48"

Bottom: 72", pleated, 17' open/flat

Width: 32"

Please contact Anne Lindsay at malindsay@shaw.ca if interested.

Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and pumps

www.avriel.com

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs. H11's and H splits are on sale now.

Scottish Screen archive of the Nat'l Library of Scotland

<http://ssa.nls.uk/film> (Note that there is no "www" in the url.)

A huge archive of historical videos on all things Scottish. Some, but not all, can be viewed on your screen.

To see a particular film, you add a number to the url above. For a general film about Scottish dancing, add /2224 to the above; I think this is something some of us have seen before.

To see Rakes of Glasgow, add /0313.

To see The River Cree, add /0850.

And for a short look at The Duke of Perth, add /3270. This also shows a really nice view of a formal ball "back in the day". Note the speed of the music!

There may be other SCD clips as well, but it will take some searching to find them. There are also SCD references, e.g., Mrs MacLeod, for which the video is apparently not available on screen.

Out of Town Events

New Zealand Summer School – St. Peter's School, Cambridge

Dec. 28, 2013 – Jan. 5, 2014

RSCDS New Zealand

Contact: Wayne McConnel wayne.mcconnel@rscdsnz.org.nz

www.rscdsnz.org.nz

Honolulu, Hawaii

Feb. 14-16, 2014

RSCDS Hawaii

"Palaka" Aloha Winter Workshop 2014

Guest instructor: Jack Raines

Music: Humuhumunukunukuapua'a & Strathspey Society Band

Contact: Melissa Lindsay (808-256-3347 or MLindsay@hawaii.rr.com)

Belleville, ON

Feb. 28 – Mar. 2, 2014

RSCDS Kingston

30th Annual Belleville Workshop & Ball.

Teachers: John Wilkinson and Janet Johnston from Scotland.

Music by Scotch Mist.

Contact Mike at 613.967-1827 lmccarey@sympatico.ca, or Jan at 613.965-4212

waverleyglen@bell.net

Jersey, Edinburgh

May 22-25, 2014

RSCDS Edinburgh

Jersey Caledonian Dance Weekend.

Tickets: Joy Carry 01534 862205 chanjoy@jerseymail.co.uk

or Alan Nicolle 01534 484375 alan.nicolle88@gmail.com

<http://scottishcountrydancingchannelislands.blogspot.com>

College Park, MD

March 28 - 30, 2014

RSCDS Washington & North Virginia

Capital Weekend 2014

Musicians: Thistle House

Cherry Hill Park Conference Center, College Park, MD

Red Deer, AB

4-6 April 2014

RSCDS Red Deer

Workshop and Ball

Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, (Langley, BC), David Booz (Toronto, ON),

Fiona Miller (Lethbridge, AB)

Music: David Orr and Glenmorin

Red Deer RSCDS web site <http://reddeerscottishcountrydancers.weebly.com>

Canberra, Australia - Winter School

Sept. 28-Oct 4, 2014

RSCDS Canberra & District Branch

Teachers: Eric Finley (Scotland), Doug Mills (New Zealand), Martin Mulligan (Canada), Jeanette Stephen (Sydney)

Musicians: Jane Ellis (New South Wales), James Gray (Scotland/Norway), George Meikle (Scotland), Bob McInnes (New South Wales), Kate Scott (Canberra)

Contact: Jack Arthur - jarthur@apex.net.au; www.rscds-canberra.org



Bannockburn Live: A feast of food, music and history

700 years after Scotland's most famous battle, experience the biggest ever re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn at Bannockburn Live.

The National Trust for Scotland's three day spectacular takes place on **Saturday 28, Sunday 29 and Monday 30 June 2014** and, as well as a brutally realistic re-enactment of the battle, features an array of themed villages, where visitors can enjoy everything from Scottish food and drink to sports, crafts and literature, exciting outdoor activities, an action packed children's programme, a main contemporary music stage and more. See, taste, smell, hear and discover medieval life in the historical encampments, then watch Robert the Bruce and Edward II lead their armies to battle at Bannockburn Live.

Further information for groups and clans can be found [here](#). For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.bannockburnlive.com

Be sure to check the Inter-City Scot website for more information on dancing events in other cities (there is a link on the Winnipeg Branch website).

Important Dates

COM meetings: COM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from October to May.

Next L&A: Deadline for the January issue will be January 12, 2014.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Sheila Careless at careless@mts.net

This and the past 11 issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website (rscdswinnipeg.ca).