

# TARRY AWHILE

MK RSCDS

April 2013

## **From the Chairman**

**The Annual General Meeting** will take place on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 9 pm** in Bradwell Village Memorial Hall. As usual on that evening dancing will begin at **7.30pm** and continue until 8.45 pm when we shall break for refreshments and the meeting will begin when everyone has had their cup of tea/coffee. If we are lucky and the meeting does not last too long there may be some dancing afterwards.

Some of you may have heard that I am standing down as Chairman. If you recall, I reluctantly took it on for one year only, but the business of changing signatories on bank accounts took so long I felt I had to do another year to make it all worthwhile! Anyway, one person has been approached and has agreed to take my place so I shall be nominating her, but if anyone else has a burning desire to stand against her please come forward. As far as I am aware the remaining committee members are willing to stand again for re-election.

The Beginner's Dance in December was deemed successful if a little too near Christmas, so in the coming dancing season it has been decided to

hold it on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013**.

I suspect the format will be similar – dancing from 7.30 to 10.30 pm to recorded music, tea and cakes at the interval and everybody, including non-dancers will be welcome. The Annual Ball has come and gone and I must thank everybody for all their help before and on the day. As you all know, we had an unexpected setback when Graham told me on the Monday evening before the Ball, that he was going to have his hip replacement operation on the Wednesday and would be unable to MC the first half, so Terry and I stepped in and did half each. I am pleased to report that Graham is making good progress. This will be my last contribution to Tarry Awhile so I wish the Branch every success in the future.  
Happy Dancing, *Sheila*.

## **RSCDS Oxfordshire Branch Day School 2013**

The Oxfordshire branch of the RSCDS held a day school on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February at Headington School in Oxford.

The day school consisted of morning and afternoon teaching sessions. There were advanced, intermediate and elementary classes at each

session. At the end of the afternoon there was also a choice of party/ceilidh or general Scottish dancing sessions. I took part in the intermediate classes. The morning class, which was taken by Jimmie Hill, consisted of lots of step practice followed by three dances – Wind that shakes the Barley, Bedrule and Jig for Dennis. Jig for Dennis was a dance devised by Jimmie for Dennis Tucker (another teacher at the day school) especially for teaching purposes.

The afternoon class was taken by Linda Gaul and the dances taught were –Judy's Jig, Magic Airt of Gow and Miss Alison Little. I enjoyed both sessions and hopefully my dancing skills have improved as a result.

The party dance session was taken by Linda Gaul. We did lots of round the room ceilidh dances which were good fun and an enjoyable end to the day. I thought it was a really good day of Scottish Country Dancing.

*Elizabeth*

### **What a Ball!**

Early spring saw the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ball of the RSCDS MK branch on 9<sup>th</sup> March at Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell, and the years of practice showed very clearly in the slick operation that produced a highly enjoyable and extremely well-organised event.

For some of us the night got off to an encouraging start as we found ourselves greeted by a church hall full of posters and signs proclaiming 'Forgiveness' and 'Love' – both of which we suspected would be needed in abundance as we worked our way through the evening's very full programme! Ranging from old favourites of mine (Culla Bay, Montgomerie's Rant, Shiftin' Bobbins), to well-known standards (Plantation Reel, Autumn in Appin, Joie de Vivre), recently discovered gems

(Gothenburg's Welcome, Bees of MaggieKnockater) and some I still have to classify (Gardener's Fantasia?!), the dances were all accompanied by the excellent Strathallan Band who'd ventured slightly north of their usual stomping ground to be with us. Only as the evening wore on did some of us discover that this very accomplished 3-piece band was in fact a 4-piece, as Freya the terrier came out from behind her mistress's music stand to join us all at dinner! Her 11½ years' experience of being a 'roadie' shone through in her impeccable behaviour, with only the occasional bark or stifled snore otherwise testifying to her presence in our midst...

Performances amongst the dancers in the second half varied according to just how many visits had been made to the well-laden desserts table, but replete and reenergised we threw ourselves into the remaining dances, stopping only (in some lucky cases!) to collect prizes from the raffle table – the generous donations being so many that only the first three prizes could be called in the habitual way between dinner and dancing. The raffle proceeds of £132 went to Bradwell Village Hall, whose restoration programme is a worthy cause and one very close to the hearts of the local Monday-night dancers! With just a few encores over the course of the evening and a dip into the Extra's list, dancing finally ended around 11.15 – leaving us all well entertained, well exercised (and perhaps just a few pounds heavier from the tasty buffet...).

It is well worth repeating the hearty thanks expressed on the night to all the organisers, helpers, MCs and indeed everyone who had a hand of any sort in the smooth running of the ball, from conception to completion. The 70 attendees appreciated all their

efforts, whether they'd done a quick hop from High Wycombe or – as in some cases – a longer amble from Ayrshire.

Incredibly a whole year had gone by since we'd last assembled at Lovat Hall, and yet from the moment we arrived it hardly felt like five minutes. Fortunately that means that next year's 35<sup>th</sup> Ball\* will come round before we know it!

\* Saturday 8 March 2014, same venue, dancing to George Meikle & The Lothian Band.

*Elaine*

### **Dance Away!**

Michael and I, and other like minded dancers enjoy building weekends and holidays around Scottish Country Dance events. The more you attend and the more people you meet, the more events you find out about! Dances and events in our own extended area can be found on the S.E England Diary - [http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/s\\_e\\_dance\\_diary.html](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk/html/s_e_dance_diary.html)

If you have the finances, and like to have your holiday and dancing arranged for you, then Furlongs Travel arrange great holidays and some of these include dancing - <http://www.furlongs.co.uk/index.php/tours/>

If you would like to venture to Scotland to seek out dance events, John Sturrock's diary is a good starting point - <http://www.scdevents.co.uk/scdevents.index.htm> and if you use <http://www.scottishdance.net/events/> which extends across Britain, you could dance your way up to Scotland.

We like to build many of our holidays around events in Europe and often consult <http://www.celtic-circle.de/events.html> This year we plan to dance in Tavira, Lyon, Budapest, Brussels and Moscow - and there may even be more!

Jan

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Please note there will be no dancing on Easter Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013

### **Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 MK RSCDS AGM & dancing 7.30-10pm**

May Bank Holiday Mondays, no dancing.

June Monday dancing to be taken by members.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June - 7.30-10.30pm, Strawberries & Cream Summer Dance £5 for adults, children free

Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 Thistle Club Dancers Day School followed by a dance at Wing Village Hall, Wing for more information see Janice.

Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 Beginners Dance

Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 MK RSCDS BALL

**HAPPY EASTER**