



WATFORD AND WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

Number 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I feel greatly honoured to have been elected as your President at the recent AGM. May I take this opportunity to thank Margaret Gunning and the Committee for all the hard work they have done during the past year. I will do all I can to serve the Society as it deserves. The Committee will be working extra hard in the next few months to try and put into effect some of the ideas and thoughts that came out of our recent "brainstorming" session. Rest assured that all suggestions will be given very careful consideration.

Since joining, I have made many good friends through the Society and it has helped me to rebuild my life after the death of my husband. The Society has given me a zest for life which I thought was gone and my sincere thanks go to Margaret Ingram to introducing me to the Society. Thank you.

We are finalising the syllabus for next year and this should be ready fairly soon. I look forward to meeting and greeting as many of you as possible at forthcoming events.

Best wishes

Vera Joyce

FROM THE A.G.M.

After the usual business, including election of Office-bearers and Committee (see below), there was a very interesting 'brainstorming' session with ideas for the future of the Society, for which support has been declining in recent years. Our Society is not alone in this, though some groups seem to be flourishing.

Suggestions ranged from including wider advertising, emphasis on Scottish cultural aspects and different non-dancing activities, more ceilidh-type dancing, changing venues, to consider closer liaison with other Societies. A subsequent discussion by a small group of members of the Committee tended to the view that the main need is to attract a younger group of persons as members. As most new members are attracted through the dancing classes, our efforts should be directed at this side of the Society's activities. The website, currently being assembled, will be very helpful in disseminating this information. Members are likely to be asked for help with some of the Committee's efforts.

Also at the AGM, we were favoured by the presence of Mr John Horsfield, Chief Executive of the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust [<http://www.RCST.org.uk>]. At the end of the meeting, he told us a little bit about the Trust's history and about some of the ways in which the Trust is now providing support, particularly in educational aspects, for young persons with Scottish association. He also told us about some of the successes the trust has achieved through its

support in the field of higher education.

PRESIDENT'S EVENING

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

This will be held, as in recent years, in Donald Reid's garden/conservatory, at

5.00 for 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Charge will be £3.00, to include a light buffet

NEWS OF MEMBERS: At the AGM we caught up on some news of members:

[this information is not shown in this document]

GARDEN DANCE

THURSDAY 13th JULY

In Watford; dancing to recorded music from about 7 p.m. (Possibility of dancing indoors, if it's wet).

WEST M.A.C.S.

Members who attended the Ball or contributed through the raffle will be pleased to know that we were able to send a donation of £1000 to the nominated charity - *Children First*.

DANCING CLASS

The term continues until Thursday 29th June. The last evening will be run as a Social with well-known dances and "bring and share" food. Please bring a small contribution. Drinks provided as usual.

After the break, the class will start again on Thursday 7th September, with Gillian as teacher. We intend to make the last Thursday of each month a social evening, with minimum 'walk-throughs'. Gillian will not be teaching on those evenings; other Society members will take turns to act as M.C.'s.

INTRODUCTORY DANCE CLASS

From Thursday 7th September

Also, as from 7th September, Rosemary Kreloff will be running a 'fun' class for beginners starting at 8.0 p.m. in the small room behind the Bushey Centre Hall. This is to encourage newcomers by introducing them to the rudiments of Scottish dancing. Depending on its success, this class will run for 6 weeks. It will be free for their first week but for those who continue, there will be a small charge for the rest of the course.

Please encourage any friends who are interested to come along on 7th September to take part and see what pleasure (as well as good exercise!) we get from Scottish Dancing.

As part of the effort to attract new members, we are having some notices and posters printed about our classes, as a fun and keep fit activity, and will invite current members for help in having these displayed, in schools, libraries, shops, churches etc. Any help will be appreciated.

AUTUMN WALK

Bank Holiday MONDAY 28th AUGUST

The May Bank Holiday walk proved popular, so Judy Snook intends to lead another local walk for members and friends. Put it in your diary. Details later.

APPOINTMENTS

Until the syllabus is printed, you might like to note the following appointments made at the AGM:

President	Mrs Vera Joyce
Vice-Presidents	Mrs Margaret Gunning, Mrs Judy Snook,
Hon Secretary	Mr Stuart Kreloff
Hon Treasurer	Alan Englert
New Committee Members	Mrs Rosemary Kreloff (Re-elected) Mrs Valerie Cambridge, Mrs Valerie Popplewell

The following appointments were also made:

