

WATFORD AND WEST HERTS SCOTTISH SOCIETY

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<http://WatfordScottish.org.uk>

NEWSLETTER

September 2008

Number 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer, in spite of the weather, and come back ready to enjoy our Scottish events. On September 18th, Debbie will lead us in a Ceilidh dancing evening. It will be a fun evening suitable for anyone, so bring friends, relations or neighbours to join in the fun. More details below. I was very pleased to see some of our non-dancing (or no-longer dancing) members at my President's evening. Donald Reid seems to have influence in the skies as well as with the football authorities as we had a dry warm evening and Watford played away, so we had empty roads. I thank Donald for the use of his lovely garden and conservatory for this event.

We have lots more events planned through the year so do read the whole of this newsletter or you will miss out. If there are events you would like to suggest, you can speak to any of the committee. Rose Kreloff is planning a theatre visit soon, get in quickly and she will get you a ticket. We are not having a St Andrew's dinner dance this year but putting our efforts into a bigger and better Burns Night Dinner in January in a new venue. Get busy planning a table full of friends or just to come alone and sit with members you know.

Yours sincerely

Judy Snook.

GARDEN DANCE Thursday, 24th July

This was held in the McNamaras' garden and 27, dancing and non-dancing, members attended. The weather was very kind, remaining warm and dry for the duration, allowing us to dance until 9pm. The contributions of food were, as usual, very varied and enjoyable so everybody stayed to eat and socialise until it was quite dark.

PRESIDENT'S EVENING Saturday, 23rd August (Bank Holiday Weekend)

This was held, as in recent years, in Donald Reid's garden/conservatory and more than 20 members and friends attended. It was a fine evening, weather-wise, and it was good to see some Members who do not attend other events.

This year, thanks to our President's generosity, the event was free of charge.

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY WALK Monday, 25th August (Bank Holiday Weekend)

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest, this event did not take place. As this walk, at this time of year, has not been well attended in the past either, the committee will be considering whether to keep it on the programme of events.

DANCE SCOTTISH WEEK (12th thru 20th September) CEILIDH DANCE Thursday, 18th September

There will be some regular dances and a short Demo to keep our experienced dancers happy, but mainly a taster, part of the RSCDS "Dance Scottish Week", going on all over the country and probably round the world.

The RSCDS is promoting Scottish Country dancing and has asked local societies to hold their own events. Our contribution to this will be a CEILIDH DANCE on Thursday 18th September at Bushey Centre, Bushey Country Club, High Street, Bushey. WD23 1TT from 8PM to 10PM. There will be live music from Ken Martlew and the MC/Caller will be Debbie McLachlan. NO admission charge. Telephone 07900 317720 if you require more details.

A reporter, from the Watford Observer, has written and submitted an article to promote the event so let us hope we find it in the publication on 12th September. He will also be trying to arrange for a photographer to attend on the 18th with a view of another article in the week of 22nd September.

AUTUMN SOCIAL Thursday, 23rd October

This is the first of our Social evenings for this Dancing Year and there will be live music from Ian Robertson from 8.00pm to 10.30pm. It is to be held at Bushey Centre, Bushey Country Club, High Street, Bushey, WD23 1BJ and Rod McNamara will be the MC. Please bring a plate of food to share – soft drinks provided. Tickets are £6.

THEATRE VISIT Wednesday, 5th November

13 people have expressed interest in going as a group to see the Cassio Operatic Society presenting "Me and My Girl" (script updated by Stephen Fry) at the Watford Palace Theatre on Wednesday 5th November 2008. Rose Kreloff will be booking tickets for them. If you are interested you can still contact her and she will try to book tickets for seats close to the original group.

ST ANDREW'S THEMED DANCE EVENING Thursday, 27th November

As stated in the previous newsletter, we propose not to hold a formal St Andrews dinner in 2008. Instead we plan to mark St Andrew's at the dance class of 27th November with a themed dance programme, a cake and other traditional Scottish food.

DANCE FOR LESS EXPERIENCED DANCERS Friday, 28th November

This is a joint venture for Watford & West Herts Scottish Society & Berkhamsted SRC. It is to be held at Queens School, Aldenham Road, Bushey, WD23 2TY with live music by Ken Martlew & Barbara Manning from 7:45 to 10:45pm. Bring a plate of food to share. Soft drinks provided. Tickets (£6) and further details from Barbara Martlew 01442 261525 – Email:- barmartlew@aol.com or Jane Rose 01923 261167 – Email:- jsrose@ntlworld.com

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER

This end of term Social is to be held at our normal dance class venue with live music by Ken Martlew & Barbara Manning from 8:00 to 10:30pm. Bring a plate of food to share. Soft drinks provided.

NEW YEAR PARTY SATURDAY 3rd JANUARY 2009

This extravaganza of party games, music and some dancing will be held in Nascot Wood Junior School 2:30 for 3:00 to 5:30 pm. We especially welcome our children and grandchildren to this event.

BURNS' DINNER FRIDAY 23rd JANUARY 2009

250th Anniversary Burns' Dinner – 23 January 2009 – Batchworth Park Golf Club – 7.30 for 8 pm to midnight will be a special, formal black tie Burns' evening. The cost will be £33 and more details will be forthcoming in future newsletters but please make a note of the date for your 2009 diary.

CALEDONIAN BALL

SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2009

2009 will also be the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Society and we will be holding a 90th Anniversary Caledonian Ball, with Strathallan, on Saturday, 21 March 2009. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters but please make a note of the date for your 2009 diary.

OTHER SOCIETIES' DANCES

RSCDS London Branch Day School – Saturday October 18th – Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green. SW6.

Further information from Margaret Catchick on 01494 772305 or email: margaretcatchick@hotmail.com

Harrow Autumn dance on 18 October, 7-11pm at St Luke's Parish Hall, Love Lane, Pinner, HA5 3EX. Silver Cross band. Tickets are available from Jan Alsop on 07762079083 or email: Tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk)

BIG NATIONAL CEILIDH for WATERAID - 18 October 2008 at various venues. The venues closest to Watford and vicinity appear to be Barnet and London NW1 but far-flung members can see the entire list on their website:- <http://www.bignationalceilidh.co.uk/site/>

Oxford RSCDS Annual Ball – 25 October 2008 with Ian Muir and the Craiggellachie Band at Headington School, Oxford. £15 – Tickets from Trisha Rawlings 01869-340830 or email Trish@Rawlings50cc.plus.com or visit <http://www.rscdsoxfordshire.org.uk/>

Hayes Ball on 1st November. The cost is £16. Tickets are available from Jan Alsop on 07762079083 or email: Tickets@WatfordScottish.org.uk).

South East Herts Scottish Dance Society 50th Annual Ball - 15 November 2008 with Robert Whitehead and the Danelaw Band at Castle Hall, Hertford SG14 1PS – details from SEHSCDS@hotmail.com or visit <http://www.sehscds.netfirms.com/events.htm>

SCOTSCARE – The charity for Scots in London – are holding a Festival Dinner on Friday 28th November in Celebration of St Andrews Day. £50 including 3 course meal, drinks and entertainment. Further information www.scotscare.com

Weston Turville Charity Dance – Annual event in memory of Ruth Simpson. Sunday, 28 December 2008 - Weston Turville Village Hall HP22 5RW - Music by Ian Robertson, £6 - bring and share, further details from Valerie Cambridge:- CharityDance@WatfordScottish.org.uk

Vienna and Budapest Dance Weekends and travel 2009. The Vienna Branch would like to invite you to their 20th Jubilee Celebration Dance Weekend from 30th April to 3rd May 2009 in Baden, near Vienna with Graham Donald and Susi Mayr as teachers and Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith as musicians. The programme includes six SCD classes plus optional sessions for Biedermeier Waltz and Highland/Step dancing, as well as a formal ball and a social dance in the evenings. In addition to our jubilee weekend we are offering the option of booking a whole week's dancing and travelling in cooperation with the Budapest SCD Group from 24th April to 3rd May. This week begins with the 10th Anniversary International Dance Course in Budapest followed by an organised travel through Hungary and Austria (via Sopron, the Neusiedlersee and Eisenstadt) to Baden with an outstanding program of culture and wine tasting. For more information visit our homepages:- <http://www.rscdsvienna.org/jubilee2009/> or <http://www.bstk.hu/bal2009/>

NEWS OF MEMBERS

[some information is not shown in this document]

Congratulations to:

Lorraine and Charles Chapman on the marriage of their son.

Rod and Barbara McNamara on the birth of another grandchild - Alexander.

John and Betty Crowder on the marriage of their daughter.

Margaret Ingram on the upcoming marriage of her son.

Ken & Bar Martlew's daughter, Zoe, was one of the judges in the TV program Maestro on BBC2. The series finished last Tuesday, 9th September, with comedienne Sue Perkins the winner. Sue will be conducting at the last night of the Proms and Zoe will be there to pass on her comments to the TV audience.

Meredith Gordon, son of a past member from the 1950s and 60s, is searching for any information about his father, Henry (also known as Ian) Forbes Gordon. Some members may also remember Meredith's mother, Eve. If any member has any information they feel might be useful for Meredith they can contact him via email: Greetings@WatfordScottish.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

No new members this time.

THE SOCIETY'S WEB SITE

The webmaster will be happy to receive any photographs or other items of interest to the Society, for incorporation in the Society's website. Email WebAdmin@WatfordScottish.org.uk

The Society also has new listings on the following sites:

www.WeLoveWatford.co.uk and www.WatfordEvents.info

NEXT MAIN COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, 14 October 2008.