

the GHILLIE CALLUM

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BURNS SUPPER & BALL



A small and tasty little mouse sat by each plate at the 2013 Burns Supper & Ball.

Isn't it amazing how a simple little rodent can inspire a classic poem — and a great evening of dancing and celebrating Robert Burns?

The rodent, of course, is the “wee, sleekit, cowering, tim'rous beastie” of Burns' “To a Mouse,” which was the theme of this year's Burns Supper & Ball, co-hosted by the Los Angeles and Orange County branches. Mice in all their cute and sweet aspects appeared throughout the evening beginning with the flier, table program and cue book.

Norm McCallum's tribute to Burns included a recitation of the poem with an explanation of its meaning, plus the story of Burns writing it after plowing a field disturbed a wee mousie and its housie.

Images of mice were all around us at the Ports O' Call restaurant. Norm brought of couple of mechanical mice to start off his talk. More mice perched on the sign-in table — a few snuggled in baskets and a larger-than-life mouse presided wearing a red dress and spectacles.

My personal favorite was the edible mouse at each diner's place. Linda Boucher and her decorating committee assembled them using half an Oreo as a base, a maraschino cherry for the body, its stem for the tail and a Hershey's kiss for the head. Two almond slices formed the ears; delicately applied frosting made the eyes and nose. Yum!

More mice appeared in Eric Fisher's Toast to the Lassies and Doris Fisher's Reply to the Laddies. Eric noted the difference between mice and lassies — among them that a mouse doesn't change its outfits five times before going out; nor does it care if you wear the same T-shirt for a week. But a mouse also doesn't light up a room with a smile nor forgive you for going



A pair of mechanical mice took the floor at the start of Norm McCallum's talk on Robert Burns' poem “To a Mouse.” Photo by Bob Harmon

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wrong in rights and lefts the way a lassie does. Doris then compared mice and one man, Robert Burns himself — from the point of view of Jean Armstrong, the poet's long-suffering wife and "charter member of SWLLRB, the Society of Women Loved and Left by Robert Burns." Burns' scoundrel-like behavior aside, she gave many reasons to prefer a man over a mouse, concluding "we could live without you, but we'd rather not."

Other highlights of the evening included a welcome by Los Angeles Branch Chair Rosemary Abend and Burns' Selkirk Grace recited by Brenda Studen. Orange County Chair Jan Lauer was mistress of ceremonies.

John Cahill piped in the haggis, which was carried by Kathrine Truong as Poosie Nancy. The sword-carrying Henchmen were Steve Bryan, Andy Truong and John Ziegler.

Jim Bell recited Burns' "Address to the Haggis," which he delivered with great enthusiasm in the Old Scots dialect. Jon Reeves prepared the haggis, an hours-long cooking process, which all of us haggis afficianados so much appreciate.

For the dancing, Renee Boblette and Bob Patterson were grand marshals; the dances were briefed by Roberta Gotfried, Shirley Saturensky and Pat Zschoche; the band was Peat Fire Flame Plus One. Pete Kier handled the sound system.

Others deserving credit include Doris Fisher, registrar; Shirley Saturensky and Deanna St. Amand, dance program; Linda Boucher and Bob Harmon, graphic arts; Linda Boucher and Linda McWade, table decorations. The Planning Committee included Rosemary Abend, Linda Boucher, Doris Fisher, Jan Lauer, Janet Olsen, Denis Rodgers, Shirley Saturensky and Deanna St. Amand.

The Burns Supper & Ball 2013 was a wonderful evening, leading me to dance more than my feet would have liked — but also reminding me how fortunate I am to be of Scottish descent and most of all, a Scottish country dancer!

Audrey Ramsay Prest

NEW MEMBERS

The Los Angeles Branch welcomes new members Preston Park, Niki and Steve Murillo, Grant and Lynne Clark, Nancy Myers and Evan Avery. And welcome back to former members Paula Hock, and Christine and Diana Stumpf.

Melinda Brown



Among those attending the Lomita class Christmas party on Dec. 17 are, front row, from left, Anneliese Grohs, Tony McQuilkin, Anne Dwyer, Molly Dawes and Jack Rennie; on the stairs, Doris and Eric Fisher, Marion Reeve, Val and Denis Rodgers, Marisa and Kris and Mike McGinnis, Rick St. Amant.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello, Dancers – I have often been accused of thinking that “the Society can do no wrong.” I admit to that feeling. So, in this the Society’s 90th year, I thought it might be beneficial to explain our connection to headquarters.

Every so often the Society publishes a book of new dances. The last couple of times branches have been asked to help select the dances to be included in the next book. Seventy-five branches (including Los Angeles) participated in a dance-off last fall. Under the auspices of our Teachers’ Committee, we tried out 10 “unknown dances” (identified only by number) and notified headquarters of our favorite. Let’s see if it makes it into the next book.

Speaking of dance books ... By publishing books, the Society helps to standardize the wording and teaching of those dances, ensuring that wherever you go in the world RSCDS dances will be done the same way. Having danced in several overseas branches, I can attest to the fact it makes one more confident on the dance floor.

The Society has also standardized the training of teachers. There is a training program (at St. Andrews, Scotland, in Canada or in your home branch) taken over two years to ensure, once again, that universal methods, terminology, etc., are used. Without that, could we enjoy so much the teaching of visiting teachers? I think not.

Recently the Society has made available to us (free!) some publications to be used as recruitment tools; perhaps you saw some of these at the Seaside Games or Queen Mary Scottish Festival. Headquarters has also asked us for feedback on the most successful ways we have of recruiting so that they can improve their own efforts.

As members of the Branch and the Society you also receive the magazine *Scottish Country Dancer*, which serves as a reminder that we are part of an international organization.

Yes, we do pay annual dues to Scotland, but all of this work would not occur without some contribution from the various branches.

Rosemary Abend

HARWOOD SIERRA CLUB LODGE SUMMER EVENT

Mark your calendar now for a reunion of the Hardy Harwood Dancers!

**We have the lodge reserved for the weekend of Aug. 2 - 4, 2013.
This is a fun and rustic weekend in the Mt. Baldy mountains —
which includes munching on Jon Reeves’
fabulous cooking, card games, hiking and dance workshops with
our own Aase Hansen. We are hosted by the gracious
Bob and Chris Brooks, members of the Sierra Club.**

**If you are interested, please send an email to Doris Fisher at
doris.fisher@gmail.com.**

**Price will be \$90.00 per person and will include meals from Friday night
to Sunday breakfast. Non-dancers are welcome to join us!**

Doris Fisher

**LOS ANGELES BRANCH
SCHEDULE OF DANCES
2013**

MARCH

23 Monthly Dance. Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance Blvd. at Madrona. 7:00 p.m. Recorded music.

APRIL

28 Monthly Dance called "An Afternoon by the Sea." First United Methodist Church, 1338 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura. 1:30 p.m. Recorded music. *Note: 1:30 p.m. time and that it's a Sunday.*

MAY

25 Costa Mesa Games Dance. Tustin Senior Center, 200 C St., Tustin. 6:00 p.m.

JUNE

22 AGM and Dance. First Christian Church of North Hollywood, 4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City. Recorded music.

OTHER EVENTS

OC = Orange County Branch

SD = San Diego

SGV = San Gabriel Valley Branch

MARCH

9 OC Branch Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Recorded music.

16 SGV St. Patrick's Day Dance. Pasadena City College Women's Gym. 7 p.m.

30 OC Anniversary Celebration. Tustin Senior Center. 4:30 p.m. Music: Hanneke Cassel and Andy Imbrie.

APRIL

20 SGV Monthly Dance. 7 p.m. Lindberg Park, Culver City.

MAY

11 OC Branch Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Recorded music.

18 SGV AGM meeting at 5 p.m. and dance at 7 p.m. St. Barnabas Church, Eagle Rock.

JUNE

1 OC AGM and Dance. Anaheim Downtown Community Center. 7 p.m. Recorded music.

CAN YOU OFFER HOSPITALITY?

At our most recent Teacher's Committee meeting, a suggestion was made that dancers from areas outside the central L.A. area might be more willing to attend monthly dances and special events if they had a place to stay overnight, rather than drive one to two hours to get home.

If you have the room and would be willing to offer hospitality to a fellow dancer, please contact Rosemary Abend (310-373-1985) or Deanna St. Amand (818-761-4750).

SEND A NOTE OR CALL

We have received word that Mary Brandon recently fell and broke her left arm just above the wrist. She will be on limited activity for a couple of weeks, getting accustomed to her cast. She's already in physical therapy, which will continue for several weeks. Her address and phone number are in the Branch directory, so send a note or give her a call. What was she doing when she fell? Dancing, of course!

Alice Allen

APRIL DANCE IN VENTURA

The April dance will be held in Ventura on Sunday, April 28th. It is being billed as a "tea dance" but only because it's in the afternoon. A traditional tea with sandwiches and sweets will not be served; this is a monthly dance with the usual refreshments.

We've been asked why we are having a dance so far north of the metropolitan area. There are two strong reasons. First, the Ventura and Santa Barbara classes are part of the Los Angeles Branch. These classes are very healthy – i.e. they average two sets a week.

Since many of our events are held quite a distance from them, the Branch Committee thought it might be nice to have one dance closer to these classes. Secondly, the Ventura site (where the Seaside Games dance is held) is inexpensive to rent. (We used to rent a site in Culver City; but since their renovation, they have raised their rates considerably.)

Since the dance begins early, you should be able to get home at a reasonable time. I hope many of you will "carpool up" and support this event.

Rosemary Abend

CATALINA ISLAND WORKSHOP & BALL RETURNS IN 2014

Good news! The popular Catalina Island Workshop & Ball is scheduled to happen again in 2014. The date will be May 2-4. More details, fliers and brochures will be forthcoming in the near future. Mark it on your long-range planning calendar. If you would like to be on the email list for announcements, send an email to Doris Fisher at doris.fisher@gmail.com. Bon Voyage!

Doris Fisher

April Dance

"An Afternoon by the Sea"

April 28, 2013

First United Methodist Church
1338 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura

1:30 p.m. Recorded music

(Note 1:30 p.m. time on SUNDAY)

The Highland Lass	R B	Book 30
A Capital Jig	J I	RSCDS 5 for 2009
The Stoorie Miller	S B	Book 21
Foggy River Reel	R I	Between The Rivers
The Robertson Rant	S A	Book 39
Links With St. Petersburg	J I	Book 46
Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran	R I	Bon Accord
Laggan Bay	J B	Second Craigievar Bk
Hana Strathspey	S I	Alex Gray
Reel On	R B	Reel On
Equilibrium	J A	Ian Barbour
Forty-Five Years On	R A	RSCDS 5 For 2009
Granville Market	J B	2nd Graded Book
Strathcare	S I	Skye Collection
Todlen Hame	J I	Book 16
Her Majesty's Crown	S B	Central Kentucky
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	R I	Lothian Collection

AGM Dance

June 22, 2013

First Christian Church of North Hollywood

4390 Colfax Ave., Studio City

Dance follows potluck supper and annual meeting
Recorded music

Laggan Bay	J B	Second Craigievar Bk
The Little Strathspey	S I	Bankhead Book I & II
Forty-Five Years On	R A	RSCDS 5 For 2009
Jennifer's Jig	J I	Silver City Book
Rakes of Glasgow	S B	Book 11
Sueno's Stone	R I	RSCDS 4 for 2008
Equilibrium	J A	Ian Barbour
Corn Rigs	R B	Book 4
The Valentine	S I	RSCDS 5 for 2009
The Rothesay Rant	J B	Birmingham Book 1973
Maxwell's Rant	R I	Book 18
Fair Jenny's Jig	J I	From the Redwood Forest
The Spirit of the Dance	S A	TAC 50
The Pawling Porch	R B	Elaine Brunken
Todlen Hame	J I	Book 16
New Abbey	S B	Graded & Social Dances 2
Scotia Sea	R I	Scotia Suite

Demonstration Team

The Dem Team finished 2012 with one of our favorite events – Kirking the Tartan at the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Monica. They are always a very lively audience, filling the floor for audience participation year after year. Randy Scherer came in from the Inland Empire to fill out the set (and shop the Christmas bazaar, of course). In February we joined the birthday party for John Allen and Doug Macdonald, dancing Niles Roberts' Farewell to Pasadena, devised by Doug in his honor. Some of the team members also danced as MacLeod dancers in Captain John's Hornpipe, a dance devised by Deanna St. Amand to honor John.

February always means ScotsFest at the Queen Mary, our annual "Double Double" (two demonstrations two days in a row). With Ann McBride still on the sidelines, Roberta Gotfried put together a challenging, but fun program of nine (yes, NINE) dances for us.

We debuted Crown of Kings and filled out the program with some of our favorites.



Dem Team members at the Queen Mary: front row, from left, Alice Allen, Roberta Gotfried, Jim Bell, Alison Divall, Carol Madden; back row, John Cahill, Martina Hanson, Larry Kanowsky, Lindsey Weiler.

Martina Hanson, dancing with us for her first time, got cheers from her in-laws, sitting in the front row on Sunday. Thanks to Bob Harmon for wrangling the music and Renee Boblette for organizing all the dancers who demonstrated popular social dances and led the audience participation.

Now it's on to our "Triple Double" (three demonstrations for two days in a row) at the Irish Fair in Pomona.

Alice Allen

NEWS NOTES

The Los Angeles Branch now has a Facebook page (thanks to Kris McGinnis). Check it out at: [losangelesbranch-rscds](https://www.facebook.com/losangelesbranch-rscds). If we get 30 "likes," we get additional free services — so go there and "like" us.

Beginning with the September 2013 issue, the Ghillie Callum will be emailed to all members. If you would still like to receive a paper copy in the mail, there will be an annual charge of \$6.00.

Gail Halverson is able to post videos on our Branch web page. Send her any contributions of good dancing (we don't want to be embarrassed).

The April dance will be at the Methodist Church in Ventura, the same site as for the Seaside Games dance.

HELP WANTED: We need volunteers for the following jobs: Facebook page administrators, Burns Supper & Ball Committee, Elections Committee, historian, publicity coordinator. If you think you could help in any of these areas, please contact me.

Rosemary Abend

CLASS NOTES

Torrance/Redondo Beach

We have two very promising beginners join the Friday night class: Nikki-Sara Mitchell and Evan Avery. Nikki's Scottish-heritage wedding took place on Dec. 22 at St. James Church in Redondo Beach (see photo to the right) followed by a reception at the King's Head in Santa Monica. Jack Rennie, Rosemary Abend and Marion Reeve attended the church service, and Patrick Murray and Ayahyana Clark attended both the service and the reception.

Evan attended the St. Andrew's Ball (wearing his new kilt) accompanied by his girlfriend Betty. After observing the dancing, Betty signed up for classes in Ann Arbor where she attends the University of Michigan.

Doris and Eric Fisher returned from a one-week trip that included a day transit through the Panama Canal.

Lesley Evans brought her niece (who was visiting from New Zealand) to class one evening. It was a pity that she was not staying longer as she's a lovely dancer and added fun to the evening.

Bill Hartung and his grandson are taking snowboarding class at Mountain High.

Kris and Mike McGinnis were suffering from the "empty nest syndrome" when Marisa, their daughter, left home to attend UC Irvine. However, Kris's sister solved the problem by "gifting" the McGinnis family with a new lively addition to the family ... Fiona, a beautiful golden retriever brought all the way from Texas.

Valerie Rodgers

**Deadline for
JUNE
Ghillie Callum
April 22, 2013**



Long Beach

January marked the start of a new session here in Long Beach, and we are off to a successful beginning this year. As the first major event of 2013, the Burns Supper & Ball proved enjoyable and saw us well represented by nine class members. John Cahill served as piper for the evening's grand march and presentation of the haggis, and Steve Bryan, one of three henchmen, helped with the escort. Roberta Gotfried briefed the last set of dances for the evening. Six other class members danced and lent their support. A huge thank you to all those involved in planning, organizing, preparing and carrying out all parts of this event. Despite the cold weather, all participants enjoyed a very pleasurable evening.

Preparations are in place for upcoming dances, the Queen Mary Scottish Festival demos, and just having fun. If you are in the area, please join us most Saturday mornings at El Dorado Park at 11:15-1:15. Who knows whom you'll meet or what a good time you'll have!

Karen Kerman

Ventura

The Ventura class is alive and well. We usually have one to two sets each week, and Deresa Teller and I share the teaching responsibilities. We often have three beginner dancers in addition to the regular crowd. Katherine Merlin and Susan Bronn joined us this past summer and have been faithful class attendees when they are in town and their schedules allow for it. Susan spends much time hiking and traveling, and Katherine spends time with her family and grandkids. Beth Barry recently joined us in November, however with her background in folk dancing, she is learning very quickly. Her daughter spent a year at the University of Edinburgh and currently dances with the group at Valley College. She was finally able to convince Beth to start taking classes, and we are very glad that she has decided to join us.

Many of our class members have spent the last several months traveling and visiting family and friends. Carolyn Williams went on an extended trip to Europe in October, and Jean and Gerry McGuire spent a couple of weeks in January visiting their daughter in Hawaii.

Barbara Evans spent the holidays in Kent, Wash., visiting her children and sister. No Scottish Country Dancing while she was there, but she did go line dancing at her favorite away-from-home country western venue. Murray Bader and Deresa Teller did the Camino de Santiago hike last September in Spain.

Jan Allen and her husband went to a car show at Petersen Automotive Museum in honor of Carroll Shelby in January and attracted the attention of a "car scouting agent," who asked them if their red Mustang could be part of a commercial. They filmed the commercial and are excited because the driver of their car was the renowned race driver Rhys Millen. Unfortunately the commercial is for an orange soda product made by Pepsi that's only sold in Europe, so none of us will probably ever see it.

Linda McWade had a brief stay in the hospital but seems to now be on the mend and is joining us for dancing whenever she can. Looking ahead, Deresa is heading off to Hawaii in March,

and shortly after she returns, she and Murray are planning on walking the Los Angeles Marathon on March 17.

Barbara Evans was reappointed to the Downtown Ventura Parking Board Advisory Committee. Polly Holcombe won election to the Water Board in the Santa Barbara area.

And we are all looking forward to the numerous dance events coming up and especially the April dance in the Ventura area. We hope that many of you will drive out to spend the day visiting our beautiful community and then enjoy a wonderful afternoon of dancing.

Lisa Sage



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