

# In Step

DUBLIN



*Scottish Country Dance Club*

The Newsletter of The Dublin Scottish Country Dance Club.  
SPRING 2002

## Welcome visitors

Once again it has been a pleasure to welcome visitors. In September **Chris Sanden** came to dance with us. He lives in Bearsden, Glasgow and was working in Navan for a short time. He dances every week at New Kilpatrick S.C.D.C. In December **George Flett** visited us. He was working in Waterford for a month and drove up and back in one day to dance with us. Originally he was from Dundee, but he now lives in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. He is a good friend of Aad's and has known him for many years.

Both Chris and George are very good dancers and it was great to have them



**Blair with a guest from Cork at the Annual Ball in October**



## **'Hadn't We the Gaiety . . .'**

**P**hil the Flutter would have looked on in envy when the postponed Annual Ball took place on the 6th October. Under Aad's expert leadership we were all happy herrings *hoppin' down the middle* to the delightful music provided by Judy and John. Not only did Judy charm our ears but she pleased our palates with an enjoyable supper.

The evening gained immeasurably by the infectious enthusiasm for dancing shown by the ladies of Cork (always very welcome guests). It was also a pleasure for 'the regulars' to meet again old friends who can come only now and again. The whole event was a tribute to Florrie's hard work.

So – underline April 20th in your diary when the magic happens again







# Cork Burns Supper Weekend

## a report from Blair Haliday

The Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St. Andrew had celebrated the birth of Robert Burns in the Royal St. George Yacht Club on Friday 25th January 2002, and many from our dance club enjoyed the evening, with its formal Dinner and Speeches.

The following Friday 1st February was the Cork Scottish Dance Society's Burns' Night Dinner. Eight dancers and Cathy were intent on making the pilgrimage to the Southern Capital.

But remember it was at the height of the storms that had gusted to nearly 100 miles per hour, three cars set out on Friday morning, wondering what the weather would throw at us. Pam and Forbes decided to travel by rail. Personally, I felt it unwise to travel on the exposed road that lead to the Curragh, so we went the longer way down the East Cost before swinging inland through Enniscorthy, New Ross, Waterford and finally ending up in Cork. The weather had been bright to wet and miserable, and it was only after passing Dungarvan that we met the storms that had been promised. The driving rain obscured our visibility and brought traffic to a crawl, but we persevered and arrived at the Blarney Park Hotel, where we were all staying.

All eight of us sat together for the meal, the food was delicious but the Haggis was a bit rare as only one small Haggis had been caught, but that was sufficient for Harry Davidson, President of the Cork Scottish Dance Society, to address in the time honoured way.

~~President of the Cork Scottish Dance Society, to address in the time honoured way.~~ Geoffrey Beeley, Chairman of the Cork Scottish Dance Society, invited Florrie to Propose the Toast to the Immortal Memory. Her words were concise and gave a good résumé of Robert Burns' life, exploits and work, and as her husband I was rightly proud of her.

One of the Cork Society cut his hand before the meal and required a plaster, the only available one was a blue catering one. It was fairly



large across the back of his hand, but he resorted to TipX, and painted a white cross on it. Later on I asked if his name was Andrew but he said no it was Patrick O'Hara.

The dancing was very enjoyable even though at times the floor became a little crowded. The dancing was interrupted when "six



**Liam with some of the guests from Cork at the Annual Ball in October**

of the kitchen staff" ventured onto the floor and wanted to dance. They had come out in quite a hurry as they were still carrying plates with food on them, and proceeded to dance Neidpath Castle, swapping the loaded plates from hand to hand as they did the Grand Chain. We all enjoyed the dancing though Sheila and Rosalie were "danced off their feet".

The next day, Saturday, was fairly inclement, so Florrie, Sheila and Rosalie accompanied me on an expedition to the Blarney Woollen Mills, which put on a 50% sale for our benefit, and then we walked around the village.

All eight of us dined that evening. The hotel's food was excellent, Kaoru and Aad were able to relax as Cathy had eaten earlier and was watching a video in the crèche.

On Sunday Florrie and I headed back by way of Limerick. As we approached the city a "jeep" came towards us with a four-inch white blanket on the bonnet, it looked like snow - it was snow. As we drove on we met sleet, snow and rain. We arrived home safely after a long and energetic weekend.

All I can say to those of you who were not there, you missed it.

# New Members

## **Rosalie Parker.**

Rosalie was a P.E. teacher and was interested in dancing. She heard of the S.C.D.C. through her daughter Brigid who is a friend of Florrie's

## **Sheila Coote**

Sheila always loved dancing and came to the St. Andrew's night dinner and was so impressed that she joined the club.

## **Tao and Trudi Kiang.**

They came to the St. Andrew's night dinner dance and like Sheila were impressed by the dancing. After talking to Florrie, they joined our club

## **Heather Gandola.**

Heather saw our dancing display at Greystones. and joined us after that. Unfortunately she broke an arm recently. We hope she will soon be fit enough to dance again.

Duncan Berry and Claire Reilly also joined us, more about them in our next news-letter

We extend a very warm welcome to all of the above and hope they will enjoy dancing with us.

**Hazel and Mary at the  
Annual Ball**





## Smile

The following is an article that Kaoru saw in the RSCDS Hawaii Branch's newsletter *Writes and Lefts* and she wanted to share it with us all. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

### **FROM THE TOP OF THE CRAIG.**

A message from the Chair.

Lillian Cunningham

On the way home from a Boxing Day party, Bruce said thoughtfully, "I see more smiles at a dance party than at any other party, even at holiday time".

He's right, I think. So what is it that makes dancers smile? First, it's undoubtedly the energy of the music and the chance to get up and move in response to that music. Second, we aren't just moving at random, but we know ways to move our feet and patterns for our arms and bodies, steps and figures, which make our movements, feel something like art. And third, we smile because we are doing this together; with people we consider our friends and second family members.

Could there be any better reasons to smile? Could there be any better high than the occasional moment when everything in the set works and the dancing feels like flying. No, the dancer's smile isn't the result of a teacher's suggestion, but the natural expression of pure joy.

This is why we come to class every week and patiently work through the tricky bits and try to improve our own dancing. Because sooner or later it makes us really smile.

## **Dancing Displays**

On January 10th we danced for the Past Members of the Girls' Brigade in Greystones. We had a good night and they gave us a lovely supper

On 13th January we danced for the patients in the Royal Hospital, Donnybrook. It was our first visit there. Mr. Eric Rankin from the Royal Hospital "Friends" office made us very welcome and looked after us extremely well. We hope the patients enjoyed the dancing and the music.

## **Forthcoming Events**

**Dancing Display at Margaretholme.**  
Friday 15th March.

**Annual Ball**  
Saturday 20th April.  
*Music by John and Judy Barnes.*  
Taney Parish Centre 7.30 pm to 11 pm

**Dance for Fun Ceilidh**  
Saturday 11th May.  
*Music by John and Judy Barnes.*  
Taney Parish Centre 7.45 pm - 11.30 pm  
*Organised by The Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St. Andrew.*

**Annual General Meeting**  
Thursday 13th June. York Road. 8.00. pm

**Comber (N. Ireland) Annual Dance**  
Friday 14th June.  
*Organised by Comber Scottish Country Dance Club*

**There will be no dancing in Holy Week.**  
**Thursday 28th March, 2002**