

## ***New Members continued***

### **Mary Heffernan**

Mary is interested in Scotland and its culture. She is a friend of Pat McFarlane, a member of the Scottish Benevolent Society of St Andrew, who suggested that she would enjoy our dance group. arranged for her to join us

### **Joan Merriean**

Joan is a friend of Mary's. She loves dancing so Mary brought her to our dancing. Welcome to you all. We hope you will enjoy dancing with us.

## **Forthcoming Events**

16th November. 2002

### **Cork Day School and Dance.**

Teacher: Maureen Cheevans.

Organised by the Cork Scottish Dancing Society.

29th November. 2002

### **Dancing Display**

Greystones Presbyterian Church.

30th November. 2002

### **Dublin St. Andrew's Night Dinner Dance.**

Band. John and Judy Barnes

Organised by the Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St. Andrew.

6th January. 2003

### **Open Night.**

Organised by Comber S.C.D.C.

8th January. 2003

### **Dancing Display**

Past Girls' Brigade. Greystones.

31st January 2003

### **Cork Burns' Night Supper and Dance.**

Band. Frank Fitzpatrick Trio.

Organised by Cork S.C.D.C.

# In Step



The Newsletter of The Dublin Scottish Country Dance Club  
**OCTOBER 2002**

**Hello everyone and welcome back to our Thursday dancing. It is good to see familiar faces again and also some new ones, to whom we extend a very warm welcome.**

On one of our first dancing nights after the summer break, Judy treated us to an absolutely super supper, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. It was in aid of the Irish Hospice Society and she made €75. Well done Judy and congratulations on this fantastic effort. All of us were very pleased to be part of such a worthwhile cause.

Here I must say a very big thank-you to Liam for the clever quiz he set us, which was in the last issue of *Instep*. Those who responded to it really enjoyed trying to find the answers. Originally Liam had planned to give a prize to the winner, but as everyone did so well, it was impossible to pick a winner, so all the contestant got a prize. Again many thanks Liam for this great effort -a very hard act to follow.

Both he and Hazel are off the Antipodes for Christmas and the New Year. We hope they have a good holiday and we wish them safe journeys. Whilst they are away, they plan to do some Scottish Country Dancing and we hope they will tell us about this and their trip in our next issue of *Instep*. Mary got in touch with Florrie who

1 **John Gibson** came in to see us before he returned to Edinburgh and his studies. It was great to have him dancing with us and to see him looking so well. We send him our best wishes for continued success with his studies and look forward to his next visit.

When talking to John I took the opportunity of asking him to write an article for inclusion in our *Instep*. This he did very willingly and we are most grateful to him for giving us so much of his precious time, when he was under pressure preparing to return to Edinburgh to start another demanding year in College. Very many thanks John.

## First Steps

It was a pleasure to be back among old friends again last Thursday, but I was delighted to meet some new members and learn there were others not present that evening. It made me think of the days when I was just starting to dance. I was terrified and did not want to dance with anyone other than Irene in case I messed things up. But in fact dancing with other more experienced dancers is one of the best ways of learning. They are generally very helpful and I think one tries one's best to concentrate and in itself that improves one's dancing. So, don't be afraid of the more experienced dancers.

You will often be told to look at your partner. Not only is this polite, (it can also be fun!) but it improves one's dancing. Try turning your partner by the right hand in two bars (of music!) looking at your partner and not looking at your partner - and see and feel the difference. However, it doesn't end there. Even when standing in the sidelines look at your partner. A slight movement of the eyes, the head or the body will tell you when it's your time to dance, whether that turn is to be by the right hand or the left hand, or in which direction you should be going.

As you might expect it isn't too long before I start talking about numbers - and in particular, counting. I think the most important thing for beginners is rhythm. The neatness of foot positions can be improved in time, but mastery of the various rhythms is the key to good dancing and most important of all to feeling able to join in almost any dance. So, count each step Right, two, three, and Left, two three, and Right, two, three, and Left, two three, and Right, two, three, and Left, two three, and etc. Most, though not all, dances consist of 32 bars of music, repeated appropriately for each couple, and each phrase consists of two, four or eight bars. Counting the bars (the steps) lets you know where you are supposed to be.

What about these phrases - or formations - of two, four or eight bars? What is casting off, four hands round; right hands across etc. It can take a while to learn the jargon, and one way to speed this process is to do a little bit of reading. I recommend the *Collins Pocket Reference Scottish Country Dancing*. I have seen it in Dublin bookshops but you can get it from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, whose website is [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org).

Those of us who teach, or have taught, would obviously like everyone to be great dancers, but most importantly, we want everyone to enjoy themselves. Dancing is fun, help to keep it that way.

**John Gibson**

## Annual Dance Quiz

### The Answers

1. Name the figure (4,2,5). *Reel of three*
2. Name the Figure (3,4 or 5,5,6) *Tea Pots* or *Right Hands Across*
3. When do you use this grip? (3,1,5,4) *for a quick turn*
4. 'Dont try this at home'. (no answer required)
5. This is an *elbow* (5) turn.
6. What is the colour of the man? (5) *White*
7. A,B,C,D. (Honours Question) Name this rarely performed two couple dance. (8,4) *Foursome reel*
8. What type of setting is this man performing? (8 11) *Highland Schottische*
9. Name the figure (5,5,6) *Right hands across*
10. Name two dances from our repertoire which contain this figure. (1 or 3,4,2,3,5,5,8) *Clutha* and *Reel of the Fifty First Division*
11. Name the dance. (8,5) *Hamilton House*
12. Name the dance. (7,11) *Glasgow Highlanders*
13. Name the city whose 'floral' dance contains this movement. (9) *Edinburgh*

## "DANCE for FUN" Quiz.

### The Answers

1. Name the figure. (4,2,5) *Reel of three*
2. Name the figure. (5,5,6) *Right hands across*
3. What's the noun which describes this formation. (3) *Set*
4. Which dancer is not responding to the music? (5,3) *Third man*
5. What is the call for the movement shown. (5,4,7) *Swing your partner*
- 6A. What are the first couple doing here? (4,3,6) *Down the middle*
- 6B. What step ought they to be doing? (4,4) *Slip steps*
- 6C. In which dance on the programme. did this movement take place? *Number 5*
- 7 Name the hold being used by the first couple. (9) *Allemande*

8 Name the hold here. (9) *Promenade*

9 Name the movement here. (6) *Circle*

10 The first couple are. (7,3) *Casting off*

11A What is the man doing here? (7,3,7,5) *Turning his partner under*

11B What is the number of the dance in the programme that has this movement? *Number 12*

12 Who is the key person in this jig? (6,3) *Fourth man* (Clue Not Harry Lime)

13 This is a key movement for the first couple in which dance listed on the programme. *Number 15*

14 Which dance did you enjoy the most? *Number*

## New Members..

### Pamela Sexton.

Pamela is in Ireland for one year as part of a 'World Harvest Mission'. She met Kaoru through York Road Presbyterian Church. Kaoru suggested she might like to join our dance group and attend when she is in Dublin, as her training takes her all around Ireland.

### Helen McGuigan.

Helen met Kaoru through York Road Presbyterian Church. Kaoru suggested that Helen also might like to join our dance group as she is interested in Scottish culture. Helen met her partner John Edmondson in Portree, Isle of Skye, when she attended the Highland Games there.

### Stefano Meriggi

Stefano is working in Dublin. He recently spent an enjoyable holiday in Edinburgh. He was so impressed with the Scottish culture, that he decided to try and meet up with people in Dublin who are also interested in Scotland. He got in touch with Florrie, who invited him to join our dance group (More on next page)