

In Step

Newsletter of the Dublin Scottish Country Dance Club.

June 2011



Hello Dancers,

How time passes by so quickly and we are nearly at the close of another dancing season which has given us all - fun, exercise, and good social interaction. It has been very enjoyable and challenging learning new dances and practicing our repertoire.

Unfortunately, this season we have not had the opportunity to visit the older members of our community to perform our dancing displays which we know gives pleasure to all. Hopefully, next year we can strive to ensure that we diary evenings convenient to all and resume these dancing displays.

Annual Dance – 10th April 2011

Our Annual Dance 2011 was successfully held on Saturday April 10th. at Taney Church Hall, Dundrum. Led by the skillful callers Hazel Convery, John Gibson, and Helen Beaney, a good number of sets were formed for a wonderful evening of dancing. Present were dancers from the Dun Laoghaire group, plus visitors from Cork and Northern Ireland, as well as Helen Beaney's parents from London, Jill and Frank Bonar, both accomplished dancers who often support our events, Ian Whittaker from Scotland, and Julia Griffin from Paris. Mike Thomas's Mother, Kathleen was also present. All our visitors were experienced dancers and a great asset to the night.

As usual we feasted sumptuously on the supper provided by Judy Barnes, and were once again treated to the live music of the Barnes duet which always lifts our spirits and gives a swing to the occasion.

DOREEN GROOOCK

Welcome Visitors

It is always a pleasure to welcome visiting dancers and this year we have had a lot of people join us on our Thursday nights.

The following six people are regular visitors and very strong supporters of the Scottish Country Dancing in Dublin.

Patrick and Anne O'Hara - Cork

Ellen Agerwal - India

Mary O'Brien - Hawaii, USA

Jill & Frank Bonar - U.K. (Helen Beaney's Mum & Dad)

We were delighted to meet the following two people who made contact through our website (www.dublinscottish.com)

Ian Whittaker - Eyemouth, Scotland

Grace and Tom Dillon - North Carolina, USA

Our next group was introduced through our members.

Sara Bertocci - Italian International Commissioner for Scouting

John Campbell - South Africa

Kathleen Thomas - Scotland (Mike Thomas's Mum).

Julia Griffin - Paris

It is wonderful to meet these visitors from all corners of the world. They are all excellent dancers and good company. Undoubtedly, they bring enthusiasm and revitalize our group.

New Arrivals 2011

Congratulations to Jenni & Aidan Gaffney on the safe arrival of their baby daughter.

Welcome also to Hazel & Liam's fourth grandson who arrived on Saturday 21st. May 2011 - just hours before our "Dance for Fun" started!

If I have omitted to record any "new babies" please accept my apologies and let me know before our next edition of "In Step"

CORK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

37th. Annual Burns' Dinner-Dance

Carrigaline Court Hotel, Co. Cork

Saturday 19th. February, 2011

The Dublin contingent that went to the Cork Annual Burns' Dinner-Dance had a very enjoyable evening. There was a buffet meal with a choice and vegetarians were also catered for and the report on the food was favourable.

Address to the Haggis was delivered by Margaret Brown, "Toast to the Bonnie Lassies" was given by John Scott Baird and "The Immortal Memory" by John Brown.

The formalities being concluded the business of the evening could commence; we danced to the music of "The Shandon Ceili Band", and the dances were called by Pat Hodgson. "The Shandon Ceili Band", a trio, was better than the previous group, with a very pronounced beat thanks to the inclusion of a drummer. They also played the correct number of bars for the dance. In previous years the musicians often had to be stopped after eight times through, or we could still have been dancing!

The range of dances was good with a varied selection some of which were well known to us - Dashing White Sergeant, Postie's Jig, Shiftin' Bobbins, Pelorus Jack, and EH3 7AF.

Our group of eight dancers and two none dancers was as follows: Hazel Convery, Helen Beany & Jack, John Gibson, Maedhbh McEvoy & Harry, Ruth Hughes, Doreen Grocock, Ellen Agarwal and Blair Halliday.

We all enjoyed the dancing and really had a great night with our Cork friends. Some said that they would join us for our annual dance in April, but unfortunately they never made it to Dublin.

The lasting impression was of a great evening, with warm friends from Cork and Dublin, good food and even better dancing.

Roll on next year's Cork Annual Burns' Dinner-Dance.

Blair Halliday

CEILIDH 21st.May 2011

On Saturday 21st May the Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St Andrew held a ceilidh in the hall of St Thomas's Church, Fosters Avenue (Dublin 4). Hazel Convery, completing an exceptionally busy day in her own life, mastered the "ceremonies" with her customary skill and good humour, while the music was provided by the (other) usual suspects.

At half-time the floor was taken over by a splendid array of sweet and savoury refreshments generously provided by various members of the Society, while others (and/or the same ones?) had donated prizes for an enticing raffle. Most gratifying of all was the excellent turn-out, which predictably included many of our own members: if the throng had been much greater we'd have been talking about overcrowding.

Somehow all the best ingredients combined to produce a thoroughly enjoyable occasion—and from where I was sitting (on the stage) it looked as though every single person present thought it so. Congratulations to the St Andrew committee (and their deputies). This was a fund-raiser for the Society's benevolent ventures, and while I'm not privy to the figures I'm sure the treasurer is more than satisfied with the proceeds.

John Barnes

Florrie's Daffodil Day Collection in aid of the Hospice March 2011

Again we must applaud Florrie on her continuous efforts in raising funds for the Hospice. Through her collection and Sale of Work in aid of the Hospice she raised €2,500. Florrie expresses her sincere gratitude for all the contributions which is in aid of a very deserving cause.

Well done Florrie.

So until September.....

have a lovely summer, recharge the batteries for September and come back to dancing full of enthusiasm and vigor.