

In Step

Newsletter of the Dublin Scottish Country Dance Club.

December 2011



Hello Dancers,

Christmas is just around the corner, how time flies! We resumed dancing at the beginning of September and all who have attended have been enthusiastic and full of commitment – most enjoyable. The current term will end on the 15th. December followed by the usual celebration of our Christmas party. Dancing will resume on Thursday the 5th. January 2012. For the 15th. Helen will be our teacher and has asked for suggestions of our favourite dances.

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members and hope that they will enjoy participating in our dance group.

Daniella Mueller, Vera & Kees Davison, June Hurley, and Ruth Hughes.

Get Well Soon

We send our very best wishes to Alan Corsini who was in hospital recently.

Alan and his wife Kathleen are in Kerry with their son, where Alan is convalescing.

We hope to see him return to the dancing soon.

News

Recently Helen has been appointed to the editorial board of R.S.C.D.S. In the latest edition Helen conducted a very interesting interview with Lesley Martin. Lesley is an octogenarian, was a teacher of Scottish country dancing for many years and still dances.

Ceilidh 21st. May 2011

As usual we were well supported by the Raheny set dancers at our ceilidh. In recognition of their continuous attendance, a few weeks later seven of our members returned the compliment and partook in a ceilidh run by the Raheny dancers. They had a great time.

Congratulations

Florrie's Daffodil Day collection yet again has proven a tremendous success. All her hard work and efforts raised €2,500 for a very worthy cause. Judy also raised €300 when she hosted her annual "Coffee Morning" in aid of cancer. Hazel and Ruth (Hughes) completed the Marathon! What tenacity and determination they showed. I don't know how much they ~~raised~~ however I did hear the figure of €800 mentioned – unbelievable!

R.A.S.E.D

For such a small group it demonstrates incredible hard work for their chosen charities. Well done to you all.

Dancing Display at the Royal Hospital Donnybrook

On Sunday the 18th September several members visited the Royal Hospital to display some dances for the patients and their visitors. Despite the timing clash with the rugby, plenty of patients and visiting family and friends joined in and we managed a number dances with wheel chair users. Everyone enjoyed the musical rhythm and melodies from John and Judy. The hospital café kindly provided refreshments afterwards and then another rugby score check on the way home.

Summer School 2011

Six weeks to go and the week four social dance programme looked daunting – 58 dances, only 16 of which had been danced in recent years by the Dublin Group and the 2011 Minicrib book would only be available at registration. A bit of research showed that about 50 of these dances were available from various sources, including Pilling. However most dances were relatively straightforward.

One surprise at Registration was to receive on "80 Year" badge, not because of one's age, but to celebrate the eightieth Summer School. A garden party had been planned but the clerk of the weather ruled otherwise and it became an indoor reception.

The upper Intermediate class which included several of last year's Intermediate Group were fortunate in having all classes in University Hall instead of splashing off to halls elsewhere in St. Andrews. Instruction was by the patient Ian Hall and versatile Anton Rousseau to the music of Bill Ewan and Ian Muir. (Ian Hall was celebrating his fiftieth year at Summer School and later with his wife Heulusen and son David (nicknamed Younger Hall) provided the music at that venue on the final Saturday night.

The afternoon “walk through” sessions under the guidance of Ian Hall, Anne Kennedy, Elma McCausland, Mary Murray, Antoine Rousseau and Alasdair Brown were invaluable in familiarizing dancers with the evening’s social dance programme. Sensibly, virtually identical programmes would be danced in 2-3 different venues each night.

The format of recent years where the Ceilidh is held on the Wednesday evening (replacing social dancing) provided a welcome relief for most dancers, while the more rabid enthusiasts could travel to dances in Cupar, Perth or elsewhere if they so wished. It left relatively little time for the performers to rehearse but most were already so competent in their chosen fields that it did not appear to present any great problem.

On the Friday night a large party organized by Atsuko Clement travelled to see “Dancing Forth” - a celebration of Scotland in song, music and dance produced by RSCDS Edinburgh Branch as its contribution to the Edinburgh Festival. As ever this was a fast moving and first class performance set in the Assembly Hall of Edinburgh Academy. Quite simply it showed how SCD should be done!

Our reveille piper for the week was Alasdair Brown who is well known from his appearances in several RSCDS instructional videos. In conversation Alasdair reckoned that the three top pipe bands in the world at present were probably – Simon Frazer University (Canada), Field Marshal Montgomery (Belfast) and St. Laurence O’Toole (Howth) which won the title at Glasgow this year. Interesting that two of these bands are from Ireland!

It is the participants who make Summer School what it is – the organisers, teachers, musicians students, and friends, not forgetting the instructors in far away places who provide a grounding in S.C.D. that fits learners to participate with basic confidence. Add to that the impromptu sessions, the poetry room the RSCDS shop etc.

Where do I sign up for next year?



*Put your feet up for Christmas and have them ready
for dancing in the New Year.*

*Sincere good wishes to all for a healthy and happy
New Year.*