

In Step

Scottish Country Dance Newsletter of the Dublin Branch

A very Happy New Year everyone. Probably when you get to read this I'll be the other side of the planet, with dancing off sadly for the New Zealand summer. I hope you enjoy getting back In Step again after the Christmas break, and see you all in February.

In the Autumn Patrick O'Hara kindly invited us to another exhibition of Anna's paintings in Currabinny. Once again the colours and perspectives from Anna's brush just amazed anyone who attended, with proceeds for local charities.

Royal Hospital Donnybrook Sunday 24th August 2014

We visited the Royal Hospital again and shared some dancing with the residents, visitors and staff. Dances included the Gay Gordons, Mairi's Wedding, City of Belfast, Suziki Circle, The Irish Rover, The Duchess Tree, Buttered Peas/Swedish Masquerade, Postie's Jig and the Waltz County Dance. As usual, despite some hesitation, those who joined in after encouragement from Hazel liked the results and spectators enjoyed the music. Kind thanks for refreshments afterwards.



Dancing in San Francisco

Dorene Grocock

Before leaving for San Francisco in July, I corresponded with a dance group there who welcomed me to night of dancing – the only night I could do during my stay. So I got on a bus and found the place, a hall in the Polish Club. It turned out to

be Tim Wilson's group, but he was teaching at another group somewhere else, so two guest teachers Mary and Dwayne took the class. They supplied their own CDs. The group was very small and they were quite relieved to have another dancer to make up 4 couples including the 2 teachers.

They took us through several dances most of which were new to me, including Macleod's Ceilidh Jig, Elinor of Briar Lea, Mrs Jappy's Measure, Fireside Reel, Nethy Bridge and Wildgoose Chase. No tea or cakes, just water! Afterwards I learned that the dances were new to the others too- so we were all in the same boat. I thought we did rather well considering. In talking with Dwayne, who asked where I was from, etc, it turned out they had been in Killarney at the international meeting, and loved it. All together it was a fun and friendly evening and I was very glad I went.

Dorene Grocock

St. Andrew's Night Function

The 2014 Annual Dinner and Ceilidh of the Dublin Benevolent Society of St. Andrew took place on November 28th at the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Having done justice to an excellent meal, and having got 'in the mood' with a selection of well known Scottish songs accompanied by Charles Pearson, it was time to 'clear the floor' for some light-hearted ceilidh dances. These were called, in her inimitable way by Hazel. Music for dancing was provided by our chairman, John Barnes. (Both John and Hazel were to be in action again the following night, with our demonstration team, in Margaret Home.)

While the attendance of 50 was slightly down on last year, it meant that more space was available for dancing. Hazel's leadership encouraged many guests, including those who claimed that they 'had two left feet and never danced', to take the floor and enjoy themselves.

A highlight of the evening was that the dinner and raffle raised over €600.00, all of which goes to charity. Many thanks to all, Isabelle Moore in particular, who made this possible.

P.McCullen.

Belfast Benevolent Society of St. Andrew

The Belfast Society celebrated its annual St. Andrew's (and Burns' Night) Function on November 29th. As has been the custom in recent years the writer and his wife were kindly invited to attend as a guest of the Society's President, Mr. Hugh Wilson. The event is most enjoyable and pleasant, where all are welcomed warmly and partake of an excellent meal in the Burns Night tradition.

This is not a function at which dancing takes place but was enlivened by the light-hearted toast proposed by Mr. Rod McCowan and Mr. Colin Barkley who replied to the toast. It was interesting to learn that an initiative taken by Mr. Wilson to form closer links with both the Belfast Burns Club and the Belfast Branch of the RSCDS had come to fruition during the past year with the organisation of a very successful ceilidh, attended by over 100 persons.

Other guests of honour at the Belfast Function were Mr. John and Mrs. Patricia Blair. John is President of the Belfast Burns Club but also has his own Scottish Country Dance Band and has been down to Taney Hall for our annual dance in the past. Hugh, John and Graeme Kerr (Secretary of the Belfast Benevolent Society) expressed their willingness to support events run in Dublin or jointly elsewhere. Some food for thought here?

P. McC.

Margaretholme Saturday 29th November 2014

After a number of years missing from Margaretholme, we again danced with residents and staff, after a very warm welcome and a great supper of chicken and chips. Spirits were high by the end of the evening as a number of residents had enjoyed dancing of various types in earlier years. Thanks to John Barnes as always for

providing live music to improve the evening for all.

Austria Adventure



Hazel and Ruth travelled to Soll in Austria for a week in June with a large group of dancers from Scotland and around the UK. We had warm sunny weather, great food at the Hotel Postwirt and fine dancing called by Jessie Stuart with Colin Dewar's band. The village had a summer fair one night and a parade and recital by their brass band another night. We had a day in Salzburg and trips in cable cars for great walks around the hillsides and valleys.
Ruth Hughes

The rest of the year included a November invitation from the South Dublin Accordion Club to a Social Evening in Ballinteer of Scottish Music by Leonard Brown Accordion and Andy Kain Fiddle.

There was another visit to dance with the residents of Glenaulin Care Home in Chapelizod. We look forward to more great dancing in the coming year.

We were very glad to have John Barnes back this term and we missed Judy for a few weeks before Christmas but happily both were able to join us for the Christmas Party.

Hazel kindly shared the following with us before Christmas for some amusement -

Cork Burns Night 2015 Saturday 21st February

A reminder of the above date for those hoping to travel for another night's dancing in the real capital.

And another reminder for -

Dublin Annual Dance 2015 Saturday 16th May

Further articles to Ruth Hughes by end of Apr please.

RULES

Every Society must have rules so that it runs smoothly.

DURING OUR LAST DANCING YEAR, some new rules/ideas were suggested to me by different members which would perhaps, help our Society run with even more oil on its wheels!! So hereunder are our Society's Ten Commandments for your consideration.

1. Thou shalt not leave your brains under your pillow on dancing nights. Pack them with your shoes, you will need them.
2. Thou shalt arrive on time, wearing a smile if possible.
3. Thou shalt check carefully that your shoes are on the right feet.
4. Thou shalt dance every dance and with a different partner for each dance. Experienced dancers shalt try to dance with the inexperienced dancers as much as possible.
5. Thou shalt not start to dance before the music begins and thou shalt try to end the dance with the same partner with whom thou started.
6. Thou shalt listen carefully — the Music will tell you.
7. Thou shalt not leave chocolate biscuit (or lipstick. on your mug, especially if Hazel is washing up.
8. Thou shalt go home only after a jig or a reel, not after a strathspey.
9. N.B. Pensioners. Thou shalt not confuse the dance one is currently doing with the one that thou hast just danced.
10. Thou shalt not give pushes, except of course to the refreshment trolley.

And the most important Rule of all.

Thou shalt go home wearing an even wider smile than was worn on arrival.