

RSCDS, Chicago Branch

The Blethers

Mike Millin, Chair

March 2004
<http://rscds-chicago.org>

Sue McKinnell, Editor

Upcoming special dance classes: The Loch Mich class this Sunday, March 14th is "Non-Country Dances at SCD Events." Edie Spear will teach the Hambo, and Noel Chavéz will teach some popular ceilidh dances. Dance time is the usual 6:00 p.m. at St. Josaphats. The next special dance class is to be a "figure and formation" class and is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25th. April 18th will be a social dance night.

April 6 has been designated Tartan Day, an American national holiday to celebrate our country's Scottish heritage. The date was chosen in honor of the Scottish Declaration of Independence (The Treaty of Arbroath), signed April 6, 1320, and the major role that Scottish-Americans played in the founding of this nation. There will be Tartan Day 2004 buttons on sale at the Silk and Thistle party and at the Spring Dance. An attractive blue and white plaid with red lettering, they are priced at \$2 per button, or \$3 for two buttons.

Spring/Tartan Week Dance: The annual Spring-Tartan Week Dance is Sunday, April 4th at the Winnetka Community Center starting at 4:00 p.m. This dance is a collaboration between the Chicago Branch and the Evanston Branch. The dance program is listed below; dance instructions are available at local dance venues and on the Branch website. This is the weekend we set our clocks ahead to Daylight Savings Time, so DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD! There will be food, and people are encouraged to bring contributions for the table.

Tartan Day Celebration at Silk & Thistle: The Silk and Thistle class, noting that Tartan Day itself is on a Tuesday this year, will celebrate the holiday, as they did the first Tartan Day in 1999, with a free dance party beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, at the American Legion Post, 22 S. Second St., in Geneva. They have invited the general public to join in the appreciation of things Scottish and to try out the country's traditional social dancing, and hope that it will provide a good opportunity to attract new dancers. In addition to some fun basic dances as well as demonstrations by dancers with more experience, Silk and Thistle's Tartan Day celebration will offer traditional foods and an exhibit of books and materials on Scottish history, heritage and tartans. The group hopes that those attending will wear their tartan, and they encourage contributions of food and materials for show. More information on Silk and Thistle's Tartan Day party is available by calling Mady at (630) 584-0825 or Doug at (630) 840-8194, or e-mailing folkdance@fnal.gov.

Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting is Sunday, May 2nd at St. Josaphats starting at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is the election of the Committee of Management for the 2004-2005 season. The nominating committee is looking for people interested in serving on the COM. The only requirement is that you are a member of the Branch (and fond of dancing ☺). If you are interested, contact either Sue McKinnell (luvsed@suedan.com) or Liz Stake (lizstake@uron.cc).

Glass Slipper Project: Noel Chavéz and the Branch would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Glass Slipper project.

Weekend Workshop 2004: The 2004 Weekend Workshop will be June 11-13 at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin (just over the Illinois border north of Rockford). We welcome back Geoffrey Selling as teacher and The Music Makers as evening musicians. Look for a signup flyer to appear in your mailboxes soon and more detailed information, including dance programs and instructions to be available on the Branch website.

Frolic on the Fox 9: Frolic on the Fox 9 is scheduled for Saturday, October 2nd. This dance is presented by the Silk & Thistle class and will again feature O'er the Border as musicians. The dance will be held at the Baker Center in St. Charles - a lovely hall for dancing.

New Year's Ball 2005: The 2005 New Year's Ball celebrates the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Chicago Branch. Look for a very special event. The Ball will be held Saturday, January 8th at a location yet to be determined. Musicians for this special event are Muriel Johnstone and Calum MacKinnon. The Tea Dance will be held at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, January 9th. Because this is such a special occasion, several appeals are going out to you, the members:

1. We are searching for a suitable venue. If you know of a place with a wooden dance floor of roughly 60 feet by 60 feet (it doesn't have to be square), please contact one of Mady Newfield (madynewfld@aol.com) or Laurie Walter (l_walter624@yahoo.com).
2. Ingrid Kendall is working on a history of the Branch and needs information, photographs, or anything else you might have available relating to Branch history. If you have something to share, please contact Mady or Laurie.
3. The Branch is considering publishing a 25th Anniversary dance booklet. We are soliciting dances from people associated with (friends of) the Branch. If there are sufficient dances submitted, this will happen. Send dances to Sue McKinnell (luvsed@suedan.com)

2001-2002 Committee of Management: Mike Millin, Honorary Chair; Ree Grisham, Honorary Secretary; Carlyn Bromann, Honorary Treasurer; Doug Jensen, Jeanne Millin, and Noel Chávez - Members at Large.

Committee of Management Meeting: The next COM meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25th at 4:00 p.m. at St. Josaphats. All Branch members are welcome to attend.

Local celebrity: Mady Newfield has been asked to appear on Mike Fleischer's radio program *Treasures from the Isles*. This is College of DuPage radio station 90.9 and will be at 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 22nd. This is to be a round table discussion on Celtic dance of various sorts and will also feature music.

Interesting tidbits:

- James Scott Skinner website: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/scottskinner> - lots of interesting stuff, including dance videos
- Because of the mad cow disease scare, the production of canned Haggis for North American consumption has been outsourced to a Chicago company (Chicago Tribune 2/15)
- A kilt-maker in Edinburgh is offering kilts with pockets for water bottles and cell phones
- A civil servant in Birmingham, who was banned from wearing jeans in the office, now comes to work in a kilt.
- A German businessman offers Scots silicone calf implants to be worn under hose to improve their looks in a pair of kilt socks. These started out as a way for German men to look better in lederhosen. The implants come in small, medium, large, and extra-large.

RSCDS Chicago Branch 2003-2004 Schedule	
Silk & Thistle class meets American Legion, Geneva	Every Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Non-Country Dances at SCD Events, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 3/14 6:00 p.m.
Spring-Tartan Week Dance, Winnetka Community Center	Sunday, 4/4 4:00 p.m.
Tartan Day Celebration, Silk & Thistle, Geneva	Tuesday, 4/6 7:30 p.m.
<i>Madison Ball</i>	Saturday, 4/17
COM meeting, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 4/25 4:00 p.m.
Figures and Formations class, St. Josephats	Sunday, 4/25 6:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Saturday, 5/2 6:00 p.m.
<i>Iowa Ball</i>	Saturday, 5/8
<i>Milwaukee Spring Dance</i>	Saturday 5/15
Weekend Workshop, Beloit, Wisconsin	Friday, 6/11 – Sunday, 6/13
Frolic on the Fox 9, St. Charles	Saturday, 10/2
2005 25 th Anniversary New Years Ball	Saturday, 1/8/05
2005 Tea Dance	Sunday, 1/9/05

Spring-Tartan Week Dance		
The Brudenell Jig	32J2	Leeds 10 th Anniversary
Davy Nick Nack	32H3	Campbell: Glasgow Assembly
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	32S3	RSCDS Leaflet #10
Kelso Races	32R3	MMM II #14
The Sauchie Haugh	32S2	RSCDS Leaflet #12
The White Heather Jig	40J4 (set)	Cosh: 22 SCD
The Montgomerie's Rant	32R3	RSCDS Book 10 #1
Interval		
St. Bernard's Waltz	couples	Ceilidh
The Irish Rover	32R3	Cosh: 22 SCD
Inveraray	32S3	MMM I #23
Airyhall Delight	32J3	RSCDS Book 40, #8
Dundee Whaler	32S4 (set)	Ormskirk Book 1
The Merry Reapers	24J3	RSCDS Graded Book, #3
General Stuart's Reel	32R3	RSCDS Book 10, #3

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