

KASS



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EDITOR'S NOTES

If this edition of the newsletter seems thinner than usual to you, then you are quite right: it **is** thinner, simply because I have received fewer contributions, and you will note that most of what I did receive came from members of the same club: I admit that I did twist one or two "Medway" arms, as they were the only ones I could reach, but others volunteered. Which makes me ask: is there sufficient interest, beyond Medway, in the Newsletter for it to be worthwhile continuing it in its present form? If not, would you simply prefer a couple of pages of information, or, perhaps, nothing at all? I posed these questions at the KASS committee meeting earlier this week, and asked representatives to consult their clubs. Please give them your thoughts, so that an informed decision can be taken at the AGM in October.

Having got all that off my chest, I now offer my profound thanks to those who did contribute, I am sure you will find what they have to say interesting, whether it be informative, humorous, thought-provoking, or perhaps all of these. I hope you will forgive me a little indulgence, in celebrating Medway's anniversary, and Bob Hunt's (unsolicited) tale of carrying the cake reveals something of an Englishman's reaction to his first time in a kilt. David Cullens's wrestle with the spell-checker came into my mind just the other day when my computer refused to accept the name of my friend Nighean, and offered me several "improvements", one of which was "bighead". She laughed, I think, when I told her! Thank you particularly to Alan French, for finding me a quiz at very short notice. I hope you enjoy doing it, and reading the other articles.

And now to my usual plea – I have promised to try to produce another Newsletter for November. What happens after that depends on our deliberations at the AGM, but I will still need “copy” for the November issue. Please try to produce something, or, failing that, persuade a friend to contribute. If each affiliated club produced only one item, we would have a bumper edition.

Have a good summer – how about telling everyone about it on your return?

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Winter is over and Summer is nearly here, with the KASS Highland Ball just around the corner. Rita and I have continued our programme of visits to your dances, with a short break in the middle of winter when we suffered from a variety of bugs.

Hopefully we have settled the issue of insurance for the present. Our treasurer concluded that KASS reserves were sufficient to cover the increase expected in the insurance premium for the coming year without increasing the KASS subscription, which gives us time to consider what we wish to do for the long term. Ken Hamilton has offered to co-ordinate insurance matters, so the likely way forward is for us to take a policy for those clubs who want the central policy, and charge that at cost to those clubs. The KASS subscription would be set separately, and would apply to all clubs.

The KASS Autumn Dance was in Tunbridge Wells, with RSCDS Tunbridge Wells hosting the event, and it was the usual success. We are grateful to Societies who act as host on these occasions – without their willing and enthusiastic support, KASS would not be able to sponsor these events.

We particularly enjoyed the Spring Tea Dance, with an interesting programme compiled by David How and Paula Dyke. Unfortunately, there were just enough people for 4 sets and a little over, so we had plenty of room in the hall for the dancing. These dances are great fun and a very enjoyable way to spend a Sunday afternoon, particularly for children and the less experienced among us – if you have not tried them, I would commend them to you and encourage you to give them a try. Next one is on 3rd October, organised by Sidcup – more details later.

I heard at the Committee meeting on Tuesday of the sudden death of David Kynoch. Rita and I were able to attend his funeral on Thursday 6th, and met a large number of Society members from the East of the county. David will be remembered, and missed, by many of us.

David Menzies

Chairman

Gravesend & District Scottish Association & Meopham Scottish Country Dance Club

27th Annual Picnic Dance



Saturday 17th July 2004, 2.30pm - 6.00pm

In the grounds of

Northfleet School for Girls, Northfleet. Kent

Dancing to Caber Feidh

Bring your own picnic, chairs and sunshades.

Dancing indoors if wet.

Family, friends and children most welcome to join us.

Tickets: £4 in advance or £5 on the day, Spectators £2.50. Children free.

Contact: Jane Whittington: 01474 359018

MEDWAY'S EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

Jean Armour's dance "80 Years Young" had another outing at the Rochester Corn Exchange in March, when The Medway and District Caledonian Association celebrated the end of its 80th season.

The Association may be older, according to legend, but the first recorded proof of its existence dates from 1923. It has been active without a break ever since, despite some rather quiet years during the Second World War. In the 1920's, we numbered the Queen Mother's sister, Lady Rose Leveson-Gower, and her husband, as members. As far as I know, there are no members at present with such a lofty lineage, but many members throughout the years have been distinguished in other ways: Peter Godfrey, a Past President, for instance, was also Mayor of Rochester, and John McLuskie Q. C., another Past President, now back in Scotland, is "Top Man" in the Lord Advocate's Department and was awarded a CB a couple of years ago.

Medway members were also instrumental in the foundation of KASS – I believe the original idea was born following the visit by another Kent club to Medway in the early 50's. At least eight Medway members have been Chairman of KASS.

I am a relative newcomer, having become a member in 1981, but the fact that I have known every President since Bill MacDonald (1958), makes me feel that my roots are quite deep. Coming as a stranger to the Medway towns, I was very grateful to a former Medway member, a fellow Past President of the Watford and West Herts Scottish Society for giving me an introduction to Maisie Holmes, and through her, to many more new friends.

The Association plays a large part in our social life today; I believe I am correct in saying that no week passes, unless we are ill, or on holiday, when I have not been at a Medway meeting – and there are plenty to choose from. On Monday afternoons we have social dancing at Bredhurst Village Hall; on Tuesday evenings there are the Beginners' and Intermediate classes, taught respectively by Mo Dalton and Harry Robertson, with "stand in" assistance from Mike Gould, in Rainham; Thursday is our main social dancing evening at Frindsbury; and on Friday there are the junior classes which you can read about elsewhere (that is the only one I have never taken part in!!).

When I came to Medway first, Maisie said to me "We are like the Windmill – we never close " and that is still the case today, so if anyone is feeling withdrawal symptoms if their club closes down for the summer, or indeed if you feel like visiting us at any time, you would be more than welcome.

Congratulations, Medway, on your eightieth (at least) birthday. May you prosper for many years to come!

Rita Menzies

Medway and District Caledonian Association



CARRYING THE CAKE

It started innocuously enough the Thursday night at Frindsbury just before the 80th Anniversary Ball, when the President approached,

"Bob, I wonder if you would do me a favour."

"Certainly Jack"

"We need somebody to carry the cake on Saturday night"

Sounds easy enough. "Yes, Ok Jack"

"Just follow the Piper."

Piper! Piper! This sounds a bit more than more than just carrying a cake; quick find an excuse.

"Eh Jack, I haven't got a kilt just a DJ".

"That's OK we'll announce you as representing the beginners' class".

I tell Jess, my wife, and a couple of friends.

"That's an honour; you'll need to wear a kilt!"

Can't possibly get one in two days so no need to worry, but by the time we finish dancing at Sheerness on Friday night there is a firm offer of a complete outfit and by 3 pm on Saturday there are two more equally generous offers and it's

"Pull your stomach in and kneel down so that we can see if the length is right",

Plus of course

"You can't sit like that!"

The last relation on my side of the family with firm Scottish connections was born when Queen Victoria was on the throne so wearing a kilt doesn't come naturally. During the ball I learn a few things, like holding the kilt in to sit down, tying up dancing shoes whilst feet are hiding under the table and a few things I hadn't even thought of. If your socks (Stockings?) aren't quite tight enough, by the end of the second dance you look like Nora Batty and that knife thing has slipped down, around the inside of your leg and is digging into your foot. As for the sporrán, not only has it got a life of its own but you realise that the reason Scotsmen have a reputation for being

careful with their money is because once it's in the sporrán you can't get it out. That cool breeze is nice but takes some getting used to, and of course the inevitable question,

"So what does a Scotsman wear under his kilt?"

"Do you mean apart from the swimming trunks and cycling shorts?"

But I digress, back to carrying the cake!

Ailean shows me the magnificent, beautiful, large cake; it looks about a metre square and must weigh a ton.

"You won't drop it will you?"

Up till that moment it hadn't entered my mind. Is there time to report sick?

Then Alan the Toastmaster adds to the terror.

"What's the procedure for bringing in the cake?"

You mean it isn't all carefully scripted and there won't be a dozen rehearsals, Ailean smiles and says "I only made the cake". ONLY!

We quickly work out what we will do and settle down to the dinner.

The Loyal Toast is announced and then we are on.

Easy.

Just pick the cake up, walk beside Ailean behind the piper, followed by Maisie and Robyn, put the cake down in the middle of the table facing the right way, and after the cutting ceremony pick it up and follow the piper out.

Don't know what I was worried about but it's not until I'm watching the Video later that I realise everybody is standing and clapping us in and out.

In all it was a memorable evening made more so by being presented later with the exquisite cake decoration.

Thank you for asking me, it really was an honour and there's something about Scottish

country dancing in a kilt that isn't there in a DJ.

Especially a kilt that has been loaned, by friends, at very short notice.

Bob Hunt

Medway and District Caledonian Association

PROFILE: MIKE GOULD

(Who celebrated his 50th birthday with a dance in April)

Mike Gould was born 50 years ago in Edinburgh, but left there to come South about his 18th birthday. Needless to say, he does go back, to keep in touch with his family. Having come south, he spent the next few years in and around London, enjoying the pleasures of the bright lights – Concerts, Theatre and Opera.

He spent 27 years with Sainsbury's, working on the design of their stores, and latterly managing their projects to shuffle round the stalls and make the products more attractive for you and me as we go through the store. That ended a few years ago, but you can't keep a good man down and Mike was soon managing the redevelopment of a military establishment to provide housing. He is now with a firm which started as Quantity Surveyors and moved into Project Management. Ironically, he is back with the supermarkets and is now managing projects for TESCO. Unfortunately he has a wide area to cover, and TESCO want their stores open to the public during the day, so Mike has to get there early, and getting to Oxford for 07:00 has the only advantage of getting clear of the M25 by 6.00 am or so, so it means early rising and bleary eyes when he comes to teach the Dance of the Month at Medway.

He was late in coming to Kent – only 10 years ago – and, strangely, up to then he had done no Scottish Country Dancing! He found Medway about 9 years ago; his initial introduction to dancing seemed quite daunting, but intriguing enough to try again. His initial forays were with Cobtree – they do more teaching than we did in those days – but it was not long before he became a regular, first at Upchurch and then at Frindsbury.

Since then, he has been a tower of strength for Medway, first a couple of years on the Committee, then two years as V.P. then two more as President and last year he served again as V.P. He has taken over the teaching of Medway's Dance of the Month, and many of us are grateful for his patience in putting us through our paces in some quite complex new dances. He also occasionally teaches the Medway "Intermediate" and beginners classes on Tuesday evenings. His management skills were apparent through his Presidential period in his organisation of the Society's events, which many of us enjoyed. In his spare time he has taken up Highland Dancing and has passed several of the exams – we see that skill from time to time when he sheds his modesty at Ceilidhs and the like – and he has passed his initial exams as a Teacher. It shows what can be done by someone who has only been dancing for 9 years!

David Menzies

Medway and District Caledonian Association

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING IN THE TROPICS

On January 26 this year, just as a load of snow was about to be dumped on Kent, Harry and I boarded an aircraft for Barbados. We were greeted by blue skies and sunshine but by nightfall it was raining! It was my first trip home - as I still think of that little island - since we laid Mum to rest in January 2000, so a visit was long overdue.

The following evening, Tuesday, we went Scottish country dancing! The group, which is affiliated to the RSCDS, is run by Ken and Margot Thomson and is where Harry and I met in 1985. We were made very welcome by friends from the past and it was good to see them all still enjoying reels and jigs. Although the venue had changed, the friendly atmosphere remained as we remembered.

There were roughly enough dancers for two sets when we arrived but a minibus full of Canadian holiday makers soon changed that! The group is made up of locals and ex pats but can double in size in an evening if there are many dancing tourists around. It was great fun, if rather warm, but most folk wear shorts and loose tops, apart from Ken who is always smartly dressed in his kilt.

The demonstration group was practising for the International Festival and Fair to be held in the lovely grounds of Government House in the very near future. I went to the Fair with friends and thoroughly enjoyed the Scottish Dancing display. It began with a dance by a group of children from a

local school - also taught by Ken - followed by a lively performance of three or four dances by the adults. They were well received, adding colourful interest to the afternoon.

Our first week was spent, along with my sister and her husband, in a large old colonial style house on the south coast, loaned to us by the owners. We loved the comfortable house and very attractive grounds, spending many relaxed hours on the large veranda, watching green parrots in the trees or sharing our meals with friendly little sparrows. The house seemed very familiar on arrival and we soon realised that it had been the venue of a Scottish ceilidh evening we had attended in 1985, just prior to my returning to UK after five years again living in Barbados. We had danced on the large patio under the stars in my first ever ceilidh and demonstration! What a coincidence!

If any of you are ever visiting Barbados give Ken and Margot a call and join them for an evening of Scottish dancing in the tropics. You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Margaret Anne Robertson

Medway & District Caledonian Association

SCOTTISH DANCE WEEK-END AT CHELTENHAM, EASTER 2004

It was with some trepidation and not a little apprehension that I at last put the proverbial toe-in-the-water of a (mini) Scottish Dancing holiday. I had long wanted to do this but not really on my own. Who would put up with me for just a long week-end and by the same token whom might I tolerate? Luckily, Betty Taylor thought we could manage a few days without coming to blows and the booking was made less than three weeks before Good Friday. However, the Thistle Hotel had to have some of its rooms re-decorated, so several people who had already booked, and Betty and I, would be accommodated in the adjacent Travelodge, brand new in December. So far, so good!

I have no way of comparing the Thistle Hotel rooms with those in the Travelodge, but we had no complaints. In fact, to quote Richard Furlong, he would "...be providing one or two extras for Travelodge Guests" – two bottles of water, still and sparkling, three packets of biscuits and a basket of fruit in each room. Moreover, our week-end cost would be reduced by £20.00. On Saturday evening, before dinner, we were invited to a reception in one of the hotel suites with drinks and canapés- and for each of us a Ferrero Rocher Easter Egg! Otherwise, we enjoyed the same conditions as those in the Hotel, and were able to use the leisure facilities there.

Included with our booking confirmation were dance programmes and **CRIBS** (!!) and a long list of the 200+ expected dancing devotees. We were agreeably surprised to see the names of David and Rita (Medway), Margaret (Deal and Thanet), Peter and Linda (Canterbury) and David and Florence (Orpington). So at least we should recognise some faces. Others came "frae a' the airts" – Sussex, Essex, Cambridge, Devon, Norfolk, Ayr, Stirling and even County Cork.

From the start Richard and Dawn Furlong were most sincere in their welcome and made us feel quite special. Their dinner table-seating arrangements – a moveable feast – were such that we met new people on each of the three evenings. We had all previously chosen from the menu, so there was no delay. The food was very good and nicely served – no small task to cater for so many so quickly. On Friday and Sunday evenings after dinner three double-decker buses were waiting to transport us to the elegant and ornate Cheltenham Town Hall to enjoy the dancing to Frank Reid and his band. Everyone seemed very relaxed and we had no difficulty finding partners. The dances, bar one, were all familiar favourites. A good idea was to "find a partner", i.e. someone we did not know, in some of the dances. Although initially Betty and I did not know anyone other than those mentioned, many people obviously knew others whom they had met over the years on dancing holidays. We were certainly a friendly and jolly crowd but – thankfully – refrained from singing in the buses on the return journey to the hotel and Travelodge. On the Saturday evening after dinner we listened to the music of Frank Reid – Richard Furlong was no mean drummer – before being entertained by the lovely Isla St Clair whose repertoire of Scottish songs must be second to none; soulful ballads of the poet, songs reminiscent of childhood or heard on our mothers' knees, songs in incomprehensible dialect and wonderful Gaelic mouth-music.

During the day time the Cotswolds could be explored, and Cheltenham Spa itself has much to recommend it, renowned for its beautiful Regency architecture and colourful parks and gardens. Despite good intentions Betty and I were far too lazy – we had both been to the Cotswold area in earlier years. We enjoyed instead the swimming pool and Jacuzzi in the hotel.

I can thoroughly recommend this week-end perhaps as a warm-up for a longer dance holiday. Richard and Dawn Furlong will be happy to welcome you. Certainly, we would go again!

Kate Middleham

Sittingbourne

SPELL-CHECKER

This is what a computer spell-check did to my fax to France. Disregard the school boy French I did add all the wee lines above some of the vowels, honest. Obviously, I should have written in estuarine English.....Here is the checker's output:

"Again use fobs, we are tendons visits to Aeschylus. (*We would have failed to meet him by a mere 2470 years because, as you no doubt recollect, an eagle mistook the old chap's bald head for a stone and dropped a tortoise on it from a great height in order to smash the shell.*) ((*Thinks Tess of the D'Urbervilles.*)) Bette occasion, we emperors to dine at vote high quality restaurant Parcel Que irreverence 31 quillet. Cuisse we have a table for three at 1900 hairiest. Merc. backups.

“Valise agreed m's sentiments Les millers.

My name was "corrected" to Cullen. Here is what should have been recorded:

“Directeur, Restaurant du Cap, ESCALLES, Pas de Calais.

“Monsieur,

“Encore une fois, nous rendons visits a Escalles. Cette occasion, nous esperons diner a votre restaurant de haut qualite parce que nous arriverons Jeudi, 31 juillet. Puisse-je avoir une table pour trois a 1900 heures? Merci beaucoup.

“Veuillez agreer l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.”

David Cullens

Orpington

YE CANNA TAK THE BREEKS OFF A HIELAN MAN

My mother had some wonderful expressions that now, alas, seem to have gone out of the Scots Language. For instance, if somebody outraged her by expecting too much and where we might say “Go jump in the Lake”, she would say “Ye canna dicht yer neb and flee up”. An English translation would be “You cannot wipe your nose and fly away”; but it loses something in the translation.

Some of the English proverbs have their equivalent in Scots, and to my mind sound much more pithy. For instance, “You can't have your cake and eat it” is “Ye canna sell the coo and sup the milk.” And “waste not want not” sounds better as “Wilfu' waste maks woefu' want”.

In Yorkshire they say “See all, hear all, say nowt.” Scots say “wide lugs and short tongues the best”. They say “There's honour among thieves”. Not so. It's truer to say “There's aye ill will among cadgers”.

Here they say “never meet trouble half way” but “time enough tae skraigh when you're stricken” sounds much better.

“Many a mickle maks a muckle” is the old saying “look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves”.

Some of the Scots sayings are a bit hard: “Hang a thief when he's young and he'll no steal when he's old.” I suppose this would translate “prevention is better than cure”, but what “ne'er marry a widow unless her first man was hanged” means I just do not know. (*Editor's Note: How about “comparisons are odious”?*)

If you are waiting till your boss retires to be promoted to his positions, my mother would caution you “He gangs lang barefit that waits for dead mens' shoon”.

There's a neat Scots saying referring to great bores, who talk a lot but say little: “Toom (empty) barrels make maist noise”. It probably originated in the whisky distilleries.

When wicked men prosper, the Scots say “The de'ails aye guid tae his ain.” When we buy raffle tickets and friends win the prizes, we say “It's nae loss what a frien' gets”.

If you have a guilty secret that you hope will never come to light, the colourful saying is “He sits fu' still that has riven breeks”.

And we who are always struggling to make ends meet know the truth of the saying “there was never a five pund note but there was a ten pund road for it”.

The equivalent of “Give a dog a bad name ...” is “if the laird slights the lady, so will the kitchen boy.”

But the most famous saying of all, from the pen of the immortal Rabbie Burns, is “The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft agley.” How true!

Maisie Holmes

Medway and District Caledonian Association

CHILDREN'S SCOTTISH COUNTY DANCING IN MEDWAY - THOUGHTS OF A FIRST YEAR TEACHER.

Just over a year ago. I was asked to assist with the Children's class at Rainham because their previous teacher, Pam Farrell, could no longer do so. I agreed with some trepidation as, although I had plenty of experience teaching Maths to 11 to 16 year olds, I hadn't taught 5, 6, and 7 year olds

before and had no experience of teaching dancing. (Being M/C at Bredhurst and Frindsbury on occasions, didn't really count.)

I watched a video loaned by Margaret Anne Robertson, tried to remember all the things I had been taught at Day Schools, and prepared for my first class assisted by Ailean Baker and her grand daughter, Robyn, who had already passed her grade 5 exam. The children were pleased to show me what they could do and things went quite well. However the next week there were only 3 children present, (was it something I'd done to put them off?). Weekly attendance varied from 3 to 4 and lesson plans went out of the window. We did manage to put together a demonstration dance for the Children's Tea Dance and it was very heartening to find that although the girls had not wanted to wear their tartan skirts to the dance, once they had changed into them and performed they were not at all keen to change back into their ordinary clothes.

In July, my group joined the children from Margaret Anne's class and the Adult Demonstration Team at a local school fete. This prompted the brother of one of 'my' girls to come to the next class 'just to see what we did'. He helped with the music and the following week was persuaded, with his mum, to 'make the numbers up in a set'. After that he became a regular attendee.

A letter to the Rainham Newsletter, publicising the classes and club nights prompted a flood of interest and numbers went up from 4 or 5 to 10 with ages ranging from 6 to 13 including 2 more boys. The same people didn't attend each week, birthday parties and school discos taking precedence over Scottish Country Dancing. The highlight of each class is the refreshment break when everyone settles down with drinks and snacks!

We decided to enter those children who were old enough and wished to do so, for the Grade 1 exam in February. Eventually five were entered and prepared for the exam. Mike Gould came to a couple of classes and offered his help and advice and Harry Robertson came to the class on the evening before the exam to give them a final polish. I was awake at 4.30 a.m. on the morning of the exam, going through the dances and hoping that my thoughts would be telepathically transmitted to the children. My husband reassured me that the worst thing that could happen to me if my pupils failed their exam would be the sack from the job. It was a long day, but to their credit they pulled out all the stops and gave their best performance. I'm pleased to report that I'm still in the job.

All the children entered for the exams in both classes passed, with three achieving credits. Special mentions are deserved by Alex Hackwell who achieved a credit at Grade 5 in spite of feeling quite ill on the day, Kirsty Russell who also gained a credit at Grade 5, and also danced with all the other grades as a supporting dancer and Ashleigh Murray who volunteered to dance with an unknown group as a supporting dancer, even though it was her first experience of the exam. Thanks are also due to all the Mums who offer their help and support.

In the meantime, Margaret Anne's pupils go from strength to strength. I am sure that as my pupils pass on to her class, under her expert guidance, they will attain the same high standard of Scottish Country Dancing that her pupils from her class demonstrated recently at the 80th Anniversary Ball. With another five children wanting to attend as the new term begins, the future of Scottish Country Dancing looks assured in Medway.

Barbara Meade

Medway and District Caledonian Association

MEDWAY JUNIOR CLASS IDTA EXAM RESULTS - 2004

Grade 1		Grade III	
Laura Aldridge	Pass	Bethan Evans	Pass
Jade Dever	Pass	Lloyd Evans	Pass
Georgina Little	Credit	Rebecca Goode	Pass
Ashleigh Murray	Pass	Lauren Key	Pass
Paul Woods-Berlemont	Pass		
Grade II		Grade IV	
Leona Chalmers	Pass	Victoria Grayland	Pass
		Emily Lovelock	Pass

Grade V			
Alex Hackwell	Credit		
Lizzi Huddart	Pass		
Kirsty Russell	Credit		



If your cat is not already computer-literate, it is not advisable to encourage them to become so. This piece of advice reached me from New Zealand via E-Mail. So far our cats have not read it, but they know most of the rules anyway!

RULES FOR CATS:

BATHROOMS: Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything. Just sit and stare_

DOORS: Do not allow any closed doors in any room. To get door open, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once door is opened, it is not necessary to use it. After you have ordered an "outside" door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow, or mosquito season.

CHAIRS AND RUGS: If you have to throw up, get to a chair quickly. If you cannot manage in time, get to an Oriental rug. If there is no Oriental rug, shag is good. When throwing up on the carpet, make sure you back up so it is as long as a humans bare foot.

HAMPERING: If one of your humans is engaged in some activity and the other is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called "helping," otherwise known as "hampering." Following are the rules for "hampering:"

1. When supervising cooking, sit just behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on and then picked up and comforted.
2. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between eyes and book, unless you can lie across the book itself.
3. For paperwork, lie on the work in the most appropriate manner so as to obscure as much of the work as possible or at least. Pretend to doze, but every so often reach out and slap the pencil or pen.

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4. For people paying bills or working on income taxes or Christmas cards, keep in mind the aim: to hamper! First, sit on the paper being worked on. When dislodged, watch sadly from the side of the table. When activity proceeds nicely, roll around on the papers, scattering them to the best of your ability. After being removed for the second time, push pens, pencils, and erasers off the table, one at a time.
 5. When a human is holding the newspaper in front of him/her, be sure to jump on the back of the paper. Humans love to jump.
 6. When human is working at computer, jump up on desk, walk across keyboard, bat at mouse pointer on screen and then lay in human's lap across arms, hampering typing in progress.

WALKING: As often as possible, dart quickly and as close as possible in front of the human, especially: on stairs, when they have something in their arms, in the dark, and when they first get up in the morning. This will help their coordination skills.

BEDTIME: Always sleep on the human at night so he/she cannot move around.

LITTER BOX: When using the litter box, be sure to kick as much litter out of the box as possible. Humans love the feel of kitty litter between their toes.

HIDING: Every now and then, hide in a place where the humans cannot find you. Do not come out for three to four hours under any circumstances. This will cause the humans to panic (which they love) thinking that you have run away or are lost. Once you do come out, the humans will cover you with love and kisses and you will probably get a treat.

ONE LAST THOUGHT: Whenever possible, get close to a human, especially their face, turn around, and present your butt to them. Humans love this, so do it often. And don't forget guests.

Gillian Menzies

**Medway and District Caledonian Association
Dispatch from New Zealand**

ALPHABET QUIZ

This is how an "Alphabet Quiz" works:

The initial letter of each word in a phrase, saying, film or song title, plus any numbers involved are all given. All you have to do is work out what the phrase, saying, film or song title is!

Easy! Here are two examples for you:

4 W. A. A. F.= Four (4) Weddings And A Funeral

and

A. S. I. T. S. 9 = A Stitch In Time Saves nine (9)

There are 50 for you to work out. Good luck.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|--|-----|------------------------------|
| 1. | 9 P. I. T. S. S. | 18. | 3 L. W. (H. O. C.) | 35. | T. 5 C. P. |
| 2. | 7 W. O. T. W. | 19. | 1001 C. A. B. B. C.
F. L. T. H. A. C. | 36. | 15 M. O. T. E. U. |
| 3. | H. I. 1 I. M. E. (B. P.) | 20. | 4 W. D. | 37. | 76 T. L. T. B. P. |
| 4. | 1 F. O. T. C. N. | 21. | 24 H. F. T. | 38. | H. 57 V. |
| 5. | 7 L. G. S. I. T. B. S. | 22. | 240 P. I. A. O. P. | 39. | T. 12 T. O. I. |
| 6. | S. W. A. T. 7 D. | 23. | 1 F. I. T. G. | 40. | 10 E. I. T. D. |
| 7. | 2001 A. S. O. | 24. | 100 C. I. A. D. | 41. | 1984 B. G. O. |
| 8. | G. A. T. 3 B. | 25. | 365 D. I. A. Y. | 42. | T. 4 H. O. T. A. |
| 9. | 3 S. T. H. | 26. | T. 100 Y. W. | 43. | 12 S. O. T. Z. |
| 10. | 13 I. A. B. D. | 27. | 10 R. P. | 44. | T. 6 W. O. H. T. E. |
| 11. | A. T. W. I. 80 D. | 28. | 20,000 L. U. T. S. | 45. | 1066 B. O. H. |
| 12. | T. 3 M. (A. P. A. A.) | 29. | T. 7 D. S. | 46. | 37 D. C. N. B. T. |
| 13. | A. B. I. T. H. I. W. 2
I. T. B. | 30. | 10 G. B. H. O. T. W. | 47. | 18 O. 21 K. O. T. D. |
| 14. | 1 E. O. T. C. | 31. | 3 P. I. A. T. | 48. | T. 3 W. M. |
| 15. | 7 Y. I. | 32. | 1 M. T. (B. S.) | 49. | 4 A. 20 B. B. B. I. A.
P. |
| 16. | 3 P. T. | 33. | I. T. 2 T. T. | 50. | 40 D. I. L. |
| 17. | 1 O. T. 8 | 34. | 8 S. U. S. | | |

Alan has promised a prize for the winner, to be presented at the KASS Autumn Dance on 13 November 2004. Answers will be published in the next issue (if I can work them out or persuade Alan to send me a solution!). Please send entries to Alan French at Dunelm, 79 Harcourt Road, Folkestone, KENT, CT19 4AE, to reach him no later than 15 October.

Alan French

Dover

FOOTBALL FABLE – A COMPETITION



This competition has been distributed by Demelza House. All entries and contributions should be sent to Patricia Campbell, as indicated at the foot of the page.



Entrance £1.00 in aid of Demelza House Children's Hospice. Closing date is 1st June 2004
Winner will be drawn at random and notified of their small mystery prize. Please photocopy and distribute to friends, family and colleagues.

Name Address.....Postcode.....

Telephone No:.....

Fill in the gaps in this tall tale with the names of football clubs from the list below.

The sun shone _____ the day we set sail for the _____ in a ship with a riddled with holes. As we sailed down the river that _____ to the sea we waved to the fair maid leaning against the

_____

The _____ was made up of Scots, Irish and others of the _____ race. The exception was the cabin boy named _____ whose job it was to _____ the boilers. He was illiterate but won our _____ with his _____ efforts to improve his _____. He was sent to _____ by the other villains who had brought their _____ of weapons on board. They were a rowdy bunch and after a drinking session they did in fact furniture. The voyage made my _____ as she had not had a holiday, _____, too long. The sea _____ did her _____ lot of good.

We landed _____ in the day on the _____ of the island, below the hills where the natives, _____ their dead. We crossed a _____ and entered a dense where the _____ roamed freely. We _____ regardless and eventually met a group of game _____ dressed in _____ green. After a day`s journey we caught dark fish in a then tried unsuccessfully to get milk From a herd of wild cows that didn't like having their _____. At last we came to our destination. the home of Hawaii's monarch the _____. She greeted us with a Friendly _____ but she was very upset as her _____ has been smashed when the fell down. While her _____ was being built. She was forced to live in a sumptuous . When we found the treasure we put the _____ the ship, determined to put it in the when we got home. That night for tea we had _____ cake _____ buns and some which made us all ill.

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Alloa | Clyde | Huddersfield | Newcastle | Sterling |
| Arsenal | Coventry | Hull | Oldham | Stoke |
| Ayr | Crewe | Leeds | Orient | Villa |
| Blackpool | Crystal Palace | Leyton | Preston | Walsall |
| Brighton | Dundee. | Lincoln | Queen of the | Wolves |
| Bury | Forest | Luton | South | Wrexham |
| Celtic | Forfar | Mansfield | Rangers | |
| Chelsea | Halifax | Milwall | Reading - | |
| Chester | Hearts | Motherwell | Southend | |

Please return completed forms and entry fee for the attention of:

Patricia Campbell, Demelza House Children's Hospice, Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8DZ.

Gift Aid Declaration: If you would like to increase the value of the fee, at no extra expense to yourself, simply sign this gift declaration (you must be a UK taxpayer). We will receive an extra 28 p for every £1.00 given.

Signed _____ Thank-you for your support

UP-DATE ON THE HIGHLAND GATHERINGS FOR 2004

Here are the dates for the Highland Gatherings to be held in the South East this summer. At the Colchester gathering there are usually stalls selling dancing (and piping) accessories so it is a good opportunity for buying new dancing shoes etc

Colchester Gathering Held in the beautiful Castle Park at Colchester
 Sunday 6th June Pipe Bands; Highland dancing competition and displays of country dancing

with the opportunity for everyone to join in.

Contact: Coleen Hutchinson 020 8554 3340

Knebworth House Held in Knebworth Park (nr Stevenage)

Sunday 20th June

Contact: Coleen Hutchinson 020 8554 3340

Harpenden Games A day of fun and games with a wonderful community spirit

Sunday 11th July Pipe Band displays; Highland Dancing Competition; displays by country dancers of all ages (from toddlers upwards)

Contact: Coleen Hutchinson 020 8554 3340

These events are in danger of being discontinued if they don't get more support and I do urge those of you who are interested in the Scottish arts of dance and music to attend a very enjoyable day.

Jenny Barrow

Medway and District Caledonian Association

KASS WALK 2004

The KASS walk has been arranged for Sunday 27th June, starting at 14.30 hrs from Shipbourne (grid reference is 592523). The village hall will be available from 14:00 hrs (for toilet facilities etc).

There are 2 walks. One is around 4.5 miles long and has a few reasonably steep gradients, so may suit the more serious walkers. I'm told that it goes through some very attractive countryside. The second, shorter, walk is 2.5 miles and is easier going. We plan to be back at the hall by about 16.00 - 16.30 hrs for a cup of tea/soft drinks, which will be provided.

We look forward to welcoming you all and hope for a fine afternoon so that picnics can be eaten alfresco!

Pat Harris

Sevenoaks

MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH 2003

22 people attended representing 15 clubs. It was agreed that the Autumn Dance was a great success. The next three KASS events are the Tea dance 25 April at Platt Village Hall, the KASS Highland Ball 8 May at Chatham Boys Grammar School and the KASS Walk 27 June at Shipbourne Village Hall.

The matter of insurance was again discussed and it was agreed that the existing policy would be renewed for a further year. The subscription would not be increased due to the increased cost of the premium. This leaves time to consider what should happen in the long term.

MEETING ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY.

21 people attended representing 14 clubs

The Tea Dance was enjoyed by the few that came. The KASS Ball will be on Saturday 8th May at Chatham and the walk will be on 27 June at Shipbourne village hall. The KASS Constitution will be examined to see if it requires any amendment. The death of David Kynoch was noted with sadness. Host societies are required for the KASS events in 2005 and 2006. Volunteers are required for the posts of Events Coordinator and KASS Secretary. The new postholders could run in tandem with the current ones to ensure an easy transition. The

Kass finances were presented and the insurance policy has been renewed with a minimal increase in premium and the Kass subscription will remain at £25 per club. The next meeting will be the AGM on 5th October 2004

Peter Forrow

Secretary

KASS DIARY. 2003 / 2004

15/05/2004 Canterbury St Andrews Spring Ball St Anselms School Green Ginger
15/05/2004 Sevenoaks Reel Club Dance New School Westheath. Records
29/05/2004 Tunbridge Wells & Crowborough, Beechwood School, Pembury Road, Colin Dewar
29/05/2004 Sidcup Dance, Robin Ellis
05/06/2004 Orpington Summer Dance Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Robin Ellis
12/06/2004 Isle of Thanet SCD 25th Ann. Ball, The Centre, Birchington, David Hall
19/06/2004 Sheerness SHC. Picnic Dance, Conservative Hall. Minster Road, Halfway Sheerness
27/06/2004 KASS Walk Sevenoaks to arrange. Shipbourne village hall 2pm for 2.30pm
10/07/2004 NKSA Dance. St. Paulinus Hall, Records
17/07/2004 Meopham & Gravesend Annual Picnic Dance Northfleet School. Caber Feidh
31/07/2004 Sidcup Dance, Robin Ellis
21/08/2004 Cobtree Summer Dance. Ditton Community Centre. Green Ginger
28/08/2004 Sidcup Dance, Taped Music
25/09/2004 Medway Autumn Ball Kemsley
25/09/2004 Sidcup Dance, Robin Ellis
02/10/2004 Tunbridge Wells & Crowborough Dance, St. Dunstan's Hall
02/10/2004 Dover SCDG Annual Dance St. Margaret's Village Hall David Hall Band
03/10/2004 KASS Autumn Tea Dance Sidcup to host 2 – 5 pm
09/10/2004 Orpington Autumn Dance Petts Wood Memorial Hall Robin Ellis
09/10/2004 NKSA Dance. St. Paulinus Hall, Records
16/10/2004 RSCDS Tunbridge Wells Autumn Dance Venue tba, Band TBA
23/10/2004 Isle of Thanet SCD Autumn Dance, Minster Village Hall, Records
30/10/2004 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Caber Feidh
06/11/2004 Ceilidh – Dancing thro' the ages Kemsley Hall contact Mo Dalton Medway
13/11/2004 KASS Autumn Dance St. Anselms School Canterbury. Hosts Canterbury St. Andrews
19/11/2004 Orpington St. Andrews Night The Warren Hayes Robin Ellis
Medway Day School – venue and date to be advised
27/11/2004 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Caber Feidh
11/12/2004 Meopham SCDC. Christmas Dance Northfleet School Robin Ellis
11/12/2004 Isle of Thanet SCD Ceilidh, The Centre, Birchington,
31/12/2004 Orpington Hogmanay Petts Wood Memorial Hall Robin Ellis
31/12/2004 Medway Hogmanay Party, St Georges Centre, Chatham

Year 2005

08/01/2005 Sheerness SHC. Burns Supper & Dance, Queenborough Hall. Caber Feidh
15/01/2005 Isle of Thanet SCD New Year Dance, Minster Village Hall, Records
21/01/2005 Orpington Burns Supper, The Warren, Hayes, Robin Ellis
22/01/2005 Medway Burns Dinner Dance Franklin Rooms Gillingham Caber Feidh
29/01/2005 Sidcup Burns Night, Parkwood Hall School, Swanley, Caber Feidh
26/02/2005 Isle of Thanet SCD Winter Dance, Minster Village Hall, Records
26/02/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Caber Feidh
05/03/2005 Thanet & District Haggis Supper & Dance. The Centre Birchington, Caber Feidh
19/03/2005 Deal SCD Dance St. Margaret's Village Hall George Meikle & Lothian Band
26/03/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Robin Ellis
02/04/2004 Medway Spring Ball
16/04/2005 Isle of Thanet SCD Spring Ball, The Centre, Birchington, Band Robert Baird
30/04/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Caber Feidh
07/05/2005 Thanet & District Annual Birthday Dance & Supper. The Centre Birch'ton, Caber Feidh
14/05/2005 KASS Highland Ball Dancing to Robin Ellis
14/05/2005 Sevenoaks 50th Anniversary Ball (further details tba)
28/05/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Robin Ellis
04/06/2005 Orpington Summer Dance, Petts Wood Memorial Hall, Robin Ellis
11/06/2005 Isle of Thanet SCD Summer Dance, Minster Village Hall, Records
30/07/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Robin Ellis
27/08/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Taped Music
24/09/2005 Sidcup Dance, St John's Hall, Sidcup, Robin Ellis
08/10/2005 Orpington Autumn Dance, Petts Wood Memorial Hall, Robin Ellis
22/10/2005 Isle of Thanet SCD, Autumn Dance, Minster Village Hall, Records
12/11/2005 KASS Autumn Dance Orpington will arrange
25/11/2005 Orpington St Andrews Night, The Warren, Hayes, Robin Ellis
10/12/2005 Isle of Thanet SCD Ceilidh, The Centre, Birchington
31/12/2005 Orpington Hogmanay, Petts Wood Memorial Hall, Robin Ellis

Peter Farrow,

Secretary