

KASS



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THE VIEW FROM WATERINGBURY

Dear Friends

Looking forward to the warmer days and the lighter nights? Then you must be in the Southern Hemisphere. But although up here we are descending fast towards Christmas, there are enough Scottish events around to keep our minds from winter blues (just take a glance at the diary on the back page). And within this newsletter, we can be grateful to Jean Brown, Kate Middleham and Phyllis Bowman for passing on their memories of a glorious summer too.

My sub-editor went into early hibernation, so I was left to sort the great pile of goodies for this edition single-handedly. I should explain, for those who have not worked it out yet, that the sub-editor, N'Chesa, is a cat; her name is Swahili for Playful and I have the flesh wounds to prove it. She is naturally more critical and discerning than I but with her entering duvet nirvana, I struggled on alone.

The Chronicler has sharpened his electronic quill to give us a story of a very influential king, we hear from Len Turk in the far flung fringes of our family in a society profile from the Sussex border, and Mo Dalton has provided a few of the back scene pictures that showed the dedication of all to make her 2004 ceilidh such a success. Sue Ekrem reminds us how you get "roped in" to Scottish dancing and David How and Paula Dyke share some of their jokes fished out from files marked "not for publication". Thanks to all who sent those snippets of news from around the societies too – dances, children's celebrations and anniversaries to take note of. Lots to get updated on the KASS front as well – introductions to our new minute secretary, an insurance report; the exciting new website and news from the AGM..... Oh, let me stop describing it to you and you can get on and read it for yourselves.

For the next issue, I'm planning to start a series that allows members from across the county to reminisce about their ancestral roots in a particular location. Do any of you have a connection with Dundee and Angus? Send me your memories, stories and old photos and I shall compile an article. I also want to hear about your Christmas, Hogmanay and Burn's experiences from across the county.

Thanks to all contributors and keep the copy coming. The next newsletter's deadline will be 25th April, 2006. Send offerings by email to alanpmillsuk@yahoo.co.uk or by post marked NEWSLETTER EDITOR, 110 Bow Rd., Watringbury, Kent, ME18 5DY.

Best regards,

Alan

A WEE NOTE FRAE THE CHAIRMAN

The past twelve months have simply flown past for Joan and me and here we are again counting the shopping days till Christmas!

This year saw your Committee operating, for the first time, under its revised Constitution with no apparent problems and the introduction of differing insurance arrangements - under the watchful eye of your Vice Chairman, Ken Hamilton. We believe that the new cover in force will prove to be both adequate and effective, as well as economical, for those Clubs who have opted to join the scheme. An open invitation remains on the table for any of the three Clubs, who have currently decided to maintain their own policy cover, to transfer into the main scheme at some future date.

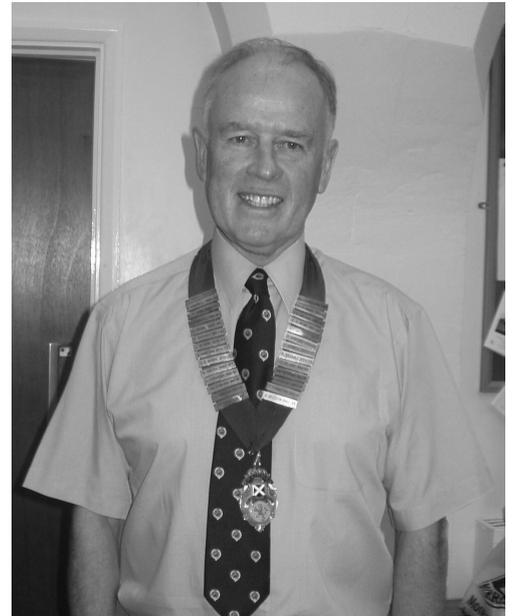
I believe that we can all look back at the K.A.S.S. events which have taken place during the past twelve months with a great deal of satisfaction. Canterbury St. Andrew's Scottish Country Dance Group hosted a quite excellent and well supported Autumn Dance in November, 2004. The Dover Scottish Country Dance Group then applied its own brand of expertise and enthusiasm to our Highland Ball. Despite a regrettable clash of dates, we still had over ninety in attendance at a new and most acceptable venue in Hawkinge. What a pleasure it is to dance on a superb sprung floor!

Our Spring and Autumn Tea Dances, hosted by Medway and District Caledonian Association and Cobtree Scottish Dancing Group respectively, turned out to be very happy occasions but, regrettably, numbers attending both were a little disappointing. Our well supported K.A.S.S. walk, which was ably organised by R.S.C.D.S. Tunbridge Wells, took place on a glorious Sunday afternoon. Our grateful thanks are due to all of those host Clubs and to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of these various events.

Earlier in the year, Margaret Harwood, our Events Co-ordinator came up with the suggestion that we should consider creating our own web site and once that had been raised in Committee, it became clear that there would be considerable support for such a venture. As usual, volunteers were requested and fresh from his success as our "Insurance Advisor", Ken Hamilton stepped (or was he pushed?) forward and offered to tackle the project. This task will involve a lot of time and effort on Ken's part and I would ask all member Clubs to offer Ken their utmost assistance and support. I feel certain that this will prove to be of considerable benefit, not only to our Association, but also to individual member Clubs. Thank you, Margaret for the original thought and Ken for agreeing to set the wheels in motion.

At our Annual General Meeting, last month, we had to bid farewell to Peter Farrow, who had been our Secretary for the previous three years. Peter was, I suspect, head hunted by his predecessor, John Day (who had completed ten years in that position!) - and he certainly chose the right person! Peter fulfilled his position most efficiently and provided strong backing and support for the Committee and in particular, for the two Chairmen he had to look after in that three-year period! Peter played a major role in the most recent revision of our Constitution and his introduction of "deliberate mistakes" made the reading of the Minutes so much more interesting and worthwhile! The increasing number and duration of his foreign business trips have, however, meant that he felt unable to devote sufficient time to our Association's business. We thank you, Peter, for your immense contribution and wish you all the very best for the future.

We are delighted that Hazel Catlett, a member of Sidcup, has volunteered to take Peter's place and I know that you will all offer her your utmost patience, co-operation and support as she settles into her new position. Welcome Hazel - and thank you for stepping forward so willingly.



I am greatly relieved that Ken Hamilton and Maggie Talbot have agreed to remain in their posts for a further twelve months. Maggie, has indicated that she will be relinquishing her position, as Treasurer, at our next Annual General Meeting in October 2006 and so the hunt is now on to find a replacement. Volunteers - please form an orderly queue!!

After three plus years, as our superb Events Co-ordinator, Margaret Harwood will be standing down following the Highland Ball in May of next year. Volunteers are required on that front also but, having recently noticed a real spring in her step, I suspect that Margaret, too, has been engaged in her own style of head-hunting! Watch this space!!

Our new Newsletter Editor, Alan Mills, has impressed the Committee so much with his first publication in May, this year, that he has earned the right to continue! - Ah! The penalty for success! Please remember that the best of Editors require a regular supply of material and that the success of any Newsletter still depends greatly on the support afforded by its readers. Your interest and assistance will be readily appreciated by Alan, to whom we offer our grateful thanks and our best wishes.

I am very grateful to you all for allowing me to remain as your Chairman for a further year. As in dancing, there does appear to be a steep learning curve and so long as I am able to remain on the upward section and avoid the slippery down-hill slope, then I am both happy and honoured to continue. My wife, Joan, continues to support me to the hilt and to her and to "a' ye guid folk oot there", a thousand thanks.

As I started with a reference to Christmas I should just like to end by wishing you and yours a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and successful New Year.

Iain Kinnear

Chairman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: KATE'S SPACE

In response to your reference to Malcolm Pole's article on Pelorus Jock in the May 2005 Newsletter. Firstly I would like to say that it was Lynda MacGowan's article, I was merely mentioned in it. On our walk I had struck up a friendship with a local dog who told me his name was Jock and in the course of our conversation I mentioned that we were headed for the "Singing Sands". He volunteered to guide us there as there were no waymarked paths and he knew a few shortcuts. It was while negotiating a rather tricky path down the cliff to the sands that I realised Jock's true worth and renamed him "Pelorus Jock".

The first report of Jack was in 1871 when the schooner "Brindle" was slowly nosing her way from Pelorus Sound into Picton through a dangerous passage known as French Pass when a dolphin was sighted twisting and turning first to port then to starboard and then ahead then returning and repeating the process. The captain realised that they were being guided through French Pass past a number of submerged rocks.

Occasionally other ships sighted him and accepted him as pilot. His fame spread and he became known as Pelorus Jack. He freely offered his services until 1904 when a ship's passenger produced a rifle and took a shot at him. He disappeared and was believed killed. Several months later he reappeared and offered his services once more. This he did up until 1912 when he appeared less frequently and eventually, much to the dismay of sailors, was not seen again, but he had faithfully carried out his self appointed duties for 40 years.

As a footnote, certain feminists claim that "Jack" was a pseudonym and that her real name was "Pelorus Jill".

Malcolm Pole, Medway.

Kate's space...

".....For pure erotic dreaming, however, it is the tantalising area of bare skin between the turned-down tops of sturdy argyle knee-hose and the swishing, pleated hem of a man's fine woollen kilts that gets my attention, especially when it's accompanied with the delightful promise of a sporran that doesn't quite sit flat on the groin. Mmmm... Head for the Highlands....."

Was this really from the Daily Telegraph, Kate?

Oh, and....

This is one of the more interesting road signs we came across while travelling in New Zealand:-

"The coroner thanks you for driving carefully."

FEATURES

A COLOURFUL WEEKEND

I spent the May bank holiday in Morecambe with ABCD holidays. We stayed at the pleasant Broadway Hotel and I was delighted to have a sea view.

Brenda and Arnold Medcalfe welcomed us on the Friday evening with a drinks reception, then off to dinner, served very efficiently.

The first evening we danced to records, Cherrybank Gardens, Roselath Cross, etc. The ballroom has a sprung floor and a small bar which was open for a couple of hours. We were also given a quiz, all to do with colours.

On Saturday I visited nearby Lancaster and spent an interesting day going round the museum, castle etc. That evening we danced to Chris Dewhurst and his band.

On Sunday people with cars kindly offered lifts to the Wray scarecrow festival, about half an hour's drive, with a stop to see Eric Morecambe's statue. It appeared every establishment in the village had at least one scarecrow from 2 inches to 15 ft tall, Charles and Camilla and Rover being popular themes. We had a snack lunch in the village hall then headed back to Morecambe where we came across some Morris dancing.

Derek Haynes had lived nearby and we danced some of his creations, very poignant shortly after his death. Some people literally 'crossed the bay' by joining a sponsored walk for the RNLI. About 8 miles and rather slimy, rather than me!

That evening we danced to accordionist Ian Slater.

Monday dawned all too soon, time to say goodbye, sing Auld Lang Syne and find out the answers to the quizzes with small prizes being given out. The 'piece de resistance' was a very colourful Tesco bag for life, the local staff must have thought Brenda and Arnold somewhat strange asking for 62! We were very well looked after, all in all a very enjoyable and colourful weekend.

Jean Brown, Canterbury

A LITTLE TALE

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

Terry had married a woman from America, and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning that needed done at their house. He said that it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and the dishes were all washed and put away.

Jimmy had married a woman from Australia. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. He told them that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man had married a Scottish girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye. Enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and call a landscaper.

God Bless Scottish Women!

Paula Dyke

CRIEFF 2005

I didn't really expect to go again but my arm was twisted. And so it was that Jean, Pat and I set off for Crieff Hydro, Perthshire, last June.

If you don't know Crieff, it is a quaint wee town. There is a pub called "The Haggis and Sporan", not where I tried haggis-flavoured crisps! I wouldn't recommend them. Crieff is surrounded by hills; indeed it is built on a very steep hill and on the banks of the River Earn. It dates back to Roman Times and has long been a link between the Highlands and Lowlands from the days of cattle-trading. Within a reasonable distance names to excite and intrigue are Auchterarder, Gleneagles, Scone, Dunkeld, many glens and Birnam Wood on its way to Dunsinane. Whisky-lovers should enjoy the "Famous Grouse" Experience to be found at the Glenturret Distillery.

Crieff Hydro Hotel is on the outskirts at the top of the hill. In its Victorian heyday it was a well-known spa to which would flock the gentry and a growing number of affluent city-dwellers, eager to escape to the fresh air and scenic surroundings. In addition to its fine restaurants and bars where the food is varied and pleasing, modern facilities include a swimming pool, sauna, spa bath, a hair and beauty salon and a gift shop. Outdoors, the Hydro Estate has gardens, forest walks and nature trails, tennis courts, bowling, croquet, putting, horse-riding, biking and golf. If you have enough puff you can climb the steep path through woodland, right opposite the hotel front to reach eventually the Knocke with wonderful views northward from the trig. point. Nowadays the hotel caters for more plebs than patricians but nevertheless retains its early elegance and imposing turrets.

As in previous years, dancing is six nights out of seven (whew!) with six well-known bands – Colin Dewar, Gordon Shand, George Meikle, Sandy Nixon, Marian Anderson and David Cunningham, all providing splendid music. You can perfect your steps, if need be, with the lovely Anita MacKenzie on three mornings; and on three evenings the lady from Pitlochry brings her selection of beautiful skirts, etc. for dancing which she will eagerly sell to you. As to the dances, most of them are familiar and none too taxing. Anyway, crib sheets are provided in dance programme order. What more could one ask?

During the week we met friends we had made the previous year. From Kent itself there was quite a contingent. One day some of us went to Drummond Castle, walked in its formal, geometric garden. Jean and I took a local bus and found ourselves in Dunblane, a small town with a lovely old cathedral and sad memories of children. The arranged, included visit during our week was to Falkland Palace, now owned by the Scottish National Trust, but with living quarters which are regularly used by one, Ninian Crichton-Stuart and his family. He has the title Keeper of the Palace. Kings and queens of Scotland used the palace as a holiday-home. As one wanders from room to room, it has a friendly and unpretentious feel about it. Most impressive is the chapel which is in daily use by the faithful of Falkland.

In charge of us all and keeping us content are Richard and Dawn Furlong, *in loco parentis*, and very good at it they are! I would recommend a week of Scottish country dancing at Crieff Hydro. If you are more adventurous Furlongs Travel can take you to the Galapagos and Ecuador and to the Chilean Fjords and Antarctica. I don't think there are Scottish groups there.....?

Kate Middleham, Sittingbourne
See also back page.....

NEWSLETTER IN YOUR INBOX?

Would you like to receive a free copy of the newsletter by email?

Please email the Editor at alanpmillsuk@yahoo.co.uk by 30th November to make your request.

The newsletter will be emailed to subscribers en masse on 1st December.

Ensure that your Inbox can receive files up to 2Mb. The Newsletter is in Microsoft® Word format.

Once subscribed, the Editor will keep your address on file and you will receive new editions as they are completed. Those already subscribed need not reapply and should receive their copies shortly.

THE KINGS AND QUEENS OF SCOTLAND: PART 2 - KING DAVID I (THE SAINT) 1124-1153

After the tragic life of little Queen Margaret, we now have one of the more effective kings, the saintly David I, king from 1124-1153.

Family background

David's father was King Malcolm III (1057/8-1093) (dates given are regnal years) who had gained the throne with English help and by killing his predecessors, Kings MacBeth (1040/1057) and MacBeth's stepson, Lulach (1057-1057/8). Malcolm married twice. His first wife, Ingebiorg, was from a powerful and well-connected family in the north of the country. Malcolm's main power base was in the south and his marriage strengthened his hold on the north. However, Ingebiorg was also his second cousin and, as a consequence, doubts were expressed about the legitimacy of the marriage, and therefore, of their three sons. His second wife was St Margaret of England.



From a 12th-century chapter

After the invasion of England by the Normans, the remnants of the old royal family fled north to Scotland to seek refuge. This was granted and Malcolm put aside Ingebiorg to marry young Margaret in 1068. On his part this was a love match and not made for political reasons. Malcolm was completely under Margaret's spell and could refuse her nothing. What she thought of Malcolm is less clear because her main passion was religion and although she was devoted to her husband and family one gets the impression of a rather cold woman who would have been happier as a nun.

David was their youngest son (Malcolm's 9th and Margaret's 6th). Even though the life of children in the Middle Ages could be cut short by all manner of diseases and violence, not even in his wildest dreams could David have expected to have become king with so many brothers before him. Four of them did succeed to the throne, his half-brother Duncan II (1094) and his full brothers, Edmund (1094-1097), Edgar (1197-1107) and Alexander I (1107-1124). David was therefore a mature and experienced middle aged man when he eventually reached the throne in 1124 (his year of birth is not known for certain but it was about 1080). In 1100 his sister, Edith-Matilda married King Henry I of England and David spent several years living in England at King Henry's court where he was known simply as prince David, the Queen's brother.

Marriage and Titles

When King Edgar died in 1107 he wanted Scotland to be divided between his next younger brothers Alexander and David with Alexander ruling all northern Scotland as senior king and David ruling the Lowlands south of the Clyde as his junior colleague. Alexander rejected the proposal, and though David threatened to lead an army against him, it came to nothing and David remained in England. It was not until 1113, when David married a rich English heiress that Alexander relented and allowed David to rule in southern Scotland as Prince or Sub-king of Cumbria. David's wife was the daughter of Waltheof, Earl of Northumberland, Northampton and Huntingdon and inherited vast lands in these counties. Her mother was also well connected being the niece to King William the Conqueror. Through his wife, David became both a great Anglo-Norman baron and a Scottish king, which was immensely important in understanding the power that David was able to wield and the respect he was accorded by his peers.

Relations with the Church

David's mother, Queen Margaret, tried to instill her strong religious views on her children and her influence was strongest in David. He continued the reforms started by his mother and brothers, but it was under David that it all came into shape. He completely re-organised the Church structure and influence in Scotland and supported the widening of learning and literacy in the country. He founded, or refounded, the bishoprics of Glasgow (1115), Ross (1128), Caithness (1128), Aberdeen (1136/7), Dunblane (1150) and Brechin (1150). In addition monasteries and abbeys were founded at Selkirk (1113), Jedburgh (1118), Holyrood (1128), Kelso (1128), Melrose (1136), Newbattle (1140) Dundrennan (1142), Cambuskenneth (1147), Holmcultram (1150), Kinloss (1150) and Dryburgh (1150). He also forged strong

and close links with Rome. Even during his life he had come to be regarded as a saintly king by his people, the epithet Saint David remained after his death, even though he was never formally canonized.

The resources needed to create the abbeys and monasteries must have placed a considerable strain on the kingdom. In addition to finding the money to fund the building work directly David also had to recruit and retain the many skilled artisans required. Presumably many of them moved from one site to another over the years as new projects were started.

Internal Politics

It was David who really forged Scotland as a prosperous kingdom, introducing a strong silver coinage, and developing towns like Berwick, Edinburgh, Jedburgh, Stirling and Perth as major trading centres from which the king drew revenues. David also redrew the Scottish administrative map, creating the counties that remained until the reorganization of 1975. Justice was dispensed by a system of justiciars. In all these things David created the foundation of modern Scotland.

Another major reform instituted by David was the feudalisation of lowland Scotland. Tracts of land were given to Anglo-Norman barons in exchange for their loyalty and service. Amongst them were Robert de Brus, the ancestor of Robert Bruce, who was given the lordship of Annandale, and Walter Fitzalan, who became High Steward of Scotland and thus the ancestor of the Stewart dynasty. It was this last process which caused the most reaction by the people and disgruntled Highlanders described it as the "invasion by invitation", and which led to at least two revolts during David's reign. The first was led by Earl Angus of Moray (grandson of King Lulach) in 1130 who was killed at the battle of Strathcarro in Forfarshire and secondly by Bishop Wilmund of the Isles in 1140. The latter uprising simmered on and eventually led to the declaration of independence by Somerled of Argyll and the Isles after David's death. Nevertheless, David's gradual reform brought a cohesiveness to Scotland that it had not previously enjoyed.

External policies

His ties with England were extremely close. He had lived in England for many years, he owned vast estates there and sat as a great Baron in the English parliament. He had claims to Northumberland and the primary aim of David and his immediate successors was to gain the Earldom for themselves and ultimately, to incorporate the county into Scotland. While the question of ownership was in dispute it was in Scotland's interest to remain on good terms with England.

In military matters he was less strong and only partly successful. In 1120, King Henry's only legitimate son was drowned at sea and by 1127 it was obvious he would have no further sons to succeed him. In 1127 Henry asked all his barons, (David included) to swear to recognise his daughter Matilda, as the next ruler of England. On Henry's death in 1135 and the usurpation of power by King Stephen, David invaded northern England, laying claim to Northumberland and Cumberland initially in the name of Matilda. The next three years saw considerable bloodshed in Northumberland where David's soldiers committed awful atrocities. Eventually David was defeated by the northern barons under Thurstan, Archbishop of York, at Cowton Moor, near Northallerton, on 22 August 1138 at the battle of the Standard. David continued to press his claims in the north and Stephen, unable to fight a war on two fronts, reached an agreement whereby David was granted the earldom of Northumberland provided he swore fealty to Stephen. The earldom was bestowed upon David's son and heir, Henry.

David switched sides again to support Matilda when she gained the upper hand in February 1141 and he ventured as far south as London for her coronation. However, he was expelled from London in September by Stephen's troops and only narrowly escaped back to Durham without being captured. Thereafter he remained on the sidelines, a nominal supporter of Matilda, but not engaging in further conflict. In 1149 he gained a promise from Matilda's son (Henry II), that, should he become king, he would grant David the lands of Northumberland and Cumbria. When David died in 1153 he almost certainly regarded himself as lord of all the lands from Caithness in the north to Cumbria and Northumberland in the south. Though these southern lands were not yet formally part of the kingdom of Scotland, David doubtless believed they would be.

David's family

David and his wife had 4 recorded children, two sons and two daughters. The first son, Malcolm, was strangled when a child, possibly by a supporter of David's uncle King Donald III, his two daughters,

Claricia and Hodierna died unmarried. The younger son, Henry, was Earl of Huntingdon and Northumberland, married and had children. Unfortunately he died shortly before his father so it was David's grandsons, Malcolm IV the Maiden (1153-1165) and William the Lion (1165-1214) who inherited the throne. But it was through King David's third grandson, also called David, that the heirs of the Balliol, Bruce and Stewart families would become kings. King David died in Carlisle on 24 May 1153 and was buried in state before the high altar in the church of the Holy Trinity, Dunfermline.

The Chronicler

RSCDS REFLECTIONS OF A BEGINNER

As most of you reading this are dancers, you will know what I'm talking about. Those of you who are not dancers never will know unless you try it. This past year has been something of a whirlwind, and no, I did not know what I was letting myself in for.

In short, the year has gone from pure fun in the first term, to badly pulling a calf muscle during a class, just after Christmas. I thought my dancing life had collapsed but did fully recover after about six weeks. It was at the day school at Hugh Christie last April that I began to realise what Scottish dancing was about. It occurred to me then that I would be quite happy doing this for the rest of my life. At the end of the summer term, I found myself on the committee of my local branch.

During the year, occasionally people have said some quite profound things about what dancing had meant to them. During the day school, a couple told me that dancing had transformed their married life. As I didn't know them very well I didn't ask too many questions as to how this had happened. Then the other day a friend said to me, dancing is good for the soul. Whoever said that it was a frivolous pastime?

Philosophy apart, (but maybe not?), the greatest challenge for me has definitely been the formations. I seem to be slower than most at picking them up. I was slightly comforted last week when the person I was dancing with pointed out that it is not the mistakes that matter, but that recovering from them and not panicking makes the difference. Recently I was asked to 'Look after your partner'. Well I really was trying but for various reasons was finding it rather difficult.

Whilst the whole of the year may have resonances with real life, I'm hopeful the path of this one, even if it isn't very smooth will be a happy one!

Sue Ekrem, RSCDS Tunbridge Wells

You can blame (and say a prayer for) David How for these ones....**The Lottery**

Two years ago a man and a woman had just won the lottery. He was at work when the lottery office phoned their home to inform them of the win. His wife was very worried because the man had just recovered from a heart attack and she wondered what would happen if he found out about it too abruptly. So, she called her Vicar and asked if he could talk to the man and slowly lead him into telling him the news. He agreed and said he would be there as soon as possible. When the man got home, the Vicar asked if they could go for a walk. While they were walking, the minister began by asking "What would you do if you won the lottery?" The man replied "Why, I'd give it all to the church." The minister dropped dead on the spot.

The Bishop's visit

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook. "Now", beamed the bishop, "Do you know who I am?" After a moment's silence one child ventured "Little Bo Beep?"

Tactful

There was once a minister who was determined that things should be done properly during each service, yet he had a great gift for being gentle and tactful. The congregation often read the 23rd Psalm together. One Sunday, before they started, he said smilingly: "Oh, may I ask the lady who always arrives at the still waters while the rest of us are in the green pastures, to wait for us this time?"

ADVERT

Lynda MacGowan has all the 78rpm records that were used by Medway Caledonian that the Association would like to get rid of. There are 55 in all, most by Jimmy Shand, all in a baize lined wooden carrying box. If any collector is interested in taking them off their hands all they ask is a donation to the club. Because Lynda has not got an appropriate record player she cannot guarantee the sound quality, but they look in good condition.

Any offers and enquiries to **Lynda MacGowan (01795 476274)**

MO'S CEILIDH

The May Newsletter publication date passed before Mo Dalton managed to get these photos to me, but they were too wonderful to spike for good. So for those who missed the Ceilidh "Scottish Dancing through the ages" last November, here are a few gems from the dress rehearsal to give you a taster of what a fantastic night it was.

All Photos were taken by Christopher Patrick Lee.



Mary Pole and Jack Ruler attending the Menzies Ball.



The Lads of the Sword Dance of Papa Stour ("traditional saint" as opposed to "seven dwarf" version).



Ailean Baker, Margaret Anne Robertson, Paula Dyke, Sue Bodle and Heather Kelly, arriving for the Earl Of Errol's Reel, in usual attire.



Many of the cast in their Menzies Ball, Orkney Wedding Dance or Earl of Errol's costumes, wonderfully designed and made by Jean Peters (front left) and the mastermind of the whole event, Mo Dalton (centre front).

SOCIETY PROFILES – No. 3

TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND CROWBOROUGH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

The group was founded in 1956 in Crowborough by a group of like-minded people, led by Dr Bill Adam; dancing was held in his house to start with. A little later classes were held in the secondary school under evening classes. These continued until late 1968, when it was decided to move to Tunbridge Wells. The first teacher was the late Bill Standish who was a perfectionist; this encouraged the young members to get to grips with the footwork first before learning the dances, a lot fewer than today!

The club entered the Sevenoaks festival in the late Fifties, winning on one occasion, and one at Eastbourne that the team also won. Demonstrations were given at all sorts of functions, including a 21st birthday party in Ightham with some of the Sevenoaks club, one of the dancers was the wife of Richard Hearn (Mr Pastry) and there was a practice at their home beforehand, and to a village fete where it was so hot that the tape equipment music got faster and faster so it had to be abandoned.

There were a couple of day schools run by the club in the early sixties in Crowborough which were very successful with teachers coming from the London Branch. Members attended "come dancing days" at Gillingham Girls School with Colin and Jan Stephenson in charge, where KASS clubs would dance a dance that they enjoyed dancing at their clubs and then everyone would have a go, with a dance in the evening with the ones that had been chosen from the afternoon being added to the programme.

In the early days a monthly dance would be held in a private Edwardian house in Crowborough which boasted a ballroom! Hogmanay dances were also held there. The club still holds many Hogmanay mainly for club members with a few visitors; regardless on what day it falls on. Though when once it happened to be a Sunday the club were invited to a demonstration at a Rotary Club party, so that at midnight the party could start dancing!

Does anyone remember the KASS Ball being held in the Star Hotel in Maidstone in the late 50's early 60's doing the 2 Eightsome Reels, one in the first half and the other in the second half? The "end of season dances" are still held, they are now called the Spring Ball, in the past with Bob Duncan and his band, Don Hills' Band to present bands of Colin Dewar and David Cunningham. When the club moved in the late 60's the name was changed to include Tunbridge Wells reflecting the area where dancing was held. As the club met on a Tuesday evening, the Scottish Association on a Monday, there was no conflict between members; after the demise of their dancing section, the surviving members joined us. The club still meets on Tuesdays, with willing members being M.C. for the evening, and a teacher once a month in the winter months. Dancing starts beginning of September until the last Tuesday in July.

Len Turk, Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough

Editors Note – Early congratulations to Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough for reaching their golden anniversary next year.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

In June 1940 J.E.M. Jimmy Atkinson of the 7th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was captured by the Germans. When he arrived at the P.O.W. internment camp near Salzburg, he found that Lt. A.P.J. "Peter" Oliver of the 4th Seaforths had started Highland Dancing Classes. Lt. Atkinson was more of a country than a highland dancer and soon after his arrival a reel club was formed. The POWs had a few problems. They had no musicians, no instruction books, and no women to use as partners. They had to make do with whistling the tunes, assigning the women's parts to men, and making up steps as they went along. On his way to the camp, Lt. Atkinson had developed an idea for a new dance, based on the cross of St. Andrew, which was the badge of the 51st Division. He and Lt. Oliver began to work it out on paper. Once they had the dance composed, they tried to send copies home. Written in specialised shorthand used by dancers to communicate dance moves to one another, it was apparently intercepted by the German security, who spent the rest of the war trying to figure out what the cryptic, coded instructions really meant. One copy made it back home to Scotland and the local dance group began dancing it at about the same time the soldiers were dancing it on the roof of the prison hospital

block in the camp. The name of the dance is The Reel of The 51st Division and it is a general favourite everywhere.

*Source: The Reel of the 51st by Alastair J.A. Robertson,
The Highlander, Vol. 30, No. 4, July/Aug 1992, pp. 40-41.*

Spotted by Lynda MacGowan, Medway Caledonian, in the Macpherson Newsletter, April 2005.

AROUND THE SOCIETIES

ORPINGTON AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION

The Orpington and District Caledonian Society had a brilliant start to their new dance season. The move of the beginner's class from Chislehurst to Orpington proved advantageous with a large number of new dancers (including some in their 20s!!!) enjoying our weekly meeting. Petts Wood Memorial Hall was full to capacity at our recently held Autumn Dance, supported by dancers from Tunbridge Wells & Crowborough, Gravesend, Medway, Sidcup and various clubs from Sussex. Our thanks to all.

ODCS-dates for your diary:

2.12.05 St.Andrew's Supper Dance - tel. Sheila 020 8460 2995

31.12.05 Hogmanay - tel. Denise 01959 562444

27.1.06 Burns' Celebration - tel. John 01689 851929

RSCDS ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS BRANCH

And a good time was had by all

. . . . well, for the few who were discerning enough to know a good dance when they see one! I am of course talking about the Autumn Dance held at Weald of Kent School Tonbridge, the other Saturday and run by 'Royal' Tunbridge Wells.

Lillian and her 'band' of men (The Invercauld Band) pounded out the tunes with such vigour, not withstanding the odd hick-up, they still managed to bring those dances to life, the programme of dances was very eclectic, the food was good and plentiful, the venue we know you like and there was plenty of room to dance – plenty of room. We were also pleased to welcome the President of KASS and his wife.

We ask "what more could you want for a good night out", – but there must have been something else going on that night because the floor was empty! (virtually). The good dancing folk of Kent (and it has to be said, Sussex too) decided that the other options on offer that night were better. We are sorry you thought that, because you missed a really good night.

Never mind – we hope to see you all at our 30th Anniversary Ball in April next year at Tonbridge School. Yes THE Tonbridge School, with a really good band from the North.

Colin Simpson

GRAVESEND AND MEOPHAM SOCIETIES

Gravesend and Meopham Picnic Dance 16th July

Our third picnic dance at the 'new' venue, and the 28th in total. The weather was kind to us once again, in fact it has only been wet once or twice since we started and at least we can now have the use of the school hall if necessary. However, this year we were all able to enjoy the sunshine, the friendly atmosphere and the dancing and it was lovely to see a number of families present. After all the expenses had been paid we were able to send £160 to the Kent Air Ambulance.

Although the Northfleet School for Girls might not have the same allure as Cobham Hall or Nurstead Court, the lawn we use is in a sheltered quadrangle and with the picnic tables and umbrellas it makes a nice setting for our dance. Thus, if you haven't been there yet, please come next year – we look forward to seeing all of you on the 15th July 2006.

David How, Gravesend

MEDWAY AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION

Celebration Tea Dance – Sunday 12 June

Girls in white dresses with bright tartan sashes were very much in evidence at the Medway Juniors’ tea dance, mingling on the dance floor with the many girls and boys from the younger class, in colourful tartan skirts or kilts. The dance was held to celebrate their recent success in the RSCDS medal tests and for the presentation of certificates and medals by Medway’s President, Lynda MacGowan.

We were pleased to welcome the Chairman of KASS, Iain Kinnear and his wife Joan to the dance. They joined wholeheartedly in the dancing, as did many of the children’s relatives and friends, regardless of age and knowledge of Scottish Country dancing, and were expertly led by the MC Harry Robertson.

During the tea break the children from both classes entertained us with demonstrations of some of their exam dances. Yours truly, taking the place in the dance of the absent, but much cherished lone lad in my class, went hopelessly wrong! A further humiliation was seeing it on video! But when I could bear to look again, was greatly encouraged to see that none of the girls had gone wrong; they continued to dance beautifully, round me when necessary, until they got me back into place - thus justifying their excellent exam results!

Others who contributed greatly to the success of the afternoon were Barbara Meade who teaches the younger class, and made the cake, Ailean Baker who produced the programmes, Rob Little our Piper, Tony MacGowan our photographer and Muriel Greenstead with her usual gift of goodies. We are grateful too to Medway Committee members for enthusiastically joining in to help with teas and the raffle, enabling us all to enjoy an afternoon of happy dancing, proving once again that Scottish Country dancing is for everyone.

Margaret Anne Robertson



Our Two Diamonds – Sixty Years of Marriage

Bill and Yvonne MacDonald celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 2nd 2005. The day commenced with a card from H.M. The Queen followed later by the ceremony of re-dedication of their marriage vows at Holy Trinity Church, Twydall. The Service must have brought back so many cherished memories – sadness and tears, laughter and happiness but bound together with a strong bond of love. They are happy in the support of each other.

Yvonne has always been a very sympathetic and caring person, ready with a helping hand. She is now recently blind and in need of help herself.

Where did this life together begin? A young and handsome Scot who had served as a sailor for 2½ years abroad in WWII, walked into the Rainham Co-op Hall with his shipmate, Eric. He introduced Bill to Yvonne who eventually taught him ballroom and social dancing. As was usual, they repaired to the YMCA nearby where Yvonne was a volunteer helper, so after she had served him tea and baked beans on toast, the friendship began! 'The way to a man's heart is through his stomach' seems to be true – they were engaged in April 1945 and married in June at Gillingham Parish Church.

In 1946 they saw an advertisement for Scottish country dancing at the Masonic Hall, Gillingham. Thus began their membership of Medway and District Caledonian Association and so they have another 60 years to celebrate next year. They were members of the demonstration team, dancing at charity events, Highland Games in Herts and two visits to Valenciennes, France with whom Gillingham were twinned. They won the award for best dressed team! Bill was President in 1958-60 and performed many 'First foots' at the Hogmanay celebrations.

We wish them many more happy years together and hope we can celebrate 60 years with them as members of Medway and District in 2006.

Muriel Greenstead

NB - Rainham Co-op was demolished – it stood opposite Rainham Parish Church.

COBTREE SCOTTISH DANCE GROUP***Cobtree Double Celebration Dance; Saturday 25 June; Ditton Community Centre***

In March we decided to have a dance to celebrate the club's 30th year and Jan and my ruby wedding anniversary, provided we could find a suitable date on the KASS calendar and then find a hall and a band. We were lucky on all 3 counts - the 25th June was free, the Ditton Community Hall was available and so was Frank Reid. We were in business! We were lucky on a 4th count, too - Carolyn Mowll agreed to make us a cake.

Jan worked very hard in selling the tickets, aided by Jane Masters in particular who advertised the dance in London and the umpteen other dance venues that she attends! We eventually sold 145 tickets.

Pam Vincett, our Secretary and Chief Recruiting Officer, managed to persuade four of her friends Margaret, Miriam, Margaret, and Dave to come and make the tea and coffee for us and help set the food out. Dave also took a video recording of the proceedings. Phyllis Bowman, Muriel Greenstead and Eileen Stener provided some superb floral decorations. Phyllis made the 'pearl' table decorations and Muriel did the 'ruby'. Eileen decorated the stage. As usual we had a small army of volunteers to help us get the hall ready and, with the help of the caretaker and his wife, we soon had it ship shape and Bristol fashion (very nautical – three cheers for Nelson!) and suitably decorated.



Mick Hicks played the pipes to welcome the guests in. One guest from London was so impressed he wanted Mick to play while we ate! Unfortunately for him Mick wanted to eat, too. To help get people in a good mood to start with, we laid on some Buck's Fizz which was expertly served out by Joy and Bob Hollamby and Heather and David Kelly. We also had an early cake cutting ceremony so that Pam's volunteers could get it divided up in time for the interval. To keep Sandra and Alan Nightingale happy, Helen and Brian Knell aided and abetted by Julia and Charles Heseltine, organized a raffle which was very well supported.

Everything was hotting up nicely but only half of the band had arrived. The fiddle player arrived in good time followed soon after by Richard Furlong who was playing the drums,

but no Frank Reid or Shona. Richard assured me that Frank was on his way. In the meantime Richard and the fiddler prepared themselves for the evening by checking the special dance programmes that Dick Barford had prepared for the evening. Eventually Frank and Shona arrived and the dance finally got under way about 10 minutes or so late. Frank and Shona also made use of Dick's programmes which at least meant they were playing the same dances.

Once the band started they were very good. There was a terrific atmosphere right from the start and it was good to see so many people enjoying themselves. As MC for the first half I watched a lot of dances from the stage. It was a great spectacle. I was particularly impressed by the movement in Polharrow Burn, with hardly anyone making a mistake.

The food in the interval was very good – the standard of 'bring a plate of food' buffets never ceases to amaze me – and it was well organized. We helped it go down well by providing free red and white wine for those that wanted it. Dick Barford was MC in the second half and did very well as usual although one dance, The Argyll Square, was a struggle. Obviously a lot of people, even experienced dancers, didn't know it and it showed or at least it did in our set! Generally, however, the dancing was great and the band helped to make it a lively evening. Some of the bar staff were very impressed with the dancing. They thought that we all looked so slim and fit. One of them, Nicola was so impressed that she came to Cobtree on the following Wednesday and she brought her mum, Gill, too. Unfortunately, though they seemed to enjoy themselves they have not been back.

At the end we were delighted to have so many people helping to clear up. It certainly helps to make Scottish country dancing events so enjoyable to have such support.

Not everything went to plan. The Nightingales didn't win first prize at the raffle and inevitably Dick and I forgot to say or do something that we should have but all in all it was a great night and we were grateful that so many people made the effort to come and support us. Thank you one and all.

John Day

PS. My apologies to all Cobtree members who haven't got a mention in this article. I'll try to fit you in next time.

Editor's note – thanks to Kate Middleham for the photo

QUIZ

People who know my warped mind and love of geography will not be surprised to see this quiz – a cryptic, punnish, contorted tour of Scotland. Try to solve the clues to find a series of Scottish towns and cities. Please send your answers to the Editor. A winner will be picked out of a hat from those with the most correct answers received before 25th April 2006 and he/she will be awarded a prize at the KASS Spring Ball.

WARNING – several of these are very, very corny.

1. Swedish group is close to cathedral boss?
2. No zeroes are allowed here!
3. Parent is feeling fine.
4. Impoverished sycamore?
5. Inexperienced; all but German wine.
6. Fresh woman is not here!
7. Sheltered spot for rock.
8. Rat-a-tat-tat.
9. Below my hip!
10. Hawaiian greeting.
11. Window breaking?
12. Lost voice below zero?
13. Mix heather.
14. Murderin'?
15. Dwelling at entrance belongs to ships.
16. "Give me money, chef!" they say.
17. Where your days are numbered?
18. Larger?
19. Teacake.
20. Do a paint job before dental work.
21. Two sensitive parts of the face.
22. Barrel builder?
23. Aluminium found near Virginia.
24. Donkey calls for his mother?
25. Bell sounds against barrier.
26. Drowned the missus?
27. Rook really liked a woman!
28. Golfer's warning is a long way away.
29. Relations or back to German secret service.
30. Rabbit peers deep into 'is 'ome.

ANSWERS IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The Editor

THIS NEWSLETTER IS A SUDOKU FREE ZONE

KASS AFFAIRS

KASS AGM Committee Meeting – 4th OCTOBER 2005 – SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Twenty five attended the 225th Committee Meeting and AGM held at Cobtree Hall, Maidstone, on Tuesday, 4th October 2005, at 8 pm.

Chairman's remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone and in particular welcomed Hazel Catlett from Sidcup as an observer but who has offered her services as Secretary. In addition, Andrew Helbling (Canterbury St. Andrews) was welcomed to his first meeting. The Chairman thanked Peter Green throughout the year in booking Cobtree Hall and the many other things he does on our behalf. He thanked the refreshments team who also washed up at every meeting. The Committee acknowledged everyone for their efforts.

KASS events

Margaret Harwood circulated a sheet itemising KASS events for 2006. She had researched a new venue in Faversham called The Abbey School and it was agreed the KASS Highland Ball be held there on Sat 13th May 2006. Sittingbourne was nominated as host society assisted by Canterbury and Deal. Volunteer MCs were Pat Ansell and Mike Talbot. The KASS Autumn Dance is on 11th November 2006; volunteers are still required to organise this.

KASS Diary

The Secretary stated that all local events that have been notified to him had now been added to the master diary covering events to 2010. A member club stated there were still clashes with dances held on the same date. Where the club engages a band there is a considerable outlay of money and will suffer a reduced attendance if another club's dance is held on the same evening. The diary is produced to avoid this sort of conflict and the Secretary agreed to highlight events where a live band was playing. Member clubs are reminded they should be mindful of other events when booking and refer to the diary. The diary could also appear in the website.

KASS Newsletter

The editor was unable to attend but a report was read. Costs were slightly higher than usual due to the larger edition but will be brought back into line with the next issue. There was no feedback on the last edition and it may be that to contain costs some revenue needs to be raised in the form of advertising or in the sale of the newsletter, this will have to be researched. The main costs were in the form of photocopying and postage. The Secretary suggested that with nearly every club now having an e-mail contact point costs could be significantly reduced by using this method. The Treasurer pointed out that costs were within her budgeted amount and clubs were used to receiving two copies within their Annual Subscription.

Reports from Officers for the year 2004/2005

Chairman. Since the last meeting in May, the Chairman and his wife had attended the Thanet and District Annual Birthday Dance, the Grand Dance hosted by Robin Ellis, Cobtree's 30th Anniversary Dance that doubled up with a Ruby Wedding Anniversary Dance for John and Jan Day. There followed Meopham's Cheese and Wine evening, a North Kent Dance, the Gravesend and Meopham Picnic Dance, a Sidcup Dance, Carolyn's Dance, the Ashdown Charity Dance and Medway's Autumn Dance.

They were both delighted to attend Medway Junior Dancers' Celebration Dance in June and were impressed with the high standard of dancing. They and their teachers would be welcome at Sidcup if they were minded to move.

All KASS events were very enjoyable, the Spring Tea Dance hosted by Medway, which regrettably suffered a low attendance, the Highland Ball was an undoubted success. Dover SCD Group hosted the event expertly. The KASS walk in June was ably run by RSCDS Tunbridge Wells and the event was blessed with fine weather. The Autumn Tea Dance was held last Sunday and he thanked Cobtree for an excellent afternoon. Finally he expressed his sincere thanks to the Committee for their support, particularly Ken Hamilton, Vice Chairman, Peter Forrow as Secretary, Maggie Talbot as Treasurer and last but not least Margaret Harwood the Events Co-ordinator.

Treasurers Report. Copies of the Treasurer's Audited report were distributed. It was pointed out that KASS finances were healthy so the previously suggested Subscription of £15 for the next year was still appropriate. Previously it had been agreed to retain the proceeds of the 2004 Autumn Dance Raffle but in view of the state of the funds it was agreed they be donated to Demelza House.

Secretary's Report. The Secretary stated that this year had been an easy year. With more members and Secretaries using e-mail, contact with them was more convenient with only 5 members/ secretaries not using e-mail. He thanked all Members and Secretaries for their co-operation and putting up with his frequent mistakes during his 3 years of office. He said it was time for him to retire and wished his successor every success.

Events Co-ordinator. She too, had enjoyed organising KASS events during the past year. She hoped that a replacement would be available for next year to enable her to retire.

Election of Officers

The following Officers were proposed and seconded unopposed.

- *Chairman* - Iain Kinnear.
- *Vice Chairman* - Ken Hamilton.
- *Treasurer* – Maggie Talbot - The Chairman explained that Maggie Talbot wished to stand for only one further year and he went on to thank Maggie for keeping KASS 'in the black' and reminded everyone that a volunteer be prepared to become Treasurer will be needed well before the next AGM.
- *Secretary* - Hazel Catlett - Ian Kinnear proposed a vote of thanks to Peter on his retirement for all his work during the last 3 years.
- *Events Co-ordinator* - Margaret Harwood -The Chairman stated that in Margaret Harwood we have a brilliant event co-ordinator but regrettably Margaret has asked to be released from the post. She will leave after the Highland Ball in May 2006. He proposed that Margaret Harwood be appointed Events Co-ordinator, on the understanding she will relinquish her post after the Highland Ball 2006. The Chairman went on to explain that a successor be nominated before May 2006 and that person would, if necessary, be co-opted at that time and their election formalised at the 2006 AGM
- *Newsletter Editor* - Alan Mills - The Chairman also thanked Rita Menzies for her role as Editor during the period from the last AGM until Alan took up the post.

Accounts Checkers

Jennie Sheehan and Jackie Bebbington.

Bank Mandate

It was agreed to delete Peter Forrow from, and add Hazel Catlett to, the list of Authorised Signatories for KASS. The Treasurer would notify the bank.

To set the level of Subscription for the year 2004/2005

£15.00 was accepted. -It was re-iterated that clubs had until the meeting following the AGM to pay subscriptions. If, at the beginning of that meeting, any club had not paid, that club could not participate in KASS matters. The membership form must, however, be received by the AGM (see clause 1(a) and 2 of Constitution).

Late Extras

The Chairman enquired whether there was anyone present who knew about the KASS Shield? Who designed it, who created it? He stated that it may need renovating or even redesigning and was keen to establish its origins. Any members who have any information should contact the Chairman.

Date and venue of next meeting.

Tuesday, 7th March 2006, at Cobtree Hall at 8 pm.

The Chairman thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.38 pm.

Full minutes are available on request from the Minute Secretary

INSURANCE

It was noted at the last KASS committee meeting that the KASS Insurance policy includes 16 member organisations and KASS giving a total of 17 clubs. The original calculation for the insurance fee included 18 clubs but this will be reduced to 17 for the year 2006/2007 which if the overall premium remains the same will increase the cost to each club from £43.75 to £46.32. The error is due to Ken Hamilton living in the Far East (of Kent) and not knowing his RSCDS Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch from his Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough.

It was also agreed that in the event of a claim the excess of £500 would be shared by the participating clubs. This means that for each claim the participating clubs would be asked to contribute ?29.41 towards the excess. Fortunately we have never had a claim and long may this remain the situation.

Ken Hamilton, Vice Chairman



WEBSITE

It is proposed that KASS should have a website. The website would include the KASS diary, a list of member clubs and details of KASS and member club events. The site will provide guidance to new people seeking information on Scottish Societies in Kent and the events and activities they offer. The website will also provide links to other relevant websites such as the RSCDS, Member Club websites, Minicrib, Scottish Country Bands, etc.

It is also planned that the website will have a page for each of the member clubs. This will allow member clubs to list their contact details and to advertise their events.

If you have suggestions on what should be included in the website, or, material to be added, please contact Ken Hamilton (KENHAMILTON1@COMPUSERVE.COM). Ken has agreed to prepare and host the website for KASS.

Ken Hamilton, Vice Chairman

OUR NEW SECRETARY

As you can see by the minutes above, a new secretary, Hazel Catlett, has been appointed by KASS. Before you all descend on her en mass to sort your problems out, here are a few of her own words.

My thanks to the Editor for giving me the opportunity of introducing myself to you as your new KASS Secretary.

I describe myself as a "cross-bred", my mother coming from Scotland and my father being English but it has always been the Scottish side of me which has had the greatest pull. On my numerous trips to Scotland I always feel that I have "come home" so when I joined Sidcup & District Caledonian Ass. with my husband, Peter, some 4 years ago, it became another extension of my Scottish family. We have already made so many friends within the Association and are looking forward to increasing our friendships as a result of my new role within KASS.

I live in Dartford and work full time for the Local Authority in the legal section. This doesn't leave me much time for pursuing my interests of antique collecting, embroidery, cooking, socialising and, of course, dancing.

I was asked for a photograph but, unfortunately, do not have anything suitable for this edition. However, with so many dances to learn I am afraid my memory gets easily confused so I can always be found in fourth position of a set – refreshing myself with the dance!

I am looking forward to serving you on the Committee and meeting with as many of you as possible

during my term of office. Please ask me for a dance anytime – but just make sure we're in that fourth place!!

Regards

Hazel

KASS WALK

On Sunday June 26th I went on the KASS walk at Kemsing. I did not want to go but at Medway dancing on the Thursday one of my best friends said "do come it will be fun", but then she always sees fun where I am never quite so sure.

So I phoned another of my best friends and suggested we travelled up together.

The walk started prompt at 2 o'clock and quite a few people had to catch up further on. Very soon I knew I would not be able to do the long walk as my leg had started to hurt so at the divide I decided to go on the short walk. Looking at the people I would be walking with I did not know any of the others in the group but we soon got talking and got on well together. Pat Davall who led the walk was very good pointing out things of interest and gave us lots of opportunities to sit down and take in the lovely views. We only got back 10 minutes before the long walk, but we had a really lovely time I was so glad I had gone.

Phyllis Bowman, Medway Caledonian

KASS DIARY, 2005/6

Secretaries; please ensure your society's events are passed to the KASS secretary well in advance for entry in the diary to avoid clashes and publicise your special occasions to the rest of KASS. Also, the secretary is happy to enter dates where venues and other details are uncertain; but would request updates when you can confirm.

DATE	EVENT
19/11/2005	North Kent Dance St Paulinus Hall Robin Ellis
19/11/2005	Medway Day School & St. Andrews Dance .Rainham Girls School
2/12/2005	Orpington St. Andrews Night, The Warren, Hayes. Robin Ellis ***** Change of date
10/12/2005	Meopham SCDC Christmas Dance Northfleet School Robin Ellis
10/12/2005	Isle of Thanet SCD Ceilidh, The Centre, Birchington,
31/12/2005	Orpington Hogmanay, Petts Wood Memorial Hall. Robin Ellis
31/12/2005	North Kent Hogmanay Party Baker Trust Hall Crayford
31/12/2005	Medway Hogmanay Party St Georges Centre Chatham Maritime Recorded Music
2006	
7/01/2006	Isle of Thanet SCD New Year Dance, The Centre Birchington
7/01/2006	Sheerness SHC Burns Supper Queenborough Hall Caber Feidh
13/01/2006	North Kent Burns Supper Dance Gravesend Masonic Hall Robin Ellis
28/01/2006	Medway Burns Dinner Dance Franklin Rooms Gillingham Caber Feidh
11/02/2006	Dover SCD Group St Margarets at Cliffe Band Green Ginger
11/02/2006	North Kent Dance St Paulinus Hall Robin Ellis
25/02/2006	Isle of Thanet SCD Winter Dance, Minster Village Hall
4/03/2006	Thanet & District Haggis Supper The Centre Birchington Caber Feidh
18/03/2006	RSCDS Tun Wells Day School, Venue tbc
18/03/2006	North Kent Dance St Paulinus Hall
25/03/2006	Medway Spring Dance Rainham Girls School Band: Green Ginger
Mar/April	KASS SPRING TEA DANCE. Sidcup will host. Details later
08/04/2006	RSCDS Tun Wells 30th Anniversary Ball, Tonbridge School, Scottish Measure, details tbc
22/04/2006	Isle of Thanet SCD Spring Dance, The Centre Birchington, Kafoozalum
06/05/2006	Thanet & District Annual Birthday Dance & Supper. The Centre Birch'ton, Caber Feidh
06/05/2006	North Kent Dance St Paulinus Hall Robin Ellis
13/05/2006	KASS HIGHLAND BALL
	KASS WALK Canterbury Scottish date tba
10/06/2006	Isle of Thanet SCD Summer Dance, Minster Village Hall
08/07/2006	North Kent Dance St Paulinus Hall
Sept/Oct	KASS AUTUMN TEA DANCE host Dover
07/10/2006	Dover SCD Group. Supper Dance. Triangle Centre Dover McBains Band
14/10/2006	North Kent Dance St Paulinus Hall
21/10/2006	RSCDS Tun Wells Autumn Dance
21/10/2006	Isle of Thanet SCD Autumn Dance, Minster Village Hall
11/11/2006	KASS AUTUMN DANCE volunteers reqd

Peter Forrow, November 2005

Retiring Secretary

THE LAST WORD

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.

And the very last word (thanks Kate) ...



**BEWARE!
SCOTTISH
DANCERS
AHEAD ...**

TAKE CARE!

Furlongs
Travel

FURLONGS TRAVEL, PO BOX 44, CRANBROOK, KENT, TN17 4TQ.
Telephone 01580 240240. Facsimile 01580 240244. Email: crieff@furlongs.co.uk