

RSCDS, Chicago Branch

The Blethers

Greg Canfield, Chair

September 2000

Sue McKinnell, Editor

<http://www.midwestnet.com/clients/piper/branch.html>

Complimentary Blethers Issue: This issue of *The Blethers* is being sent to all members and to people interested in Scottish Country Dancing in the Chicago area. It contains the events planned by the Chicago Branch for Fall 2000. If you would like to continue to receive *The Blethers*, you can become a member by filling out a membership form and paying membership dues. You can find membership forms at your local dance venue or on the Branch website (see above).

Fall Open House: The Fall Open House will be Sunday, September 17th at St. Josaphats Parish Hall Gym on the southeast corner of Belden and Southport, Chicago, IL. Dancing that night is free and begins at 6:00 p.m. Come dance and bring friends and acquaintances that you think might like to try Scottish Country Dancing. This is also an opportunity for experienced dancers to get together after a summer of travel and activities other than dancing.

Chicago Celtic Fest Demo and Teaching: The Branch Demo Team will be dancing at the Chicago Celtic Fest on Saturday, September 16th in Grant Park. After the demo, they will be teaching easy dances to interested members of the audience. They would love to have friendly faces in the crowd to cheer them on and to help recruit new members for the Open House the following evening.

Fall Dance: The Branch is pleased to announce that there will be a Fall Dance on Sunday, October 1st at 3:00 p.m. at St. Josaphats Parish Hall. Hanneke Cassel will be in town and will provide music for the dancers. Those who attended the 2000 New Year's Ball and/or the 2000 Weekend Workshop remember Hanneke for her exuberant fiddling and lively personality. This will be a fun afternoon and for only \$8!

Frolic on the Fox 5: The Silk & Thistle class is again sponsoring an informal Scottish Ball on Saturday, October 21st at the Baker Center in St. Charles, IL (one block south of Rt. 64 on the corner of Walnut St. and Rt. 31) at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$8 at the door - \$2 for non-dancers. Music will be provided by *Over the Border* (Mike Briggs, Susan Conant, and Dave Mullen) and the class has planned a fun program of dances. Details, contacts for questions, and dance instructions are available on the class website: <http://www.midwestnet.com/clients/piper>.

Semi-Annual General Meeting: The Branch will hold its Semi-Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 5th at St. Josaphats at 6:00 p.m. The main item on the agenda will be review and approval of the treasurer's report. You must be a member of the Chicago Branch to vote at the meeting, but all are welcome to attend.

2001 New Year's Ball (Date Change!): The 2001 New Year's Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, January 13th at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. (This is one week later than previously announced due to a conflict in scheduling at the UCC.) The musicians for the Ball are Andy Imbrie, Calum McKinnon, and Ralph Gordon. Andy and Calum will conduct a musician's workshop on Saturday at approximately 10:00 a.m. and will also be available for private lessons. There will be a Brunch Dance on Sunday, January 14th – the location will be announced later. Dance details, contact information, and dance instructions are available on the Branch website.

2000-2001 Committee of Management: Greg Canfield, Honorary Chair; Dorothy Pesch, Honorary Secretary; Mike Millin, Honorary Treasurer; Jeanne Millin, Liz Stake, and Jean-Claude Thelen - Members at Large.

Holiday Party and Schedule: The Branch will hold a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 17th at St. Josaphats at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! Note also that there will be light dancing on Sunday, November 26th (the Sunday after Thanksgiving).

Dancing Location(s) needed for Spring 2001! St. Josaphats Church is in the process of a \$2 million restoration project. The gym where the Loch Michigan classes are held is not part of this project, but the church may need the gym for their worship services, and the gym may not be available for some or all of the spring. If you know of any other dance venue that may be available, please contact Greg Canfield at (773) 764-2891 or gcanfield@worldnet.att.net.

Special Technique Classes: This year the Loch Michigan class will sponsor several special technique classes. These will be part of the regular class schedule with extra emphasis on a specific technique. On November 19th Noel plans to focus on phrasing, and on April 22nd Melissa will cover handing. Two other sessions are still being planned.

A Sad Note: All of us who know Dawn Arnold wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Dawn and her family on the loss of her father last month.

Non-Skid Shoe Treatment: Dow Corning makes a product called RTW3140 which makes dance shoes slip less on slick floors. The product is applied to *new* shoes and lasts the life of the shoes. A 3-ounce tube treats 3-4 pairs of shoes and costs ~\$27.00. The shelf life of a tube is about 1 year. Noel Chávez will be ordering some soon and is willing to order for others as well. Two (or more) people can share a tube since most don't buy that many pairs of shoes in one year. She will also supply instructions for applying the product. Contact Noel by September 15th if you are interested: (708) 848-9218 or nchavez@uic.edu.

Dance Photos Wanted: RSCDS Headquarters is looking for photos of Scottish Country Dancing to include in future publications. If you have suitable photographs you would like to submit, contact Noel. The Society asks that you provide a copy of the photo and will verify your willingness for it to be used should they select it.

Other Area Events:

Tannahill Weavers, Midway Theater, 721 E. State St., Rockford, IL, 9/16/00 (815) 968-5222
Tannahill Weavers, Irish Cultural & Heritage Center, Milwaukee, WI, 9/20/00 (414) 345-8800
Social Dance, Madison RSCDS, UW-Madison Memorial Union, Madison, WI, 9/24/00,
<http://sprott.physics.wisc.edu/mscd/sept2000.htm>
Halloween Dance, Milwaukee RSCDS, St. Paul's Church, Milwaukee, WI 10/28/00,
<http://www.execpc.com/~paeg/mscd/halloween.html>

True Scotsmen Plaid Safe Wearing the Kilt: A new safety report confirms what every real Scot knows: donning a kilt instead of trousers is good for your health. Department of Trade and Industry figures suggest the benefits are even greater if the kilt is worn in the traditional manner – without underpants. The survey into home accidents found that putting on trousers poses a serious risk of injury because people lose their balance and topple over, hurting themselves. The critical and most dangerous part is pulling up the second leg when the first is still at half-mast. The yearly home accident report by the DTI estimates there were 4400 trouser victims last year. Another 400 injured themselves putting on their underpants.

RSCDS Chicago Branch Fall 2000 Schedule	
Silk & Thistle Class moves to the Fermilab Barn	Tuesday, 9/5 7:30 p.m.
Loch Michigan Class starts, St Josaphats Hall	Sunday, 9/10 6:00 p.m.
Chicago Celtic Fest demo and teaching, Grant Park	Saturday, 9/16 2:30 p.m.
RSCDS Chicago Branch Open House	Sunday, 9/17 6:00 p.m.
ScotReel Class Starts	Thursday, 9/28 7:00 p.m.
Fall Dance with Hanneke Cassel, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 10/1 3:00 p.m.
Frolic on the Fox, Baker Center, St. Charles	Saturday, 10/21 7:30 p.m.
Semi-Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 11/5 6:00 p.m.
Special Technique Class: Phrasing	Sunday, 11/19 6:00 p.m.
RSCDS Holiday Party, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 12/17 6:00 p.m.
2001 New Year's Ball, Ukrainian Cultural Center	Saturday, 1/13/01

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