



The Royal Scottish County Dance Society
New Zealand Branch Inc
Junior Associate Newsletter



Issue 2/2015



Jigs And More

News!



News!

The countdown is on - it's not long until JAM Camp now!

We hope you are prepared for a weekend of learning and fun relating to Scottish Country Dancing. Your teachers, musicians and camp committee are working hard to make it a memorable time for everyone.

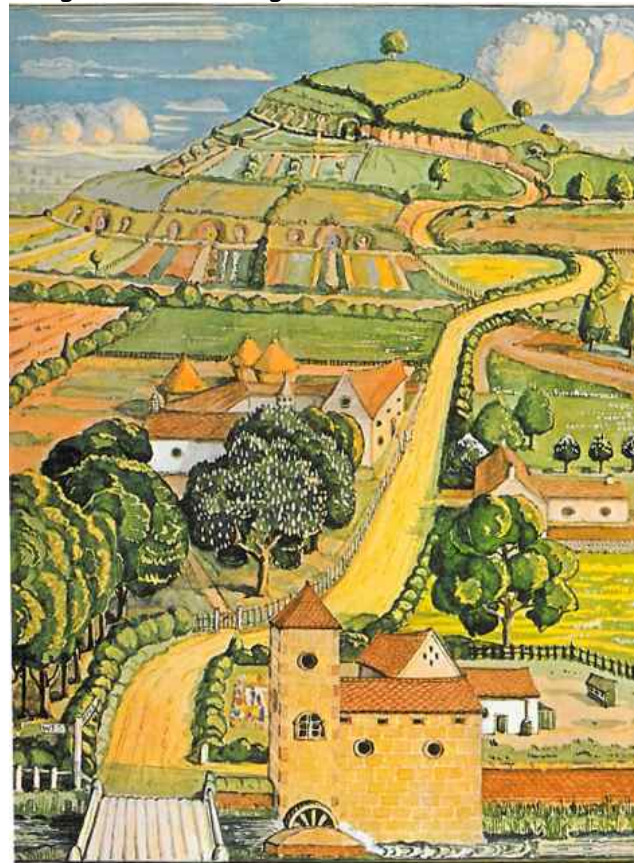
Join in the Hoppiton theme and come with a costume and an item for The Return Journey (our Ceilidh on the Sunday). Costumes are optional at the Bilbo Baggins' Eleventy-First Birthday Party (our Saturday night dance). Be sure you have read the updates about JAM Camp on the Branch website

<<http://dancescottish.org.nz>>. Some information is available on the calendar page and some is available on the youth page. The same information is also available on the youth pages of the Waikato Bay of Plenty website <<http://waibopscd.org.nz>>.

If you can't find the information you require there then please contact the camp committee with your query at jamcamp@dancescottish.org.nz

Please note that we do not have access to the Totara Springs site until 4.30pm on the

Friday afternoon. Those who are arriving earlier for JAM Medal Tests will need to meet at Matamata Primary School at their assigned time during the afternoon.



The hill : hobbiton-across-the Water

Your JAM Committee



My name is Diane Bradshaw and I live in the Hutt Valley, north of Wellington. I started dancing at the Upper Hutt Club in 2000 after being invited to 'give it a try'. After 2 years I was hooked and so I also started dancing at the Lower Hutt Club in 2002. I found that I learned more quickly when dancing twice a week.

I began teaching the Lower Hutt Junior Class in 2008 and have been pleased to see many of them gain medals and bars. I gained my teachers certificate in Dunedin in 2011.

For the past 3 years I have been the medal test organiser for the JAM Committee but this job has now been taken over by Hazel Fish because at the beginning of this year I became the Youth Co-ordinator when Jeanette Watson completed her term of office. Thanks Jeanette for all your hard work on behalf of the juniors.

As Youth Co-ordinator, my job is to co-ordinate the activities of the JAM committee, liaise with those organising JAM Camp and other JAM activities, report to the Branch Management Committee and to assist the JAM committee members in any way I can. I look forward to seeing many of you again at JAM Camp in Matamata in July. Please feel free to come and say 'hello'.

I think it is fair to say that we all have our favourite dances. One of mine is Posties Jig. It is great fun to dance with very lively music. It is always a relief to see that the dancers coming towards me have made the arch that I need to dance under. There have been a few near misses when this didn't quite go

according to plan, but no injuries. Write in and tell us about your favourite dances; what you like and why.



Photo credit to McRobie Studios, Dunedin.

The photo shows other members of the JAM Committee. Left to right: Hazel Fish, Amy Luxton-Esler, David Williamson and Philip Oliver.

Hazel Fish:

I am fairly new to Scottish Country dancing, having had my first taste only about 3 years ago. It was through my boys going to dancing that I had a go. But I had been very busy with ballet and tap when I was growing up in England, and had taught both of these for a few years before I had children.

I am now the tutor at Waimate's Club (read about our Club on the back page) in the South Island and am also in the middle of training to be a qualified Scottish Country Dance teacher.

As well as being the new Editor for this Jigs and More, I am also now the organiser when you take your medal tests.

I will be at the JAM Camp in Matamata so I hope to meet up with some of you there.

My favourite dance at the moment is The Goat Fell Gallop. I like the unusual first formation. Have you tried it? When your set is good at covering it looks awesome.

Amy Luxton-Esler:

At the beginning of 2014, I was offered the chance of being on the JAM committee and jumped at the opportunity. Since then I have taken on JAM membership and Jigs And More distributions.

Since getting hooked into SCD in early 2006, I have now been dancing for 9 years. I dance twice a week in Auckland and am taught by three wonderful tutors. After being introduced to the NZ Summer Schools, I have attended them each year. I have been very lucky in being able to attend dancing events internationally. I've travelled to Australia five times for the annual Australian Winter School. In July 2013 I left New Zealand bound for Scotland for a week at the St Andrews Summer School. I was lucky enough to win a scholarship from the Society Headquarters in December of 2012, so that paid for my fees and accommodation (did not include travel). It was a wonderful experience and certainly different to the Summer Schools here. I will be returning to Scotland as soon as I have sent this issue of Jigs and More to you all, for another week at Summer School in St Andrews.

In my 'other life', my day job is working in a primary school library and resource room. It is the same school I went to as a student so there have been a few familiar faces on the rest of the staff.

My favourite dance would have to be 'Scott Meikle', a reel devised by Alice McLean and written for Scott Meikle, who is the son of the popular accordionist George Meikle. George also composed the original music for it. A brilliant dance with plenty of opportunities for covering and eye contact with your partner and others in the set, as well as a bit of fun with adding carefully planned spins.

Philip Oliver:

Hi, I am 16 and have been dancing for 4 years now, and in that time have been to 4 Summer Schools and one JAM camp. I highly suggest for you all to apply for a scholarship to Summer School each year, as it is an easy way to get there and you will all enjoy it a lot. I unfortunately will not be attending JAM camp this year, as I have other commitments for a choir I am in.

I dance at the Newtown Juniors' club and occasionally at the Linden club in Wellington.

My role on the JAM committee is as the JAM

Representative. This means that I represent all of you guys and your ideas and opinions. So if any of you have any questions or ideas please email them to me at youthrep@dancescottish.org.nz and I will do my best to answer your questions or send them on to someone who can answer them. Remember, we have this committee to ensure you enjoy dancing. Any ideas or opinions will be taken into consideration for the future of JAMs.

My favourite dance is The Best Set In the Hall because I love the symmetry of the set and cast behind and the option to spin when you turn your partner at the end.

Remember everyone to keep dancing as you will meet great people, make great connections, and you will enjoy it 😊



Catherine Edwards:

I started dancing when I was eight at the Manawatu SCD Children's Class. I have been dancing ever since except for a couple of years we were in Scotland (there wasn't a club near to where we were living). On returning to NZ my children joined me dancing. I have attended many Day schools and Social dances and passed my prelim teachers certificate. In the 90s I shared tutoring of the Manawatu SCD club. We moved to Waikanae where I was tutor for eight years in the 2000s and am at present back tutoring the Waikanae SCD club.

I started a children's class in 2003 at Waikanae and started another children's class last year. At present the group has ten children in it. I have a passion to share dancing with children.

My involvement on the JAM committee concerns the sending out of the bibs, CDs, certificates and badges.

My favourite dance? That is hard because I have lots but will go for Broadford Bay. This because the music is great, the dance is different and it flows.

Upcoming Medal Tests

JAM Camp, Friday 10th July, Matamata.

Entries for this have closed, but good luck to everyone taking a test that day. .

Christchurch, 10th October 2015

and

Milford Juniors, Auckland, 17/18 October

and

Summer School 2015/16 (date to be confirmed)

Applications to : Hazel Fish

86 Whitneys Road, RD 8, Waimate 7978

\$\$\$ available

Under the **Branch Youth Fund** grants are available twice a year to provide funding for events, activities or resources that encourage or facilitate youth Scottish Country Dancing in New Zealand. Preference is given to applications by RSCDS NZ Branch members (which includes registered JAMs), but non-members may also apply.

The latest round for funding closed on 1st June and the decision will be made in July. Applications for the next round must be received by **1 December**. See the NZ Branch website's Youth page for the application form.

Spring Fling Reel

Were you one of the Clubs that trialled the Spring Fling dances? Have you seen the winning entry? Go to

www.rscds.org/article/young-dancers

and scroll down to the Dance Competition section, where you can see a you-tube video of the dance being performed.

Summer School 2015-16

28 December 2015 – 5 January 2016

Mount Wellington, Auckland

Junior and Senior JAM classes are offered.

Contact Duncan Laidlaw at

ss2015@dancescottish.org.nz

or PO Box 99730, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Summer School JAM Scholarship

The Scholarship is available to any registered Junior Associate Member of the New Zealand Branch of the RSCDS who has a minimum of one year's dancing experience, is resident in New Zealand and has not received the Scholarship previously.

Two Scholarships will be awarded each year.

The Scholarship covers the Summer School costs i.e. classes, accommodation, meals and entertainment, for each successful applicant.

Transport costs from the successful applicants' home to and from the Summer School venue are your own responsibility.

Completed application forms should be sent to the address on the form. Applications close on **15th July** each year. The award is by ballot only – there is no grading – so quickly download the form, fill it in and send it to us!

Go to <http://www.rscdsnz.org.nz/youth.php> and click on 'Branch Scholarship' to view the full details and download the form.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

See your name in print!

Jigs And More is for you - email

jigsandmore@dancescottish.org.nz

by **31st August 2015** with your story or

photo. We'd love to hear about the fun you had at JAM Camp, so please let us know.... Tell us about your favourite dance, or somewhere unusual you have danced!

What's your favourite dance?

Please write in and tell us what your favourite dance is, and why?

Have you made up your own dance you'd like to share with us? We'd love to be able to try it out in our own classes.

Do you know how to make up your own dance? Some people start by writing down their favourite formations, and others start with a piece of music and move around to it. Some people try to include lots of difficult formations and cram them all into one dance and it ends up being too tricky and the dance does not flow from one move to the next.

Start with something simple. You can always change one of the formations for another one later once you have the basic ideas sorted. Of course you'll need to work out how your dance progresses - that is, how do you get the couples to be in the right place at the end of each time through?

Why not start with something simple.... How about a 4 couple dance using 32 bars of music. At the end of once through you want the top couple to be at the bottom but everyone else to still be in the order 2 3 4. Work out what move you want to use to get them there, something that will take 8 bars. Perhaps that would be the final 8 bars of your dance? Okay, so now you need 3 more lots of 8 bars to make the dance. What do you know that uses 8 bars? Right hands across and left hands back takes 8 bars. So does lead down for 4 steps and lead up for 4 steps. Or rights and lefts. Or a reel of 3 on the sides. Think of some different shape moves that take 8 bars and put 3 of them together with the final 8 bars to take the top couple to the bottom and ...hooray... you have created your first dance. Now give it a name.

What next? Maybe a large circle dance?

Three-squared

Have you ever tried this dance? It's very unusual in that it needs NINE dancers!! It was created by James Williams and you can find it in a dance book called The Sunday Class 1.

The dance looks simple but the tricky bit is working out where you are each time the dance restarts.

You start in three lines of 3.

Start:-	Finish:-
987	758
654	943
321	162

Top

Bars 1-8	Dancers 1+2+4 also 6+8+9 dance RH across and LH back while 3+5+7 dance RSh reel of 3 (3+5 pass RSh). Finish 2+5+8 face 1+4+7 and 3+6+9 face in
Bars 9-16	All set, 2+5+8 and 1+4+7 turn opposite person half RH, 1+4+7 and 3+6+9 turn opposite person half LH, all face in (6-middle person faces up), all set
Bars 17-24	3+6 changes places RSh, then 3+5 change places RSh, then 5+9, then 9+4. Finish with 4 in centre
Bars 25-32	4 dances setting steps finishing facing position 3 while others dance 8H round and back

Why not have a go and let us know what you think of it. It's certainly different but is great if you have 9 people in a class one day!!

Waimate SCD Juniors



Waimate is a small rural town of 3000 people partway down the east coast of the South Island. We are 2 hours north of Dunedin and 3 hours south of Christchurch.

Waimate's Scottish Country Dance Club was started in 1959 so we are in our 56th year. And over recent years a number of young dancers have joined the Club.

In 2013 fourteen of our dancers went to the JAM Camp in Christchurch, and this year 6 of those same dancers are flying to the North Island to attend the Matamata Camp.

We get to dance in local displays throughout the year: for the elderly residents at Lister Home; at our Scottish Society's Ingleside and Burns Night events; for our Senior Citizens Group; and in front of the rotunda at our town's Strawberry Fare in December.

Last year we had a Hallowe'en dress-up dance to finish our year of classes. Some children added gruesome make-up, and the costume of one of the 'mummies' unravelled as she danced!!



End of year dance, 2014



Dancing at Larnach Castle, Dunedin, 2011



Waimate Juniors at Christchurch JAM Camp, 2013



Dancing at Waimate's Strawberry Fare, 2013