



# Bridport Scottish Dancers

## Newsletter 51 January 2012

Happy New Year! And a year with a difference. We restart on 11<sup>th</sup> January. Because of extensive road works in South Street, all January meetings will be held at Salway Ash village hall. It is Jubilee year, marking 60 years of the Queen's reign; and Olympic games year with the main events being held in London but the sailing events in Weymouth. Fortunately these events occur in the summer, so it is just as well our dancing year runs to the end of May and we then get a break. Well almost. See later on for our summer events. Even so the committee has planned some important changes:

- We intend to break with tradition and hold our 2012 Annual Ball in October. More about that in future newsletters. This January we plan a Burns Ceilidh on 25<sup>th</sup> January, Burn's night, which also falls on our usual Wednesday night. There will be dancing of course but with a break for Burn's themed canapés and, if you wish, a tot of wishky. Oops, getting carried away already, we mean whisky. Ceilidh nights often feature a few turns so Caroline is looking for those members, perhaps with a talent they are keeping quiet about, who might add to the entertainment. Let her know if you would be willing.
- BSD is now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year. We publish an account of its formation and the early days over the page.
- Our walk and talk group goes from strength to strength with three walks so far based around Bridport, Beaminster and Lyme. Its success is still judged by the amount of talking, as opposed to walking, they do. A portion of the notice board now contains regular accounts of these, together with photographs. Monitor the board for further news of these as they are planned.
- 7th December marked two noticeable events. It was the first time since the club's inception that Ann, our teacher, was able to go through the main dance evening without having to call a single dance. Our thanks to the other callers. We also saw the return of Jan and Caroline Spencer, together with a new recruit, 4 month old Leo. It meant an extra walk-through of one dance until Leo got the hang of it, but he managed it eventually!
- Sadly we have had to say goodbye to Lois Pearson, who has now retired and moved to Oxford to begin a new life there. At least we helped her celebrate her birthday last year (it was one with a nought in it). We wish her well in her new surroundings.
- In our last newsletter, we referred to the journey over the road to the pub at the end of our Wednesday sessions. We had the Woodman in South Street in mind, but the same holds good at Salway Ash. The pub there is the Anchor, an even closer trip across the road. The darts players have got used to us now. Again why not join us.
- Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
Other dates for your diary – hey, guess what, they are all in our busy summer!
  - French exchange      Fri 22 – Sun 24 Jun. Why not turn it into a week's holiday by going out the previous weekend to Brittany/Normandy and finishing at St Quay Perros
  - Garden dance      14<sup>th</sup> July      Happens to be Bastille day. We might get some French visitors.Details of our summer socials will be given in our next newsletter
- Ever tried learning dances from the internet? Here's one way. Try the site Scottish Dancing YouTube Videos. Then select your dance. There it is performed for you. Simple!
- We continue to get newcomers to the club. Please help encourage them to stay by remembering to wear your name badge. Ask at the desk for another if you have lost it.

So welcome to the 2012 dancing year. Let's go for it.

## **In the beginning . . .**

Bridport Scottish Dancers was formed back in 1995. One of the principal centres of Scottish Dancing in the South-West at that time was Weymouth. There were other groups then and there still are now, but Bridport was not amongst them. And to Weymouth is a long way, especially if you live in Bridport - or Lyme Regis. Could Bridport offer an alternative? And how do you start a Scottish dancing group? It is no small undertaking. You need a venue, a teacher and a number of enthusiasts prepared to try out a new venture. There are no guarantees of success. Very soon you need enough dancers to form a viable club.

A small group of enthusiasts rolled up their sleeves and decided to take the plunge. They met and formed a committee. They had two teachers in Bill Allan and Ann Prior, and a venue at Church House. They worked hard to advertise their inaugural dancing evening - 13 September 1995 and hoped they had done enough to attract a following. Their surprise turned to delight when 47 people attended that first dancing class. Many had little or no Scottish country dancing experience, but no matter, the club was launched and it has since gone from strength to strength. Sadly a number of the people who were there have since died, but a number of the original members and committee are still with us. Ann is still our teacher and we have some 12 or so regulars who first attended in 1995.

From the earliest days, the club set out to be a teaching club. It had to attract new members and this is still a hallmark of its approach. The club still starts its Wednesday evening meetings with a one hour teaching session, allowing newcomers to acquire dancing skills with the help and support of established members. It also set out with the declared aim of making dancing enjoyable and fun. We hope we have succeeded.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary ball was held in 2005. We can already look forward to 2015 when we will have the opportunity to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.