ATTACHMENTS TO LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE GUIDELINES

Table of Contents

| The White Cockade December 2000 | 2 |
|--|------------|
| The White Cockade November 2008 | 5 |
| The White Cockade September/October 2010 | 6 |
| TACTalk December 1981 | 9 |
| Unknown Source | 11 |
| 2004 Dance Details | 12 |
| 2005 Dance Details | 12 |
| 2006 Dance Details | 13 |
| 2007 Dance Details | 13 |
| 2008 Dance Details | 14 |
| 2009 Dance Details | 14 |
| 2010 Dance Details | 15 |
| 2011 Dance Details | 15 |
| 2012 Dance Details | 1 <i>6</i> |

Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club

Among the 190 dancers attending the Lady Aberdeen Armistice Day Tea Dance, many had read Pete McMartin's article on the Lady Aberdeen group which had appeared in the Vancouver Sun the day before. While they found McMartin's tone sympathetic, and the information about the Lady Aberdeen Club's history intriguing, many wished McMartin and his photographer had come back to see the throngs of people at the Tea Dance. The dance floor was crowded from 1:30 p.m. until 6:00, with practically every dance encored. Unlike most of our parties, this is a dance enjoyed by all ages: Cathie and Len Miller's small granddaughter Lauren twirled in her brand-new kilt, and Irene Vavasour's very young Zachary demonstrated a speedy crawl across the wooden floor. In her opening comments, Lady Aberdeen President Janet MacIntyre expressed her gratitude to the many members of other groups who brought contributions to the laden tea-tables. After the last dance, some \$1240 had been raised for charity, and once again the Lady Aberdeen members had put in a long day's work ensuring that we all enjoyed ourselves.

Pete McMartin's article follows, reprinted with permission of the Sun.

Time Takes Its Toll on Scottish Dancers

The weekly class of the Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club met, as it always has, on Tuesday. The members wandered one by one into the high-ceilinged gym of Marpole's Scottish Cultural Centre, sat down and changed into their soft-soled dancing slippers. There were three men and six women, all but one of them elderly. They looked small in the airy space of the gym.

Ken Bennett was the first to arrive. He set up the portable stereo system on a chair and opened the valise containing his collection of Scottish dance tapes. There were "The Kilt Is My Delight" and "The Caledonian Ball" and "Farewell to Auchterarder" and dozens of others. Ken is 74, with hair as white as ermine, and two months ago, his wife, Eileen, died. Eileen taught the class for 20 years. Now he was standing in for her. "She loved to dance," Ken said. "Even this summer, we went dancing together in Ireland."

When Eileen first taught the class, the Lady Aberdeen group was enjoying better times, with 30 to 40 members attending every week. Now, there are only 12 paying members, in all, most of them in their 60s and 70s. There are weeks when they can barely muster enough dancers for a proper reel.

"Our oldest member," said Janet MacIntyre, the group's president, "died in February. He was 93. Time has taken its toll. People have passed away . . . and Scottish dancing is hard on the joints. And I guess younger people are working full-time today, and they can't take afternoons off. We're not getting [them] into the club to replace our numbers. This is what we've got to decide this year," she said, "if we can keep going." She isn't optimistic.



Dancers at the Tea Dance

If the group does decide to call it quits, it will be the end of what is regarded as the oldest continually operating Scottish country dance group in Canada. Founded in 1938, and named after the wife of the governorgeneral of the day, the group popularized Scottish dancing in what was then a very different Vancouver. Originally a women-only group, it put on demonstrations at folk festivals. It enjoyed close links with the Vancouver Highland regiments.

But then came the Second World War in 1939, and the Lady Aberdeen's direction changed. It took on a charity, holding the Lady Aberdeen Armistice Day Tea Dance every Remembrance Day. It attracted hundreds of dancers.

"It started off," MacIntyre said, "to help the vets and the wounded—you know, to supply wheelchairs and artificial limbs to Shaughnessy Hospital, that sort of thing. But as the years went by, and the needs of the vets became less, and with Shaughnessy closing down a few years ago, we started looking to other charities we could give to."

They donated to the Poppy Fund, the Salvation Army, rape relief and women's shelters, cystic fibrosis, leukemia research, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, some 14 different charities in all. The sums were modest. Last year, they raised \$1000 from the Tea Dance.

But the Lady Aberdeen has fallen victim to the same inevitability as the vets it originally helped. Time has whittled away at its members. The Lady Aberdeen and the vets are of a generation that has almost passed.



Lauren Andrews

This has not stopped them from putting on the Tea Dance this year, however. It will be held, as always, on November 11. They expect a couple of hundred dancers. Yet it may be the last Tea Dance they hold, if they cannot find other groups to help out. (Tickets are available at the door of the Scottish Cultural Centre, in the 8000-block Hudson, \$8 for adults, \$3 for children. Doors open at 1 p.m.)

As for the group's future, it will do, MacIntyre said, what the ledger requires. If the numbers aren't there, the Lady Aberdeen won't be there either. The members will miss it.

"It's great fun, you know," said Lee Dyke, there with her husband, Sid. Sid is a trim 84. He was a navigator with the RCAF. Lee has a shock of white hair and a nice smile. "You find you're not as agile as when you first started," she said, "but the people are so nice. And you know, if you keep active, if you're interested in living and life, you know your physical abilities aren't as great but your enthusiasm never wavers. So life is very good."



Ken Bennett

Ken, at that moment, put on a tape. It was a reel, all bounce and lightness. Lee and Sid got up, and the other dancers got up, and they wheeled and wove between each other, all in the litting skip of Scottish dance. In contrast, you could hear the thunder of a class of elementary school kids playing a game of floor hockey in the gym next door.

It made everything about the dancers seem all the more displaced in time, from the touching longevity of their marriages, to the bright happiness of the music they danced to, to their connections with a war that now seemed so long ago. But they showed little of their age. stayed on their toes. The reel they moved to was interminably long, but they kept at it, as one might keep at life, smiling, concentrating on what they were doing. They were up on their feet, and there was something admirable in the way they looked. They looked elderly; they didn't look old.

Source: Pete McMartin, Vancouver Sun, 10 November 2000: B3.

But... Who was Lady Aberdeen?

Lady Aberdeen, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair 1857 - 1939

It was by chance that a young sportsman, John Campbell Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, having lost his way in the wilds of Inverness-shire took shelter at Guisachan, home of Sir Dudley Marjoribanks, First Baron of Tweedsmouth, where he was given a Highland welcome. This was where the young Earl first met Sir Dudley's youngest daughter Ishbel. They were married nine years later in 1877 by the Archbishop of Canterbury in St Georges, Hanover Square and lived as Lord and Lady Aberdeen between London and "Haddo House" in Aberdeen.



During their early marriage they traveled to many parts of the, then, British Empire including India, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. In 1893 they took up residence at Rideau Hall in Ottawa when Lord Aberdeen was appointed Governor General of Canada. The young Ishbel had spent much time in the company of Mr Gladstone when he was a frequent guest at her father's house and she developed a fervent zeal for reform and democracy that she used throughout her life. Among many of her Canadian accomplishments Lady Aberdeen founded the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada and the National Council of Women of Canada, of whose International Council she would later be President for forty years. The Lady Aberdeen Memorial Library is at Waterloo University. She died in Scotland in 1939.

Eleanora Bingham, known to us as Mrs Thomas Bingham, served as President of the Vancouver Branch of the National Council of Women in 1937-38. They adopted Scottish Country Dancing as a special project and from that was formed the "Lady Aberdeen" group, the longest continuous group in Canada, so named after Ishbel, Lady Aberdeen, the Governor General's wife. Mrs Bingham and this group were very much the beginning of Scottish Country dancing in Vancouver. Following the Second WW they began the "Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance" every November the eleventh in Vancouver and it lasts to this day. I remember Mrs Bingham, who presided over the event for years, standing so proudly during the singing of "O Canada" on each of these occasions.

For many years Ken Bennett, and his late wife Eileen, were the very faithful followers of Mrs Bingham in their teaching of the group and their hosting the "Tea Dance" each Remembrance Day. Ken still teaches the "Lady Aberdeen" class, now in its seventieth year and with them assures that this very significant event remains on our dancing calendar. We all owe Ken, and the members of his class, our deepest thanks for maintaining this long and very worthwhile tradition of both of the "Lady Aberdeen" group and the Remembrance Day "Tea Dance". They are doing the memory of Ishbel and Eleanora very proud indeed.

Haddo House was gifted to the National Trust in 1978 on the death of David Gordon, then Lord Aberdeen, whose wife Lady Aberdeen was Honorary President of the Aberdeen Branch, RSCDS. "Haddo House" is a 32-bar jig composed by Alice McLennan and danced to the music "Mrs Gordon of Haddo" - Simon Scott

Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club 1938 - 2010 By Rosemary Coupe

Earlier this year, the last classes of the Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club were held, formally dissolving the oldest surviving Scottish country dance club in Canada. Its name, however, still lives in the Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance held each November 11th.

The Lady Aberdeen Club was one of a number of local groups which sprang up in the 1930s, thanks to the energy and drive of a recent immigrant from Scotland, Ella Bingham. The earliest of these was the Vancouver group, formed in October 1930 from dancers who had taken part in a performance organized by Mrs. Bingham at the Hotel Vancouver. A West Vancouver group followed in September 1931, and by May 1932 a "Provincial Executive" (again with Mrs. Bingham as its leader) had been formed to coordinate the various groups. Throughout the 1930s, Mrs. Bingham organized many more demonstrations to attract more people to Scottish country dancing. She also traveled throughout the area to instruct her groups, accomplishing enough work for ten ordinary people.



However, country dancing was only one sphere of Mrs. Bingham's work. She was also an active member of the Local Council of Women, a federation of women's groups in the city which passed resolutions on issues ranging from sanctions against aggressor nations to the support of home-grown BC products. In 1937-39, she served as the Council's President. In January 1938, the Recreation Committee of the Council began holding Scottish country dance classes alternating with "remedial exercise" classes at the YMCA. The exercise classes

were not successful, but the dance classes continued.

When the Local Council made arrangements for the convention of the National Council of Women at the Hotel Vancouver in May 1938, Mrs. Bingham again showed her genius for publicity. Probably at her instigation, the BC Government invited her Vancouver dance group to demonstrate at a reception. The group's Secretary's Report for 1937-38 describes it as "a most happy and successful year. Scottish country dancing is now on the curriculum at both public and high schools, and has become a flourishing activity of the local Council of Women--the latter being due to the enthusiasm of its President, Mrs. Bingham."

The Council of Women dance group (still unnamed) held its first tea dance at the Hotel Georgia on 22 April 1939, to mark the end of its second season. A week later, the Convenor of the Recreation Committee "reported on the Scottish country dancers and their season's work,

and stated that, as they had now become established, they would now resign from being a local Council activity and would now become an independent group." The Council wished them every success, and at that point they disappear from its Minutes.

When the group adopted the name "Lady Aberdeen" is uncertain. However, the death of Lady Aberdeen was announced within a few days of these events, at the 27 April 1939 meeting of the Local Council of Women. While in Canada as the wife of the Governor-General, Lady Aberdeen had founded both the International Council of Women and the National Council. Not long before her death, she broadcast a message to the May 1938 convention in Vancouver.

So it would have been natural to name the newly-fledged dance group after this energetic Scotswoman who had worked throughout her life for social causes. Appropriately, one way in which Lady Aberdeen expressed her beliefs was by organizing balls. During her husband's viceregal term in Ireland, for example, she arranged an Irish Lace Ball, ensuring a profitable winter for local lacemakers. When his term in Canada ended in 1897, she arranged a costume ball celebrating the triumphs of Canadian industry, including ladies dressed as codfish and men dressed as telephones.

The name "Lady Aberdeen," then, was probably a tribute from one intelligent and practical social activist to



another. The Council of Women's Minutes reveal an upsurge of loyalty to the British Empire immediately before World War II (they sang "God Save the King" before their meetings, for example) and this may have influenced their decision to hold Scottish country dance classes. The intentionally all-female Lady Aberdeen Club may also have helped Scottish country dancing in Vancouver survive the dearth of men during the war. Through the 1950s, the club held Tuesday classes in the Moose Hall on Howe Street. It also sponsored two annual events, a Christmas dance and the Armistice Day Tea Dance. By 1960, the club had 36 members.

True to their name, the Lady Aberdeen group always tried to raise money for philanthropic causes. Initially, following World War II, they supported veterans: the proceeds of their open party in 1956, for example, enabled them to donate their ninth wheelchair to Shaughnessy

Hospital, and the proceeds of their Tea Dance of 1957 bought four table radios for the Hospital. Later, however, they supported a broader range of social causes. Pete McMartin's recent *Vancouver Sun* article on the Lady Aberdeen group lists some: "They donated to the Poppy Fund, the Salvation Army, rape relief and women's shelters, cystic fibrosis, leukemia research, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, some fourteen different charities in all. The sums were modest. Last year [1999] they raised \$1000 from the Tea Dance."

Mrs. Bingham's successor as President and eventually teacher of the Club was Nellie Forbes (later McKenzie), a woman of great vivacity and charm who continued to dance into her 90s. When Nellie went south in Fall 1977, Eileen Bennett was asked to teach the class. The class still consisted only of women, but after Ken joined, they invited other men. After returning to work, Eileen managed to take class days off, but on changing departments she was no longer free on Tuesday and Ken replaced her as instructor. After Eileen retired, they taught the class together until her death. Ken has faithfully continued the class ever since. Between them, the Bennetts taught the group for over 30 years, as long as Mrs. Bingham herself.

The Reel of the 51st Division at a recent Tea Dance





Save the Date!

2011

Saturday 19 March

Scottish Cultural Center

Featuring Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent

Reel of the 51st Division

by Michael Young

On 12 June 1940, the 51st Highland Division, last remnants of the British Expeditionary Force in France, surrendered to superior German armoured forces surrounding them at St Valory-en-Caux. In this small fishing port, Major General Victor Fortune surrendered to Major General Erwin Rommel, who was to gain much fame later in the Western Desert campaign in North Africa.

Although pert of the Division escaped by various means back to England, the great majority -- some thousands of men, the pride of the Highlands -- marched off into captivity, from which only the end of the war in 1945 released them.

Among the 51st Division prisoners was Lieutenant J.E.M. (Jimmy) Atkinson of the 7th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who had been captured a week before 5t Valery soon after the German break-through. He had done a little country dancing in his home town of Alloa before the war and as he was trudging along the dusty roads of Holland, he occupied his mind occasionally by thinking of Scottish country dancing.

The seed of an idea came to him and he formulated the basic outline of a dance, the centrepiece of which was balancing in line diagonally; this represented the St Andrew's Cross, which members of the division were on their uniforms. (The famous HD flask had been removed for security reasons before going to France to join the rest of the B.E.F.) The diagonal movement was merely a variation of the opening bars of "Scottish Reform", and the circle which followed it was straight out of "Hamilton House".

After several weeks of weary travel through France and Belgium the prisoners arrived at Wesel, on the Rhine, and they were sorted and sent by train to a variety of prisoner or war camps in Bavaria, Poland and Germany. With a number of other POWs from the Highland Division, Jimmy Atkinson eventually arrived at Laufen in Bavaria, near the border at Salzburg. This was OFLAG² VIIC, their home for some months.

The Schloss (Castle) in Laufen, Bavaria (in 1980)

10FLAG = Offiziers Lager = Officers Camp.

Shortly after their arrival, Lieut, A.P.,J. (Peter) Oliver of the 4th Seaforth (ex London Scottish) started up a Highland dancing class, which Jimmy Atkinson rather nervously joined and, although their detailed knowledge of Scottish country dancing was limited, together they formed a reel club. They were well supported and the club continued through the five years of captivity, even though the leading characters were moved between the different POW camps.

In Laufen, dancing took place on the top landing of the prison hospital block; this was the only decent area away from the overcrowded areas of the rest of the prison. Officers met after lunch, normally three times a week, and although the poor prison diet limited attendance at first, about 20 appeared regularly after the Red Cross food parcels started arriving.

All musical instruments had been captured or destroyed by the Germans, so the leader either called out the tempo of the dance, or whistled the tune, not always accurately. When they were at Posen in Poland, chanters came through the Red Cross, and at Biberach a squeezebox appeared, which greatly improved the musical accompaniment.

In 1940 it was a major problem to remember the steps of all the different country dances, and although the more standard dances were well known, some improvisation used to take place. To obviate any possible criticism of inaccuracies, it seemed to the POWs that it would be a good idea to write their own dances. Later in the war of course, S.C.D.S.² books were sent by post and the problem was solved.

About November 1940, Jimmy Atkinson put his ideas for the dance to Peter Oliver, and together they worked it out on paper. A trial run was carried out by the club members, with some success, on the concrete floor of the prison block.

By chance Atkinson and Oliver discovered among the senior prisoners was a Lieutenant Colonel Tom Harris Hunter who had been the Commander Royal Army Service Corps (CRASC) of the 51st Highland Division until the Division was

captured. Before the war he had been Chairman of the Perth Branch of the Society, and during the war his wife, an enthusiastic duncer and organiser, was Secretary of the same Branch.

Lt. Col. Harris Hunter willingly joined the Club, but because the steps for the opening eight bars did not accord with S.C.D.S. custom he suggested casting off three couples (because of the five-couple set) and leading up to corners, patterned after the first eight bars of "Lady Susan Stewart's Reel". This appeared to be the best start for the dance and it was written in.

Hector Ross (4th Seaforths) who was both the piper and leader of the camp mouth organ band, composed a 6/8 tume for the dance, but this has unfortunately been lost. Dugald Stewart (8th Argylls) also composed a tune for the dance at the end of 1944, but it arrived back in U.K. in 1945 too late to be accepted.

Just as the reel club was polishing up the dance, and learning quite a number of others under the knowledgeable tuition of Lt. Col. Harris Hunter, most of the junior officers in Laufen were sent to Stalag XXID at

2 The Society only became "Royal" after the war.

Posen, Poland, and later to Biberach in Bavaria. They eventually rejoined each other in the autumn of 1941 in OFLAG VIIB at Warburg in Westphalia.

At Halloween, the dance was demonstrated to Major General Victor Fortune in the No. 2 Dining Hall. This was its first public performance, as a mark of esteem and affection felt by the Highland Division POWs for all the selfless work done by him on their behalf. The GOC approved the dance and its name, "The 51st Country Dance (Laufen Reel)".

Both Harris Hunter and Jimmy Atkinson sent details of the dance to Scotland, one to his wife in Perth and the other to his fiancee in Easter Ross. It was clear from the absence of comment in letters from home that the letters had not arrived and on investigation it was discovered that the German censors had delayed them, believing the hieroglyphics to be a cunningly coded message.

As Harris Hunter was "paymaster" for the POWs he took advantage of his contacts and arranged for a demonstration of the dance to be given to the German security officer. Jimmy Atkinson's letter never reached home, but Harris Hunter's reached Perth safely.

Mrs Harris Hunter, assisted by Miss M.M. Scrimgeour, worked out the dance with their members in the small wartime club in Perth. Mrs Hunter had a number of copies printed and distributed and to her astonishment she began to receive requests for particulars from all over the country, even as far south as London. The sale of copies by Miss Milligan raised over one hundred and fifty pounds for the Red Cross, of which sixty pounds went to Mrs Hunter who sent gramaphones, etc., out to the prisoners.

It was about this time that the title of the dance was changed, and it now seems impossible to define details exactly. It is known that letters from Perth talked about "The St Valery Reel", which probably sounded a more marketable name than the rather unwieldy "51st Country Dance (Laufen Reel)". For certain a wartime Blue Label record was produced which referred to the "St Valery Reel".

It is equally known that the POWs did not wish a defeat to be recorded in the title of their dance, but they felt that the 51st Division would never be forgotten. It is therefore likely that when Miss Milligan wrote to Harris Hunter to ask him what he wanted it called, the view was that it should be called the "Reel of the 51st Division". This was certainly a more proper name for a dance written by soldiers for soldiers.

To begin with, the SCDS would not accept the dance, but the dance received a lot of press publicity. It is commonly believed that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, saw the reel danced and that, being interested in the reel and its stark but romantic origins, she expressed the hope that the Society would incorporate it in their next book. Unfortunately it is not now possible to confirm the authenticity of this belief any more than it is that

Ban 1-4 Instanticate + cent 1. 3 place. 5.8 head of hall to come 9-12 Fust comple set to frist comen, livery by injet 13.14. First Couple, Sured man of the Carly bollance in diagon. (Line (Soul Popu) 15.16. First couple hum left have to seem! comes 17.20 Furtion for Sel & then come by my of hand 21. 22 Fast Comple, Third men + wound but, be source in deaponer his Therent Profin) 23.24 fut Coffe hunt amive, some pleas. 25: 28 Six Hinds round. 29.32 Beck again. Refeed. {A.P. H. Glevi, Senforch. Lower Scot. 7-6-1-1

A photocopy of Harris Hunter's notes on the dance written on a scruffy piece of paper when he was a prisoner of war.

the dance was demonstrated before Her Majesty in the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The Queen Mother was approached in 1980 on these matters but she cannot recall any personal involvement.

The executive committee felt that, in victory year it was most appropriate to include the dance in their book (the 13th). It was at this time that the decision was made to bring the dance into line with SCD custom, and it was adapted for a four-couple set. No longer did the dancers cast off three places.

In the same way as the title changed several times, the tune also changed. As has been mentioned, Hector Ross composed the first tune and towards the end of the war Dugald Stewart composed another which has never really been used. For most of the time the POWs danced the reel to "My Love she's but a Lassie Yet!" The tune which has become associated with the dance, however, is "The Drunken Piper", which almost certainly was the one used by the Perth Branch during the war, and is now the 'recognised' tune for the "Reel of the 51st Division".

(See also page 10)

"Somehow you find the strength to go on"

ADY June Gordon is a woman who is no stranger to the ups and downs of life.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Tremair has known personal tragedy in great measure — but, undaunted, has faced it all with her brand of quiet courage and good humour.

Now in the autumn of her life she enjoys music, flowers and the company of her four children and 13 grandchildren. "All my days," she says, "I have been surrounded by love. I am a very lucky woman."

Making their home, Hadde House Hall, a centre for music and theatre in the North was a dream she shared with her late husband Major David Gordon, the Marquess of Aberdeen.

When he died in 1975 aged 66, it was a shattering blow to Lady Aberdeen. "For a long time I was very angry with God," she admits. "I found it hard to accept such a fine man who had so much to give could die in his prime.

"He fought bravely against cancer and we thought he was winning, but a tiny bit escaped to the liver. It was a terrible personal loss but when you've overcome the worst thing that can happen to you, somehow you find the strength to go on."

Lifeline

MORE THAN anything, caring for her handicapped granddaughter Alice has given her a sense of purpose.

"She is my lifeline and a reason for coming home," says the tall, elegant, silver-haired Marchioness.

Alice, who is 21, developed encephalitis when she was two months old. It left her mentally handicapped.

She has also had a kidney transplant and has recently undergone four operations.

"When she was very small, doctors didn't have much optimism about her future development, but she's very bright and outgoing and loving," her grand-mother says.

The ups and downs of Lady A

Meets Anistocrats
the Anistocrats

A great EastEnders fan, Alice longed to meet the cast, so Lady Aberdeen arranged it as a special treat for her 21st birthday!

"She was thrilled to get a chance to pull a pint in the Old Vic," she laughs. "We spent quite some time in Albert Square. Alice was in her element."

Royalty are regular visitors to Haddo The Queen Mum loves to stay. She's a Patron of the Haddo Choral Society.

When he was a schoolboy at Gordonstoun, Prince Charles came over to sing with the choir and brother Edward frequently takes the stage there.

In fact Haddo House Hall is one of the few places in the country where an audience can watch a Royal prince being chased around the stage by ex-newsreader Richard Baker!

Haddo has changed a lot since the new young mistress came there after the war.

Built in 1732 on the site of the House of Kelly which was burned down by the Covenanters, it's an impressive grey stone mansion set in a wooded landscape,

When the Marchioness arrived at Haddo it still retained the grandeur of its elegant past.

Dinner was a ceremonial affair and the house was full of servants.

Now there are no livein servants, just local dailes and a lady gardener who keeps the grounds in order.

Candlelight

LADY ABERDEEN
says she's happiest
now with an informal supper in the
kitchen with family
and friends.

"I set silver on the kitchen table and dine by candlelight!"

She gets up at 6am every morning and says she's lucky if she gets to bed by midnight.

Her involvement with charities, particularly for children and the handicapped, takes up a lot of her time.

She also reckons it should be in the Guinness Book of Records that as Chief of the Clan Bordon she's probably the only Highland Chieftain who comes from the Isle of Wight!

Beatrice Mary June Boissier was the only daughter of A.P. Boissier, Headmaster of Harrow School, Her godmother was Princess Beatrice, the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria.

She was 11 when 17year-old David Gordon came to the school.

Twelve years later the headmaster's daughter became his bride in a ceremony at the church on the hill at Harrow.

Major David Gordon was a soldier in the Middle East when he first wrote home with the idea of forming a choral society at Haddo.

Such was the enthusiasm of everyone involved, especially the new young mistress of the house, who had a deep love of music, the remassance of the arts in Aberdeenshire took off.

The success of the venture has brought joy to many people of all ages and talents.

Richard Clayderman has played there, so has Vaughan Williams.

June trained as a musician at the Royal College of Music and is one of the few female conductors in Britain today.

Lady Aberdeen has conducted music for youth orchestras in Germany and America but is happiest at Haddo.

Her sitting room, dominated by a grand plano covered with family photographs, is filled with flowers.

A tip the Marchioness is willing to pass on to Sunday Post readers is, if you put your carnations in a vase of fizzy lemonade they'll last for weeks!

Since she had an operation giving her two replacement hips, gardening has become

difficult, but she spends a lot of time arranging flowers.

Above all things however, Lady Aberdeen is a loving mother and grandmother.

"I was quite a strict Mum," she says, "they always appealed first to their Dad who was endlessly kind and patient.

"I find though that I'm much more relaxed with my grandchildren."

Her four children are adopted and it is a matter of some anger to her that they cannot inherit their father's title.

She has campaigned rigorously on their behalf but the law remains unchanged.

Sense of fun it's TYPICAL of her sense of fun that six years ago she held a very special garden party.

During the war, Haddo House had been used as a maternity hospital and 1600 bables were born there.

The Marchioness who had worked as a Red Cross nurse during the war decided to try to get as many of the babies and their parents back for a reunion.

Over 600 Haddo "babies" and their Mums came to the party!

Whether she's walking with her West Highland terrier Temair, planning the latest production at Hadda, namine in rockeep grandaughter Alice company, or talking about her search around the garden centres of Aberdeen to find a plastic heron because the real ones eat the goldfish, she's a Lady full of pzazz.

Thursday November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 8886 Hudson Street 1:30 p.m.

\$10 adults \$5 children

The Scottish Cultural Centre is always the liveliest place in town on November 11, when the Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Society under **Ken Bennett** sponsor their annual Armistice Day Tea Dance. Don't miss this most popular dance; let's see if we can break the attendance record again!

| The White Cockade | R | Book 5 |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | | Book 41 |
| | | Book 41 |
| Montgomeries' Rant | R | Book 10 |
| Mamie's Jig | J | Brandon, Let's All Dance |
| Mrs. Milne of Kinneff | S | Leaflet 32 |
| Nellie McKenzie's Jig | J | Ken Bennett |
| The Royal Deeside Railway | R | Book 40 |
| The Moray Rant | S | Drewry, Silver City |
| | | Clowes, Ormskirk 6 |
| | | Book 13 |
| Bratach Bana | R | Drewry, Bon Accord |
| | | Edwards, Centennial Coll. |
| The Falls of Rogie | R | Attwood, Alexander 1 |
| | | Book 27 |
| | | Foss, Glendarroch |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | J | Morison's Bush Coll. |

2005 Dance Details

Friday November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 8886 Hudson Street

1:30 p.m.

\$10 adults \$5 children

The Scottish Cultural Centre is always the liveliest place in town on November 11, when the Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Society sponsor their annual Armistice Day Tea Dance. Don't miss this most popular dance; let's break the attendance record again!

| The White Cockade | R | Book 5 |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Inbute to the Borders | | RSCDS Leaflets |
| Culla Bay | S | Book 41 |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | R | Book 10 |
| Mamie's Jig | J | Brandon, Let's All Dance |
| Mrs. Milne of Kinneff | S | Leaflet 32 |
| Nellie McKenzie's Jig | J | Vancouver Ruby Coll. |
| The Royal Deeside Railway | R | Book 40 |
| The Moray Rant | S | Drewry, Silver City |
| Shiftin' Bobbins | R | Clowes, Ormskirk 6 |
| The Reel of the 51st Division | R | Book 13 |
| Bratach Bana | R | Drewry Bon Accord |
| The Saint John River | S | Edwards, Centennial Coll. |
| The Falls of Rogie | R | Attwood, Alexander 1 |
| The Sailor | R | Book 24 |
| Polharrow Burn | R | Foss, Glendaroch |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | J | Morison's Bush Coll. |

Saturday November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 8886 Hudson Street 1:15 p.m.

\$10 adults \$5 children

The Scottish Cultural Centre is always the liveliest place in town on November 11, when the Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club sponsor their annual Armistice Day Tea Dance. Don't miss this most popular dance; let's break the attendance record again!

| The De'il amang the Tailors | R | Book 14 |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | | RSCDS Leaflets |
| | | Book 41 |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | R | Book 10 |
| Mamie's Jig | J | Brandon, Let's All Dance |
| Mrs. Milne of Kinneff | S | Leaflet 32 |
| Nellie McKenzie's Jig | J | Vancouver Ruby Coll. |
| The Royal Deeside Railway | R | Book 40 |
| The Moray Rant | S | Drewry, Silver City |
| | | Clowes, Ormskirk 6 |
| | | Book 13 |
| | | Drewry, Bon Accord |
| | | Edwards, Centennial Coll. |
| | | Attwood, Alexander 1 |
| | | Book 27 |
| | | Foss, Glendarroch |
| | | Morison's Bush Coll. |

2007 Dance Details

Monday November 12 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 8886 Hudson Street Vancouver

1:00 p.m.

\$TBA

Please note that the traditional Armistice Day Tea Dance will be held on November 12 this year, because of the unavailability of the Cultural Centre on November 11. In every other respect this will be the familiar Tea Dance which we all enjoy so much. Don't miss this most popular event!

| The De'il amang the Tailors | R | Book 14 |
|------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|
| Terrace Loggers' Jig | J | Vancouver Ruby Coll. |
| Culla Bay | S | Book 41 |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | R | Book 10 |
| Mamie's Jig | J | Brandon, Let's All Dance |
| The Dream Catcher | S | Book 45 |
| | | Vancouver Ruby Coll. |
| The Royal Deeside Railway | R | Book 40 |
| | | Drewry, Silver City |
| Shiftin' Bobbins | R | Clowes, Ormskirk 6 |
| | | Book 13 |
| Bratach Bana | R | Drewry, Bon Accord |
| | | Attwood, Alexander 1 |
| | | Three Dances by Hugh Foss |
| Catch the Wind | R | Book 45 |
| Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan. | R. | Goldring, 14 Soc. Dances for 2000 |
| | | Morison's Bush Coll. |

| Tuesday November 11 | LAD | Y ABERDEEN TEA DANCE |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Scottish Cultural Centre 8886 Hudson Street | 1:15 pm \$10 Adults \$5 Children | |
| The Royal Deeside Railway | R | Ron Arrowsmith, Book 40 |
| Joie de Vivre | J | Book 39 |
| MacDonald of the Isles | S | Derek Haynes, Carnforth 2 |
| White Heather | J | Set Cosh, 22 SCD |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | R | Book 10 |
| The Moray Rant | S | Drewry, Silver City |
| Trip to Bavaria | R | J. MacGregor-Brown |
| Nellie McKenzie's | J | Ken Bennett, Ruby Book |
| Reel of the 51st Division | R | Book 13 |
| Miss Johnston of Ardrossan | R | Goldring, 14 Social Dances |
| Mamie's Jig | J | Mary Brandon |
| The Dream Catcher | S | Orr, Book 45 |
| Bratach Bana | R | Drewry, Bon Accord |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | J | Morison's Bush Collection |
| Lets Have a Ceilidh | R | Campbell |
| Falls of Rogie | R | Jean Atwood |
| Extra: Maxwell's Rant | R | Book 18 |
| Food donations are most welcome charities. See article about this | | |

2009 Dance Details

Host Club: RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Charities: Salvation Army, Vancouver Poppy Fund, Canadian Breast Cancer, Leukemia & Lymphoma

Society, Covenant House, Aunt Leah's Independent Life Skills, Battered Women's Support, Heart &

Stroke Foundation, Greater Vancouver Food Bank and Union Gospel Mission

Wednesday November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 1:00 pm 8886 Hudson Street

Young and old alike enjoy this dance every year. Donations of food would be welcome.

| The Royal Deeside Railway | R | Book 40 |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Jennifer's Jig | J | Drewry, Silver City |
| MacDonald of the Isles | S | Haynes, Carnforth 2 |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | R | Book 10 |
| Mamie's Jig | J | Brandon, Let's All Dance |
| | | Drewry, Silver City |
| Shiftin' Bobbins | R | Clowes, Ormskirk 6 |
| Nellie McKenzie's Jig | J | Vancouver Ruby Coll. |
| The Dream Catcher | S | Book 45 |
| The Reel of the 51st Division | R | Book 13 |
| | | MacGregor-Brown |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | J | Morison's Bush Coll. |
| Polharrow Burn | R | 3 Dances by Hugh Foss |
| Culla Bay | S | Book 41 |
| The Falls of Rogie | R | Attwood, Alexander 1 |

Host Club: Gleneagles

Charity: BC/Yukon Legion Foundation

Wednesday November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre

1:00 p.m.

\$10

Dance to honor the spirit of the Lady Aberdeen Dance Club.

| Royal Deeside Railway | R | Book 40 |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Mamie's Jig | J | Brandon, Let's All Dance |
| Moray Rant | S | Drewry, Silver City |
| Shiftin' Bobbins | R | Clowes, Ormskirk 6 |
| | J | Book 22 |
| | | Book 22 |
| Sandy Butterly | | |
| Reel of the 51st Division | | Book 13 |
| Falls of Rogie | | Attwood, Alexander 1 |
| Jennifer's Jig | | Drewry, Silver City |
| Dream Catcher | S | Book 45 |
| Nellie McKenzie's Jig | J | Vancouver Ruby Coll. |
| MacDonald of the Isles | S | Haynes, Carnforth 2 |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | | |
| | | Book 18 |

2011 Dance Details

Host Club: White Rock

Charity: Honour House Society

Friday November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre Host: White Rock Club 1 pm \$10 Maureen Lyon has devised a new dance in recognition of the Lady Aberdeen Dance Group. Instructions for the Lady Aberdeen dance are in News from the White Rock Club on page 14.

| Royal Deeside Railway | R | Bk. 40 |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Christine M. Phillips | | |
| Craigleith Squ. set | | |
| Belle of Bon Accord | | |
| Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan | | |
| Pelorus Jack | | |
| The Moray Rant | S | Drewry Silver City Bk |
| Sandy Butterly | R | M. Brandon |
| Reel of 51st Division | | |
| Lady Aberdeen | | |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | | |
| 12 Coates Crescent | | |
| Falls of Rogie | R | Attwood Alexander Bk 1 |
| Catch the Wind | R | Bk. 45 |
| MacDonald of the Isles | | |
| Trip to Bavaria | | |
| Bratach Bana | R | J. Drewry Bon Accord Bk |

Host Club: Glenayre

Charity: Honour House Society and The Kidney Foundation of Canada, BC Branch

| Monday November 12 | LADY ABERD | EEN TEA DANCE |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Scottish Cultural Centre | 1 pm | \$10 |
| The Glenayre Club is please always a well attended dance be appreciated. In keeping v donated to local charities. | ed to host this year's to, a small item to add to | o the food table would |
| A Ring of Friendship | J | Grant, Laurel Coll. |
| Belle of Bon Accord | S | Drewry, Deeside 2 |
| Flowers of Edinburgh | R | RSCDS Bk. 1 |
| Miss Johnstone of Ardrossa | nJG | foldring, 14 for 2000 |
| Silver Tassie | | |
| Montgomeries Rant | R | RSCDS Bk. 10 |
| Piper and the Penguin | R | oldring, Scotia Suite |
| Quarries Jig | J | RSCDS Bk. 36 |
| Moray Rant | S | Drewry, Silver City |
| Reel of the 51st Division | R | RSCDS Bk. 13 |
| Lass of Richmond Hill | | |
| Seton's Ceilidh Band | | |
| Dream Catcher | | |
| Lady Aberdeen | R | Maureen Lyon, 2011 |
| Pelorus Jack | J | RSCDS Bk. 41 |
| MacDonald of the Isles | S | Haynes, Carnforth 2 |
| Reel of the Royal Scots | R | RSCDS Leaflet |