

Newsletter of the Perth & Perthshire Branch of the
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Scottish Charity No: SC024464

Issue Number 83

December 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The festive season is a time when we look both forward and backward. Forward to a new year with all the unknowns and possibilities that it might hold and backwards to the year past with memories to cherish and events to recall and reflect on. Little wonder that January was named after the Roman God Janus which had two faces; one looking forwards and one looking backwards.

2024 will be the penultimate year before our own Branch celebrates its centenary. 100 years in existence will be a remarkable achievement. Our Branch has developed and been sustained by its members over many decades. We have much to look back on which we can celebrate. However our Branch has not thrived for this long without looking forward and continuing to adapt and promote the activity we all enjoy; Scottish country dancing.

The Branch Committee has started to look forward and plan how we might celebrate our centenary and some of these details are contained later on in the HG. We look to our members to assist us in these celebrations and we hope you will feel you have something to contribute whether as a dancer, deviser of dances or music, or someone with memories of the Branch over the decades. This, and future editions of the Highland Gateway, will include recollections from some of our dance devisers about how they came to create dances which continue to be danced today.

The Branch held its AGM in September 2023 and a resume is contained within the HG.

Whilst some of our members are getting used to the Branch website we recognise that for younger dancers social media will be the way that they become aware of our activity. The Branch is therefore exploring how we might promote our online presence and so reach a new audience. Further details of this will be contained in a future edition of the Highland Gateway.

May I take this opportunity to pay my own personal tribute to the late Donald Campbell who was part of the Wednesday dance class when I first joined the Branch. He was the epitome of all that was, and continues to be, the best in Scottish country dancing. Forever elegant in attire and on the dance floor; kind and generous to new dancers like myself. He will be much missed.

Can I thank the Branch Committee for their support over the past year and thank Rod Purcell for compiling another packed edition of the Highland Gateway.

On behalf of the Committee can I wish all our members a peaceful and restful festive time and our thanks for all your support during 2023 along with our best wishes for 2024.

Christopher Smith

89th Branch AGM

The 89th Branch AGM was held on the 5 September 2023 in the Robert Douglas Memorial Hall, Scone. Christopher Smith was in the chair. The Chair thanked outgoing Committee members.

The AGM agreed not increase the Branch subscription for the year 2024/25.

Reports were provided by the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Secretary on behalf of the Management Board Representative. The Secretary noted that classes had been held during the winter period and that a ball had been successfully held. The Branch Centenary Ball would be held on 4 April 2025. In April 2024 a charity dance would be organised in collaboration with the Ericht SCD Club.

The Treasurer noted that both the Spring Classes and Summer Dances had been profitable and that over all the Branch had made a small excess of income over expenditure. The Branch Accounts had been independently audited.

The following individuals were elected to the Branch Committee by the AGM; Allana Creighton as Treasurer; Tessa Deiss, Morag Dunn and Wanda Rodger as Committee Members.

Pamela Malton agreed to act as the Independent Assessor for the Branch for the coming year.

After the AGM a “ Dance through the Decades “ was danced , with James Coutts providing the music, to celebrate 100 years since the establishment of the RSCDS.

Copies of all papers for the AGM are available on the Branch website.

Dancers at the Branch AGM



FESTIVE QUIZ

For members who still want to keep their dancing brain cells ticking over, go to the Branch website where you will find a festive quiz in the Information page.

CENTENARY BOOKLET

As part of the Branch centenary celebrations the Branch Committee intends to compile a short booklet covering the first 100 years of the Branch. There is some information held in the archives at RSCDS HQ but the committee would appreciate any additional information which could be supplied by branch members. This might be in the form of photographs, letters, newspaper articles or other memorabilia.

If you have something which you think might be worth sharing you can contact the Branch either through the contact form on the Branch website or email cjs110@yahoo.co.uk or by approaching a Branch Committee member. We hope that members will help the committee to create a booklet which truly celebrates the rich history of our Branch.

DANCE DEVISERS

Help us to celebrate the Branch Centenary.

In 2025 the Perth and Perthshire branch will celebrate its centenary. 100 years is a considerable achievement. Plans are being made by the Branch to celebrate this anniversary in a number of ways. One way is a competition to devise a dance to recognise this milestone and which can be danced in Branch programmes throughout the centenary year.

The Dance will be called the “*Perth Centenary Reel/Jig/Strathspey/Medley*”. Depending upon the number of submissions received it is hoped to arrange an evening in 2024 when all the submissions can be danced and those present can vote for the best dance. The chosen dance will be taught as part of the 2024 winter classes. This dance will also be included in the Centenary Ball programme in 2025.

The successful dance will become the sole property of the RSCDS Perth and Perthshire Branch. Up to a maximum of two dances can be submitted but only one can be a reel, jig, strathspey or medley (i.e. not more than one of the same tempo) . Dances should be submitted either by email to cjs110@yahoo.co.uk or sent in the post to Christopher Smith, 4, Jamieson Close, Perth, PH1 1SS, to arrive before 31 March 2024. We hope that budding dance devisers will get devising and help us to celebrate our first 100 years.

Dance Deviser Reflections

In the run up to the Branch centenary celebrations the Branch Committee thought it would be worthwhile celebrating some of the many dances which have been devised by Branch members.

Over the next few editions of Highland Gateway we hope to include some reflections of our local devisers on their dance/s. In this edition Linda Gaul reflects on *Portnacraig* which was published in the RSCDS Book 36 and Alec Taylor on *The Silver Walk* and *Birls Allowed*; the first published in the Perth Book of Dances and the second in the Bannockburn 700 book.

Portnacraig

I devised this dance as a Christmas present for my friend, Helen Morrison, in 1988. It was originally called “The Assistant Catering Manager’s Rant” as Helen held that position in Pitlochry Theatre at the time. However, when I was asked to submit it for consideration for Book 36 we agreed to change the name. Portnacraig is the area of Pitlochry where the Theatre is situated and was the name of the Bar. I commissioned a tune from Muriel Johnstone, which we called The Brown Trout as that was the name of the Restaurant. I wanted to use all three steps in reel time so there is skip change, pas de basque and slip step. In writing the description of the half diagonal reels of four, I was keen to encourage the dancing couple to pass by the left as I thought that was more in keeping with a traditional reel of four. I also wanted the dancing couple to give left hands as they crossed below third couple as Helen and I were both left handed. That was not allowed by the Publications Committee at the time, so it became a “half figure of eight”. Sometimes those of us in the know still give a left hand! The right hand turns at the end give ample opportunity for a good “birl”, which is always popular in Perthshire! Linda Gaul

Silver Walk and Birls Allowed

Dancing was a great hobby for both of us and we were sad when the time came to give it up. The first was the Silver Walk which I named after the public walk which begins just across the road from our house. I used to walk our dog down this walk twice a day and for some reason while walking I used to try and remember dances which Christian Catto had taught us. One evening for some mad reason I found myself imagining moves in an imaginary strathspey and over quite a few weeks the Silver Walk appeared.

The second dance I devised arose from social dancing at Stirling. There were a number of dancers at Stirling who thoroughly enjoyed Birling at almost any opportunity in a dance. There also were some purists who found it difficult to hide their disapproval. I found it all quite amusing and from this arose my dance Birls Allowed which was a tongue in cheek response to the purist view and was deliberately designed to suit a bit of harmless Birling. Alec Taylor

Sadly Missed

We were sorry to hear that Charles “Chic” Wiggetts died last month. He was a long standing member and supporter of our Branch. He and Ishbel were familiar faces at class and loved to attend the annual Balls in the area.

Our thoughts are with Ishbel at this time.

Out and About

Our branch, and committee, member Betty Bott has been dancing abroad and kindly reported the fun to be had in exotic (and very hot) locations.

The HG would be delighted to receive any other reports of interesting dance events.

Milan Ball June 2023
Villa Medici Giulini

“What could be more delightful than dancing in friendly multinational company, in a beautiful location to wonderful music?” So, wasn’t I lucky to find myself at the graceful “Villa Medici Giulini” not far from Milan on Saturday, 17 June 2023, dancing with old and new made friends to music played by Michael Philip and Paul Glancy? We were all assembled in our finery in the ancient palazzo on a (very) warm summer’s evening sipping our “aperitivi” in the shady gardens – chatting in Italian, French, German, English – and with our hands! – gathered together for the “fun and friendship” of our mutual passion for fine dancing to excellent music!

There were between 60 and 70 of us – anymore, and it would have been a squeeze in a hall, which though elegant, had no air conditioning so that straying out into the cooler evening air of the gardens was sometimes essential! We danced a number of favourites among which were – Starry Eyed Lassie, Shiftin’ Bobbins, Butterscotch & Honey and Reel of the Royal Scots – but also The San Siro Reel, (with music written by Michael Philip & Paul Glancy and the dance devised by John Murphy, President of the Milan Scottish Country Dancers) and Streets of Milan – of course!

It was such an enjoyable evening that friends from England and I are hoping to repeat the experience at next year’s Milan Ball on **Saturday 25 May 2024 to the music of Jim Lindsay and Gillian Ramsay** . [If anyone is interested in attending, please get in touch with Tom Craig-Cameron at mhb2024@tiscali.it There will be a walk-through on the afternoon of the Ball and the dances are called in English & Italian]

AUTUMN GATHERING 2023 GLASGOW

Your delegates Christopher Smith and Rod Purcell attended the weekend and had a great time. Many thanks to Allana who had a major role in organising the nuts and bolts of this large event . The tea cakes and caramel wafers were much appreciated instead of shortbread.

Both dances were excellent with great bands and popular programmes. We enjoyed the discussion groups where we met management committee members and heard about ways to promote SCD. Christopher enjoyed the Saturday class with 4 different ages of Petronella. Neither of us had the legs for the Sunday class.

The AGM itself was well organised and non controversial. A below inflation increase in HQ subscription by £2.00 was voted in.

It was lovely to be joined by a car load of Perth dancers on Saturday Night. The whole weekend and especially the dances were a memorable, friendly and fun experience.

Highly recommended! First weekend in November 2024 in Edinburgh may be a good weekend to keep free. Rod Purcell

Branch Classes Winter 2024

<u>Tuesdays</u> 9/01/24/-26/03/24	General Class 7.30 to 9.30 Members £2	Tryst Hall, Pitlochry, PH16 5EB Teacher Linda Gaul Non members £2.50
<u>Wednesdays</u> 10/01/24-27/03/24	General Class 7.00 to 8.00 7.30 to 9.00 Refreshers £2	Perth Methodist Church , PH2 8JN Refresher's class with revision of formations and easy dances. General class Teacher Fiona Goudie Non members £5
<u>Thursdays</u> 11/01/24-28/03/24	General Class 2.00 to 3.30 Members £3.50	St Matthews Church Hall, PH1 5LQ Teacher Rae Farrow Non members £4.00
<u>Thursdays</u> 11/01/24-28/03/24	Experienced Dancers 7.30 to 9.30 Members £4	Perth Methodist Church, PH2 8JN Teacher Judith Borup Non members £5

Administration

Committee 2023-2024

Chairman	Christopher Smith	Vice Chairman	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Rod Purcell	Treasurer	Allana Creighton
Website	Christopher Smith/Tess Deiss		
Members	Betty Blair	Morag Dunn	Jane Rattray
	Tess Deiss	Betty Bott	Wanda Rodger
Membership Secretary	Janice MacDonald	Highland Gateway	Rod Purcell
Contact Details:	Rod Purcell	e-mail	perthscds@gmail.com



Committee Standing Jane Rattray, Janice MacDonald, Allana Creighton, Tess Deiss, Betty Blair
Sitting Rod Purcell, Morag Dunn, Wanda Rodger. (Absent, Betty Bott)
Photo kindly supplied by Christopher Smith

Other Local Clubs and Groups

Aberfeldy SCD Class	Aberfeldy Town Hall	Tuesday 7.15 to 9.15
Auchterarder AAEA SCD Class	Auchterarder Parish Church Term time only AAEA 07597 600163	Tuesday 7.00 to 9.00
Bankfoot SCD Group	Church Hall Bankfoot Jane Rattray 01738 828510	Monday 7.00 to 9.00
Blairgowrie SCD Club	William St. Hall(Life Plus Ch.) Janice Cameron 01250 873272	Wednesday 7.30 to 9.30
Comrie SCD Club	White Church Comrie Wendy Duthie 01764 679717	Wednesday 7.00 to 9.00
Coupar Angus Ceilidh DC	St Anne's Church Hall Tracy Thom tracy.oram@btinternet.com	Wednesday 7.00 to 9.00
Coupar Angus SCD Club	St Anne's Church Hall Sandra Pullar sandrapullar@btinternet.com	Thursday 7.30 to 9.30
Craigie Church SCD Group	Craigie Church Hall Di Amphlett 01821 641404	Monday 7.30 to 9.30
Creiff SCD Club	British Legion Club Rooms Joan Anderson 01764 653356	Tuesday 7.30
Ericht SCD Club	Blairgowrie Town Hall Alan Thom erichtdance@gmail.com	Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30 (Beginners/Improvers 7 to 8.30)
Errol SCD Club	St Madoes Community Hall Margaret McManamon 01821 642774	Tuesdays 7.30 to 9.30
Gleneagles SCD Club	Gask Church Hall, Findo Gask Nora McKenzie normckenzie50@hotmail.co.uk	Wednesday 7.30 to 9.30
Moulin SCD Club	Moulin Hall Pitlochry June Templeman 01796 473488	2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursday 7.30
Scone SCD Club	RDM Institute Scone Helen Flatley 01738 561676	Monday 1.30 to 3.30
Scone Churches SCD Club	New Church Hall Scone Audrey Cooper 01738 551053	Thursday 7.30 to 9.30
St Matthews SCD Class	St Matthews Ch. Hall Perth Allana Creighton 01738 551148	Wednesday 7.30 to 9.30

Disclaimer

Please note that RSCDS Perth & Perthshire Branch cannot be held responsible for any error in the details provided for forthcoming events or classes.

Please inform the editor of any changes required for future issues of the newsletter.

Please send any corrections, class information or articles to be included in the Highland Gateway to

rod.purcell@btopenworld.com

www.rscds-perthandperthshire.com

Information on any of the Branch classes and activities can be found on the website under 'events'

For all other enquiries contact Rod at

perthscds@gmail.com

The objects of the Local Association are:

- To preserve & further the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dancing.
- To provide, or assist in providing, special education or instruction in the practice of Scottish Country Dancing.
- To promote the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing by any suitable means.
- Generally to do such things as are considered by the Local association to be incidental

or conducive to the attainment of objects above stated.

Perth 95th Anniversary Book

If anyone would like a printed copy of this book of dances, devised by Branch Members, it is available from Allana Creighton for only £2.50.

A very nice group of dances, some with music, and well worth having.

allanacreighton@btinternet.com

A PERTH BOOK OF DANCES

The Branch still has a number of copies of this publication and the accompanying CD. These can be obtained from Allana Creighton at a reduced price of £8.00 for the book and CD together.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2023/24

Date	Event	Place	Venue	Band	Organiser	Contact	
02 Dec	Ball	St Andrews	Town Hall	J.Coutts	RSCDS St Andrews		
08 Dec	Ball	Dunfermline	Glen Pavilion	E Galloway	RSCDS Dunfermline	Trish Paton	Rscds-dline.org.uk
09 Dec	Dance	Br. Of Allan	Parish Ch. Hall	M. Anderson	Stirling Castle SCD	Janet Johnston	0131 337 0193
15 Dec	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Church Hall	N.Mclaren	RSCDS Stirling	Jane Balman	secretaryrscdsstirling@hotmail.com 07848 394600
06 Jan	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Church Hall	Ewan Galloway	Stirling Castle SCD	Janet Johnston	0131 337 0193
13 Jan	Ball	Dundee	Invercarse Hotel	J Lindsay	RSCDS Dundee	Mary Cant	rscdsdundee@gmail.com 01382 580415
20 Jan	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Ch. Hall	A Ross	Stirling Castle Club	Janet Johnson	0131 337 0193
02 Feb	Burns Dance	Stirling	Albert Hall	M Anderson	RSCDS Stirling	Jean Tudor	Jtudor56@icloud.com 07748 044789
03 Feb	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Church Hall	J Coutts	Stirling Castle Club	Janet Johnson	0131 337 0193
16 Feb	Dance	Blairgowrie	Town Hall	M Anderson	Ericht SCDC	Alan Thom	erichtdance@gmail.com 01828 628747
17 Feb	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Church Hall	M Anderson	Stirling Castle Club	Janet Johnston	0131 337 0193
18-23 Feb	Winter School	Pitlochry	Atholl Palace Hotel		RSCDS HQ		info@rscds.org
01 Mar	Dance	Blairgowrie	Town Hall	J Lindsay	Blairgowrie SCDC	Emily Dickie	alanwdickie@aol.com
02 Mar	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Church Hall	A Mcleod	Stirling Castle Club	Janet Johnson	0131 337 0193
16 Mar	Dance	Bridge of Allan	Parish Church Hall	J. Lindsay	Stirling Castle Club	Janet Johnston	0131 337 0193
23 Mar	Half-day School +Dance	Dundee	Morgan Academy	TBC	RSCDS Dundee	Mary Cant	rscdsdundee@gmail.com 01382 58041

OTHER DANCE EVENTS

Pitlochry

1 June Dance to the Glenraig Band
15 June Dance to Colin Dewar
29 June Dance to James Coutts

Bridge of Allan

30 March Dance to Nicol McLaren

TRIFLE DANCE.

Revived charity dance organised by Branch and Ericht SCDC.
5th April 2024, Blairgowrie Town Hall with David Oswald.
Please support it if you can

Scone

Don't forget that the Branch Spring Classes and Summer Dances will run again in the Institute in Scone on Tuesday nights at 7.30. The classes will be every week in May and June, and the dances every week in July and August

A full list of SCD events can be found at www.scotdancediary@gmail.com

Branch Award Scheme

You are reminded that nominations for Branch awards should be submitted to the Secretary

Branch Scholarships

The Branch is offering scholarships to Branch members who are interested in taking either the teaching certificate Part 1 or Part 2. This will be a contribution towards the costs subject to confirmation that the candidate will be willing to teach and/or MC for the Branch on successful completion of the teaching qualification. To express an interest or to find out more please contact the Secretary Rod Purcell at perthscds@gmail.com

BELLS SPORTS INJURY CLINIC

Telephone 01738 454647

<https://www.pksmc.com>

The Branch has again subscribed to the Bell's Sports Injury Clinic so if you sustain an injury through dancing then consider attending the clinic where you will get expert help.

There is a reduction in the initial consultation fee for RSCDS Branch Member
The clinic is closed at the moment due to flooding .They hope to relocate and will let us know.

Additional help for dancers and teachers from RSCDS

The Jigs & Reels and **Dance Trad** packs have instructions for popular Scottish country dances and ceilidh dances. A DVD showing the dances performed and CDs providing the music are also included in the packs. Both packs are available from the RSCDS shop. You can also download the schools resources leaflet for ideas on curriculum links and further information.

The Primary Schools Accreditation Programme allows classes to work towards Bronze, Silver or Gold badges and the Medal Tests Programme allows children to work towards individual medals.

If you would like your dancing assessed then think about the **Dancing Achievement Awards**. This scheme is for adults and there are three levels available; Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced. More information is available on the RSCDS website.

There are now 3 levels of teacher training:-

Basic SCD Teaching Skills is a course for those who are already leading or about to lead a group but don't want to sit the RSCDS exams.

Core Training for Instructors is the newest programme and is still under development but you can register your interest at 'ent@rscds.org'.

The Teaching Certificate Units 1 to 5 are still available.

More information on all three qualifications is available in the Teacher Training section of the RSCDS website.



**The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Perth and Perthshire Branch
www.rscds-perthandperthshire.com**

Annual Subscription for the year 01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Dear All

The classes and dances in Scone are now in full swing, and what great attendances we have had so far, hopefully this will continue through the summer.

I would like to add my own gratitude to those who helped organise the Perth Ball, but I would like to say a special thank you to all those who attended the Ball as it was the dancers and the fabulous music we danced to which made it such a success.

As the RSCDS is in its Centenary year, we are celebrating this with their Dance Through the Decades programme in a dance which will take place after the AGM on the 5th September. The meeting will start at 7pm and we aim to commence dancing at 8pm with music provided by Nicol McLaren. We hope to welcome you all there.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Best Wishes,

Janice.

Invitation to renew

Please advise me of any changes to your contact details. If they are the same, tick the box for that. You can pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer (BACS).

If paying by BACS you do not need to return a form, but give your name as reference, and please send me an email so that I can update the record and acknowledge receipt.

New members

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Please complete the payment slip. To comply with GDPR you are required to indicate whether you are happy for us to use your details to send you information related to dancing and the RSCDS. **Please choose whether you receive that information by email or by post by ticking the relevant boxes *() and also, very importantly, sign the form.**

As all members receive a permanent membership card, from now on these will only be issued to new members. I can let you know your membership number, if you have mislaid it.

- Donations to the Branch from Life Members are appreciated.
- The cost of postage has increased significantly over recent years and we have been able to absorb this by distributing *Highland Gateway* to many members electronically.
- If you have an e-mail address and are happy to receive *Highland Gateway* as an e-mail attachment, please indicate on your Membership Form.
- Members who do not have e-mail will continue to receive the newsletter by post.

Yours sincerely

Janice MacDonald
Membership Secretary

5 Kenworthy Avenue, Scone Perth, PH2 6SX

janmacd@hotmail.co.uk

*Name(s) (BLOCK CAPITALS): _____ Membership Number _____

If details of address and email are the same as before please tick ()

*Address (New Member or change of address) _____

*E-mail address: _____

I understand that this information will be retained by the Branch and shared with RSCDS HQ for the purpose of administering my RSCDS membership, and to receive dancing information

*Please tick one Email () Post ()

*Signature: _____

*Date: _____

Only one copy of the RSCDS magazine and the Branch newsletter 'Highland Gateway' will be sent to each household.

* Please tick ONE Email () Post ()

Category	Code	HQ Subscription	Branch Subscription	Total Subscription	Tick One Only
Adult Single (25+)	AS	£26.00	£6.00	£32.00	
Adult Joint (both 25+)	AJ	£42.00	£12.00	£54.00	
Youth (12 -17)	Y	£13.00	Nil	£13.00	
Young Adult (18 – 24)	YA	£21.00	£6.00	£27.00	
**Adult Single (Half year)	HY	£13.00	£6.00	£19.00	
*** Associate Member (Branch only)	AM	-----	£6.00	£6.00	
Life Member Donation	LD	-----		-----	

* Mandatory fields

** Available to NEW members only joining from January 2024

*** Full membership must be through another branch, or HQ, or you must be a Life Member.

If applying for this category please name the other RSCDS branch or state Life Member on the line below.

I am a full member ofBranch.

Cheques should be made payable to 'RSCDS Perth & Perthshire Branch'

Bank Transfer Sort code: 80-91-28 A/C 00784777 (Give your full name as reference)

**Return to: RSCDS Perth & Perthshire Branch, Membership Secretary
J. MacDonald, 5 Kenworthy Avenue, Scone, Perth, PH2 6SX**

Or email jancmacd@hotmail.co.uk

For official use only

Perth and Perthshire RSCDS Branch Subscription 2023/24 Membership No.

Cheque/ Cash Received from:

Date:

Registered as a Charity in Scotland No. SC024464