

## *Chairman's Remarks*

We have certainly had a busy season since the last issue of this magazine. The winter classes finished and the spring classes started. The spring classes brought their own unique style, with a different teacher and a different musician each week to play for the classes. The classes were certainly popular

This led on to the summer dances throughout July and August. Again, a different teacher each week re-capped the programme they had compiled and the presence of the various bands, a different one each week, once again proved to be a very successful formula. We are extremely lucky to have so many talented teachers and musicians in this area, who provide us with hours of enjoyment week in and week out.

Looking forward, it will soon be time to sign up for the winter classes, details of which can be found on page 3 of this magazine. There will also be an opportunity to learn dances from the latest RSCDS book of dances. These classes will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of October in St. Matthew's church hall.

The RSCDS annual AGM Dance and Ball will be held during the first weekend in November. Members are reminded to order their tickets well in advance, as this is always a popular event, attracting dancers from all over the world.

This will be my last Chairman's remarks, as I demit office at the local AGM on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, having served two years in the post as chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have served alongside me on the committee and to give my best wishes to everyone serving on the committee in the years to come.

Happy dancing!

*Liz Hamilton*  
*(Chairman)*

## *Next Issue*

As I have been producing The Highland Gateway for 5 years this issue will be my last. **If you would like to take on this role** please speak to Christopher Smith or e-mail: cjs110@yahoo.co.uk. The deadline for the next edition is **10 March 2017**.

## *Branch Web Site*

I have also been maintaining the Branch website since 2005 so I intend to give this up too. **If this is something you would like to do** please speak to Christopher Smith or e-mail: cjs110@yahoo.co.uk. In the meantime if you have any items for the web site [www.rscds-perthandperthshire.com](http://www.rscds-perthandperthshire.com) please continue to send them to me at [allanacreighton@btinternet.com](mailto:allanacreighton@btinternet.com)

## *2016/17 Membership*

Brian Park has indicated that he wishes to step down as Membership Secretary. Our thanks go to Brian for all his work. Rhoda Purcell has kindly agreed to take on this role and will be co-opted on to the committee.

If you have enjoyed the spring classes and summer dances and would like to join us, or renew your subscription, forms are available on the Branch website.

## *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 Christopher Smith on 01738 443568 or email cjs110@yahoo.co.uk

## *Medal Test Assessments*

The purpose and aim of Medal Test Assessments is to help teachers provide structured and progressive learning for pupils; to encourage young people to maintain and develop their interest in Scottish Dance; and to improve their standard of dancing.

The Introductory Award is suitable for young children in their first year of dancing. Although there are no formal lower and upper age limits for candidates taking these tests, Grades 1 - 5 are aimed at dancers aged 7 to 16. More details are available on the RSCDS website [www.rscds.org.uk](http://www.rscds.org.uk)

## *Primary School Accreditation Programme*

This is for primary schools to learn Scottish Country Dances at BRONZE, SILVER and GOLD levels. The scheme can be used in conjunction with '*Jigs & Reels*'; a book of dances which includes 2 CDs and a DVD, and links in directly with the Curriculum for Excellence. More details are available on the RSCDS website [www.rscds.org.uk](http://www.rscds.org.uk)

## *Dancing Achievement Award (DAA)*

These awards, at Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced levels, are intended for dancers who wish to improve their standard of dancing and to have that achievement recognised. The dancers must attend a training session/s of a minimum of 5 hours. Dancers must learn the set dances and other formations not included in those dances. This can be done at Summer School or locally by a Branch. All the details of the syllabus and assessment procedures are available on the RSCDS website [www.rscds.org.uk](http://www.rscds.org.uk)

## *Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)*

TAS was set up with the following aims:-

- a. To foster the continuing development of SCD teachers.
- b. To provide workshops on the theory and pedagogy of teaching SCD.
- c. To provide a forum for teachers to meet, exchange ideas and share experiences.
- d. To assist in promoting SCD amongst non-dancers and excellence in dance for those intending to train teams for festival work.
- e. To develop support structures for new teachers,
- f. To keep a database of qualified teachers.
- g. To provide a newsletter to improve communications between teachers of SCD.

Membership fee is £5 and the Group is open to all RSCDS teachers. The website [www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk](http://www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk) will give you more information.

### *. Branch Winter Classes*

Day	Time	Class	Venue	Teacher	Music	Cost
<b>Tuesdays from 6 Sep 2016</b>	4.00-6.00	Children's Class	Oakbank Community Centre PERTH	Jane Rattray Contact:01738 828510	CDs	£25 per term or £2.50 per night
<b>Tuesdays</b>	7.30-9.30	General Class	Tryst Hall PITLOCHRY	Linda Gaul		£2.00 for Branch members and £2.50 for non members
<b>Wednesdays from 7 Sep 2016</b>	7.00	Beginners/Improvers	St Leonards' in the Fields Church Hall Marshall Place PERTH	Christian Catto	CDs	£4 for Branch members and £5 for non-members
	7.30-9.30	General Class				
<b>Thursdays from 8 Sep 2016</b>	2.00-3.30	General Class	St Matthew's Church Hall Tay St PERTH	Rae Farrow	CDs	£3.00 per class
<b>Thursdays from 8 Sep 2016</b>	7.30-9.30	General Class	Viewlands PS School Gym PERTH	Rhoda Purcell Contact:07922238991	CDs	£4 for Branch members and £5 for non-members

### *October Classes*

Two classes are being held on 14 and 21 October 2016 at 7.30pm in St Matthew's Church Hall to learn the dances from Book 50. The teachers are Allana Creighton and Linda Gaul with musicians Frank Thomson and Adam Brady. Admission £4.

## *The Perth Ball*

The Perth Ball will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the Station Hotel, Perth at 7pm with music by Jim Lindsay and his Band. Tickets are £28 and application forms are available on the Branch website.

## *Ribble Valley Group visit*

Dancers of the Ericht Scottish Country Dance Club in Blairgowrie were delighted, in April, to welcome 50 dancers from the Ribble Valley Group. We hosted a dance for them on the Saturday evening when Jim Lindsay's Band provided superb music. Here is what Ribble organiser Jill Burrows wrote about their weekend:-

### **Our Weekend in Blairgowrie**

*Every year for the past 22 years Ribble Valley RSCDS has run an annual weekend dance trip to Scotland. We try to go to explore a different location every year. We have managed this, other than by request, going to Inverness, Oban and Stirling twice!*

*The highlight of our weekend is always when we can get a local group to host a dance for us. It is good to show the newer dancers and people who don't normally travel, that by learning to dance, you can dance and make friends anywhere and basically we are all doing the same dances!*

*Our trips are very popular and usually fill up within a couple of weeks. This year was no exception and 50 of us arrived in Blairgowrie at the beginning of April to stay at the Angus Hotel. The Saturday night dance was hosted by Ericht SCD Club and the programme was quite challenging! We had been practising the dances, but we were still glad of the extra practice the night before in the hotel! On the Saturday night the town hall was buzzing! From my point of view, it was really good to meet up with old friends again from the Perthshire area. I think that all the dancers mixed splendidly together and the music from Jim Lindsay was superb! A very big THANK YOU to all who made this night so successful! It will be remembered as one of our best trips!*

*I'd also like to thank the local dancers who supported our ceilidh on the Sunday night in the hotel ballroom where Nicol McLaren played for us and even joined in with his own "turn"! A wonderful finish to a terrific weekend!*

*Thank you once again to the Ericht SCD Club and I look forward to seeing some of you during the summer.*

*Jill Burrows (RSCDS Ribble Valley Branch)*



## *Interview with Frank Thomson*

- **When did you start playing for Scottish country dancing?**

I started playing the accordion at the age of 12, being taught by Bill Wilkie in Perth, back in the fifties when I lived at Glenalmond. As soon as I mastered a few Scottish tunes I was asked to play for Perth RSCDS classes in the Salutation Hotel. This is where and how I served my 'apprenticeship'! I would have been around 15/16 years of age then, and the teachers I remember are Miss McFeat (known as Kate) and a Miss Scrimgeour. Perhaps a few of the more senior dancers in Perth will remember those ladies. I also remember introducing 'The Glenalmond Gamekeeper' Donald Campbell from Buchanty to the classes and he took dancing up with much enthusiasm.

- **Do you play other instruments other than the accordion?**

The accordion is the only instrument I play, although I don't regard the accordion as a proper 'musical' instrument, when compared to instruments such as strings, woodwind, brass and piano. I still regard the accordion as a 'toy', but a very popular world-wide one and I'm happy that my parents decided that I should play one!

- **What kind of music do you listen to?**

I listen to a wide variety of music, and prefer to hear soloists back by small groups, rather than orchestras or large bands. My favourite recordings tend to be solo violin/fiddle accompanied by sympathetic piano playing by keyboard players such as Maureen Rutherford, Dennis Morrison and Graham Berry etc., who excel in what they do to bring out the best in any soloist, whether string or vocal. I enjoy listening to jazz guitar, and in fact any talented soloist can turn me on.

- **Do you have a favourite tune?**

There are many, and I would hesitate to name just one! When playing for SCD, I tend to use tunes that I see and hear dancers respond to on the dance floor. I like to see dancers 'move to the music' whether they are actually dancing or waiting their turn on the set. In other words, I tend to play tunes favoured by dancers rather than myself, and quite simply said, if they enjoy both the dancing and the music, I drive home to Aberdeen a happy man!

- **Your playing has taken you all over the world, what countries have you visited?**

My music has taken me to many foreign lands, and I probably have to thank St Andrews Summer School for opening up the world. The countries which come to mind are scattered throughout the Middle and Far East, throughout Europe such as France, Spain, Germany, Holland, Norway and Italy.

- **Are there any events or countries that you have particularly enjoyed?**

My favourite events are probably in San Francisco, Portland Oregon, and Vancouver. However, albeit it's exciting to travel, I enjoy every bit as much playing here at home in Scotland for rallies and SCD events whether it be in the North of Scotland, or Tayside, or annually for the Millport weekend on the Isle of Cumbrae!

- **Do you have time for any other interests other than playing?**

I started off a banking career with the Clydesdale Bank in Scott Street, Perth in 1960 when music became very much secondary in my life, and for some 35 years I did not play for SCD. However, following early retirement in Aberdeen in 1995 I have been sucked into a music career which leaves me little time for any other leisure activities. 'If music be the food of life - play on!' The RSCDS is a rich and wonderful society movement with which to be associated, and I would heartily recommend it to anybody, whether dancer or musician.



## *Can you help identify this photo?*



I've been contacted by Lorna from Canada who is trying to find out more about this photo. Lorna's family recently celebrated 50 years in Canada and whilst preparing a presentation of old photos, came across this one.

Her mother and her mother's cousin are in the photo. Lorna's mother has sadly passed away so she has no one to ask about the details. Her Mum was Lorna Shearer and her cousin, Muriel. Lorna would have been 17 in the photo and Muriel would have been around 20.

"Perthshire Dance 1947" with the names "Tom & Betty McGrath" are written on the back of the photo. It could be a Branch dance or a Perth Scottish Country Dance Club event.

To try to locate Lorna and Muriel in the photo, I've been given the following: "*There's a man standing in the second row, on the left with a bow tie on. To his left, about 5 people in, there's a lady with a white dress on. My Mom is behind her and is wearing a dark dress, and she has dark hair. Muriel is to my Mom's left with a dark dress with a round neckline. The lady in front of Muriel has a black dress with spaghetti straps*".

Does anyone recognise the hall or the event? Do you recognise the names? Perhaps some of our senior members were there. Please email me [allanacreighton@btinternet.com](mailto:allanacreighton@btinternet.com) in the first instance and I'll pass the information on. Thanks for your help.

*Editor*

## *News from HQ*

### Management Board

- The RSCDS has started to discuss with the Royal Military Tattoo the possibility of Scottish country dancing featuring in the 2017 event.
- Gillian Wilson, the Executive Officer, continues with the consultation process on the Business Plan.

### Youth Services Committee

- Spring Fling will be held in Bonn in 2017. Still looking for a Branch to volunteer to arrange the 2018 Spring Fling.
- There is a youth workshop in Newcastle in the autumn and one in London in January 2017.
- All schools in Scotland have been given information about Jigs and Reels and Dance Trad resource packs.
- Schools have also been told about Children in Need. The RSCDS are offering the instructions and music for the Pudsey Bear Dance along with stickers to help with fundraising. These will be available in September.
- Global Youth week is in January
- There are vacancies on this committee – 2 places for 3 years and 2 places for 2 years

### Education & Training Committee

- Teachers' Association Conference will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. The cost is £20 and whether you have your full Teaching Certificate or not you are welcome to attend.
- The closing date for scholarship forms for Summer School 2017 is 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016
- Winter School will run from dinner on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb to breakfast on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Booking forms will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- Book 50 is now available as both hard copy and PDF eBook with accompanying CD. The video for Book 50 will be ready later this year
- A new CD with dances from MMM, recorded by Luke Brady is also available
- Dances for Book 51 are currently being evaluated by Branches
- A call for existing dances for Book 52 will be issued this autumn
- Combined A5 Book 31-38 should be available at the Annual Conference Weekend 2017
- Work is ongoing on an updated "Index to Formations and Movements" due late 2016/early 2017
- "Originally Ours" Vol 2 has been updated to include music from Book 50
- A project is underway to produce videos of all RDSCS dances. Branches will be asked to help with this process
- There are a number of vacancies on this committee. Contact Anselm Lingnau at [convenor@msc.rscds.net](mailto:convenor@msc.rscds.net) if you are interested in applying

Go to the website [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org) for more information on all of the above.

## Forthcoming Events

DATE	TOWN	EVENT	MUSIC	ORGANISER	VENUE	CONTACT	PHONE
Fri 2/9/16	SCONE	Dance	Colin Dewar	RDM Institute Scone	RDM Institute Scone	Anna Brown	01738 551377
Fri 23/9/16	BLAIRGOWRIE	Charity Dance	Frank Thomson	Ericht SCDC	Blairgowrie Town Hall	Jan McHugh	01250 870975
<b>Fri 14/10/16</b>	<b>PERTH</b>	<b>Book 50 class</b>	<b>Frank Thomson</b>	<b>RSCDS Perth &amp; Perthshire</b>	<b>St Matthew's Church Hall</b>	<b>Christopher Smith</b>	<b>01738 443568</b>
<b>Fri 21/10/16</b>	<b>PERTH</b>	<b>Book 50 class</b>	<b>Adam Brady</b>	<b>RSCDS Perth &amp; Perthshire</b>	<b>St Matthew's Church Hall</b>	<b>Christopher Smith</b>	<b>01738 443568</b>
Sat 26/11/16	ST ANDREWS	Annual Ball	Jim Lindsay	RSCDS St Andrews	St Andrews Town Hall	J Wilson	01334 475274
Fri 9/12/16	DUNFERMLINE	Annual Ball	Frank Thomson	RSCDS Dunfermline	Glen Pavilion	John McLean	01383 726919
Wed 28/12/16	COUPAR ANGUS	Xmas Dance	David Oswald	Coupar Angus SCDC	Coupar Angus Town Hall	Moir Coull	01828 627465
Fri 6/1/17	SCONE	Charity Dance	Frank Thomson	Perth SCDC	RDM Institute Scone	Dorothy Reid	01738 635009
Fri 17/2/16	BLAIRGOWRIE	Annual Dance	Marian Anderson	Ericht SCDC	Blairgowrie Town Hall	Jan McHugh	01250 870975
Fri 3/3/17	BLAIRGOWRIE	Dance		Blairgowrie SCD Club	Blairgowrie Town Hall	Janice Cameron	01250 873272
Fri 24/3/17	COMRIE	Annual Dance	Colin Dewar	Comrie SCDC	White Church	Wendy Duthie	01764 679717
Sat 22/4/17	COUPAR ANGUS	Spring Dance	Jim Lindsay	Coupar Angus SCDC	Coupar Angus Town Hall	Moir Coull	01828 627465
Sat 29/4/17	CRIEFF	Annual Dance	Frank Thomson	Crieff SCDC	Academy Hall	Joan Anderson	01764 653356
<b>Fri 5/5/17</b>	<b>PERTH</b>	<b>Ball</b>	<b>Jim Lindsay</b>	<b>RSCDS Perth &amp; Perthshire</b>	<b>Station Hotel</b>	<b>Christopher Smith</b>	<b>01738 443568</b>
Fri 12/5/17	BLAIRGOWRIE	Summer Dance	George Meikle	Ericht SCDC	Blairgowrie Town Hall	Jan McHugh	01250 870975

## *87th AGM & Conference Weekend 2016*

The AGM 2016 will be held from November 4th to the 6<sup>th</sup> in Bell's Sports Centre Perth.

Friday evening dance: Marian Anderson's Scottish Dance Band

Saturday morning class: Heather Cowan with James Gray

Saturday evening ball: Jim Lindsay's Scottish Dance Band

Sunday morning class: Jim Stott with Ian Muir

Both Friday and Saturday night dances are open to non members too so bring your friends along to enjoy the experience of dancing with over 500 dancers in the same hall. All dances will be recapped.



## Other Local Clubs, Classes & Groups

### **Aberfeldy SCD Class**

Tuesday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
In Aberfeldy Town Hall  
Contact: Betty Kinnear Tel: 01887 820124

### **Bankfoot SCD Group**

Monday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
In the Church Hall, Bankfoot.  
Contact: Jane Rattray Tel: 01738 828510

### **Blairgowrie SCD Club**

Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm  
In the Town Hall, Blairgowrie  
Starts 28 September 2016  
Contact: Janice Cameron Tel: 01250 873272

### **Braco SCD Club**

Tuesday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
In Braco Hall  
Contact: Charles Robertson Tel: 01786 880208

### **Coupar Angus SCD Club**

Thursday from 7.30 to 9.30pm  
In Coupar Angus Town Hall  
Contact: John MacBean Tel: 01738 621124

### **Coupar Angus AEA SCD Club**

Thursday from 7.00 to 9.00pm  
In Coupar Angus School  
Contact: A McKinlay Tel: 01828 627040

### **Craigie Church SCD Club**

Monday From 7.30 to 9.30pm  
In Craigie Church Hall, Perth  
Contact: D Amphlett Tel: 01821 641404

### **Crieff SCD Club**

Tuesday from 7.30 pm  
In the British Legion Club Rooms, Perth Road,  
Contact Joan Anderson Tel: 01764 653356

### **Ericht SCD Club**

General Class on Tuesday at  
7.30 to 9.30pm in Blairgowrie Town Hall  
Contact Jan McHugh Tel: 01250 870975

### **Gleneagles SCD Club**

Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
In Gask Church Hall, Findo Gask  
Contact: Gordon MacBean 01764 660193

### **Kinross SCD Club**

Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
In Milnathort Town Hall  
Contact: Helen Payne Tel: 01577 861349

### **Kirkmichael SCD Group**

Monday from 7.30 to 9.30 pm  
In the Blackwater Hall  
Contact: Pat Simpson Tel: 01250 881403

### **Moulin SCD Club**

2nd, 3rd, 4th Thursdays from 7.30 pm  
In Moulin Hall, Pitlochry  
Contact: June Templeman: Tel 01796 473488

### **Perth SCD Club**

Tuesday at Kinnoull Church Hall  
Class 7.30 to 8.15 followed by Social  
Dancing 8.30 to 10.00pm Visitors welcome  
Contact: Dorothy Reid Tel: 01738 635009

### **Scone Churches SCD Club**

Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm  
In Scone New Church Hall  
Contact:

### **St Matthews SCD Class**

Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm  
In St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay St, Perth  
Starts 7 September 2016  
Contact:Allana Creighton Tel:01738 551148

### **Scone SCD Club**

Monday from 7.30 to 9.30pm  
In The Robert Douglas Memorial Institute,  
Contact: Anna Brown Tel: 01738 551377

### **Comrie SCD Club**

Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm  
Contact: Wendy Duthie Tel: 01764 679717

## *Useful Information*

### *Bells Sports Injury Clinic*

The Branch has again subscribed to the Bells 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 slight reduction in the fees for RSCDS Branch members

### *Suggestion Box*

A 'suggestion box' has been set up to allow members to put forward suggestions to the committee for consideration. If you have any suggestions you wish to share then please send them to the Secretary either by e-mail or by post.

### *A Book of Perth 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.

### *Branch Award Scheme*

You are reminded that nominations for Branch awards should be submitted to the Secretary by 30 May. The form can be downloaded from our website.

## *Administration*

### *Committee 20015/16*

Chairman	Liz Hamilton	Vice Chairman	Rod Purcell
Secretary	Christopher Smith	Treasurer	David Carswell
Membership Secretary	Brian Park	Website/Newsletter	Allana Creighton
Youth Co-ordinator	Jane Rattray		
Members	Betty Blair, Jean Dewar, Keith Evans, Pat Fraser, Fiona Goudie, Ethel Keay, Betty McRae		

Contact Details: Christopher Smith      e-mail: cjs110@yahoo.co.uk

### **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.

### *Disclaimer*

Please note that RSCDS Perth & Perthshire Branch cannot be held responsible for any error in the details provided for forthcoming events or classes. The editor would appreciate being informed of any changes required for future issues of the newsletter.