



## Class Dates

### Spring Term 2019 (13 weeks)

Start: Tuesday 8th January 2019  
Wednesday 9th January 2019

End: Tuesday 2nd April 2019  
Wednesday 3rd April 2019

### Summer Term 2019 (10 weeks)

Start: Tuesday 30th April 2019  
Wednesday 1st May 2019

End: Tuesday 2nd July 2019  
Wednesday 3rd July 2019

## RSCDS Wirral Branch Classes

Prenton - Tuesday evenings  
St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton Lane,  
Birkenhead, CH42 8LA

Beginners/Intermediate Class: 7.00 - 8.05 pm  
General Class: 8.15 - 10.15 pm

Beginners are welcome to stay on for the first half of the *General Class*, although some dances will be unsuitable for inexperienced dancers.

West Kirby - Wednesday evenings  
West Kirby United Reformed Church Hall,  
Meols Drive, West Kirby (near to Aldi),  
CH48 5DA

Social Dancing Class: 8.00 - 10.00 pm

## Class Fees & Subscriptions

Fees for the Spring Term will be:

Tuesday **OR** Wednesday Class: £36.00  
Beginners Class only: £18.00  
Each additional class per week: £ 2.00

Occasional visitors: £4.00 per class (maximum three classes per term), no maximum for the summer term, as other societies do not dance then.

Wirral Branch Membership is £2 for the year 2018-2019.

To ensure financial stability, it is vital that Branch Membership and class fees are paid promptly, in advance, or at the first class of the term. Where possible, members are requested to pay by cheque - made payable to *RSCDS Wirral Branch*.

Class/Team	Teacher
Beginners/Intermediate Class	Helen Trattles, Ann Collett
Tuesday General Class	Dave Haynes
Wednesday Social Dancing (West Kirby)	Hilary Letts, Maxine Slade
Demonstration Team	Gill & Dave Haynes



## RSCDS Membership Fees 2018-2019

The following membership subscription categories will be available:

Category	Subscription	Benefits
Adult Single (25+)	£20 (Branch pay £10)	Membership card and magazines
Adult Single (25+) half year membership	£10 (January to June 2019, new members only) Branch pay	Membership card and magazines
Adult Joint (both 25+)	£32 (for two people, members of the same Branch, residing at the same address)	Membership cards and one copy of magazines per household
Youth (12 - 17)	£10	Membership card and magazines
Young Adult (18 - 24)	£16	Membership card and magazines

Following the 2018 AGM motion, the Branch will subsidise RSCDS subscriptions by £10 per person.

### From the Chairman:

Another term races to its end - it does feel as if Tuesdays are getting closer together somehow. I hope that, like me, you have enjoyed the classes this term. It has been lovely having new dancers join us and welcoming back some old friends.

In exactly the same vein it has been great learning some new dances and fun to revisit ones we have already met. I think it is that mix of the new and familiar that makes the classes so interesting and enjoyable. So thanks to all teachers for coming up with the ideas and dancers for giving them all a go.

Best wishes to everyone for a Happy Christmas and I look forward to dancing with you all in the New Year.

Hilary



### From the Treasurer:

At the AGM I explained that the committee had agreed to subsidise the RSCDS subscription and reduce the Branch membership fee. We also agreed to keep the class costs as low as possible. This was aimed at gaining new members who had been faced with both membership and class costs soon after they started in the autumn term. We hope that this was successful. However, with insurance and hall hire increasing, we need the class cost for next term to be £36 (full class) and £18 (beginners) so that the overall loss for the year is within target. We will also need to review the cost of photocopying our event instructions for next year's dances.

If you have any questions about our finances or would be interested in shadowing the role, please talk to me.

Maxine Slade

Hon. Treasurer



## Social Functions for 2019

### Visitors' Night

Tuesday 12th February 2019

(7.45-10.15pm)

St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton Lane,  
Birkenhead, CH42 8LA

### Summer Dance

Saturday 1st June 2019 (7.30-11.00pm)

St Nicholas Hall & Function Suite (Harrison  
Hall), Harrison Drive, Wallasey CH45 3HL

Tickets: £10 (children £5)

Dancing to Luke and Adam Brady

**Tickets for all RSCDS Wirral Branch events  
are available from Peter Harvey (Ticket  
secretary)**

**Phone: 0151 648 5074**

**Email: [ticket-sec@rscds-wirral.org.uk](mailto:ticket-sec@rscds-wirral.org.uk)**

**Cheques to be made payable to: RSCDS  
Wirral Branch**

## Janet at the Cheshire Branch Day School

Continuing to be a glutton for punishment! I have just attended Cheshire RSCDS's Advanced Day School. David McQueen being our teacher - anyone that has experienced David's teaching technique will know he is passionate about teaching but makes it so much fun.

I certainly came away with more dancing skills/knowledge i.e. a medley with a "Tournée" in it .... are you impressed (please don't ask me to dance a demo..). Thanks to David if he ever reads our Newsletter and also to Anne and Andrew for organising the event.

It's nearly the end of term and our own Christmas Dance ..... more fun and laughter.

As they say on Strictly.... KEEP DANCING.

Janet J

## Beginners & Intermediates - A view from the other side

Alison and Pat have been dancing for just over two years and Val for three years at Wirral RSCDS. All three of us have learnt a great deal thanks to our Teachers, Helen, Ann and David, assisted by all the experienced dancers who attend the beginner's and intermediate classes and help us through all the different formations. Their patience, humour and knowledge ensure that we learn in a friendly and welcoming environment. Along with the aim to learn new things, we have a fun evening and meet many new friends. It is a winning combination!

As we had been reflecting on how far we had all come, Alison remembered her first Christmas dance. She had only joined in the September and was not sure what to expect. With mixed feelings of nerves and excitement she went and found that she thoroughly enjoyed herself! As in the lessons, everyone helped and supported her thorough all the dances. We are all looking forward to this year's Christmas dance and have been practising in both the beginners and intermediate classes.

Looking back since those early days when we didn't know our reel from our Strathspey, our allemande from our promenade, our Petronella from our polite turn, our grand chain from our ladies' chain or our right from our left, we can see how much we have learned and improved and how our confidence has grown. Take heart all new comers, it will make sense soon, so hold your nerve, enjoy the rest of the term and see you in the New Year!

Alison, Pat and Val

## Report of 89<sup>th</sup> RSCDS Annual General Meeting Weekend

Perth 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2018

The Cheshire and Wirral Branches were represented by Andrew Locke and Anne MacDonald

We attended an excellent dance, held in the Main Arena on the Friday evening. The programme was chosen by the Teachers' Association of Canada and dancing was to the David Oswald Scottish Band.

On Saturday morning we attended a Discussion Session led by Trevor Clarke and Linda Gaul. Some of the questions for discussion being:

- How can HQ support Branches more in terms of recruiting members
- Should Affiliated Groups be affiliated directly to RSCDS HQ or to local Branches
- We were also asked to consider their role within the Society and whether their fees should be linked to membership numbers

The AGM was held on the Saturday afternoon and this year five members received the Society's Scroll of Honour: Di Rooney, Maureen Haynes, Sue Porter, Deirdre MacCuish Bark (Canada) and Gabor Turi (Hungary).

The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted.

The Motion to maintain the Membership Subscription at £20.00 from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 was passed.

Election of Management Board Members:

- The new Chairman Elect is Lorna Ogilvie from the Perth & Perthshire Branch.
- Roy Bain and Gary Coull were elected to the Management Board. A vacancy still remains.
- Anne Taylor (Banffshire Branch) was elected as Convenor Elect of the Education & Training Committee and Sue Porter, Muriel Bone and Deb Lees were elected as members of this Committee
- Alan Ross was elected to the Membership Committee
- Joana Stausberg was elected as Convenor of the Youth Services Committee and Aymeric Fromherz and Moira Korus were elected as members of this Committee.

The new Chairman is Andrew Kellett and he thanked Helen Russell for her service. He then talked about some of the plans for the future, including reorganisation of the Website and changes to the Teaching Certificate Structure.

The Ball in the Evening was preceded by a Civic Reception and a display of dancing by the Youth Demonstration Team. The programme for the evening was chosen by the Stonehaven Branch and dancing was to the Jim Lindsay Scottish Dance Band.

Date of next meeting: Saturday, 2nd November, 2019 in Perth.

CAM 15.11.18



## Continuing with the 'Getting to Know You' theme.

This issue of the Newsletter is focusing on two of our teachers. I thought it may amuse the reader to know what they get up to away from the classroom! At this time of year (the Silly Season) I asked them if they had taught SCD in any strange, exotic, funny settings. Both Maxine and Hilary came up with the goods - enjoy their experiences and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. Janet J x

**A good camper never trips over the guy ropes** - but a Scottish dancer can come perilously close.

You may remember the August Bank Holiday weekend of 2018. The Sunday was a complete washout, torrential rain and strong winds. That was the afternoon I had agreed to go to a guide camp in Willaston, a Scottish themed guide camp, to do a session of dancing with the campers. A few text messages about the horrendous weather conditions and the dancing was rescheduled for the following day.

Monday afternoon the car bumped down the lane to the campsite where a group of tired guides swathed in great lengths of tartan material they had found in Birkenhead market were waiting. The girls were happy to have a go, most in trainers, a couple in wellies so we put the music on and started dancing. Grass at the best of times is hard to dance on but when it is long grass and you are avoiding guy ropes and solar lights poked in to the ground randomly it is a real challenge. However the girls were great and we did our best. The whole time the alpacas in the next field stood and watched. Can't say what the expressions on the alpacas faces meant, they just seemed bewitched. Maybe they hadn't seen Scottish dancing before!

### Hilary

During the summer I was fortunate to join a friend for a river cruise entitled "**Dancing on the Danube**". On the first evening we enjoyed the sights of Budapest and were entertained by folk dancers and their band. However, the highlight was a concert by local musicians and dance show by Flavia Cacace and Vincent Simone (former Strictly Come Dancing professionals) in the beautiful old Military Museum in Vienna. The following morning Vincent and Flavia were on the ship and offered a class teaching Argentine Tango and Cha Cha Cha. They proved to be excellent teachers and delightful people.

With a dance focus for the tour, general conversation between strangers frequently began with questions about dancing. I usually said that although I loved ballroom and Latin dancing, I had taken up Scottish Country dancing about 30 years ago as I didn't have a dancing husband. The ship had a resident musician who played piano and keyboard each evening and accepted requests. Towards the end of the week the trip manager told us that one evening was for dance music and that he'd had a request for some ceilidh dances. Those who had made the request believed that someone on board might be able to call for them and would that person please get in touch with him. I didn't think that they meant me but a little later I was approached by a lady who'd overheard me say that I did Scottish Country Dancing. They just wanted simple things like the Gay Gordons so I agreed to see if the musician could help & I could get some instructions. I suggested some dances to the musician who succeeded in finding them online and was able to play them through his system. Having my tablet with me I planned six dances but in the end we did the Gay Gordons and Circassian Circle a couple of times each as dancing around the bar had its limitations. It was more like herding cats than Scottish Country Dancing but I was pleased to meet a lady from Belfast Branch RSCDS who offered support but couldn't call. It seemed to be much appreciated as I had many thanks and thereafter conversations seemed to begin with expressions of apparent surprise that I would have taken on such a thing.

### Maxine

## News from Janet

It has been another hectic term of Scottish Country Dancing (SCD) - attending the regular classes on a Tuesday and the social dancing at West Kirby on a Wednesday. All this activity certainly keeps the toes twinkling.

The Nice & Easy dances at Tarporley (Cheshire RSCDS) are well worth attending for beginners/improvers as the dances are all walked through and everyone at Tarporley is friendly and willing to help. The photo of 'The Girls' tells it all with smiling faces.



My biggest challenge of the term was dancing in Toronto. As most of you know my daughter is living there for a couple of years and I have been a regular commuter across the pond.

I contacted a SCD group at Trinity that meets at St Hilda's Hall in the University campus within walking distance of my daughter. Communication via email is wonderful and I received a prompt and friendly reply to my enquiry re visiting them. The person I contacted - Ken Adamson originates from Liverpool and knows the Wirral very well - what a small world and needless to say I made sure they all knew they would be made welcome by Wirral RSCDS should they visit this area.

I was invited to another dance group 'Glenview' a little further from the centre of Toronto but on the subway route so no problem.

Two very enjoyable evenings were spent with Canadian Scottish Country Dancers if you read this Thank You. I feel, I flew the flag well for Wirral RSCDS, also receiving compliments on my dancing - thanks must go to my teachers. I must have been OK as they have invited to one of their Christmas dances when I am there in December.

