

# NEWSLETTER



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Wirral Branch

Registered Charity 1063531

## Class Dates 2010

### Spring Term 2010

*Start* Tuesday 5th January 2010  
 Wednesday 6th January 2010

*End* Tuesday 23rd March 2010  
 Wednesday 24th March 2010

**Please note that there will be no class at Prenton on Tuesday February 23rd - Church pantomime**  
 (11 weeks Prenton : 12 weeks Wallasey)

### Summer Term 2010

*Start* Tuesday 13th April 2010  
 Wednesday 14th April 2010

*End* Tuesday 6th July 2010  
 Wednesday 30th June 2010  
 (13 weeks Prenton : 12 weeks Wallasey)

## Class Fees & Subscriptions

A financially successful year (2008-2009) means that the Treasurer believes class fees can remain unchanged from last year for the Spring Term. Fees are calculated on the basis of £2.50 per week (1 class per week) plus an additional £1 for a second class (payable on the night). The late announcement of the Church Pantomime at St Stephens means that there will be one less Tuesday class in the Spring Term. To compensate, an additional class will be held in the summer term.

Tuesday OR Wednesday Class	£30.00
Each additional class per week	£ 1.00

For the Children's Class, Margaret Kay will indicate the amount due based on the rate of £1.75 per class.

Wirral Branch Membership is £5 for the year 2009-2010.

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 Spring Term. Cheques should be made to "RSCDS Wirral Branch"

## RSCDS SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following RSCDS membership subscription categories will be available for the membership year July 2009 - June 2010.

New Branch members should pay the reduced half year RSCDS membership fees to the Hon. Treasurer at the start of the Spring term in January.

Category	Subscription	Benefits
Adult Single (25+)	£15	Membership card and magazines
Adult Single (25+) half year	£7.50 - new members only (from January)	Membership card and magazines
Adult Joint (both 25+)	£24	Membership cards and 1 copy of magazines per household
Youth (12-17)	£7.50	Membership card and magazines
Young Adult (18-24)	£12	Membership card and magazines



## Class Venues and Times

### **Prenton:**

St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton Lane  
 General Class 7.30 - 10.00 pm  
 Appropriate provision will be made to accommodate  
 Beginners in this class depending on numbers.

### **Wallasey:**

All Saints Church Hall, Hose Side Road  
 Children's Class 6.30 - 7.45 pm  
 Social Dancing Class 8.00 - 10.00 pm

### **Hogmanay Ceilidh 2009**

Thursday, 31st December 2009  
 8.30 - 12.30 pm  
 St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton  
 Tickets £5 (Children £2.50)  
 ("Faith Supper" - please bring food to share)

### **Visitors' Night 2010**

Tuesday, 9th February 2010  
 7.30 - 10.00 pm  
 St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton  
 Invitations to local dance groups have been  
 mailed.

### **Annual Ball 2010**

Saturday 13th March 2010  
 7.30 - 11.30 pm  
 Bromborough Civic Centre  
 Dancing to the music of *Nicol McLaren & The  
 Glencraig Scottish Dance Band*  
 Tickets £16 (Children £8) including supper

### **Summer Hop**

Saturday, 15th May 2010  
 7.30 - 11.00 pm  
 dancing to the music of *Luke Brady*  
 Clarendon Methodist Church Hall, Wallasey  
 Tickets £6 (Children £3) including supper

Tickets for all RSCDS Wirral Branch Functions are  
 available from the Ticket Secretary:

Mrs Margaret Kay  
 9 Woodland Road  
 West Kirby  
 CH48 6ER

Phone 0151 625 5468

<i>Class/Team</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
General Class (Tuesday)	Dave & Gill Haynes
Children's Class	Margaret Kay
Social Dancing (Wallasey)	Margaret Kay
Demonstration Team	Gill & Dave Haynes

## Another Nonagenarian for the Branch!

90th birthday of Anne Kenyon

On Wednesday 2nd December, members attending the Wednesday class were pleased to celebrate the 90th birthday of Anne Kenyon. Hilary presented Anne with flowers and a card made by Liz, which everyone in the Tuesday and Wednesday classes had signed. Margaret had made a lovely cake that Anne cut and we toasted her with sparkling wine and fruit juice.

Anne has been a member of RSCDS Wirral Branch since the very beginning - first as a member of the Scottish Dancing Evening Class, run by Mr Ron Taylor at Egerton Grove in Wallasey, and then as a founder member of the Wirral Branch which came into formal existence in 1983.

The committee were very pleased to present Anne with lifetime membership at the Christmas Dance on December 5th.



## Children's Class

The Children's Class finished with a flourish in July when we took part in the White Rose Festival at Leeds. For the first time in several years it was glorious weather so we were able to choose an excellent picnic site with a grandstand view of all the dancing. This also gave us easy access via the grassy embankment to our allocated dancing area. Over 30 adult teams from Edinburgh to London were dancing and the Chester area was very well represented.

Unfortunately there were only 8 children's teams with Wirral having the only boy present! The dancing was excellent and we had several complimentary comments from our nearby audience and most importantly they all enjoyed themselves.

A big thank you to Beryl who organised the use of Greasby Scouts' mini-bus and to John Brierley who very kindly did the driving. John had planned to explore some of his childhood haunts during the afternoon but stayed to watch and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

September came and we lost two children but gained several new members who are now learning dances for the Southport Festival in February. This festival seems to come around very fast but the Thistle Society organises a very good afternoon and children come from far and wide to dance together.

Faye no longer dances with the Children's Class but is always willing to dance with them at festivals if needed and this is very much appreciated. She became a full member of the RSCDS and Wirral Branch last January and was therefore able to apply for a scholarship from the Jean Milligan Fund to attend Summer School at St. Andrews. She was awarded a full scholarship and attended the first week with Diana, Liz and me. What an exciting week for us all – the first teenager from Wirral Branch to attend Summer School! Her performance at the demonstrations in Younger Hall in both country dancing and ladies' step, which she had only been learning for 3 days, was impeccable and she received many well-deserved congratulations. At the Friday night ceilidh she was the eighth pair of legs in a dancing caterpillar.

If any of you know of any children who might be interested in joining us, please do encourage them to come and try it.

*Margaret Kay*

## RSCDS Summer School

Firstly I must thank Margaret, Hilary, Liz, Diana and all those in Wirral Branch for encouraging me to apply for a scholarship to attend Summer School at St Andrews. They knew that I would love the whole experience if I got the chance to go and their enthusiasm for the weeks they had previously spent at St Andrews made me eager to apply.

Once I received confirmation that I had been awarded a scholarship I was so excited. I was counting the days and it proved to be so much better than I had expected! I should also therefore thank those that approved the scholarship, without you I would never have had this experience. Now I just have to save up for next year!

The week at St Andrews did indeed give me a fantastic opportunity to do something I love and to share the experience with a group of fantastic people. One of the main things I loved was being able to dance to live music in the classes and at the social dances. The music added extra energy to the dance making it more exciting and also made me appreciate the talent that lies behind such music and the difference it makes to the steps.

It was my first full week away from home without my family and whilst I was excited at the thought of all the dancing and learning I was going to do I was also nervous about having to do this without my usual family support. I needn't have worried though, Margaret, Liz and Diana were there for me whilst also giving me space to make new friends and everyone was so lovely that I never once felt alone. Amy, Emma, Luke and Andrew in particular made me to feel very welcome and have, I hope, become lifelong friends and I look forward to seeing them again next year if not before.

I have to say that I was scared when asked to take part in the Demo teams. It was a great opportunity for me as it was the first time that I had taken part, all the teachers were great and after I conquered my

nerves I enjoyed every minute of it. The teachers were all lovely, picking up on any faults in both my technique and overall dancing ability but doing so in such a positive way that you knew it was all done with only you in mind. Dancing so many different dances with so many different people was an extraordinary experience and a steep learning curve at times but one I am so glad I did.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that I met at St Andrews, it was an experience that I loved and that I hope to be able to repeat on a regular basis.

*Faye Mather*

## Report from the 2009 AGM

Margaret, Beryl and I attended the 80th AGM of the RSCDS in Perth at the beginning of November. The most important information to pass on to members from the meeting is that the Society is in a much healthier financial state than it was last year. For the last three years the Society had been making a loss financially but this situation has been turned round with a small surplus being made in 2008/2009.

Listening to the various reports from members of the Management Board of the Society they have obviously taken long, hard looks at all the activities the Society does. Any training of teachers, running of Winter and Summer Schools and production of CD's and books of dances is now being done with a clear understanding of how much things cost and that activities should break even.

The Society now has a Marketing Officer who is making applications for grants to support the work of the Society such as funding demonstration teams for major events. It is hoped that Scottish Country Dancing will be included in the celebrations at the start of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

As part of the AGM weekend we also attended a question and answer session with members of the Management Board and a Youth Forum. Both sessions were chances to hear of ideas that other branches have had to attract new members that have worked well, from classes held in the mornings to

Local Authority grants to pay for the transport for children to get to festivals.

There are fuller reports of the AGM on the RSCDS website [www.RSCDS.org](http://www.RSCDS.org)

*Hilary Letts*

## AGM (November 2009) Youth Forum

Approximately 36 people attended the youth forum that was led by the new Youth Director Deb Lees from Newcastle Branch. Attendees were mainly teachers and several members of the RSCDS Youth Demonstration Team including Gillian Frew and Andrew Nolas who had both been elected to the Education and Training Committee the previous day.

Deb outlined some of her ideas:

- Youth Workshops to identify 16-35 year olds to form a pool for demonstrations at public events
- Liaison with education departments to encourage opportunities for Scottish Country Dancing in schools

We were arranged in groups to imagine successful youth dancing in 2020 and what would have been in place to achieve it:

- classes within the school timetable taken by an RSCDS teacher
- grants from within the community for transport to festivals
- festivals offering flexible arrangements for small groups
- advertising on the Internet – chat lines etc.
- school holidays to include Scottish Country Dancing on their lists

*Margaret Kay*



## READ BETWEEN THE LINES - LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Trevor Adams, my assistant programmer, can always be found
2. hard at work at his desk. Trevor works independently, without
3. wasting company time talking to colleagues. Trevor never
4. thinks twice about assisting fellow employees, and he always
5. finishes given assignments on time. Often he takes extended
6. measures to complete his work, sometimes skipping coffee
7. breaks. Trevor is an individual who has absolutely no
8. vanity in spite of his high accomplishments and profound
9. knowledge in his field. I firmly believe that Trevor can be
10. be classed as a high-calibre employee, the type that cannot be
11. dispensed with. Consequently, I truly recommend that Trevor be
12. promoted to executive management, and hope that this proposal will be
13. executed as soon as possible.

*Addendum:* The idiot was standing over my shoulder while I wrote this report. Kindly re-read only the odd numbered lines.

*Found by Herbie Bramham*

## CHRISTMAS DANCE 2009

Whilst the attendance at our Christmas Dance on Saturday, 5th December was a little disappointing - particularly so since not so many Branch Members were there and we had to rely on "visitors" (friends) from other groups, the atmosphere and dancing were as enjoyable as ever. Maxine and Dave MC'd the event and, by popular request, many dances had a quick walkthrough or two. This certainly helped dancers feel more confident and less "on trial" - Scottish Country Dancing is about fun and not an examination of memory!

Thanks are due to a dedicated band of volunteers who help to make evenings like this a success - the Committee, Herbie and Ada and others who arrived early to set up the hall; Herbie again for sourcing the sherry; Gill for making scrumptious mince pies; Margaret for her valiant efforts to sell tickets - aided by Diana - and for organising the food as well as making many of the desserts, etc. A big thank you to everyone - apologies if you are not mentioned - your help is always appreciated.

In recognition of her long membership of RSCDS Wirral Branch and the enviable achievement of attaining the age of 90 and still being enthusiastic enough to attend dances, Hilary Letts (Chairman) presented Miss Anne Kenyon with a certificate of Honorary Life Membership of RSCDS Wirral Branch.





## Hogmanay Ceilidh

St Stephen's Church Hall  
Prenton Lane, Prenton  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009  
8.30 pm to 12.30am

*Entertainment, Music & Dancing*

**Tickets £5**

from: Margaret Kay, 9 Woodland Road,  
West Kirby, Wirral CH48 6ER  
Phone: 0151 625 5468

*Refreshments (please bring a plate of food to share)*

**Would you like to "do a turn"?**

**Singers, musicians, poets, story tellers,  
dancers - we need you!**

**Contact Dave Haynes (0151 632 4350)  
or e-mail [secretary@rscds-wirral.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rscds-wirral.org.uk)**

## RSCDS Wirral's Got Talent (We hope!)

*Urgently seeking "turns" for the Hogmanay Ceilidh*

If you feel able to "do a turn" at the Hogmanay Ceilidh on News Year's Eve then please get in touch with Dave Haynes on 0151 632 4350 as soon as possible.

## Message From Bill Baines

Thanks to all of you for your get well cards and good wishes. I never imagined how heartening and encouraging it could be to receive this support. It will be some time before I'm back on the dance floor as on-going medication and recovery are a long-winded business. But I'm looking forward to seeing you all again and in the meantime enjoy your dancing!

With best wishes to all of you, Bill (Baines)



www.rscds-wirral.org.uk

## ANNUAL BALL 2010

SATURDAY, 13th MARCH 2010  
Bromborough Civic Centre  
Allport Lane, Bromborough, Wirral CH62 7HR  
7.30 - 11.30 pm

*Dancing to the music of*

**Nicol McLaren &**

**The Glenraig Scottish Dance Band**

EH3 7AF	Kelloholm Jig
The Sailor	Eileen Watt's Reel
The Minister On The Loch	Eileen Watt's Strathspey
The Last Of The Lairds	Inchmickery
Sueno's Stone	The College Hornpipe
Up In The Air	Argyll Strathspey
Ian Powrie's Farewell To Auchterarder	The Chequered Court
Fife Ness	Thomas Glover's Reel
The City Of Belfast	Cramond Wedding
Quarrie's Jig	The Duke Of Perth
EXTRAS	The Whistling Wind, The Flight Of The Falcon, West's Hornpipe

Tickets £16 (Children £8), including buffet supper, from:  
Mrs Margaret Kay, 9 Woodland Road, West Kirby, Wirral, CH48 6ER  
Telephone: 0151 625 5468 Email: [ticket-sec@rscds-wirral.org.uk](mailto:ticket-sec@rscds-wirral.org.uk)

RSCDS Wirral Branch is a registered charity No: 1063531

*Wishing all RSCDS Wirral Branch members, family and friends of the Branch a Very Happy Christmas and New Year - Keep On Dancing!*

