



St Andrews Branch

Spring Newsletter 2012

Registered Charity no: SC024765

Website: www.rscdsstandrews.org

AGM

Members please note that the AGM will take place on Thursday, 31st May at 7.30 pm in VMH.

The Branch is in need of at least three new committee members and asks members to seriously consider putting their name forward for election.

Half Day School & Evening Dance with Spring Fling Dancers 24th March 2012

This important event in our calendar has been taking place successfully for some years. Its success lies in the fact that it lends another dimension to the provision of instruction within the Branch.

It opens the doors for dancers from other branches to join with us and share the pleasure of learning with a guest teacher and musician.

The teacher this year is Eric Finley from Ayrshire, accompanied on the piano by Robert Mackay from Edinburgh.

A further pleasure in store is that the dancers from the Spring Fling join us for the Evening Dance with their musicians, Muriel Johnstone and Luke Brady.

Spring Fling is an RSCDS event which takes place

annually in March for young dancers between the ages of 16 and 35. This year the event is based around the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, Dundee.

Please note that the Evening Dance begins at 7.30 pm to allow time for the dancers to eat an early meal in a local restaurant.

For details see Branch website.

www.rscdsstandrews.com

Children's Class

A sad reflection on the changing times within Scottish education is the fact that SCD is no longer an official part of the Scottish national cur-

riculum. For this reason the committee would like to introduce children to SCD at an early age. They are looking into the feasibility of

running a class for children. Members are invited to contact the committee if they, or a friend have children who might attend such a class.

Upcoming issues

From the Editor
Do you have an interesting SCD story that you would like to share?
Please get in touch with the Branch Secretary.

End of Season Dance **VMH Thursday 22nd March**

It was regrettable that the Christmas Party had to be cancelled due to stormy weather.

It is hoped that the End of Season Dance will more than make up for the fun and enjoyment which was lost on that occasion.

The programme will be devised by class teachers and the music will be provided by Luke Brady and Neil Gallo-way.

As usual there will be shared refreshments with everyone bringing a small contribution on

a plate, pre-cut if necessary and wrapped in cling film.

There will be spot prizes but no raffle.

The dance is free to members, £3 for non-members.

From the Chairman



Time seems to move ever faster these days, so it comes as no surprise to find ourselves well into our series of dance classes this season. For some it appears that twenty classes are not enough. Keen Scottish country dancers will dance any time given the chance, but to hear this coming from the Intermediate class is very rewarding, in particular for myself. I have had the pleasure of being their teacher since they joined the Branch.

Shelley is running a very successful beginners class and is proving to be a very popular teacher. It is very important that this momentum is maintained.

The Branch is being run by a relatively small committee calling on its members to give more of their time and energy than might otherwise be the case. It is therefore particularly sad to say farewell to David Cordes who is leaving St. Andrews to carry on his academic career in Lubbock, Texas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank David for his considerable contribution to the work of the committee, especially through his link to Spring Fling, and to wish him well in the future.

Well in advance of the AGM, which please note will take place on Thursday, 31st May, members should be aware that the Branch is

beginning to feel the impact of the current economic climate. This is largely a reflection of the increased charges made by our service providers especially in the hire of halls. In promoting SCD we do our best to offer our members and guests a good deal but with rising costs this may prove difficult to sustain. It also raises the question, are we being fair to our class teachers and musicians whose pay has remained static for some time?

The committee is monitoring the situation closely and the facts will be put before the AGM. In the meantime, fortunately our bank balance remains healthy!

Spring Classes

VMH Wednesday 28th March & Tuesday 3rd April at 7.30—9.30 pm **Cost £3**

Many beginners feel that the class season ends too early and have expressed the wish to have some extra classes. This reaction to their enjoyment of dancing was welcomed by the committee and in particular their teachers.

It was therefore proposed that the two Spring technique classes, which have not been well attended in recent years, be replaced with

two extra classes aimed at accommodating the beginners and intermediate dancers.

The first of these classes will be held on Wednesday, 28th March in the Victory Memorial Hall. The class will be taught by Sheila Gardiner accompanied by Neil Galloway as class musician.

*Please may
we have
some more
classes!*

The second class will be held on Tuesday, 3rd April at the Town Hall. The class will be taught by Alice Oliphant with Luke Brady as class musician. It is hoped that the other classes will join them to give further encouragement and some extra fun. We need to keep these enthusiastic dancers with us.

May Dances

VMH 3rd; 10th; 17th & 24th May 7.30—9.30 pm

The May dances proper will take place on four Thursdays in May.

This year the Branch will have the pleasure of welcoming MCs for these evenings; Sandra French, Fiona Mackie, Linda Gaul and Marion Firth.



Music for the first two May dances will be played by Neil Galloway. Luke Brady will play for the second two May dances. Soft drinks and biscuits will be served at the intervals. Entry charge £3.

AGM

31st May 7.30 pm

The date of the AGM has been brought forward to the last Thursday in May.

As is the custom, the meeting will be followed by dancing. The MC for the dancing will be Moira Mackenzie and the musician will be George Wilson.

My Dancing Days

by David Cordes

Photo: New Zealand Branch Summer School 2010/2011 held at Dunedin, Larnach Castle

Scottish country dancing is something that's been a part of my life for just about as long as I can remember. Growing up in New Zealand, my mother and her twin, from Aberdeen originally, took up SCD when I was young, having remembered it from school in Scotland. Gradually other members of the family were introduced to it, and took it up. My sister and I, before starting dancing ourselves, would be brought along to the an-



nual club Open Night dance, or occasional weekend school, to watch and listen before having to go home. I started attending classes regularly at the age of ten, and have been dancing ever since, with the exception of when I was living in Alabama, where the nearest dancing I could find and contact was a six hour drive away.

Travelling around the world following academic jobs has brought me into a variety of different dancing environments, ranging from dancing with the London Branch demonstration team, to dancing with both the Branch and the Celtic Society here in St Andrews, and soon to be

moving on to a social dancing group in my next port of call, Lubbock, Texas. Given the worldwide nature of SCD, people I've met dancing in one place have occasionally been run into again elsewhere, or found to also be a friend of another dancer I know. Furthermore, it has been nice when traveling on work business, to be able to arrange to attend a class at my destination, and in one case to meet friends seen at a previous New Zealand Summer School.

Moving on from St Andrews and the dancing accessible from here is unfortunate, but necessary given the demands of work. However, I will hope to see some of you again, dancing somewhere in the future.

The Branch Demo Team joins forces with Celtic Soc!

Last year, on St Andrews Day the Branch Demonstration Team joined forces with the University of St Andrews Society to put on a display for the St Andrews week festivities.

A last minute request came to the Branch to perform when a late change was made in the group organising the event.

Due to the short notice a full team

was not available so the decision was taken to invite members of the Celtic Society to take part. This effectively made the display truly representative of Scottish country dancing in St Andrews as a whole.

In spite of the high winds and muddy conditions a good display was enjoyed by the public. It is hoped that this becomes an annual event.



Summer Dances

Tuesday, 17th, 24th, 31st July & 7th August

The summer dances are always very popular with Scottish country dancers, especially those who come to St Andrews to attend the RSCDS Summer School. It is also an important event financial-



for the Branch. The funds raised

at these dances help support the other activities and work of the Branch.

Everyone is feeling the economic squeeze for one reason or another. For the pilgrims to the mecca of SCD, the increased cost of attending summer school

was evident last year by the lower attendance in the first week. It was reflected also in our takings which fell by about 30%.

This summer, three out of the four dances will take place in the Town Hall. This may well encourage a better turnout Here is hoping for a good summer of dancing!



Important Dates!

75th Anniversary Dinner
 Saturday 13th October 2012
 The Links Club House
 7.00 pm for 7.45 pm

75th Anniversary Ball
 Friday 23rd November 2012
 Younger Hall
 7.30 - 11. pm

Class News - Beginners



The Branch continues to have a popular class on Tuesday nights with an average 3 to 4 sets on the floor. Every second week the class dances to live music provided mostly by Luke Brady this year. Although everyone enjoys lots of fun, the class tries hard to master the technique and learn some of the popular dances. This class too are very keen to participate in the Spring classes.

The beginners and intermediate classes have been taught by Shelley and Moira for the last three years. In accordance with our constitution we shall therefore need to engage new teachers for these classes. Shelley has offered to take the intermediate class. Moira retires to have a break having taught for six years.

Although an advert was placed in St Andrews in Focus it was the Wedding Breakfast, posters and word of mouth which attracted the new members.

Events Calendar

End of Season Dance	22 nd March 7.30 – 10.00	£3.00 non-members	Victory Memorial Hall	Music by the class musicians. Shared refreshments
Day School	24 th March 1.30 – 5.00	£8.00	Town Hall	Class Teacher: Eric Finley Class Musician: Robert Mackay
Evening Dance	24 th March 7.30 – 11:00	£7.00	Town Hall	Band: Luke Brady and Muriel Johnstone
May Dance	3 rd May 7.30 – 9.30	£3.00	Victory Memorial Hall	MCs: Sandra French Musician: Neil Galloway
May Dance	10 th May 7.30 – 9.30	£3.00	Victory Memorial Hall	MC: Fiona Mackie Band: Neil Galloway
May Dance	17 th May 7.30 – 9.30	£3.00	Victory Memorial Hall	MC: Linda Gaul Band: Luke Brady
May Dance	24 th May 7.30 – 9.30	£3.00	Victory Memorial Hall	MC: Marion Firth Band: Luke Brady
AGM Dancing	31 st May 7.30 till 9.30	N/A	Victory Memorial Hall	MC: Moira Mackenzie Musician: George Wilson
Summer Dance	17 th July 8.00 – 11.00	£6.00	Town Hall	Band: Frank Thompson
Summer Dance	24 th July 8.00 – 11.00	£6.00	Town Hall	Band: David Cunningham
Summer Dance	31 st July 8.00 – 11.00	£6.00	Town Hall	Band: James Coutts
Summer Dance	7 th Aug 8.00 – 11.00	£6.00	Boys Brigade Hall	Band: Jim Lindsay

For dance cribs go to www.rscdsstandrews.org