

NEWSLETTER



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Wirral Branch

Registered Charity 1063531

Class Dates

Autumn Term 2017 (12 weeks)

Start	Tuesday	19th September 2017
	Wednesday	20th September 2017
End	Tuesday	5th December 2017
	Wednesday	6th December 2017

Spring Term 2018 (11 weeks)

Start	Tuesday	9th January 2018
	Wednesday	10th January 2018
End	Tuesday	20th March 2018
	Wednesday	21st March 2018

Summer Term 2018 (13 weeks)

Start	Tuesday	10th April 2018
	Wednesday	11th April 2018
End	Tuesday	3rd July 2018
	Wednesday	4th July 2018

Class Fees & Subscriptions

Fees for the Autumn Term will be:

Tuesday OR Wednesday Class	£30.00
Youth	£15.00
Each additional class per week	£2.00
Occasional Visitors £4.00 (per class, maximum 3 classes per term), no maximum for the summer term as other societies do not dance.	
Wirral Branch Membership is £5 for the year 2017-2018.	

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".

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 General Class although some dances will be unsuitable for inexperienced dancers.

West Kirby - Wednesday evenings 8-10pm

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

Social Dancing Class 8.00 - 10.00 pm

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 2017-2018

The following membership subscription categories will be available in 2017-2018:

Category	Subscription	Benefits
Adult Single (25+)	£20	Membership card and magazines
Adult Single (25+) half year membership	£10 (January - June 2016, new members only)	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 1 copy of magazines per household
Youth (12 - 17)	£10	Membership card and magazines
Young Adult (18 - 24)	£16	Membership card and magazines

Branch AGM

At our AGM on 9th May the following committee members & delegates were elected:

Chairman:	Hilary Letts
Secretary:	Diana Dainton
Treasurer:	Maxine Slade
Membership & Ticket Secretary:	Peter Harvey
Members:	Val Noble, Janet Jones, Carol Otsa
HQ AGM Delegates:	Janet Jones, Val Noble

Beginners/Intermediate Class

Our class continues to flourish!

A few weeks ago we were delighted to welcome new members, Denise, Pauline, Kath and Sandy, who, despite being 'thrown in at the deep end' are coping admirably and we love to see their enthusiasm undaunted by the more complex formations tackled at this time of the year.

Another success story is that of sisters Alison and Pat who joined in September and have made amazing progress, again because of their dedication (including practising at home) and their great enthusiasm. The Class of 2014, Janet, Wanda, Peter, Celia, Val G and Pauline are now officially 'intermediate' dancers, no longer beginners and we look forward to them bringing their experience to help our newer class members in the coming year. Many of this group have attended dances and workshops run by other societies, in addition to our own classes and dances, and this has developed their skills as dancers, not to mention their confidence! Such is the dedication of this group that Janet and Peter are now active committee members. Many congratulations to all!

As always, we are very grateful to all experienced dancers who support our members during classes and to all of our branch members who offer support and guidance within the general classes, both on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is this inclusive approach that enables less experienced dancers to feel welcomed in our branch and to improve their skills and confidence.

Thank you to you all!
Helen & Ann

SISTER ACT

"Sisters, sisters, there were never such devoted sisters....." That's true!

Yes, we have been devoted to each other since childhood and always did everything together, until we started on the boyfriends, of course! We come from a musical family and have always loved singing, at home and joining in school and college choirs. We are now both members of various musical societies on Merseyside and Wirral.

We were born, on the same day, in Essex but our parents eventually moved to Yorkshire. We went to college together (of course) in North Wales where we trained as Primary School Teachers, finally arriving in Liverpool for our first jobs, sharing a rented house in Anfield! Kathy got married and has lived in Aigburth ever since. Binny was more adventurous and married a lad from Birkenhead! She now lives in Oxtan. Our separate homes haven't stopped us from seeing each other very frequently!

Some years ago Binny was looking for an enjoyable way to exercise and remembering how much she'd liked English Country Dancing at school thought she'd give Scottish Dancing a go. She chatted to Kathy about it, and, well, we've always done everything together anyway, so it was only natural when Kathy said "I will follow you..." and also came to the classes.

We remember and appreciate how well we were taught the steps and patterns of the dances by Gill and Dave, who took the beginners at that time. We both really love it and attend as often as possible.

Binny and Kathy



A TRIP TO SOUTH UIST

No, not the title of a dance but an account of a few days Gill and I spent in the Outer Hebrides this spring. Gill had visited Harris, Lewis and Benbecula many years ago but I had never ventured off the mainland of Scotland. So, on a bright, windy Sunday afternoon in May, there we were on the quayside at Mallaig waiting to board the CalMac Ferry "The Lord of the Isles" to Lochboisdale on South Uist.

The ferry was super - like a cut down version of a cross channel ferry. Loading the motorhome on board was no problem due to the skill of the guys on the car deck. We explored the bar, the restaurant and observation decks as we sailed out between the smaller inner islands. Once clear of the shelter of Skye, the sea was entertainingly choppy! The north westerly wind had built up quite a swell. It should be noted that Dave is not the best of sailors, so although the scenery of the Cuillins on Skye receding into the distance was spectacular, this did not quite make up for the spray and waves breaking over the bow of the ferry. I was really pleased to see the harbour at Lochboisdale after the 3½ hour crossing.

After cleaning a thick white coating of salt off the windscreen, an 8 mile drive took us to our campsite at Kilbride at the south of the island. The campsite is quite small but has excellent facilities, with a modern building housing toilets, showers and a complete kitchen mainly used by those brave tent campers visiting the island. At the entrance to the site is a cafe which is popular with the locals as well as visitors. Just across the narrow road is the beach. There is a lot of sea - just over the horizon is North America!



Our first night was a bit rough with the wind having upped the stakes to become a full scale gale. Very early on the Monday morning we struggled out to turn the motorhome round to reduce the buffeting. It is important to note that on the westerly shores of the islands it is always windy and frequently raining, but this did not stop us from having a great 8 days there.

One day we cycled across the causeway to Eriskay. There was a plant sale on at the village hall, so we stopped for a coffee and a chat. People had travelled from all over the islands, by ferry from Barra and car/bus from elsewhere to this event. The Eriskay Shop next door is the only shop on Eriskay - a community shop selling almost everything you could imagine. Basically, if they haven't got it, you really don't need it. We had lunch at "Am Politician", the pub named after the cargo ship which sank just off the coast carrying a cargo of whisky.

You may remember the film "Whisky Galore" based on this event, where the islanders rushed out to salvage the bottles of whisky being washed ashore before the Customs & Excise arrived. I believe a new version of the film is to be released, filmed surprisingly on the Aberdeenshire coast as Ersikay was thought not "filmic" enough for the cinema!

We drove our motorhome from south to north, across another causeway to Benbecula where there is a large Coop store. The car park must rate as having the most spectacular views of any car park in the country.



There is a military base nearby with a large hospital, making this the most densely populated part of any of the islands. Elsewhere there are just isolated crofts - no real villages. Heading further north, we drove across another causeway to North Uist and on towards the village of Lochmaddy. Roads on the islands are mainly single track with passing places and the occasional two lane sections, but driving is easy as there is so little traffic.

After 8 wonderful days it was time to return to Mallaig. Unfortunately, the day before we left, the weather turned particularly unpleasant with another, really powerful gale. D-J (the Kilbride site owner) came to tell us that the 7 am ferry next day was going to be delayed until 9 am, so we could have a couple more hours sleep. The ferry was much less than half full for the return - just our motorhome, a lorry transporting live lobsters and a handful of cars were on the car deck. The crossing was really rough and any idea of the "full English" in the restaurant were immediately forgotten. It was a rather pale green David that drove the motorhome off the ferry at Mallaig!

Would we do it again? Yes - we are already investigating the idea of "island hopping" - ferry to one island and then making our way from one island to the next to explore more of the Outer Hebrides - perhaps next year?

Gill & Dave Haynes

Summer Dance 2017

Yet again our Summer Dance, with music by Luke and Adam Brady, was an evening not to be missed.

Everyone's hard work preparing for the dance was well worth it. The Beginner and Intermediate dancers did so well that some of the dancers from other groups were astonished to hear how recently some of them have taken up Scottish Country Dancing.



The first half got off to a good start with Trip to Bavaria being popular and everyone staying on the floor for an encore. Luke and Adam played some

great tunes which dancers really appreciated. As the MC for the first half I was up on the stage and often spotted more experienced dancers thoroughly enjoying the music.

Probably because dancers who are really familiar with the dances don't have to concentrate on what they have to do quite so much they can really notice the music, and the arrangement of tunes, that Luke and Adam devised.

As always the supper was a great success, so many people helped with organising the food, the cups of tea and coffee and the clearing away afterwards that we were well on time.



Ann took us through the second half in expert fashion and we squeezed in one extra dance, The Music Makars. It is always a good reflection of how much people are enjoying the night if a lot stay right to the end ... and they did.

Luke and Adam are booked to play for our Summer Dance in 2018, the hall is booked and the programme planning is underway so, see you there.

Hilary

Social Functions for 2017 & 18

Christmas Dance

Saturday 2nd December 2017 (7.00-10.30pm)
St Nicholas Hall & Function Suite (Harrison Hall),
Harrison Drive, Wallasey CH45 3HL

Tickets: £7 (children £3.50)

Dancing to cds.

Hogmanay Ceilidh

Sunday 31st December 2017 (8.30pm-12.30am)
St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton Lane, Birkenhead
CH42 8LA

Tickets: £6 (children £3.00) plus plate to share

Visitors' Night

Tuesday 13th February 2018 (7.45-10.15pm)
St Stephen's Church Hall, Prenton Lane, Birkenhead
CH42 8LA

Summer Dance

Saturday 2nd June 2018 (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

Cheques made payable to "RSCDS Wirral Branch"

Chairman

I just want to thank everyone for what has been a lovely term. We have welcomed some new dancers and we have tried some new dances, we have got better at some things and we know what still needs a bit of work. As always there are some dances that once learnt are never forgotten yet there are others that continue to be baffling even after we have done them lots of times. There are some formations that seem logical and others that seem designed to confuse. However, what has been great about our classes is everyone's willingness to have a go, to listen to the teachers and to be supportive to other dancers. I hope you all enjoy the break and at the same time look forward to coming back in September.

Hilary