



RSCDS Wirral Branch Classes

Prenton -Tuesday evenings

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

Social Class: 7.00 – 9.00 pm

West Kirby - Wednesday evenings

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

Beginners' Class: 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Intermediate Class: 8.00 – 8.30 pm

General Class 8.00 – 9.45pm

Class Dates

Autumn Term 2025 (13 weeks)

Start: Tuesday 9th September 2025

Wednesday 10th September 2025

**NO CLASSES 28th & 29th
OCTOBER**

End: Tuesday 9th December 2025

Wednesday 10th December 2025

Class

Teachers

Tuesday

David Haynes

All classes on

Hilary Letts &

Wednesday

Helen Trattles

Class Fees & Subscriptions

Fees for the Autumn Term will be:

Beginners & Intermediate Class: £20

General **OR** Social Class: £40.00

Each additional class per week: £ 3.00

Branch Annual Subscription £3.00

RSCDS HQ Annual Subscriptions 2025/26

Single £29, subsidised cost **£17**

Couple £46, subsidised cost **£22**

Occasional visitors: £5.00 per class (maximum three classes per term), no maximum for the summer term, as other societies do not dance then.

***Total to pay this term including annual
Branch and Headquarters subscriptions:***

Beginners & Intermediate classes: £40

General or Social classes: £60

Couples for one class: £105

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.

Members can pay by cheque - made payable to *RSCDS Wirral Branch* or by bank transfer to *The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society RSCDS - WIRRAL BRANCH*

Sort Code 20-50-36; Account No 10768391

Saturday 7th June, Summer Dance

This year we tried two new things. The first was going for an afternoon dance rather than an evening event. The second was to have strawberries, cream and shortbread in the interval rather than our usual finger buffet.



Both new initiatives were well received with many positive comments from other dancers who joined with us.

Forty plus dancers took the floor for well known favourite dances such as Maxwell's Rant and challenges like Torridon Lassies. The afternoon was full of fun and enjoyment. Thanks to all who came and all who worked to make it so successful.



Our Waverley Excursion

PS Waverley is the last seagoing passenger-carrying paddle steamer in the world. Built in 1946 to replace the original PS Waverley, sunk during the Dunkirk evacuations, she sailed from Craighendran on the Firth of Clyde to Arrochar on Loch Long until 1973. Bought by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society (PSPS), she has been restored to her 1947 appearance and now operates passenger excursions around the British coast.



While on holiday at North Ledaig (near Oban), Gill spotted an advert for excursions on the Waverley, sailing from Oban. Gill booked a ticket for herself and, as her full-time carer, she was able to take me for free! (2 for the price of 1 offer for over 60s)



For 3 weeks before the sailing, the weather had been wonderful – bright sunshine each day. Come the day of the excursion it was quite different, a cold wind and rain. Well wrapped up we arrived early at the departure point and had to queue for about 30 minutes before we could board. We got really cold.

Sailing out into Oban bay the weather rapidly improved and stayed good for the whole day. Steaming along at 14 knots is quite a breezy affair, so warm clothing is essential on deck.

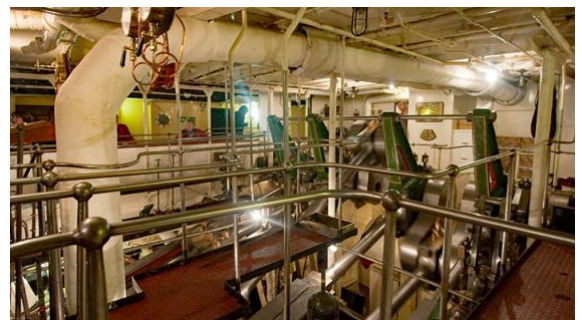
Our first port of call was the tiny coastal village of Salen on the Isle of Mull. We were told that our visit was the first by a passenger carrying ship since 1964 when the ferry terminal was moved to Craignure. We were greeted by a group of primary school children who waved and cheered our arrival.

From Salen we sailed on to Tobermory. Many of the buildings on Main Street, predominantly shops and restaurants, are painted in various bright colours, making it a popular location for television programmes, such as the children's show Balamory. We were offered the opportunity of going ashore and remaining there until the return of the ship later in the day. We decided to stay aboard and have lunch in the Dining Saloon. The menu Gill saw was rather limited – Fish & Chips or Macaroni & Chips (macaroni is "a big thing" in Scotland – a real "carb blast"). We opted for the fish and chips!



As well as the Dining Saloon, there is a Tea Room, a Bar Lounge, Observation Lounge and the small Talisman Bar deep in the bowels of the ship. All the lounges etc are heated so the ideal place to head after sitting out on the deck for a while.

No trip on the Waverley is complete without viewing the engine room. The triple expansion steam engine is an amazing site. It is quite mesmerising watching the machinery moving backwards and forwards as the paddles are rotating.



The excursion continued to Ardnamurchan lighthouse at the most westerly point of the British mainland. From there we were supposed to cruise around the Isle of Muck. Because of the gales of the previous 3 or 4 days, the sea conditions in the area were quite rough. The captain decided that it would be much more comfortable if we cruised the sheltered Loch Sunart instead. The scenery was spectacular in the afternoon sunlight.

Leaving Loch Sunart we headed back to Tobermory to pick up passengers who had opted for time ashore there, then back to Salen where the Waverley had considerable difficulty docking – small pier and strong currents forcing the ship to tie up at a 45 degree angle to the pier while some passengers disembarked.

With that, our trip was drawing to a close. We steamed back to Oban. We had left at 11:30 am and arrived back at 7:30 pm – a full 8 hour excursion. We agreed that it was a tiring day but not an adventure to pass up. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute on board. We were grateful for the kind taxi lady who picked us up right from the gangway and drove us back to our motorhome.

Dave & Gill Haynes Tuesday May 27th 2025



Money Matters

At the AGM in May we looked back at the branch's finances for the year ending April 2025.

The branch financial position remains healthy. An overall reduction in the balance sheet is largely attributable to our decision to continue to subsidise RSCDS membership which increased last year and is set to have a slight increase again in 2025/26. In 2024/25 our subsidy was £12 per person reducing the annual adult single membership fee from £28 to £16 for Wirral members. This subsidy represented a net cost of £496 to the branch.

At branch level our members paid annual Wirral branch fees of £3 which helped us cover admin costs such as insurance, licenses, website hosting and equipment. This year we have also purchased a new laptop and four CD's and books of dances.

Members also paid class fees each term. We were able to maintain full class fees at £40, with a second class at £3 and beginners class fees at £20. This broadly covers the cost of both hall hire and teaching hours. Thanks are due to David, Hilary and Helen for their commitment to teaching and the hours of work they put in to ensuring dancing offers such excellent value for money compared to similar activities. Overall class expenditure against income generated a slight deficit of £51 which reminded us of the need to continue to attract and retain new members.

Our income was boosted by donations totalling £310 for demonstrations and visits to external groups. Thanks to those members who do this and raise funds for the branch while also spreading the word about the joy of Scottish dancing.

As in the previous year, our expected income from ticket sales for dances was reduced due to a cancellation in December because of severe weather. Our Visitors' night was successful but not income generating so we have a slight loss overall on events of £20 over the year.

Our reserves are held in a deposit account which yielded annual interest of £104.74 although, in common with most savings accounts, the interest rate on this account has fallen over the course of the year.

The petty cash account and all day-to-day cash and cheque handling is managed by Peter who, with Celia, handle all the branch membership records. As always thanks to them for managing the most onerous aspects of the branch accounting function

As mentioned earlier, RSCDS National fees are increasing from July 2025 by £1 to £29 for an adult single membership and to £ 46 for adult joint membership

In view of the current health of the branch finances we will be able to continue to subsidise RSCDS national membership by £12 per member and maintain Wirral branch and class fees at the current level.

Thanks to all members for their prompt and happy payment of fees!

Sue Powell

Treasurer, Wirral Branch

How did Kirsteen come to RSCDS Wirral – a newcomer's story



This photo was taken at Glasgow's Kelvin Grove Arena in June 1990 for the European City of Culture 'The Big Day'.

All Primary schools from Glasgow and the Greater Glasgow area attempted a Guinness book of records for the largest Scottish Country Dancing event, which we were awarded.

We danced the 'Glasgow 1990', a 32 bar jig by James B Cosh, published by Glenshee Scottish Country Dancing Club, Glasgow and other dances on the dance programme.

GLASGOW 1990 (J4x32) 4C set James B. Cosh Glenshee Collection

1- 8 1s and 4s cross RH, 1s+2s also 3s+4s dance ½ double Fig of 8 (1s and 4s cast to start), 2s and 3s cross RH. 1234

9-16 1s+2s also 3s+4s dance RH across, all dance ½ RSh reels of 4 on sides (2s+3s to end passing RSh) 4321

17-24 3s dance diagonal R&L. (2)3(4)1

25-32 2s and 4s set and ½ turn RH, 2s and 4s dance nearer hands joined down and cast back to place. 2341

While performance-wise the city was treated to visits by The Bolshoi Opera and Ballet, Frank Sinatra, Pavarotti and The Rolling Stones to name but a few, with plenty more appearing on arguably the **most memorable moment** of the whole year in June's "The Big Day".



Former Lord Provost Pat Lally attends an event during Glasgow City of Culture 1990

Remembering Glasgow's year as European Capital of Culture 30 years on

19TH JULY 2020



Frank Sinatra's Ibrox concert was one of the highlights of the year

I performed Tap, Modern and Highland dancing as a child for 10 years at the Karen Allison School of Dance and participated in the 1990 event.

Now almost 30 years since I last danced in my childhood, I joined the RCDS Wirral Branch in September 2024 to reconnect to my Scottish roots and in memory of my Dad who sadly passed away April 2024 who loved ceilidh dancing and played the chanter (bagpipes without the bag) and so I put my Highland dancing plumes on once again. I'm glad I did, dancing is fun, keeps me fit and I've met some lovely people too.

Kirsteen Scowcroft