



BRANCH NEWS JANUARY 2023

Registered charity No. 106918

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

The Branch Committee would like to extend warm greetings and best wishes to you all for 2023.

As in 2021, before producing this Newsletter I re-read the Newsletter from this time last year. It is heartening to see how far we have come this year in our return to dancing. The fact that I can publish Listings for the first time since 2019 (albeit still somewhat abridged) is testament to that progress.

That said, there continue to be great variations across the Branch in the level of groups' confidence to go ahead with events. In some areas dancers remain tentative about attending class. Requirements for Covid testing are somewhat patchy, with some groups continuing to advise lateral flow testing as far as is possible, and others simply providing hand sanitiser.

As you will read below in Conor's letter, the Branch has four dance events planned for the coming six months. Conor also mentions the looming prospect of the end of his term in office as Chair. Pat too has indicated that she would like to stand down as Treasurer at the Branch AGM in June this year. My own tenure as Secretary is due to end at the latest in June 2024.

We would be delighted to have expressions of interest from anyone willing to consider taking up any of these posts.

Talking of AGMs, the Committee is currently exploring the option of altering our financial year from April-March to Jan-December, to fit better with the pattern of our activities. An article setting out the arguments pro and con is promised for the next Newsletter, to be put together by a working group tasked with exploring the alternatives.

Members will no doubt also be aware of the forthcoming Centenary of the RSCDS in 2023, with a whole series of events planned all around the world. You will have seen some information about this in the magazine and e-bulletins. You can also check the website. One event which the committee are going to discuss as something the Branch might participate in is "Dance through the Decades", planned to take place on a rolling basis over a 24-hour period around the globe on 30 September 2023. Ten dances have been identified, one for each decade, to embody the evolving spirit of Scottish Country Dancing since the inception of the Society. They include a range of types of dance, and also varying degrees of difficulty and familiarity. It may be fun (and quite inclusive) to put them together into a programme for a beginning of season dance. Watch this space!

Alison Jackson
Hon Sec

Dear Members,

Christmas is over, and the New Year is approaching. In fact, by the time you read this, Hogmanay may also be in the past. Cards were difficult this year with the postal strike, so I hope you had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year

As we have said before, the last couple of years have been strange, but things are getting back to normal. The pace is different in different regions of the country. Here in South Wales, we seem to be more reluctant to come back to social dances, or in some cases the weekly class, or even to mix with friends outside the home.

I hope that you will come back dancing this year. We have a couple of social dances planned: one in the South-West and one (with the same programme) in the South-East. Music will be provided by our very own musicians from South Wales, Jim Proudfoot and John McKillop (Take Two). These two dances are hopefully going to encourage people to dress up and come to the dance, a trial run for attending the annual ball.

Talking of which, on Saturday 22 April we are running our Ball this year with music by Ian Muir of Prestwick. The format will be slightly different, in that we will not be providing a buffet. People are however welcome to bring their own food to have at the interval, when we will also provide tea or coffee and shortbread.

The festival (24 June) is planned with George Meikle as our regular musician. Again, the day will be slightly different. It may not be as long as it has been in the past, as last year the numbers at the evening session were quite low again, as indeed they had also been in 2019, before the pandemic. Details for this year will be published over the next few months.

The Branch AGM on 17 June 2023 will mark the end of my period in office as the Chairman of the Branch. Despite not being able to attend the AGM in 2022 owing to my health condition, my tenure in the role was extended for a year because of Covid.

If you would like to take on a role within the Branch, please join us at the AGM and stand for the committee.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all of you for supporting the Branch's events before and since Covid. I hope you will continue to dance and to enjoy the events that we hold in the future.

Conor Farmer, Branch Chairman

BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

Chair: Conor Farmer, tel 07812 569744 conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Secretary: Alison Jackson, tel. 07811 082510 jacksonaj@talktalk.net

Treasurer: Pat Rye, tel. 01646 698463 ryedp@hotmail.com

**Website Manager: Fran Smith
fran@rscds-southwales.org.uk; www.rscds-southwales.org**

DETAILS OF LOCAL GROUPS

WEST WALES

Pat Rye's class:
Village Hall in Houghton every Monday in term-time at 7:00 pm.
Contact: Pat Rye ryedp@hotmail.com

Heather Davies's class:
Wednesday evenings 7-9pm at
Pembrokeshire College for a
beginners/intermediate class. LFT advised.
Social dancing some Fridays.

Contact Heather8.davies@gmail.com
or 07970772684

Jean Elliott's class:
Meets weekly in Narberth on Thursdays
from 7:30 – 10:00 pm.
Contact: Jean Elliott
jean.ell1@btinternet.com

SOUTH CENTRAL AND MID-WALES

SWANSEA

St Andrew's Club on Wednesdays 7:30-10:15 pm, Rhyddings Scout Hut, Swansea
Contact: Jim & Jan Proudfoot
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

PORT TALBOT

This group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 pm in the Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church Hall, Port Talbot SA13 1PQ
Contact Ann Morgan
a_e_morgan@lineone.net or Tony Harland
anthony.harland@anthonyh102.plus.com
or Dave Bird
dave.w.bird@gmail.com

BRECON

The Brecon group meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Subud Centre, Watton Villas, Brecon. New members welcome.

Contact: Peter Brock
pbrock14@yahoo.com

CELTIC LINKS – COMBINED GROUP

This group is suspended at present. Hopefully once Gwenda Dinsdale returns to fitness after her operation it may re-start. In the meantime, we wish Gwenda well.

SOUTH-EAST WALES

VALE OF GLAMORGAN:

Lyn Wilson runs monthly dance sessions on a Saturday (usually 11:00 – 2:00) at the Community Hall in Wenvoe. These usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

Contact Lyn Wilson:
lynpennant@yahoo.co.uk

CARDIFF CALEDONIAN SOCIETY:

Monday evenings, 8:00 – 10:00 pm at the Scout Hall in Whitchurch. LFT

recommended if possible. Contact Conor Farmer for further details 07812 569744,
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

CARDIFF – WHITCHURCH TUESDAY CLASS:

Mixed ability class every Tuesday, 7:45 – 9:45 pm in the Scout Hall in Whitchurch. All welcome. LFT recommended if possible.

Contact Alison Jackson 07811 082510
jacksonaj@talktalk.net



LISTINGS JANUARY – JUNE 2023



Sat 21 Jan: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 4 Feb: Bristol RSCDS Newcomers' Dance. Oatley Hall, Bristol BS9 3UN, 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Music Ian Robertson Duo. Details Margaret Chambers tickets@rscdsbristol.info and see website.

Sat 18 Feb: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Weekend of 10-12 March: Bristol RSCDS Residential Weekend at Dawlish Warren. Details Margaret Chambers & Fiona Grant danceweekend@rscdsbristol.info and see website.

Sat 11 March: Kilts & Posh Frocks Dance, Whitland Town Hall, 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Details on page 6 of this Newsletter

Sat 18 March: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 25 March: Kilts & Posh Frocks Dance, Rhiwbina Memorial Hall, 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Details on page 6 of this Newsletter

Sat 15 April: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 22 April: S Wales Annual Ball, Paget Rooms, Penarth, 7:00 for 7:30 till 11:00 pm.

Music by Ian Muir of Prestwick. Tickets (£22/£25, early bird discount) Contact Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 29 April: Westbury SCD Club Spring Dance. St Peter's Church Hall, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4LD, 7:00 – 11:00 pm. Music by Strathallan. Details Tina Atwood 07568 537154 or Cheryl Ayers 07792 567864. See website.

Sat 20 May: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 20 May: Bristol RSCDS Summer Dance. 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Music by David Queen & Andrew Lyon. Details to follow. See website.

Sat 3 June: Cardiff Whitchurch Tuesday Class Summer Dance, Details to be confirmed. Contact Alison Jackson 07811 082510 jacksonaj@talktalk.net or Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com

Sat 17 June: RSCDS South Wales Branch AGM, Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 4:30 pm
Followed by: St Andrew's Club regular third Sat of the month dance at Scout & Guide HQ, Swansea, 6:30 – 9:30 pm. Details Jim & Jan Proudfoot 01792 299443
jimnjan@ntlworld.com

Sat 24 June: RSCDS South Wales Festival of Dance. Afternoon (weather permitting) easy (ceilidh) dancing & displays of SCD at the Brecon Beacons Visitor Centre. If wet the venue will be Sennybridge Hall. Music by George Meikle. Contact: Conor Farmer 07812 569744
conorfarmer52@googlemail.com



BRANCH EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

KILTS & POSH FROCKS DANCE, Sat 11 March 2023, 7:00 – 10:30 pm
Whitland Town Hall, SA34 0AA. Music by Take Two. Tickets £12 in advance (£11 for RSCDS members), £15 on the door. Details Alison Jackson, tel. 07811 082510 or jacksonaj@talktalk.net

KILTS & POSH FROCKS DANCE, Sat 25 March 2023, 7:00 – 10:30 pm
Rhiwbina Memorial Hall, Cardiff CF14 6HL. Music by Take Two. Tickets £12 in advance (£11 for RSCDS members), £15 on the door. Details Alison Jackson, tel. 07811 082510 or jacksonaj@talktalk.net

S WALES ANNUAL BALL, Sat 22 April 2023, 7:00 for 7:30 till 11:00 pm,
Paget Rooms, Penarth CF64 3EG
Music by Ian Muir of Prestwick
Tickets £22 (RSCDS members), £25 non-members, early bird discounts
(by 31 March 2023)
Further details on the flier and on page 2 of this Newsletter

S WALES BRANCH AGM, Sat 17 June 2023, 4:30 pm, Guide & Scout HQ,
Bryn Rd., Swansea

S WALES FESTIVAL, Saturday 24 June 2023
Open-air dancing in the afternoon at the Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre, or (if wet) at Sennybridge Community Hall. Ceilidh Dancing, easy Scottish Country Dancing, audience participation, family and friends welcome, demonstrations, bring your own picnic.
Music by George Meikle



Best wishes to you all for a happy dancing year!





“KILTS AND POSH FROCKS” SOCIAL DANCE

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023, 7:00 – 10:30 PM

Town Hall, King Edward Street, Whitland SA34 0AA

AND SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2023, 7:00 – 10:30 PM

Rhiwbina Memorial Hall, 1 Lon Ucha, Cardiff CF14 6HL

LIVE MUSIC BY “TAKE TWO”

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A Canonbie Ceilidh (walking) | The Laird of Milton’s Daughter (J) |
| Good Hearted Glasgow (J) | The Bon Viveur (M) |
| The Orpington Caledonians (R) | Snowdrops in the Glen (R) |
| Hana (S) | The Diamond Jubilee (J) |
| The Snake Pass (J) | Miss Gibson’s Strathspey (S) |
| Scott Meikle (R) | Maxwell’s Rant (R) |
| City of Belfast (S) | Perthshire Lad (J) |
| A Capital Jig (J) | The Minister on the Loch (S) |
| Deil amang the Tailors (R) | Mairi’s Wedding (R) |

ALL WELCOME.

This dance is aimed at those dancers who find a formal Ball without walk-throughs a bit intimidating. We will re-cap every dance, and walk through on request.

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC SUPPER. HOT DRINKS PROVIDED – BRING A MUG
COVID LATERAL FLOW TEST BEFORE ATTENDING IF AT ALL POSSIBLE PLEASE. TEST
KITS CAN BE PROVIDED. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU TEST POSITIVE OR FEEL
UNWELL.**

Link to cribs and videos: <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/37031/>

**TICKETS £12 IN ADVANCE OR £15 ON THE DOOR
(£1 discount per ticket for RSCDS members)**

**FURTHER DETAILS: ALISON JACKSON, RSCDS South Wales Branch Secretary, tel
07811 082510, jacksonaj@talktalk.net, from whom tickets may be purchased. If you prefer to
buy on-line Alison will provide bank account details on request.**



Registered charity No. 10691