

Aberdeen Branch
1925 – 2026

Newsletter No: 81

January 2026

Message from the Chairman – Jim Stott



RSCDS Aberdeen Branch - 1925-2025
Dance Scottish in the Silver City

We're the reel deal – even King says so!

HUNDREDS TURNED out at the Aberdeen branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) celebrated its centenary with a 'reel-out' dance at the...
The... observations...
Branch chairman Jim Stott said, 'It's a tremendous honour to have the King write to us personally about our one-hundredth anniversary. It's an honour that we will encourage everyone, young and old, to take up Scottish country dancing.'



Chairman Jim Stott and Jean Martin cut centenary cake.



TAKE YOUR PARTNER: Scottish country dancers enjoy the centenary event on Friday.



Dancers Janet Abel, Don Marshall, Margaret Harley and Sue James.



Here we are at the end of 2025. Time flies. My role as chair has certainly passed very quickly. The Centenary weekend has come and gone and was a time to remember.

We have received so many compliments about the weekend, and I am so glad that we were able to provide our members with three tremendous events. The Civic Reception was special as it happened on the exact date of our one hundred years. It was great to celebrate in the Cowdray Hall and have the Lord Provost and his wife in attendance. The atmosphere was lovely, everyone enjoying the hospitality of the city council. It was special to have a message from King Charles III. The coverage in the media was immense. The Press and Journal reporter gave us great coverage of the Friday night's dance in the Saturday edition of the paper. We got front page headlines and a number of pictures on the inside pages. That was followed by the STV coverage the following week of the Monday class. It was an absolute joy, and I thank the teachers and class members for allowing it all to happen. I thank Stan Grycuk for providing STV with pictures and videos and Angela Berry for her great presentation of the archives at the Ball. Everything will be kept for posterity.

There are still more Centenary events to look forward to:

- ✚ Afternoon Tea – Sunday 22nd March 2026
- ✚ Ceilidh on Saturday 23rd May 2026
- ✚ Final Centenary Dance on Saturday 17th October 2026.

Classes

Our classes continue to have strong numbers, and our teachers continue to provide good experiences for our dancers. Frank Thomson, Kathleen Anderson and Ian Thomson continue to play for classes. We are lucky to have live music. We also have Neil Galloway supporting us when he is available. Sheila Bain continues to run a very successful ceilidh class every second week, and numbers are keeping steady. It is a great addition to our Branch. The committee also tries to provide dances on the programmes for all abilities in the Branch and events for all abilities throughout the year.

Away Weekend

Sheila Bain ran a very successful 'Away Weekend' in Perth. I thank her for continuing to provide this event for the Branch and for dancers from further afield. See later for a report and details of 2026.

Autumn Gathering

14 members of the Aberdeen Branch attended the Autumn Gathering in Glasgow on November 7th and 8th. Luckily it was a dry enough weekend and those of us in the Premier Inn at Pacific Quay were able to walk to the Kelvin Hall each day. The dances on both evenings were happy occasions and the music by Susan MacFadyen on Friday and Marian Anderson on Saturday was excellent. The floor was full all evening on both occasions. Deb Lees took the morning class as Graham Donald had things to deal with in Gran Canaria. The actual AGM went smoothly. I just felt the weekend went past so quickly as there were no activities on Sunday morning.

Committee

The committee have spent a long time this year arranging centenary events. We are also working on arranging other events for the branch. We are also holding a Burns' themed dance with the university group at the end of January.

The next few years should be much more straightforward following the centenary events. The Branch should have time to discuss and work on new things.

It is not easy to be Chair of the Branch and not have a Vice Chair. I have had to do a lot on my own with a lot of committee support which has been very much appreciated. Lynn, our secretary, has worked exceptionally hard arranging everything.

However, we are at a difficult time. A vice-chair is desperately needed. Three committee members retire in June. We need people to step forward now and commit to help keep our branch alive. Things do not have to run the same way. The Branch will change to accommodate those who think they can offer something and things might not be as at present. Please consider supporting your local branch and ensure that we have a committee to arrange dancing and dancing events in Aberdeen for years to come.

Personally

In February I have been invited to the 60th Tartan Ball in Toronto on February 7th, 2026. It is held in the Royal Oak Hotel. I will spend a week in Toronto teaching a few of their classes then move to Ottawa to stay with my nephew for a week. I will try to attend one of the Ottawa classes when I am there. Hope there is not any major snow that fortnight.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Guid New Year. Enjoy dancing wherever you travel over the festive period.

Facebook

Have you explored our Facebook page yet?

<https://www.facebook.com/RSCDSABERDEENBRANCH>.

Children's Classes – Autumn term

We are pleased to report that we have one children's class this last term.

Emma Duff (Allsop) has been working hard with the class at their new venue (back at Springfield church – Craigiebuckler) with a mixture of young and older school children. Emma has Fiona Allsop, as a helper and we thank Fiona very much for this support. We also have to thank her husband Stuart for his support in looking after Mhari and Emma's new arrival Eilidh, during the class. Thanks also to Elaine MacDonald for and Gail Fraser helping at the class.

Adult Classes

Classes from September 2025

All our classes have been running from September with good attendance. Some classes were cancelled during the early week of snow. Classes all start during week commencing 5th January and run for 12 weeks (the Very Advanced for 6 weeks).

The **Monday** class has excellent number of regulars and a number of visitors. Louise and Joshua have again shared the teacher each evening with great success and new arrival earlier this year for Louise and Joshua, Sophie, came along too. Kathleen Anderson was the musician with her ever changing variety of tunes on the piano at our location of Fountainhall at the Stocket (Midstocket church).

The **Wednesday Beginner's/Improvers** class continues at Ruthrieston. We looked at alternative venues, but weren't able to find an available and suitable venue. The class has had an excellent attendance of very enthusiastic dancers (some from last year's class and a number of newbies) who are enjoying the class. Fiona McIver continues to be the teacher. Kathleen Anderson again is the musician with infinite patience and as last year, big thanks to Gordon Harold for bringing her keyboard each week to Ruthrieston.

The **Thursday afternoon** class has had a good regular attendance with Morag Barclay keeping everyone smiling and enjoying their dancing! Frank Thomson has kept the dancers on their toes with his lovely tunes on the accordion. Jean Martin and Morag Barclay will share the teaching in the next term at Great Western Community Centre (Holburn West).

The **Wednesday** class has done well with regular dancers and a few visitors. As always the class has had a great variety of dances and often with a theme from Walter Sutherland. Frank Thomson again was the musician with a couple of dates with Ian Thomson and CDs. The class continues at the WRI Hall in Cults.

The **Very Advanced** class has had a mixed attendance with some new and some younger people attending which is excellent. Walter Sutherland was the teacher and made sure that everyone was dancing their very best and Frank Thomson again was the musician. The class continues at Kincorth Community Centre.

The **Ceilidh** class has, as always, excellent numbers and enthusiastic attendees and lots of new people joining and loving it and inviting their friends! Sheila Bain plans a very varied and interesting programme for each class, including all shapes and sizes of sets and couple dances and always includes a Scottish Country Dance and then announces that it was such to encourage those who might be interested in trying our Beginner's/Improver's class. Ian Thomson with Rob Ross have been the musicians and kept the dancers on their toes. One class had 13 visitors Spanish visitors which made a very fun class!



The ceilidh class with the Spanish visitors!

We really appreciate the time and effort that all our teachers put into their classes, planning programmes and ensuring that everyone enjoys their classes.

Huge thanks as always is given to all class secretaries (Monday – Mark Haggart and Susan Mackie, Very Advanced - Graham White, Ceilidh – Martin Milne, Wednesday Intro – Gordon Harold, Wednesday General – Martin Milne, Thursday afternoon – Moira Birse) for: taking the money, banking the money and ensuring that the hall floor is cleaned after the class, putting out chairs, tidying them away, and selling dance tickets – all with a smiling face!

The back page details all our classes with dates, times and teacher and musician.

Branch Events from July 2025

Summer Socials 2025

We ran 17 Summer Socials from May to August at Curl Aberdeen. Our one ceilidh social was a huge success and it broke all records with over 60 attending, and it was really good to see lots of young adults joining us! Over the season we had an average of 41 attending which is slightly less than last year. Numbers ranged from 23 up to 64 and we need 33 to break even (and we did!). 16 teachers took an evening, and the final evening was a medley of 9 teachers sharing the dances. Over the 17 socials we were delighted to welcome 5 different musicians – including of course our “resident” musician of Frank Thomson accompanying many of the socials. Our other musicians were Kathleen Anderson, Ian Thomson and Rob Ross – and we were delighted to welcome a new musician, Michael Taylor. Every evening was fun and it was so good to see our members, guests and visitors all enjoying themselves.

Away Weekend 2025



Our Away Weekend is loved by both members of the Branch, and other Members (and non-members) with 63 attending this year – see article later in this Newsletter. This year the weekend was held from 19th to 21st September at the Salutation hotel in Perth where we have held it now since 2015. Agnes Leighton from Dunfermline was the teacher who was very well liked by everyone; good fun, patient and friendly. This year Susie Simpson from Inverness was the musician, and for both evening dances we had a 3 piece band: Susie on lead accordion, Jock Fraser on second box, and Kevin Milne from Forfar on Drums. Jock also entertained us during interval to “Caddam Woods” jazzed up! Sheila always provides a small gift for everyone, and this year it was a Lucky Dip!

Christmas Dance 2025



David Oswald and his band.

With 112 tickets sold and 9 students (7 from Aberdeen University and 2 from St Andrews) and visitors from near and far, we had an excellent evening. We had David Oswald and his band with some jaunty tunes to dance to and everyone seemed to have a good time! Our callers kept us interested (and amused in some cases!) so our thanks to Julie Chalmers, Isobel McMillan, Jean Martin and Sheila Bain. All instructions were clear and concise (of course!).

Our raffle this year was for the Archie Foundation. We supported Archie in 2013 and this year we raised £366 with 48 prizes being donated by both members of Aberdeen Branch and other attendees. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and/or bought raffle tickets.

Behind the scenes we have to thank Gordon Harold and Susan Mackie who organised the refreshments including wine and no-prosecco for the wine reception and ensured that the catering ran smoothly (and tidied it all away afterwards!). A big thank you also to those non-committee members who helped in the kitchen – if you would like to volunteer to help us for any event, please do let the secretary know. Thanks also of course to all the committee for their support and initiative and for the real teamwork that was shown.



We had some students from both Aberdeen and St Andrews Universities attending our Christmas Dance – here they are with some other members!



Nice and Easy Dance

We ran a Beginner's and Improvers Christmas Dance last year and it was very well attended by members of the Branch supporting our newbies. We have done the same this year but called it "Nice and Easy Dance". Fiona McIver produced a programme of dances covered in the class and Kathleen Anderson as always played some wonderful tunes to dance to. Gordon and Susan from committee provided lovely goodies with tea and coffee afterwards and we continued the raffle for the Archie Foundation making a total of £495 to them.



Some of the dancers enjoying a cuppa & fine piece afterwards!

Forthcoming Branch Events

Burns Winter Social Sunday 25th January 2026

We are pleased to announce a Burns themed Winter social on Sunday 25th January 2026 2:00 – 3:30 with a cup of tea and a fine piece afterwards. The venue is Springfield (Craigiebuckler) church hall. Everyone is welcome.

Spring Dance Friday 13th March 2026

Ewan Galloway and his band will be the musicians for this dance held as usual at the Ashdale Hall in Westhill. Tickets will be available in January from committee members and aberdeenrscds@hotmail.co.uk.

St Andrew's Fair	J	Goldring 5 SCDs	Anniversary Reel	R	Book 36
The Spring Fling Reel	R	Book 50	Linnea's Strathspey	S	Book 47
Triple Happiness	S	Book 52	The Waternish Tangle	J	Book 54
The Gold Sun of Early Spring	J	Paris Book 2	Flight to Melbourne	R	Book 47
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R	C127/1	City of Belfast	S	Book 47
Cape Town Wedding	S	Book 39	The Flying Spur	J	Drewry Canadian
Chased Lovers	J	Book 53	The Australian Ladies	R	Glasgow Assembly
Burnieboozle	R	David Queen	Gardeners' Fantasia	S	Book 46
The Falkirk Lass	S	Book 53	The Machine without Horses	J	Book 46
Light and Airy	J	Book 4	Mairi's Wedding	R	Cosh 22

Summer Socials 2026

We have noticed in the last couple of years that our May Summer Socials are often less well attended – other classes are still running outside the Branch. So this year we are commencing our Summer Socials from June 3rd and then every Wednesday as usual until August 26th. For those who would like to dance during May, we are continuing our Monday General Class as a Social class. Mondays 4th to 28th May at Fountainhall at the Stocket (Midstocket) Church, 7:45 – 9:15pm. Everyone welcome!

Away Weekend 2026

The Away Weekend will be held at the Salutation Hotel in Perth from Friday 18th September to Sunday 20th September. The teacher is Fiona Mackie from Dundee and the musician will be our own Frank Thomson. The form for booking is with this Newsletter and as usual, we anticipate that places will fill quickly so we encourage you to fill the form in ASAP. Deadline for applying is Friday 21st February (and please note the new address to send the booking form and cheque to).

100th Anniversary Events

Aberdeen Branch 100th Anniversary (more photos later in this Newsletter)

The Aberdeen Branch was founded in 1925 and we were able to celebrate the Centenary on the very day with a Civic Reception, hosted by Lord Provost David Cameron. The anniversary weekend was completed by the 100th Anniversary Dance on Friday, and the Centenary Ball on Saturday. Below is a picture of us all at the Civic Reception – more photos from the weekend at the end of the Newsletter.

Civic Reception



In the lovely setting of the Cowdray Hall, which also celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, 84 of our current Branch members were welcomed with a glass of bubbly and a group photo with the Lord Provost. The Provost welcomed the company and acknowledged the Branch's achievements and contribution to the cultural life of the City. Branch Chair James Stott, in thanking the Lord Provost, recalled a brief history of the Branch and development of Scottish Country Dancing in Aberdeen. He also read out the letter of congratulations from HM King Charles III. Gary Coull, current Chair of RSCDS and an associate member of Aberdeen Branch also congratulated the Branch on its longevity and contribution to the Society in a national and worldwide context

The company then enjoyed a light supper with a range of canapés and finger food with tea and coffee. We finished the event with some dances, called by Jim Stott, and the Provost and his wife and Councillor Jennifer Bonsell, who all recalled dancing in their younger years, joined in. The Circassian Circle, Good Hearted Glasgow and The Grassmarket Reel were enjoyed by all and made it a really super evening.

100th Anniversary Scottish Country Dance

With 131 people attending at Ashdale Hall, Westhill with fabulous music from Frank Thomson and his five piece band. The evening went with a real swing with excellent callers Brian Anderson, Morag Barclay, Joshua Msika and Walter Sutherland. Jim and Jean Martin cut the celebration cake which was baked by Julie Stephens and we had fabulous flower arrangements from Margaret Maclean.

We started with a welcome glass of fizz and we had a good spread for the interval including sandwiches, shortbread, cake and a special treat of ice-cream very kindly donated by Mackies of Scotland (with huge thanks to Isobel McMillan). Everyone received a printed programme and a mini-booklet of the event which was hugely successful.

Centenary Ball at Elphinstone Hall

In the historic surroundings of King's College there were 146 dancers at our biggest event in the magnificent, wood paneled Elphinstone Hall. A glass of wine on arrival, the ceremonial cutting of another celebratory cake by Jim Stott with Alastair Reid, our longest serving member attending the evening.

Speeches by Jim Stott and Gary Coull welcomed the members and guests, and, both outlined the vital part that the Branch played in the promotion of Scottish Country Dance as well as the personal enjoyment derived from taking part. This was followed by a two-course buffet meal. Unfortunately, a mix-up with the caterers meant a miscalculation with the servings, despite being sent dietary requirements well in advance. A number of people were left with only the vegetarian option which was most unfortunate. Apologies were made and refunds offered.

The dancing started with a Grand March led by Jim Stott and Lynn Wood, before embarking on a lively dance programme which included The Elphinstone Jig, devised by Aberdeen's own John Drewry. Several of the visiting dancers commented how wonderful it was to dance it in the Hall itself. Also there was the strathspey Jean Martin of Aberdeen with the lady herself dancing. The evening had a total of eighteen dances to the excellent music of Scott Band's five-piece Scottish Dance Band. Dances and were expertly called by Jim Stott, Gary Coull, Louise Msika and Martha Harris. The floor was full all evening but it was nice to have a table to return to for a short rest!

Everyone was given a Centenary Souvenir Programme with the dance cribs and throughout the evening there was a video display which Angela Young and Jim Stott had curated, so thanks to them too. The evening ended with a full floor for Auld Lang Syne.

You can relive the Centenary weekend events by watching videos which Stan Crycuk recorded, edited and posted, for all three events, on YouTube/Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance channel.

Forthcoming Centenary Events

Lunchtime Concert – Thursday 5th February 2026

Organised by the Art Gallery, at Cowdray Hall, Frank Thomson, Mo Rutherford and Sarah Beattie will be giving a concert from 12:45 – :30pm as part of the Lunchbreak series. This is a public concert, with free admission (donations), so arrive in good time to ensure a seat.

Anniversary Afternoon Tea – Sunday 22nd March 2026

Our next Anniversary event is the Afternoon Tea at Norwood Hall on Sunday 22nd March 2026. This is for members only and an invitation to Branch members is included along with this Newsletter. Please make sure that you respond by 31st January noting any dietary requirements. The event is very kindly supported by Wood Group so the charge is £10 for the event which will include a glass of bubbly, full afternoon tea, the video presentation from the Centenary Ball and demonstrations. Payment, by bank transfer please to:

RSCDS Aberdeen Branch

Sort Code: 82 40 00

Account: 30127867

Or send by cheque to RSCDS Aberdeen Branch, 81 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen, AB15 5BU.

Centenary Ceilidh – Saturday 23rd May 2026

To involve our many ceilidh dancers who have attended Sheila Bain's class over the years we are holding a Centenary Ceilidh Dance at The Ashdale Hall, Westhill with Ian Thomson and the Crynoch Band playing wonderful tunes to dance to! Tickets for this event will be on sale from March 2026.

Next Century Dance – Saturday 17th October 2026

And our 100th Anniversary year finishes with a full evening's dancing in October with music from Colin Dewar, at Ashdale Hall, Westhill. Tickets for this event will be on sale in the summer.

And Finally – an enormous thank you to everyone on both the 100th committee and full committee for their support for the events – and also to those in the background who help, encourage and thank us afterwards. As some of you will know, a huge amount of work goes on in the background from more than a year in advance right through to the weeks following the events

Other Events & Information

RSCDS Autumn Gathering 8th November 2025

We had 3 delegates attending the AGM (Jim Stott, Susan Mackie and Stan Grycuk) and a proxy vote from Lynn Wood. A number of Branch members (or those associated with the branch or friends) went to the dances (see picture below with some Branch members missing!). **Jim's words.**

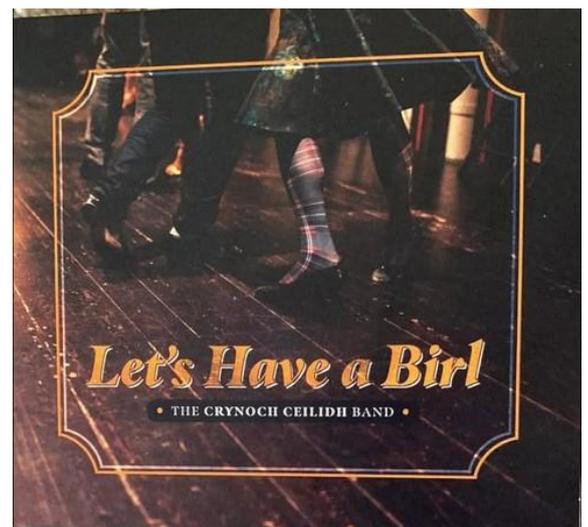


Crynoch Ceilidh Band CD

We still have some copies available of the CD from Crynoch Band. Contact Lynn Wood for more info.

As well as Ian on lead accordion the band was made up of Rob Ross (accordion), Willie Johnstone (fiddle), Ann Thomson (piano), Scott Gordon (drums) and Brian Cruikshank (bass). We are delighted to support Ian as he is a very valued musician playing for the ceilidh class but also standing in for other classes at (often) short notice.

The CD is entitled "Let's have a Birl" and is on sale from Ian Thomson (and Martin Milne) for £12.



Branch Information

Publicity

Our Facebook page continues to attract comments from near and far. Thanks to all those who contribute to keeping this page alive and interesting. We've had pictures and tasters of music, reminders of classes and other local (and non-local) events – it's full of information and updated

very regularly. Our thanks to Sheila Bain, Martin Milne and Jim Stott for keeping it maintained and interesting!

Email Notifications

If you have registered your email address with our Secretary you will regularly receive information concerning RSCDS events. These notifications can be reminders about classes, dance tickets or help wanted and even can be information about Dance Weekends or Dancing Holidays. If you really do not have an interest, just delete them (she will never know)! If you have an email address and are not receiving emails, please mail aberdeenrscds@hotmail.co.uk. If you wish to inform other Branch members of events, please mail as above and request!

Membership Renewal

We are happy to report that most of our annual members have re-joined the society. We have lost 13 members but we are delighted to have gained 9 new members. We also have gained a number of new Branch Only members (where they have membership with other Branches but wish to be kept updated with Aberdeen information) and now have a total of 15. Welcome to all our new members and thank you to all our loyal rejoining members!

Scottish Country Dancer Magazine

Copies of the Scottish Dancer Magazine are sent to all members twice a year – usually October and April. If you do not receive your copy in April, please let aberdeenrscds@hotmail.co.uk know.

RSCDS Website and Information

The RSCDS HQ Website (www.rscds.org) has a 'Members Only' area. Your login for this site is your email address. To log in, just type in your email address and click the "Password Reset" button and a new password will be sent to your email address. If you have any problems with this, please contact Lynn Wood (aberdeenrscds@hotmail.co.uk) and she will check your login details. Once you have access, you can modify your account details including your password. Also on this site you will find application forms for the AGM, Winter and Summer Schools and Spring Fling, and details of events handled by HQ, as well as information on dances and branches.

Branch Website

As a reminder, our website address is aberdeenrscds.co.uk. We had a completely new website created by an RSCDS member based in Oxford (Chris Collings) which has a fresh and open feel to it. As always it has information about our classes and events run by the Branch and will be updated as soon as we have news. On the website we have a local dance diary which is regularly updated. This section also shows programmes and cribs for local dances if they have been supplied by the group running the dance. Thanks to Brian Anderson for this excellent list. If you are aware of any dances that are not on the website, please contact Brian directly.

Dance Scottish Together

The Dance Scottish Together newsletters are now sent monthly to all members with an email address. These come from HQ rather than from the Branch. Please let aberdeenrscds@hotmail.co.uk know if you are not receiving these.

HQ Shop

There are many items in the shop alongside music and books. There are T-shirts and Polo shirts, bags of various size and shape, ties and scarves. Go to rscds.org and choose the Shop option. Remember to log in to the site with your email address to ensure that you get your discount (see above under RSCDS Website and Information).

Articles

Away Weekend 2025

19th – 21st September 2025, Salutation Hotel, Perth

My first Aberdeen Branch Away Weekend was September 2023 - myself and Katy (my little dog). I wrote a piece for the Newsletter that year saying that I hoped it would be the first of many - and it has been.

On arrival, this year, I was delighted again to be met by Sheila Bain and Billy kindly offered to help me get my bags to the room. Sheila was concerned that there was no signs of Katy but I had left her, very briefly, in the car and went back for Katy. The hotel staff, as well as being efficient, are so friendly and helpful.

On Friday we had a good bar supper (at individual's own discretion) followed by a lovely evening of dancing. Saturday evening started with a Wine Reception and a super meal prior to a superb Evening Dance. It was good that Jim Stott, Aberdeen Branch Chairman, attended the Saturday night's events and spoke very kindly about the Branch. As in previous years, Sheila has given various gifts to dancers and attendees at the Saturday night dance. This year we all received a lovely gift - Sheila went round the dance floor tables and we put our hands into a lucky dip - very lovely gifts - so thank you to Sheila.



Susie Simpson and her band

Susie Simpson and her Band were tremendous for the whole weekend and Agnes Leighton was a fantastic teacher. I was very fortunate to be sharing a table at breakfast time on both Saturday and Sunday mornings with Agnes - a lovely lady - and enjoyed our discussions both about RSCDS and just general chat.

In my first article about the Aberdeen Away Branch Weekend, I said about old friends meeting new friends and I feel that I am one of those because I have made many new dancing friends and we meet again and again at this Weekend. These Aberdeen Branch Away Weekends have been confidence builders for me - both in dancing and friendships.

I look forward to many more Perth weekends

Moira E Birse

Frank Thomson – OBE

In our last Newsletter we announced the delightful news of Frank Thomson's OBE and it was officially presented with it by the Lord Provost in October. We are so proud of him!



Obituaries

Elma McCausland

It was with great sadness that I learned about the passing of Elma McCausland. Elma was an Aberdonian through and through but spent most of her life in Northern Ireland with her husband Cecil and family. Elma Donald grew up in Aberdeen in Crown Street. She was a Primary school teacher and a member of the Aberdeen Branch. She danced with the St Nicholas Dancers, a demonstration group at that time. Elma met Cecil at St Andrews and taught there for many years before becoming a tutor.

Elma was my tutor for my final teaching certificate. I learned a lot from her, and she gave me a strong base for teaching. She encouraged me to progress and teach away from home. She was a great supporter of the Branch and attended the 90th Anniversary. Although she was no longer a member of the Branch in the last few years, she kept in touch with friends from Aberdeen.

Jim Stott - Chair

And Finally.....

On behalf of the Committee, as always I would like to offer very grateful thanks to those who have contributed to this Newsletter. Without your help, this newsletter would be a lot less newsy. We are, as always, looking for contributions for our next issue. If you have any items of news, anecdotes, memories, verse or prose, humorous or serious, concerning Scottish country dancing, the Aberdeen Branch, members past and present, dances or events, photos or Branch events, then please do send them to aberdeenrscds@hotmail.co.uk or pass to Lynn Wood. It is your Newsletter, for the enjoyment of all.

We love to include colour photographs within this Newsletter as we continue to get discount printing from a local printer Xeretec (formerly North East Reprographix). We hope to continue with this alliance so if you have any photos from events within the Branch (or from the past), we would be really pleased to include them.

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Wood

Branch Officials

Honorary President: Miss Lesley Martin

Branch Officials:

Chairman	Jim Stott
Vice-Chairman	Vacant
Hon Treasurer	Fiona Taylor
Hon Secretary	Lynn Wood 81 Hamilton Place Aberdeen AB15 5BU Tel 07980 132342

Committee Members (with retiral dates):

Mark Hagger, Martin Milne	(2026)
Gordon Harold, Susan Mackie	(2027)
George Rae (co-opted)	(2026)

Youth Committee Representative: Vacant

Membership Secretary: Lynn Wood

Dates for your Diary in 2026

Burns Social: Sunday 25th January 2026 Springfield Church Hall (Craigiebuckler) 2:00 – 3:30pm

Spring Dance: Friday 13th March 2026 Ashdale Hall Westhill

Summer Dancing: Mondays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th May – Fountainhall at the Stocket (Midstocket) 7:45 – 9:15pm.

Summer Socials: Wednesdays 1st June to 26th August 2026 Curl Aberdeen 7:30 – 9:45pm

Branch AGM: Tuesday 16th June 2026 WRI Hall Cults, 7:30pm

Christmas Dance: Friday 11th December 2026 Ashdale Hall, Westhill 7:30pm to 11:30pm

100th Anniversary Events

Afternoon Tea – 22nd March 2026 – Norwood Hall – **members only**

Ceilidh – 23rd May 2026 – Ashdale Hall - Ian Thomson

Final Dance – 17th October 2026 – Ashdale Hall – Colin Dewar

Some photographs from the 100th Anniversary Weekend.



RSCDS Aberdeen Branch - 1925-2025
Dance Scottish in the Silver City



1925-2025 RSCDS Aberdeen Branch group photo at the Centenary Dance on Friday 17th October 2025



Gary Coull, Chair of RSCDS along with Jim Stott, Chair of RSCDS Aberdeen Branch at the Centenary Ball in the Elphinstone Hall, Aberdeen 18th October 2025.



A great atmosphere and full dance hall in the beautiful University of Aberdeen, Elphinstone Hall.



Some past and current Chairs of RSCDS Aberdeen at the Civic Reception: from left Bob Drummond, Sheila Bain, Alastair Reid, Jim Stott, Jean Martin, Paul McKnight, Stan Grycuk, Clare Grycuk, Morag Barclay.



The 100th sub-committee with the Lord Provost and his wife (plus Charlie Candia from Brazil far left and Gary Coull Chair RSCDS far right).



The Lord Provost and Jim Stott with the letter from King Charles III.



Scott Band and his Scottish Dance Band at Elphinstone Hall.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

Jim Stott,
Chairman,
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society,
Aberdeen Branch

Please convey my warmest thanks to the Members of the Aberdeen Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Centenary which is being celebrated this month.

As your Patron, I much appreciate your message and was touched to be reminded of your long-standing commitment to preserving Scottish cultural traditions. In return, I send my warmest good wishes to all those who are present for a memorable season of events.

CHARLES R

1st October, 2025

The letter from King Charles. We had invited him to our Ball at Elphinstone Hall but he politely declined and sent this instead!

Adult Classes : Jan 2026 to March 2026

Day	Class	Teacher/Musician	Location	Time	Dates 12 weeks
Mon	General with Technique	Louise Msika/ Joshua Msika Kathleen Anderson	Midstocket Church	7:45 – 9:15	5.1.26 – 22.3.26 4.5.25 – 25.5.26
Tues (1 st & 3 rd)	Ceilidh Class	Sheila Bain Ian Thomson	Kincorth Community Centre	8:00 – 9:30	6/1, 20/1, 3/2, 17/2, 3/3, 17/3, 7/4, 21/4, 5/5, 19/5, 2/6, 16/6, 7/7, 21/7, 4/8, 18/8 (etc. throughout the year)
Tues (2 nd & 4 th)	Very Advanced/ Demonstration	Jim Stott Frank Thomson	Kincorth Community Centre	8:00 – 9:30	13/1, 27/1, 10/2, 24/2, 10/3, 24/3 (6 weeks)
Wed	Introductory/ Improvers	Fiona McIver Kathleen Anderson	Ruthrieston Community Centre	7:30 – 9:00	7.1.26 – 25.3.26
Wed	General	Walter Sutherland Frank Thomson	WI Hall Cults	7:45 – 9:15	7.1.26 – 25.3.26
Thurs	Afternoon	Jean Martin / Morag Barclay / Frank Thomson	Holburn West Church	1:30 – 3:00	8.1.26 – 26.3.26

Information:

1. Please check with your class teacher about cancellation of classes in the event of bad weather.
2. Term 2 is 12 weeks (6 weeks for Very Advanced class).

Children's Classes : January - June 2026

Day	Class	Teacher/ Musician	Location	Start Date
Friday	Primary & Secondary	Emma Duff (Allsop)	Springfield Church (Craigiebuckler)	9.1.26– 29.5.26

1. There will be no classes on school holidays or in-service days. Please check with your teacher.

Further information is available from the Secretary: telephone 07980 132342.

Please note that the Aberdeen Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society can accept no liability for any accident or loss of personal property at any of its classes or functions.