



RSCDS ABERDEEN BRANCH – ESTABLISHED IN 1925 TO PRESENT DAY
Celebrating 100 years of Scottish Country Dancing

August 2025 Letter from the Chairman

Dear Dancers

Here I am into my second year as Chair of the Aberdeen Branch. Time flies and we are approaching our Centenary year. The Branch was formed on 16th October 1925. We will be celebrating our centenary throughout 2025/26. On October 16th, 17th and 18th we have events on three consecutive evenings. The first event is the Civic Reception being hosted by Aberdeen City Council, a Centenary dance on the Friday evening in the Ashdale Hall, Westhill and then the Centenary Ball on Saturday in the Elphinstone Hall, Kings College. A wonderful weekend of dancing. Tickets are selling quickly, so please buy yours as soon as possible.

To find the Centenary Celebration Events – on our website – Click [**here**](#)

- **Summer Socials**

The Summer Socials are nearing an end. The attendance this year has been much lower than in previous years, but those attending have had many enjoyable evenings dancing to different MC's and different music. It was pleasing to welcome two new musicians, Michael Taylor and Neil Galloway, both from Fife.

At the end of June, six members of the Very Advanced class were videoed dancing 'Tullynessle and Forbes Hall'. This is a 3 x 32 bar strathspey and is in Book 54. The dance was written by Edna Ewan from Alford and was selected for this year's new book. We had a great afternoon doing this and many thanks go to Stan Grycuk for coming to Ellon and videoing it for me.

Find the link to 'You Tube' [**here**](#)

- **Dance Classes**

New classes begin in September. I hope you will continue to support them. Nothing has changed from last year. We need new dancers of all abilities. Talking to other Branches throughout the UK, new dancers join when asked by family members or friends who recommend that they come along. If you know anyone who used to dance in the past and might be encouraged to come back and join us, please encourage them.

- **BEM Awards**

In the past month, two of our Branch members have been awarded national honours. Frank Thomson and Anne McArthur both received a British Empire Medal. I congratulate them on receiving their awards. They were well deserved.



- **Teaching and Examining**

I always feel privileged to represent Aberdeen at Summer School in St Andrews. This year I was both teaching and examining. I enjoyed both. It is a joy seeing new teachers begin their journey in St Andrews, just as I did over 30 years ago. Times are a changing there too, but people from all over the world still want to come to St Andrews and get pulled in by the magic of dancing there and especially dancing in the Younger Hall. A large number of young dancers came from Lyon in France with their teacher Raphaella Orgeret. There were also a lot of young dancers at Junior Summer School.

- **Workshop in Guernsey**

Earlier in the year I had a different teaching experience in Guernsey. People travelled from France, Birmingham, Cornwall, Devon and Wales to the workshop. It was pure joy and the weather was wonderful. It was lovely to see that there was a class of dancers meeting there every week. The teacher of the class moved from Aberdeen to Guernsey many, many years ago. Amazing! At the end of June I ran my yearly charity dance in Ellon and raised £400 for 'Kayleigh's Wee Stars'. This charity supports families where a child has a terminal illness. Thanks to all the dancers who supported this worthy cause.

- **RSCDS Teachers**

We desperately need new teachers in the northeast and especially the Aberdeen area. If you know of anyone who would like to train to do their certificate, please let me know. We have had so many young people go to the Music Festival. Surely there are some dancers out there who would like to continue dancing and become teachers.

- **Calling on all members – Support for the future of the Branch**

If you have any ideas about moving the Branch forward or think things should be done differently, please let us know. We cannot stand still. Life moves on rapidly and we must keep up with changes, especially in the use of IT.

We have a lovely new website. Please explore it [RSCDS Aberdeen Branch website](#)

I am still looking for someone to stand as Vice-Chair of the Branch. The end of the year might seem like a long way away, but it isn't. The Branch will survive, but surely there is someone willing to run this very successful Branch.

Happy dancing

Jim Stott

Chair