



Cheshire Chat

April 2022



Dear Members

Thanks to the more Social Media savvy among us the Spring Term began with 15 new dancers (plus the two children). Under the guidance of Liz and Trish the beginners have undergone a 12 week course of instruction and covered a huge amount in that time. In February we managed to get a short article about the course included in the RSCDS on line magazine, 'Dance Scottish Together'.



We finished the term on a High with the 'Very Nice and Easy Dance' for our Beginners. The dance was a great success and thanks go to the more experienced dancers who made sure that the Beginners were looked after. As usual there was a lovely supper with some delicious contributions from you all.

We hope to see many of the beginners returning next term. The class format will remain the same, with the first hour being devoted to the beginners, although they will now be classed as 'Improvers'!

February was a very busy month as we decided to submit 3 dances for Book 53, an RSCDS publication to celebrate the Society's Centenary. The dances submitted were:

- Barbara White's Diamond Strathspey (written by Stuart Ross to mark Barbara's 60 years as an RSCDS member)
- The Yorkshire Rose (written by Trish for the late Wynne Barker)
- The Tarporley Reel (written by Diane)

As usual dances submitted will be tried out by the Branches and we have signed up to be included in the trials (we will, of course, not know where the dances have come from at this stage).

RSCDS Winter School - Pitlochry

On the 20th February this year about 120 dancers, some regular Winter School attendees and some first timers, assembled at a Reception in the Bow Lounge at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry. Winter School Co-ordinator and RSCDS President Elect, William Williamson, welcomed us all back and introduced the Teachers and Musicians for the week:

Teachers: Sue Porter, David Hall, Fiona Mackie & William Williamson

Musicians: Neil Copland, Mo Rutherford, Shona MacFadyen and Adam Brady.

It was clear from the atmosphere that everyone was delighted to be back at Winter School again after a gap of one year, due to the Pandemic.

As usual on the Wednesday evening we enjoyed a Ceilidh with some music and singing from our talented musicians and teachers. The ceilidh dances were great fun – especially a version of 'The Flowers of Edinburgh' in which if someone tapped you on the shoulder you dropped out and they replaced you! This could result in a dancer changing sex several times and suddenly finding themselves first couple instead of fourth!

Atholl Palace Hotel in the Snow



As always, the highlight of the week was the Ball at Blair Castle and on Thursday evening, after an early dinner, we were transported there in coaches. The atmosphere was wonderful as dancers enjoyed the choice of programme (nothing too difficult this time) and fabulous music.

On the Wednesday evening it snowed – always a magical sight from the hotel windows – and on Thursday morning William decided not to take any risks with dancers walking down to classes in the town. As a result all four classes were combined into one and we danced with all of the teachers in turn in the Palace Ballroom.



All too soon it was time to go home. We look forward to next year!

Anne MacDonald & Andrew Locke

Wyche Ball

The next major event in our calendar was the Wyche Ball, held on the 26th March and ably managed by the Nantwich & District Scottish Society. Everyone enjoyed a return to dancing in Sandbach Town Hall to the wonderful music of Frank Thomson. Next year it will be the turn of the Cheshire Branch to organise the ball and, to avoid a clash with the RSCDS centenary ball in March 2023, we have moved our date forward to the 22nd April. The Committee will be meeting later this month to review this year's event and start planning for the next one.

It only remains for me to wish you a Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you back in Tarporley on the 27th April.

Here are some dates for your diary

- 27th April – Classes recommence (normal classes on 4th & 25th May)
- 11th May – AGM
- 18th May – Invitation (Visitor's) Evening
- 1st June – End of term social
- 8th June – start of 6 weeks of Summer Socials

Best wishes

Anne MacDonald

C. Anne MacDonald – Chairperson, 2021-2022