



Cheshire Chat

August 2018

Diary Dates 2018/19

Wednesday classes commence at 7pm unless otherwise stated

Autumn Term 2018
Sept 5th – Dec 5th

Spring Term 2019
Jan 9th – Apr 3rd

Summer Term 2019
May 1st – May 22nd

Events

Nice N Easy 7.30pm
Sat 20th Oct 2018
Sat 15th June 2019

New Year Dance 6.30pm
Sat 12th Jan 2019

Joint Wyche Ball 7pm – 11pm
Sat 30th Mar 2019

Day School 10am – 4pm
Sat 24th Nov 2018

Visitors' Evening 7.30pm
Wed 15th May 2019

AGM
Wed 8th May 2019

Social Dances 7.30pm
Wed 12th Dec 2018
Wed 10th Apr 2019
Wed 29th May 2019
Wed 5th Jun 2019
Wed 12th Jun 2019
Wed 19th Jun 2019
Wed 26th Jun 2019
Wed 3rd Jul 2019
Wed 10th Jul 2019
Wed 17th Jul 2019
Wed 24th Jul 2019

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Dear Members

I do hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer, wherever your travels may have taken you. And, for those who have stayed nearer to home hasn't the weather been wonderful?

Summer News

Our Nice & Easy Dance on 16th June was, once again, well attended and enjoyed by both members and visitors alike.

Although we did not send a team to the White Rose Festival this year, I know that some of you did attend and had a pleasant afternoon amongst friends from other Branches and Societies.



However, we did make up a set to dance at the Bunbury Village Day on 23rd June and received a letter of thanks from the organising committee.

Once again we had a presence at the Tarporley Carnival on 14th July, where Andrew Locke, Ann Williams and I ran the stand and spoke to everyone that we could engage in conversation about the joys and benefits of Scottish Country Dancing! We followed this up with the 'Taster Evening' on 25th July and were delighted to see some new faces. We hope that some of them will be joining us when the new term starts in September.

This was the first summer that we have continued to dance throughout June and July and, despite the very hot weather, these evenings were well attended. We welcomed at least 16 non Branch members and the feedback was positive – several saying how much they enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and opportunity to walk through all the dances. We do hope that some of the visitors will also return next month.



Celebrations! 2018 has certainly been a year of celebrations for the Branch! Firstly, in May, we celebrated Barbara White's 70th year as a member of the RSCDS. We were delighted that Barbara received a letter of Congratulations from RSCDS President, Jean Martin, and I am hoping that an article about Barbara will appear in the October edition of the Scottish Country Dancer.

The other good news is that our teacher, Di Rooney, has this year been awarded an RSCDS Scroll of Honour for her service to the Society. Many of you will know that Di was a member, and later Convenor, of the RSCDS Education and Training Committee. During this time Di organised the very successful 2013 Examiner's Seminar in St. Andrews. Another major piece of work was her contribution to reviewing and updating the RSCDS Manual, culminating in the 3rd edition which is in current use. Di teaches both at home and abroad and is a great ambassador for the RSCDS. I am sure you will all agree that she is a very worthy recipient of the Society's Scroll of Honour and join me in sending her our Congratulations. The award will be presented at the AGM in Perth in November.

Thirty Popular Dances

As you will recall the RSCDS have decided that in 2019, instead of a book of 'new dances', they will issue a collection of Thirty Popular Dances. The new publication will complement the original 'Thirty Popular Scottish Country Dances' published in the late 1990s. Branches were asked to submit up to ten dances popular in their Branch. Thanks to those of you who replied to the request for their choice of dances. From your lists we have submitted the following list to the RSCDS:

Jigs	Reels	Strathspeys	Medley
The Raven's Dance	The Lochalsh Reel	City of Belfast	MacDonald of Keppoch
MacLeod's Fancy	Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	The Glengarry Homestead	
Major Ian Stewart	Scott Meikle	The Minister on the Loch	

Already Branches from around the world are sharing their lists via Social Media and there is a remarkable similarity in their choice of dances.

The Year Ahead

And now we look forward to the year ahead - classes recommence on 5th September.

We have a full programme to look forward to including:

- Another **Nice & Easy Dance** on Saturday, 20th October
- **Advanced Day School** on Saturday, 24th November. This year our teacher will be David Queen and the Musician will be John Browne
- Following the success of our **New Year Dance** this year we are holding another on Saturday, 12th January, 2019
- Finally, please don't forget that the first **Joint Wyche Ball**, being organised by Northwich & District Scot's Society, will be held on Saturday, 30th March at Sandbach Town Hall. Please support this new venture – remember it will be our turn to organise the 2020 Wyche Ball!

With best wishes

Anne MacDonald

Chairperson 2018/2019