



Cheshire Chat

March 2020



Dear Members

As there seems to be so much going on I thought that I would try and write a mid-year edition of our Cheshire Chat.

RSCDS Winter School – 2020



This year Anne & Andrew, along with Steve and Ana, made the journey, in the worst of one of our February winter storms, to Pitlochry for Winter School. As usual the event was held at the luxurious Atholl Palace Hotel, where all the rooms and the spacious dining rooms have beautiful views of the Perthshire hills.

The Coordinator for this year, and also one of the four teachers of the morning classes that members are required to attend, was William Williamson, the other teachers being Janet Johnston, Angela Young and Andrew Nolan. The Musicians were Ian Robertson, Rodger McAndrew, Shona MacFadyen and David Oswald.

This year was the 21st anniversary of Winter School and the organisers had tried to make some changes to the usual events. There were additional afternoon options including:

- A trip to the Crannog Centre near Aberfeldy
- A Walking Tour of Pitlochry
- A Whisky Tasting Session and
- An interesting talk on 'Wild Scotland' by a representative of the John Muir Trust

After three hectic evenings of Scottish Country Dancing in the Atholl Suite, Wednesday was the night of the 21st Birthday Ceilidh. In between a variety of hilarious Ceilidh Dances (during which we were taught a new formation known locally as 'Scoot to the Foot'!) each of our teachers and musicians provided the entertainment. Janet and Angela gave a wonderful demonstration of Ladies' Step Dancing and William and Andrew followed this with an incredible Hornpipe! Then all four danced together. The musicians each gave a solo performance and then played in various combinations with each other – Angela and Andrew demonstrating that they were equally talented on the keyboard, by joining in with the musicians. At half time the Atholl Palace staff came round with Jelly & Ice Cream for all, which added to the party atmosphere.

As always, the highlight of the week was the last evening when we all boarded the coaches for the short trip to Blair Atholl to attend the Blair Castle Ball. A splendid evening of dances, many being traditional dances associated with Blair Castle, such as The Duke of Atholl's Reel and the Eightsome Reel (for those with stamina!).

All too soon Winter School 2020 was over and it was time to spend another day driving home in the relentless rain!

International Women's Day

It was good to see the RSCDS celebrating International Women's Day (Sunday, March 8th) this year. In their Blog the RSCDS said:

'All of our dancers play a crucial role in developing and supporting the traditions of Scottish country dance and Scottish music.



However, on International Women's Day, we would like to highlight a selection of female Branch and Affiliated Group Officers that diligently support the smooth running of Scottish country dancing around the world'

As you will see, if you read the Blog, both Moyra and I replied to the short questionnaire sent to all of the female Branch and Affiliated Group Officers, as did Christine on behalf of Nantwich, and we are all featured in the Blog!

RSCDS & Class Fees

Several members have queried the fees that they pay to the RSCDS and the Branch. We have therefore prepared some guidance and a breakdown of your fees. This information is now placed on the table, so do have a look at it when you sign in.

Summer Dancing

As mentioned in the last edition, work is going to be done during the summer to replace the roof at Tarporley Community Centre and, as a result, we have reduced the number of our Summer Socials to six this year. In addition TCC will be closed for a further two weeks to enable the scaffolding to be put up. This means that the hall will be closed on Wednesdays 24th June and 1st July. On those nights we will be dancing in the local Primary School. We will then return to TCC on Wednesday, 8th July for the last of our Summer Socials before the break.

Please note that we will delay our return to dancing in September until the 16th, by which time, hopefully, all of the roofing work will have been completed.

Summer School

Summer School this year runs from the 19th July until the 16th August.



Summer School is an action packed four weeks of dancing in the historic university town of St Andrews. If you have never been before why not join some 700 dancers from as far afield as South Africa, North and South America, Japan, Australasia, China, continental Europe and, of course, Scotland and the UK. Leading the classes will be the best Scottish country dance teachers and musicians in the world. Not an RSCDS member? You can still experience the special atmosphere of Summer School, as this event is open to all dancers.

Please see the Chairperson or Secretary if you have not been and would like to go to Summer School.