



# Orange County Ceilidh



Newsletter of the Orange County Branch of the RSCDS

Volume 42, No. 1

January/February 2024

Visit our website at [www.rscds-oc.org](http://www.rscds-oc.org)

“For naught can cheer the heart sae weel, As can a canty Highland reel” — Robert Fergusson

## Greetings from the Chair

Happy holidays, everyone! The holiday season began with a lovely St. Andrews Ball hosted by the LA Branch with delicious food prepared by Kris McGinnis, Doris Fisher, and team and wonderful music provided by Patti Cobb and Caroline McCaskey.



It will continue with Orange County's Christmas Ball this coming Saturday. There will be a buffet supper, some great raffle prizes and the always fabulous music of Flindrikin to dance to. I hope you will join us at the Tustin Senior Center for this annual event.

It's also time to get your reservation in for the Burns Supper & Ball, scheduled for January 27th at the Torrance Woman's Club. No tickets are sold at the door, so download a flyer from our website ([rscds-oc.org](http://rscds-oc.org)) if you don't already have one and be sure it is received by the deadline of January 13th.

As we approach the end of 2023, I'd like to thank all the branch members and members of the Orange County management committee, past and present, for making this a very successful 40th anniversary year. And a special thank you to our teachers: Bob Harmon (now emeritus), Pat Zschoche and Connie Walker. We continue to enjoy our favorite recreational activity frequently and look forward to many more years to come. See you on the dance floor!

*Terri Speakman, Chair*



## Orange County Classes

### MONDAY

Columbus-Tustin Activity Center  
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin  
Intermediate/Advanced: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Connie Walker: [samanthasem@yahoo.com](mailto:samanthasem@yahoo.com)  
Pat Zschoche: [swisslassie@hotmail.com](mailto:swisslassie@hotmail.com)

### WEDNESDAY

Columbus-Tustin Activity Center  
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin  
Beginning: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.  
Intermediate: 8:15-9:30 p.m.  
Connie Walker: [samanthasem@yahoo.com](mailto:samanthasem@yahoo.com)

### FRIDAY

Columbus-Tustin Activity Center  
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin  
Intermediate/Advanced: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Pat Zschoche: [swisslassie@hotmail.com](mailto:swisslassie@hotmail.com)

**Note: Classes require enrollment through Tustin Parks and Recreation ([www.tustinca.org](http://www.tustinca.org))**

## The Next Big Event

# *Burns Supper & Ball*

**January 27, 2024**

**Torrance Woman's Club  
Music by Andy Imbrie  
& Caroline McCaskey**

## Calendar of Events

(see branch website [rscds-oc.org](http://rscds-oc.org) for flyers of upcoming dances)

### HERE

#### December 2023

- 9 Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center. Music by Flindrikin

#### January 2024

- 27 Burns Supper and Ball, joint with Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley branches. Torrance Woman's Club, music by Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey

#### February 2024

- 10 Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center (recorded music)

#### March 2024

- 9 Branch Afternoon Dance, 4:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, music by the SO-CALedonians

#### April 2024

No branch dance

### THERE

#### December 2023

- 31 LA Branch Hogmanay Dance, 5:00 p.m., El Segundo Masonic Lodge (recorded music)

#### January 2024

- 13 Introductory Step Dancing workshop, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Santa Monica. Contact Connie Walker at [samanthasem@yahoo.com](mailto:samanthasem@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

#### February 2024

- 17 San Gabriel Valley Branch Ceilidh, 5:00-7:00, Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, music by the SO-CALedonians
- 24 LA Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., First Christian Church, Studio City (recorded music)

#### March 2024

- 16 SGV St. Patrick's Day ceili, 4:00 p.m., Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel (recorded music)
- 23 LA Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center (recorded music)

### ELSEWHERE

#### February 2024

- 16-18 Edmonton Branch 52nd Annual Workshop & Ball, for info visit <https://ball.rscdsedmonton.com>
- 18-23 RSCDS Winter School, Pitlochry, Scotland

#### April 2024

- 19-21 Washington D.C. Branch Capital Weekend, for info visit [www.capitalweekend.org](http://www.capitalweekend.org)

## Minutes of the COM of October 22, 2023

### Meeting Highlights:

- **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Several cards sent and received; discussion of delegates' voting at RSCDS AGM in November.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance in the checking account is \$8402, the Scholarship Fund has \$2333.
- **Membership:** 2023-2024 membership is 31 adults and 33 associate members.
- An application has been sent in to participate in the Cerritos Festival of Friendship in February.
- Christmas Ball: Connie Walker will transport musicians, Pete and Line Anderson will host Ron & Gary, Connie W. will host Lisa, Edie will coordinate opportunity baskets.
- The dance schedule was discussed for 2024. We will not hold a monthly dance in January, April, August or October in hopes that attendance will improve at the other dances. The March dance will be an afternoon dance. The dates and times will be submitted to the city of Tustin.
- Burns Ball planning is well underway. LA is the coordinating branch for 2024. It will be at the Torrance Woman's Club; musicians are Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey.
- Connie Walker met with the coordinator of classes for the city of Tustin to facilitate her transition to teacher of record. Changes to classes will take place in the spring session.

The next Committee of Management meeting will be held on January 14, 2023. Copies of the full minutes of the meeting are available from Recording Secretary Randi Kraemer.





## Hook, Line and...Shoes!

### A heartfelt thank you to Bob Harmon

There is a theory among many RSCDS teachers that if you can get new dancers to invest in dancing shoes, they will stay in class longer and begin to participate in activities. If luck is on your side, occasionally you will hook folks who become life-long SCD enthusiasts. RSCDS was rewarded with such a couple when, decades ago, Bob and Jan Harmon joined the Huntington Beach Thursday night class.

Although they had dance experience, they both joined the beginner class so they could learn the basics. We quickly learned that Jan was an accomplished musician. Her bubbly personality blended well with the class. Bob was quieter, more reserved, but he also seemed to enjoy the class. Being a Parks and Recreation class, after a set amount of classes you have to re-enroll. The critical question loomed! Would they come back? Then they asked about how to get shoes. The SCD spark grew to a blaze and they never looked back.

Jan upped their participation by taking the RSCDS teacher training coursework. Bob was her stalwart supporter, fellow student, stooge, and cheerleader for all the candidates which helped Jan pass all the exams in quick time. Although he did not find technique to be his strength, Bob became especially interested in the music and figures of the dances. This helped him

devise and collaborate with other devisors to create new dances. He also began to provide music for events. New music often brought dull dances to life.

Bob was right by Jan's side when they began the Monday night class. As a team, they became even more active in TAC and RSCDS. Demonstrations, swap meets, McMidgets, Scottish

Games, workshops, parties ...you name it they were there to support and help out.

When Jan passed while on a trip to Alaska, Bob stepped in to carry on the Monday class which brings us to 2023. He has announced his retirement as a super-volunteer. He has been our "musician," photographer, teacher, and printer forever. He has worn out many pairs of shoes

since that first investment with miles and hours of time dedicated to promoting and supporting SCD. These are big shoes to fill. I am sure he will be around to help when asked.

So, from ALL of us to you Bob Harmon, a HUGE thank you. You have been a life-line especially to the Orange County Branch, but we all won the blue ribbon when you joined the

SCD community. *Tapah leibh* (Thanks very much).

*Respectfully submitted by Renee Boblette*





## ABC's of Scottish Country Dance

# A to Z

Let's explore what connections we can discover between the letter "E" and Scotland. Even though there is only one devisor of Scottish country dances whose name begins with "E", W. E. Eder, many other dance names contain that initial letter.

We're all familiar with "EH3 7AF", "The Earl of Mansfield", and "The Eightsome Reel". However, there are more with which we have come in contact. Remember "Equilibrium," Ian Barbour's jig of perfect balance? Or how about Robb Quint's "El Camino Real"? Eileen Watt, a worker at RSCDS headquarters for 17 years, is commemorated by a strathspey and a reel. "Eileen Watt's Reel" by John Wilkinson contains that nifty, alternating tandem reel of four, which uses six dancers. Anyone for a reel of six?

John Drewry and Trevor Rayner both devised a dance named "The Exciseman" to refer to Robert Burns' poem "The Deil's Awa Wi' the Exciseman" written in 1792. The tax collector is always portrayed as evil and sharing a similar stereotype with modern lawyers and politicians. Although these dances share a title, they are vastly different. While Drewry's dance is a 32-bar jig for 3 couples in a 4-couple set, Rayner's reel is 32 bars for 5 couples in a square set—four outside and couple 5 in the center. What a challenging set to try!

Sometimes dances tell a story, and "Everything Stops For Tea", Ronald Mackay's strathspey, envisions four acts—bars 1-8, stroll in the park; 9-16, the teashop foyer; 17-24, finding one's table; 25-32, teapots. This title and alternate title ("London 1930—4 p.m.") are whimsical references to each day's custom of afternoon tea. Originating from the 1935 British musical film "Come Out of the Pantry", the song "Everything Stops For Tea" emphasizes this custom with an often repeated line of lyrics: "... but the clock struck four, and everything stops for

tea." Performances of this song may be accessed at this link: <https://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/video/z-everything-stops-for-tea.html>

Ecclefechan, a sleepy village in the borderlands, provides another well-known connection. This area has been settled since prehistoric times and for 250 years straddled the main thoroughfare between Carlisle and Glasgow. The present day Ecclefechan Hotel began in 1730s and converted to a coaching inn in the later 18th century. The development of the railway added to the village's importance. Two "local products" associated with Ecclefechan—a blended whisky called "The Fechan" and the "Ecclefechan Tart" draw further attention to the village. This filled butter pastry may not have originated from the village itself, but it carries the name as a variation of the Border Tart. The Ecclefechan version uses lots of sultanas, raisins, walnuts and plenty of butter and brown sugar. Often likened to pecan pie in taste, the filling also can be a deeper dish than others. Try making one sometime. It is delicious!



This village also links up with SCD through devisor Bob McMurtry and his affinity for cats. Most remarkable is the jig "Ecclefechan Feline" with its intertwining figure-of-8 on the sidelines and then the mirror reel of 3. The felines lurk, rub, and circle twice (hands across at each end) to make sure the place is right. "It is often said that you are a true Scot if ... you can pronounce Ecclefechan." Give it a go!

The town of Elgin in Moray Speyside associates with SCD as well as with some of the earliest history of Scotland. Affectionately dubbed "Lantern of the North", the cathedral, consecrated in 1224, becomes the focus of John Drewry's 32-bar jig of the same name. "[He] wrote in the original description that the dance was written for a visit to Bavaria by Jennifer Hilson's team from Elgin." (SCDDDB)

Again, many people, places, and things are reflected in Scottish country dance and the dances involved. So many use the landmarks and even historical events as inspiration for our passion!

*Karen Kerman*

*Orange County Ceilidh*

## THE INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Well now I'm Intermediate –  
My feet are doing nicely –  
The brain still finds it hard to cope  
And work things out precisely.  
I sometimes feel that I'm a pawn  
In a giant game of chess –  
But the pattern's getting clearer  
And the chaos getting less.  
I've mastered chain progression,  
I can do a nifty Knot –  
But the Rondel and Espagnole,  
I admit they're not so hot.

So – here you find me in the set  
And I am number two.  
I'm O.K. for the first few bars –  
I've nothing much to do.  
I've stepped up very nicely  
(It's lovely to be dancing!)  
But – someone's coming up the set –  
Oh, should I be advancing?  
Ah no, it's just a set and turn  
And balance in a line –  
My confidence comes flooding back  
And now I'm doing fine!

I've come in for the Allemande  
(Arm over on bar one!)  
Now I can do it properly  
I'm finding it such fun!  
I've done 8 slip steps to the left  
And 8 back to the right,  
I've turned, and now I'm casting  
And the end is now in sight.  
I've remembered all the proper things  
That I've been taught to do –  
And the nicest thing about it is  
My teacher's happy too!

*By Pat Batt, late of the London Branch*







*Members of the Orange County branch danced at the Tustin Tiller Days in October.*



*November beginner dance attendees*



*We were happy to see David Thomforde and Kathryn Hunter when they were visiting southern California recently.*



*Orange County Ceilidh*

## Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball

**December 9, 2023**, Doors open 6:30 p.m., Grand March  
7:00 p.m., Buffet supper at first intermission  
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin  
Live music by Flindrikin  
Cost: \$40 Dancers; \$30 Non-dancers

### GRAND MARCH

Knot on a Ferryboat	J	B	Wallace/Toronto
Gloria's Wee Jig	J	B	McMurtry/Devil's Quan
Scott Meikle	R	I	Book 46
Glangarry Homestead	S	I	Brenchley/Kang Paw
Jennifer's Jig	J	I	Drewry/Silver City
The Lass of Richmond Hill	R	B	RSCDS/2nd Graded
The Lady Wynd	J	B	Goldring/G & S 2
Sugar Candie	S	I	Book 26
A Trip Around Salt Spring	R	A	Bennett/Katannuta
Fair Donald	S	B	Book 29
Maitland to Manchester	J	I	Thomas/Wallace
Reel On	R	B	Goldring/G & S 3
Machine without Horses	J	B	Book 12
Da Rain Dancin'	R	I	RSCDS/30 popular 2
The Dream Catcher	S	A	Book 45
Neil M Grant	J	I	Book 49
Flowers of Edinburgh	R	B	Book 1



**Have You Ever Heard of Ladies\* Step Dance?**

**Would You Like to Try It?**

**If you are curious, come join us for a Workshop to learn this fun dance style!**

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Teacher: Connie Walker  
When: Saturday, January 13, 2023  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Where: SMMCTA Meeting Room  
1508 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
(parking is behind the building off of the alley)  
Cost: \$6.00/person  
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We will be learning two simple step dances that incorporate both Scottish Country Dance and Ladies Step styles. To register and for further information, please contact Connie Walker at 714-376-4275, or [samanthascm@yahoo.com](mailto:samanthascm@yahoo.com).

Check out the following YouTube videos to see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0xulpc1VfQ&t=5s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFWi7irc-XQ>

\* It's not just for the Lassies, Laddies are welcome too!

*Orange County Ceilidh*

## Burns Supper and Ball

**January 27, 2024**, Supper 5:00 p.m., Dancing 6:30 p.m.  
Torrance Woman's Club, 1422 Engracia Ave., Torrance  
Cost: \$80; no tickets at the door  
Music by Andy Imbrie, Caroline McCaskey

Alan J. Smith	J	B	Book 45
Rovin' Robin	R	I	Scottish Dance Archive
Bonnie Stronshiray	S	A	Glasgow Assy SCDs
The Scallywag	J	I	Book 52
Flowers of Edinburgh	R	B	Book 1
The Aviator	J	I	Book 52
Miss Jane Muirhead of Dunsmuir	S	B	Dunsmuir Dances
Forty and Counting	R	A	Book 52
Monymusk	S	B	Book 11
Burns Night	J	B	Boston 50th Anniv
The Magic of Merrill	R	I	S.F. Branch Dances
Scott Meikle	R	I	Book 46
Glasgow Lassies	S	B	Book 34
Best Set in the Hall	J	A	Book 46
A Summer Meeting	S	I	Book 48
The Deil Amang the Tailors	R	B	Book 14

## February Branch Beginner Dance

**February 10, 2024**, Dancing 7:00 p.m., recorded music  
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin  
Cost: \$12 Members; \$15 Non-Members

### SPECIAL BEGINNER SECTION

Festival Interceltique	R	B	Ian Brockbank
The Flying Scotsman	J	B	Thurston/RSCDS
The Waratah Weaver	J	B	RSCDS/2nd Gr Bk
Easy Peasy	R	B	RSCDS/2nd Gr Bk
The Bob of Fettercairn	R	B	Book 6
The Riverside	J	B	RSCDS/Collins

### EXPERIENCED SECTION

Machine Without Horses	J	B	Book 12
The Two Grey Cats	R	I	Walduck/Other Kanga
Culla Bay	S	A	Book 41
Lass of Richmond Hill	R	B	RSCDS/2nd Gr Bk
Dundee Whaler	S	B	Clowes/Ormskirk 1
Maitland to Manchester	J	I	Thomas/Wallace

Neil M. Grant	J	I	Book 49
Alan J. Smith	J	B	Book 45
The Dream Catcher	S	A	Book 45
Rovin' Robin	R	I	Gray, SCD Archives
Granville Market	J	B	RSCDS/2nd Gr Bk



## OC BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Revised 2020

The Branch has established a scholarship fund to encourage the development of Scottish Country Dancing teachers, dancers, and musicians in Orange County, and to provide opportunities for Southern California Scottish Country Dancing dancers to experience high quality live music both as listeners and as dancers.

To be eligible for a dance scholarship, the applicant must be a current member of the Orange County Branch and be presently attending class regularly for at least one year. Preference will be given to applicants interested in pursuing teacher training.

To be eligible for a musician scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Southern California, have demonstrated an interest in playing Scottish Country Dancing music, and should play an instrument relevant to Scottish Country Dancing, such as accordion, fiddle, keyboard, piano, recorder, etc.



Applications are available on the branch website and at branch dance classes. Applicants must provide information on how the funds will be used and will need to provide documentation of attendance. Requests must be received at least 30 days before the funds are needed. Awards will be limited to a total of \$500 a year. Requests and awards will be confidential. Scholarships will be granted without attention to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, nationality, ancestry, age, or place of origin.

The dance scholarship is in honor of Orange County Branch founding member and long-time dancer Dorothy Craik. The musician scholarship is in honor of Andrew Rankine, a noted accordionist, composer and renowned Scottish Country Dancing band leader.



If you are interested in applying, send your application to Scholarship Committee, c/o RSCDS-Orange County Branch, 8361 Castilian Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 or email to chair Terri Speakman at [tjspeakman@verizon.net](mailto:tjspeakman@verizon.net).

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If not deliverable, return to:

**The Orange County Branch of the**  
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**Thanks to all contributors!**

**THE ORANGE COUNTY CEILIDH IS  
PUBLISHED 6 TIMES PER YEAR.**

Deadline for the March/April *Ceilidh* is  
February 1, 2024.