



Orange County Ceilidh



Newsletter of the Orange County Branch of the RSCDS

Volume 44, No. 1

January/February 2026

Visit our website at 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! I hope to see many of you at our annual Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball on the 13th. We will be dancing to the fabulous music of Flindrikin, and the Orange County members will be providing a scrumptious buffet at the breaks. You don't want to miss this opportunity to get together and enjoy some wonderful camaraderie and dancing.



In January we will celebrate Robert Burns with our annual Burns Supper & Ball, jointly hosted with the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley branches. We will be dancing to the always wonderful music of Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey. The theme will be “The Music of Robert Burns” and we will have the traditional “Address to the Haggis” as well. If you have ever wondered what exactly was being said in that famous Address, see Norm's translation on page 3. Reservations for this event must be received by January 11 — details can be found on the flyer which is on our website: rscds-oc.org.

The Los Angeles branch lost two long time members recently — beloved teacher Aase Hansen and founding member, teacher and band leader Jack Rennie. They were both appreciated by all southern California dancers and will be greatly missed.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and have an opportunity to spend time with your friends and loved ones.

Terri Speakman, Chair



Orange County Classes

TUESDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin
Intermediate: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Pat Zschoche: swisslassie@hotmail.com

WEDNESDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin
Basics: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.
Beginner: 8:15-9:30 p.m.
Connie Walker: samanthasem@yahoo.com

FRIDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center
17522 Beneta Way, Tustin
Experienced: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Connie Walker: samanthasem@yahoo.com
Pat Zschoche: swisslassie@hotmail.com

Note: Classes require enrollment through Tustin Parks and Recreation (www.tustinca.org)

The Next Big Event

Burns Supper & Ball

January 24, 2026

5:00 p.m.

Torrance Woman's Club
Music by Andy Imbrie
& Caroline McCaskey
Reservations must be received by January 11

Calendar of Events

(see branch website rscds-oc.org for flyers of upcoming dances)

HERE

December 2025

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

January 2026

- 24 Burns Supper and Ball, 4:30 p.m., Torrance Woman's Club; music by Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey

February 2026

- 14 Branch Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, recorded music

March 2026

- 14 Branch Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, music by the SO-CAledonians.

April 2026

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

THERE

December 2025

- 31 L.A. Branch Hogmanay Dance, 5:00 p.m., El Segundo Woman's Club, recorded music

February 2026

- 21 San Gabriel Valley Branch Ceilidh, 5:00 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, music by the SO-CAledonians
- 28 L.A. Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., First Christian Church, Studio City, recorded music

March 2026

- 28 L.A. Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, Torrance, recorded music

April 2026

- 18 San Gabriel Valley Branch Catalina Ball Review Dance (entire Catalina Ball program danced), 4:00 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, recorded music

May 2026

- 1-3 Catalina Workshop and Ball. Teachers Jeanne Moody & Gary Coull, Music by Thistle House. Information & registration form at www.scottishdancecatalinaworkshop.com

ELSEWHERE

February 2026

- 15-20 RSCDS Winter School, Pitlochry, Scotland
- 21 San Francisco Branch Valentine Ball

April 2026

- 11 Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society workshop and ball, Victoria, BC. More info at viscds.ca
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Minutes of the COM of Nov. 30, 2025

Meeting Highlights:

- **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Dues payable to Scotland will increase by £1 next year.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance in the checking account is \$7347, of which the Scholarship Fund balance is \$2298. New signature authorizations at Bank of Montreal were completed along with Zelle set-up.
- **Membership:** 2025-2026 membership is 28 members and 35 associate members.
- The permit with the city of Tustin for our 2026 dances was issued. It was decided to hold a dance on April 11 instead of May 9 if the Senior Center is available.
- Paperwork was submitted to participate in the 2026 Cerritos International Festival of Friendship.
- Details for the upcoming Christmas Ball were finalized. The musicians will be hosted by Flora Morgan and Connie Walker; Edie Archibald will prepare two raffle baskets; Dawn Bertani is loaning a cello.
- Randi Kraemer will prepare and submit forms and fees for State Charity registration.

The next Committee of Management meeting will be held on February 1, 2026. Copies of the full minutes of the meeting are available from Recording Secretary Randi Kraemer.



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Ready for the 2026 Burns Supper & Ball?

In order to help you be ready for the Burns Supper & Ball on January 24th, Norm McCallum has translated two of Burns' most famous poems from Scots into English for you.

Address to a Haggis

(A translation with apologies to Robert Burns)

Fair is your honest pleasant face
Great chieftain of the Pudding Race!
Above them all you take your place
Tummy, tripe or stomach
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm

The groaning trencher there you fill,
Your haunches like a distant hill;
Your pin would serve a mend a mill
In time of need.
While through your pores
the dews distill
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic labor slice
And cut you up with ready sleight,
Trenching your gleaming entrails bright
Like any ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-steaming, rich!

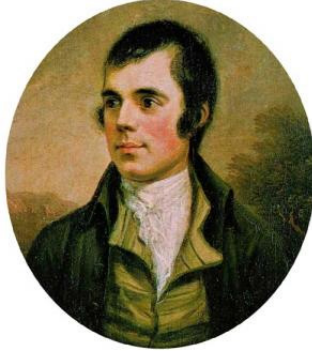
Then, horn for horn they stretch an' strive
Devil take the hindmost! On they drive
Till a' their well-swell'd bellies
Are bent like drums ;
Then old good man, most like to burst
Thanks to God, he hums

Is there that o'er his French ragout,
Or olio that would sicken a sow,
Or fricassee would make him vomit,
With perfect disgust,
Look down with sneering scornful view
On such a dinner?

Poor devil: see him over his trash,
As useless as a withered branch
His skinny legs a good whip-lash
His fist a nut
Through bloody flood or field to dash
O how unfit.

But mark the Rustic, Haggis-fed
The trembling earth resounds his tread,
Slap in his strong hand a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
And legs, and arms, and heads will chop,
Like tops of thistles.

Ye Powers, who make mankind your care
And dish them up their bill of fare,
Old Scotland wants no watery food
That slops in bowls;
But, if you want her grateful prayer,
Give her a Haggis.



Auld Lang Syne

Once again, it's the time when revelers throughout the world sing their way through Auld Lang Syne wondering what the words mean. Here is my translation, both figurative and literal. (Auld Lang Syne literally means "Old Long Since" or "A Long Time Ago").

Should old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should old acquaintance be forgot
And times of long ago

For times of long ago, my dear
For times of long ago
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For times of long ago

And surely you'll buy a drink
And I'll buy a drink
And we'll take a cup of kindness yet
For times of long ago

We two have run about the hills
And pulled the daisies fair
But we've traveled a long weary way
Since times of long ago

We two have paddled in the stream
From morning sun till night
But seas between us long have roared
Since times of long ago

And here's a hand my trusty friend
And give me a hand of thine
And we'll take a right good drink
For time of long ago.

Norm McCallum

Stewart Dances

A myriad of dances has been devised for and dedicated to both cofounders of the Scottish Country Dance Society, Jean Milligan and Ysobel (Campbell) Stewart. In this article I'll cover some of those dedicated to Major and Mrs. Stewart which are fairly well-known to local dancers, with a little background included to add some interesting particulars.

Although born in Kensington, London, 23 November 1882, Ysobel, as the third child of Colonel Duncan and Isabel (Tobin) Campbell, grew up at the family home of Inverneill House, Argyll. Very much a product of rural Scotland, she was exposed to music, dance, and other arts throughout her residence there. "Weddings, social exchanges, attendances at highland gatherings were all occasions for dancing," as Colonel Campbell passed on his enthusiasm for dancing to his daughter. The Colonel was also a fluent Gaelic speaker, and the entire family was encouraged to speak it. The young Ysobel was also active in *An Comunn*, of which her father was president. This association, formed in 1891 promoted Gaelic language and culture. She also played the bagpipes and gave concerts of Gaelic songs. Truly the correct background for a future leader of a dance/music-oriented society!

The hamlet of Inverneill lies at the mouth of Inverneill Burn on the western shores of Loch Fyne.

These lands first came into Campbell hands in 1480, when surrounding territories were granted to Colin Campbell, 1st Earl of Argyll (c1433-1493). He died shortly after resigning his post in Madras, India. Elder brother James inherited Inverneill House and made a home there. Of considerable size for the times, the house included a fine, walled garden,

which was said to have produced some of the finest fruits and vegetables in Scotland. Colonel Duncan Campbell, Ysobel's father, added a three-story wing circa 1890. "The last two occupants were Misses Olive and Una Campbell, Ysobel's sisters."

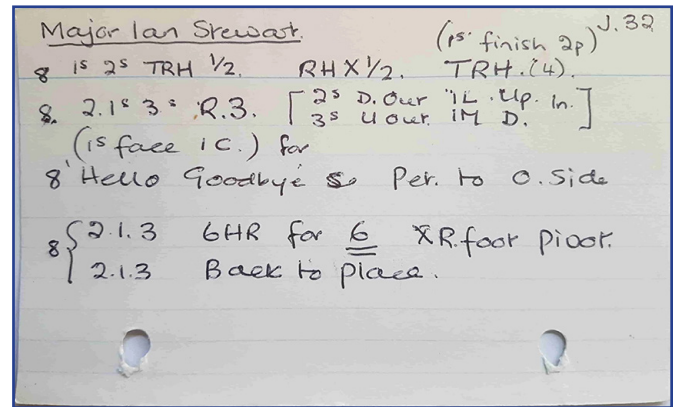
Inverneill House, a 32-bar reel was devised in honor of Ysobel by John Drewry in 1988.



Inverneill House

Included in RSCDS Book 35, it commemorated Mrs. Stewart's childhood home.

Her engagement to Captain (subsequently Major) John Charles Stewart was announced and their marriage solemnized 6 January 1909. After his activity in the Boer War (1899-1902), John, who preferred the Gaelic Ian, was based in Ayr where they had met. The newlyweds settled at Fasnacloich.



Again, we remember a remarkable Stewart with a dance devised by John Drewry. *Major Ian Stewart*, dated 1986, is a lively 32-bar jig with the unusual pivot and right-leg-over-left in the final circle.

Ysobel engaged in hospital work during the rest of World War I. Afterward, her involvement in the Girl Guide movement led directly to the

founding of the Scottish Country Dance Society.

Scottish Girl Guides were taught English country dances, and Ysobel decided they should learn Scottish country dances. "It was a walk along Princes Street (Edinburgh) that I [Ysobel] determined to have the first book of country dances published and so the society was originated." She took "a blank book with lines for music...

and wrote descriptions of country dances [she] had always known and danced in Argyll, and copied music on opposite pages..."

Subsequently, a meeting between Mrs. Stewart and Jean Milligan, a lecturer who used Scottish dances with her students, took place. These two discovered their mutual interest to preserve country dancing in Scotland. Another meeting of 27 people "interested in

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Scots country dancing,” convened in Glasgow 26 November 1923, forming the core of the fledgling society. Ysobel recalls, “I was appointed honorary secretary. Book 1 (my manuscript) was published and the society grew beyond the conception of Miss Milligan or me.”



Major Ian Stewart retired in 1934, and the couple moved to Camserney Cottage near Aberfeldy, renaming their home Appin House. Sadly, Ian died in 1948, and Ysobel returned to Argyll. In July 1955, she decided to move to South Africa, where she settled in Fish Hoek. Ysobel died there 15 October 1968. “Mrs. Stewart—bagpiper, wood-carver, bookbinder, spinner, weaver, knitter of tartan hose, and Gaelic speaker—left a legacy of altruism and graceful social dance enjoyed worldwide by many races and all kinds of society.”

Truly, one dance that is most familiar is the reel *Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich*. “This is one of a suite of

three dances published in 1973 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Society, 1923-1973.” Again, commemorating Ysobel Stewart for her brilliant work, this 32-bar reel is quite unique. Compare the cues with *Ysobel*, a strathspey by John Drewry, and it matches perfectly except for a couple of details. This note by John Drewry accompanied the dance *Ysobel* and explains the seeming coincidence:

“This dance [*Ysobel*], devised in 1973, was used as the basis for the reel *Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich*—a dance which has always disappointed me—I do not like left shoulder reels of four and I think that setting should come at the beginning of a phrase rather than at the end. My feeling, for a long time, has been that Mrs. Stewart was never the same woman again after she was interfered with by the committee! I am publishing the dance [*Ysobel*] in its original form in the hope dancers will enjoy it this way.”

Yes, we do enjoy all these dances and remember Ysobel Campbell Stewart of Invernill House, Fasnacloich, and Fish Hoek as a true Scot and cofounder of the Scottish Country Dance Society. Thanks to her and Miss Milligan for their vision. Due to this, we are dancing, worldwide!

Karen Kerman



photos by Connie Learn



The Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and
San Gabriel Valley Branches of the RSCDS present

Catalina Island Weekend Workshop & Ball May 1-3, 2026



Weekend price of **\$295.00** includes Friday night dinner and Ceilidh, Saturday and Sunday morning workshops, optional ball review and Saturday night plated dinner and ball in the beautiful historic Casino Ballroom if reserved by January 31, 2026. Other pricing options available. **You are responsible for booking your own hotel and ferry ride to the island.** For all the detailed information and helpful hints, go to the website below or scan this QR code.



Teachers: Jeanne Moody of San Diego, California
and Gary Coull of Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Musicians: Renowned East Coast band Thistle House

Ball Program (scan the QR codes below for cues & videos):

Looking for a Partner	B J	Haynes, Carnforth 6
The Aviator	I J	RSCDS Book 52
Longborough Lanterns	B S	Shaner, Delaware Gold
Capelthwaite	I R	Sigg, SF Collection 2
The Dream Catcher	A S	RSCDS Book 45
Mairi's Wedding	I R	Cosh, 22 SCD
The Bees of Maggiecknockater	I J	Drewry, Canadian Book
The Braes of Tulliemet	B S	RSCDS Book 7
J.B. Milne	I R	Foss, Angus Fitchet
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	A J	RSCDS 30 Pop V2
The Gentleman	I S	RSCDS Book 35
The Black Leather Jig	I R	Selling, Delaware Silver
Mrs. Stewart's Jig	B J	RSCDS Book 35
The Library of Birmingham	A S	RSCDS Book 49
The Montgomeries' Rant	I R	RSCDS Book 10
Vintage Simon	A J	RSCDS Book 47
John McAlpin	I S	Foss, Galloway Album
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	I R	Dickson, Lothian Coll.



Cues

All important information and the registration form can be found at

www.scottishdancecatalinaworkshop.com

Cues and videos available at <https://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/59849/>



Videos

Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball

December 13, 2025, Doors open 6:30 p.m., Grand
March 7:00 p.m., Buffet supper at first intermission
Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin
Live music by Flindrikin
Cost: \$45 Dancers; \$30 Non-dancers

GRAND MARCH

St Andrew's Fair	J	B	Goldring/5 SCD 1982
Smiling Lila	R	I	Bartlett
Vintage Simon	J	A	Book 47
The Falkirk Lass	S	B	Book 53
Quarries' Jig (New)	J	I	Book 36
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	R	I	Dickson/Lothian Coll
Bill Clement MBE (New)	J	I	Book 47
Sandy's Scotch Broth	S	I	Sibley/Katannuta
Mary Erskine (New)	R	B	Goldring/RSCDS Gr 2
Inverneill House	R	A	Book 35
The Braes of Tulliemet	S	B	Book 7
Best Set in the Hall	J	I	Book 46
Lamb Skinnet (New)	J	B	Book 14
Tuolumne Tournee	S	A	Saturensky/50 Yrs LA
The Barmkin	R	B	Goldring/RSCDS Gr 2
The Gentleman	S	I	Book 35
Capelthwaite	R	I	Sigg/SF Coll Vol 2



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Burns Supper & Ball

January 24, 2026, Doors open 4:30 p.m., Plated
Supper 5:00 p.m., Grand March 6:15 p.m.
Torrance Woman's Club, 1422 Engracia Ave., Torrance
Live music by Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey
Cost: \$90; reservations must be received by Jan 11.

GRAND MARCH

Burns Night	J	B	McOwen/Boston 50
John McAlpin	S	I	Foss/Mag Dances
Inverneill House	R	A	Book 35
Longborough Lanterns	S	B	Shaner/Del Val Gold
Bill Clement MBE	J	I	Book 47
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J	B	Book 35
The Bridge of Sighs	S	A	Drewry/Summer 86
Beth Wilson's Delight	R	I	Mitchell/Whetherly 3
City Lights	J	I	Book 52
The Falkirk Lass	S	B	Book 53
Pinewoods Reel	R	I	Book 53
Major Ian Stewart	J	I	Book 35
Tulloch Gorm	S	I	Book 8
Oompah, Oompah,			
Shove It Up Your Joompah	R	B	Drewry/Stoneywood
Ian Powrie's Farewell to			Hamilton/
Auchterarder	J	A	RSCDS 30 Pop V2
The Black Leather Jig	R	I	Selling/Del Valley 25

February Branch Dance

February 14, 2026, Dancing 7:00 p.m., recorded music
Tustin Area Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin
Cost: \$15 Members; \$18 Non-Members

Lamb Skinnet	J	B	Book 14
Broadford Bay (New)	R	I	Grant/RSCDS Leaflet
Sandy O'er the Lea	B	S	MMM II
Farewell to Auchterarder	A	J	Hamilton/30 Pop 2
The Compliment (New)	S	I	Goldring/12 Dances
The Black Leather Jig	R	I	Selling/Del Val Silver
St. Andrew's Fair	J	B	Goldring/5 SCD 1982
Tulloch Gorm (New)	S	I	Book 8
Elsbeth Gray's Reel	R	A	Book 53
The Braes of Tulliemet	S	B	Book 7
Quarries' Jig	J	I	Book 36
The Barmkin	J	B	Goldring/RSCDS Gr 2
Capelthwaite	R	I	SF Coll Vol 2
Something in the Air (New)	S	A	Book 53
Maitland to Manchester	J	I	
			Thomas/Wallace/San Andreas
Mary Erskine	R	B	Goldring/RSCDS Gr 2

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 or associate 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.

If not deliverable, return to:

The Orange County Branch of the
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
8361 Castilian Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646

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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, 2026.