



Orange County Ceilidh



Newsletter of the Orange County Branch of the RSCDS

Volume 42, No. 2

March/April 2024

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 2024, everyone. It was wonderful to see so many dancers having a great time at our Christmas Ball on December 9th when we danced to the beautiful music of Flindrikin. Our past chairs Shirley Saturensky and Jan Lauer served as grand marshals to start us all dancing. Thanks to the branch committee for providing a sumptuous buffet and especially thank you to Edie Archibald for our wonderful raffle baskets which allowed us to just about break even for the night. See page 5 for photos.



Recently, we celebrated Robert Burns' birthday with our annual Burns Supper and Ball, hosted by the Orange County, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley branches. Thank you to Kris McGinnis and the entire Burns committee for putting on a fabulous event. All three branches contributed baskets for the silent auction, along with works of art by Margaret Burnett and Chris Brooks. We raised a record amount of money with the auction, allowing us to show a very small profit – thanks to all the winning bidders for supporting this event. See pages 3 and 4 for photos.

Upcoming events include our beginner dance on February 10th and an afternoon dance on March 9th. We are hoping an early start will entice folks who might not want to come to an evening event to drive to Orange County. As an extra enticement, we will be dancing to the music of our local band, the SO-CALedonians. Don't miss it!

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
Pat Zschoche: 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

FRIDAY

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

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

The Next Big Event March Afternoon Dance

March 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Tustin Senior Center
Music by The
SO-CALedonians

Calendar of Events

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

HERE

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

May 2024

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

THERE

February 2024

11 Introductory Step Dancing workshop, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Santa Monica. Contact Connie Walker at samanthasem@yahoo.com if you are interested.

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)

April 2024

6 San Diego Branch Dance, Balboa Park Club. Music by the SO-CALedonians

13 Scottish Fiddlers of LA 40th Concert Anniversary with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, Hermosa Beach Community Theater, 7:30 p.m.

20 SGV Branch Beginner Tea dance, 4:00 p.m., Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel (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

20 Vancouver Branch Diamond Jubilee Ball, live music by Marian Anderson and Max Ketchin. For info visit www.rscdsvancouver.org

Minutes of the COM of January 14, 2024

Meeting Highlights:

- **Vice Chair's Report:** Insurance payment has been submitted. Awaiting certificates of insurance. Insurance will now be handled by the treasurer to streamline recordkeeping.
- **Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Several cards sent and received; motion to increase dues to Scotland was approved at the RSCDS AGM.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance in the checking account is \$7987, the Scholarship Fund has \$2294. It was decided to move the scholarship funds into the checking account due to an increased bank fee for a separate account.
- **Membership:** 2023-2024 membership is 30 adults and 34 associate members. Flora Morgan will assume responsibility for membership in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- The permit has been issued by the city of Tustin for the 2024 dances at the Tustin Senior Center.
- Christmas Ball was successful with the raffle proceeds resulting in no loss for the event.
- The California Raffle Permit application is ready to mail.
- There was further discussion of using PayPal (requires a fee per transaction) or Zelle (no fee but possible security concerns) for branch transactions.
- A design has been created for a new large banner. Connie L. will find out prices.
- The SO-CALedonians will play for our March dance and their fee of about \$200 will be paid for from scholarship funds.
- Due to a price increase from the city of Tustin, the price for monthly dances will be increased to \$15.
- Due to the dues increase to Scotland, it was voted to increase our dues to \$55 for individuals and \$90 per couple for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- It was voted to spend up to \$500 to buy a color laser printer for the branch to create dance flyers, wall posters, cue books, etc. following the retirement of Bob Harmon.

The next Committee of Management meeting will be held on April 14, 2024. Copies of the full minutes of the meeting are available from Recording Secretary Randi Kraemer.

Orange County Ceilidh

2024 Burns Supper and Ball

A very successful and enjoyable Burns Supper and Ball was held on January 27th at the Torrance Woman's Club. We were treated to a history of Burns Suppers by Jeff Altman, after which the haggis was paraded in, escorted by piper Martin Johnson, "Poosie Nancy" Callan Edwards and henchmen John Allen, Roger Nisbet and Ray McEdward. Norm McCallum provided a rousing "Toast to the Haggis", Mary Nisbet spoke on the theme of "Rovin' Robin" and David and Flora Morgan entertained us with a lovely "Toast to the Lassies" and "Reply to the Laddies". Our Grand Marshals were Betty Pettit and Robb Quint and then we got to dance to the wonderful music of Andy Imbrie and Caroline McCaskey. A fine time was had by all! For more photos, see page 4.



Flowers of the Forest

Just last month, scores of people around the world joined hands and sang, “Should auld acquaintance be forgot...” to welcome in a new year. It is with that in mind that we recognize the passing of one of the Orange County Branch’s former long-time members, Clive H. Tillotson, March 14, 1931- October 10, 2023.

Clive was an active and ardent member of the Scottish community in general. Later in life, he added SCDancer to his interests. He began as a beginner in the Huntington Beach class. He came with a high level of energy, a keen interest in all things Scottish, and very little dance experience. His skills as a musician and his social interactions made the rigors of learning technique bearable. It was during these social interactions that he met his future wife Patti. The dance partnership became a wedded one. They celebrated their nuptials in Scotland. To commemorate the event, Mary Brandon devised the jig “The Wedding at St. Monan’s” (Fife) which debuted



at the SGV and OC sponsored dance Farewell and Haste Ye Back in March, 1999 after the Tillotsons had decided to move to Clive’s home state of Maine. Learning there were no SCD classes in their area, Patti, fully supported by Clive, took her teachers’ exams so they could offer a class.

Clive’s obituary described him as curious, social, and active. We agree. Besides the many Branch and other Scottish events he participated in, he was an artist, an athlete, and an activist. As an artist, he donated several original pieces to Branch fundraisers (ducks and Scottish landscapes), as an athlete he played tennis, sailed, and drove horses. He was a veterinarian with a practice in Costa Mesa, CA for forty years and an activist for animal rights. He was a proud U.S. Marine (ret) who served in Korea. The title tune for their wedding dance is “Woo’d and Married and A”. As his former SCD teachers and friends, Bob and I can say, Clive did his best to do it all. Clive was born and died in Maine. He is survived by his wife Patti, children, and grandchildren.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Patterson and Renee Boblette



2023 Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball



Hidden Edinburgh: Closes, Wynds, and Pends

Edinburgh is a medieval city, full of hidden nooks and crannies as well as the time-worn faces of Edinburgh Castle, St. Giles Cathedral, and Holyrood Palace. Positioned on the plug and ridge of an extinct volcano, this prime location has been occupied since prehistoric times. Steep slopes plus a loch on the north side made it ideal for securing a settlement.

The first inhabitants of 2000 years ago founded a stronghold on this perfect building block. Once a fortress was established, houses were built along the tail. Although the ridge offered unique protection, it also prohibited the settlement from expanding north or south. However, this did not impede growth.

This huddle of early houses near the castle gradually spread eastward in two rows along each side of what became High Street. Directly to the rear of the dwellings were plots of land divided into sections called “enclosures”. Here, food crops and animals were tended.

Several military skirmishes with England led to a 1450 decision to build a defensive wall around the city. Once completed, it ran from the foot of Castle Rock, along the ridge, and encompassed the upper part of the Royal Mile. Meadows were flooded for a larger Nor’ Loch.

These two improvements may have helped protect Edinburgh, but it limited the area for growth. As overcrowding became a problem, the only direction to expand was up, and tall, dingy skyscrapers began to fill all the free land within the wall. At an average height of 10-14 stories, these “lands” or “tenements”, were erected to take full advantage of every inch of space. And as the buildings became taller and taller, foundations sank deeper into the soft sandstone of the tail. Edinburgh was growing vertically as well as horizontally, with more and more underground levels added.

After the Battle of Flodden (1512), another layer of protection was added. Flodden Wall enclosed the entire city, including Cowgate (south) and ending east at Netherbow Gate. Often called “World’s End”, so it was. “Nobody inside the wall wanted to venture outside.”

Additions were made and strengthened as needed, and soon every part of Edinburgh was surrounded with the population stuck inside. All space was utilized, and the grassy “enclosures” disappeared under the newly built tenements,

leaving only narrow spaces between the buildings. The word “close” took on a new meaning. Not only were the narrow lanes called “closes”, but all was crammed close together.

These short, uncovered tracks provided common entryways to the multi-story dwellings. Branching off the Royal Mile, many led to a garden, fountain, or courtyard. The very name implied property with a locking gate at one end. Teamed with wynds, both are common in Old Town today, reflecting the deep history contained there.

Wynds are similar to closes in that they are both narrow lanes. However, the former specifically provides moving space between tenement buildings while the closes give entrance. Wide enough to accommodate a horse and cart, wynd derives

from the Old Norse *venda* (to turn), implying a turning off from a main thoroughfare. These are not necessarily twisted or curved as the definition suggests but can link streets of different heights and help navigate up and down hills.

Each location has a story to tell, and many reflect the name of a resident or an occupation plied there. They give fascinating insight to the inhabitants, their daily lives, and historic moments. Examples of the stories include: Brodie’s Close (Deacon Brodie, inspiration for *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*), Paisley Close (Heave awa’ lads, I’m no’ deid yet! rescue), and Lady Stair’s Close (museum for Burns, Scott and Stevenson). Mary King Close gives a glimpse of how the 17th century lower classes survived in underground passages and basic accommodations.

Closes didn’t escape *The Outlander* craze either. Anchor Close provided the filming location for Jamie’s print shop. Eighteenth century William Snellie’s Printing produced Robert Burns’ *Edinburgh Poems* and three volumes of *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

A pend is another type of narrow lane. This consists of a covered passageway through a building with rooms above it. Pend is related to the archaic verb *pend*: arch, arch over, vault, which is derived from the French *pendre* and the Latin *pendere* “to hang”.

Once again, Scottish country dance titles reflect locations. We have “Provost Wynd” and “Lady Wynd”, which both have reels and/or figures of 8 to suggest narrow, winding paths. So, the next time you encounter the words “close” or “wynd”, pay attention to the context. Be aware of these quirky glimpses into “Auld Reekie’s” past life.

Karen Kerman

Orange County Ceilidh



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
The 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

March Afternoon Branch Dance

March 9, 2024, Dancing 4:00 p.m.,

Music by the SO-CALedonians

Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin
Cost: \$15 Members; \$18 Non-Members

The Dashing White Sergeant	R B	Book 3
A Diamond for Belfast	J B	Watson/Belfast Jubilee
The Lass of Richmond Hill	R B	RSCDS, 2nd Gr Book
Sugar Candie	S I	Book 26
Zytglogge	R A	Blackburn, Collecta Ursis
Pelorus Jack	J I	Book 41
The Provost Wynd	R B	Goldring, RSCDS Gr 2
Culla Bay	S A	Book 41
Waverley/Fugal Fergus	J I	Book 15
Scott Meikle	R I	Book 46
Monymusk	S B	Book 11
The Cape Breton Hornpipe	R I	Inglis, 25 Dances
Granville Market	J B	RSCDS, 2nd Gr Book
Bonnie Stronshiray	S I	Campbell, Glasgow Assy
Hooked on Bells	J A	Paterson, 2015
The Glengarry Homestead	S I	Brenchley/Kangaroo
Rovin' Robin	R I	Gray, SCD Archives

Orange County Ceilidh

May Branch Dance

May 11, 2024, Dancing 7:00 p.m., recorded music
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin
Cost: \$15 Members; \$18 Non-Members

A Diamond for Belfast	J B	Watson/Belfast Jubilee
The Two Grey Cats	R I	Walduck/Other Kanga
The Dundee Whaler	S B	Clowes/Ormskirk 1
Welcome to Ayr	J I	Book 47
Gang the Same Gate	S I	Book 26
The Cape Breton Hornpipe	R I	Inglis/25 Dances
Fair Enough	J B	Book 51
Zytglogge	R A	Blackburn/Collecta Ursis
Dark Lochnager	S I	Boyd/SCD Archives
Granville Market	J B	2nd Graded Book
The Glengarry Homestead	S I	Brenchley/Kangaroo
Waverley/Fugal Fergus	J I	Book 15; 3 by Foss
Maitland to Manchester	J I	Thomas/Wallace
The Kissing Bridge	R I	Book 47
Seattle Landing	S B	Vandegrift/Leaflet
The One O'Clock Canon	R A	Book 47
The Legacy	J B	Goddard/Pinewoods

Fun Scottish Fact

(from *The Scot* magazine)



Now traditional Scottish dancing shoes, ghillies were designed to allow water to flow through as clansmen walked on wet and marshy ground. The extra long laces tied above the ankle stopped the shoes from being pulled off in the mud.

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.

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!

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Deadline for the May/June *Ceilidh* is
April 1, 2024.