

# Scottish Country Dances

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Dance Diary— **Dancing News**

## Society Latest.

The Management Board continues to spend money to such an extent that that it is to issue an appeal for donations to support continuing expenditure! Some might question what on earth the Board is spending money on in these times of constraint; especially when dancing is not permitted! If the ubiquitous answer is the upkeep of headquarters, maybe more critical thought is required. In line with 21st century thinking, other organisations realise they do not require a building to operate from. With appropriate technology, staff can operate from home. As membership numbers are not now likely to increase with any urgency, there are real questions to be asked as to the viability of owning and maintaining 12 Coates Crescent. A basement of a house further round the crescent, now converted into a two-bed flat, is on the market for more than half a million pounds!

A Post Office Mailbox solves the problem of physical mail and doubtless one of the existing Museums or Universities would welcome the archive material. The Society needs to think in the real world and while such a decision would doubtless be a contentious one, it does need to be considered. Incidentally there has been no comment in their releases issued to date as to whether the Society applied for one or more of the Grants available from Government to cover losses due to cancellations on account of Coronavirus.

The Society is still appealing for members to renew their subscription despite there being no dancing. But other organisations are rewarding their members with discounts where they are unable to give a full service. One has reduced this year's subscription by 40% while another has extended their membership period by 3 months free of charge. Our Society needs to do much more than provide links to online videos and quizzes if they want members' money. The Management Committee actually want to increase the membership fee but have decided not to this year as they want to be seen as reasonable! Watch out for following years!

Guidance issued by the Society for safe dancing was updated in August 2020 and previous recommendations to wear gloves have been removed completely. The Society thanks Dr Sebastian Wanless from the Glasgow Branch for his support and guidance on this update.

The Board still hopes to hold **Winter School 2021** on 21st—26th February 2021 as planned and an update will be available during October 2020. The next scheduled meeting of the Board is on 3rd October 2020. **Spring Fling 2021** is planned for Aberdeen from 2nd—4th April 2021 and **Summer School 2021** at St Andrews has provisional dates of 18th July—15th August 2021. Updates will be posted when available on the Society's events page. <https://www.rscds.org/events>

The Society has contacted *Sports Scotland* to request any 'Scottish Specific' guidance they can give when Scotland enters Phase 4. Links have been supplied to what *Sports Scotland* has produced to date for outdoor sports and a *Sports Scotland* team member will work with the Society on dance-specific guidelines. Should the Society not be talking with the Scottish Government for guidance on indoor dancing?

**The MiniCrib Team** updated their database with an additional 70 cribs in September 2020 (version 30\_09). See <http://www.minicrib.org.uk/>

## DANCE DIARY

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- *Let me know details of your dances—if you don't tell me I can't include them in a future Newsletter or on the website.*
- *If you email them to me it means I don't have to type them out.*
- *If you don't have access to a computer then pop the programme into the post .*

You can download a copy of this and previous Newsletters in 'pdf' format from the Web Site.

Click on the "Country Dance" Page then the "Newsletters" page, where they are listed in descending order.

The web page has up-to-date information on these dances and programmes as they are notified.

### Latest cancellations

**East Kilbride Highlanders** have cancelled their dances for September and November 2020.

**Hamilton & Clydesdale** <http://www.rscdshamiltonandclydesdale.org.uk/> Annual Dance Weekend at Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry 9th – 11th October 2020 has been cancelled and provisionally booked it for 1st – 3rd October 2021. The Branch Christmas Dance on 11th December 2020 is cancelled.

**Ericht Club** <http://www.erichtdance.co.uk/whats-on/> has postponed their October 23rd/24th Weekend until 2021.

**Glasgow Branch** <https://www.rscdglasgow.org/dances.asp> has cancelled their September, October and November dances. They are still hanging on for their Christmas dance(!)

**Ayr Branch** <https://www.ayr-rscds.com/> has cancelled all remaining dance events for 2020 including the Christmas Ceilidh.

**Kirkcaldy—Annual Pathhead Charity Dance** to be held in February 2021 has been cancelled and they hope to bring it back in 2022.

**When will dancing as we know it resume?** If only we could tell but, at a guess, there appears to be no prospect for dancing until after a vaccine is available to all. That could mean the autumn of 2021. Even if dancing restarts before then, many dancers will be too fearful to attend without being vaccinated.

**Line Dancing** has been unable to start back as halls are not available for use by groups. It seems owners are not willing to risk renting them out. The following restrictions are currently under consideration should halls become available.

- Due to reduced numbers (to aid social distancing), dancers would have to pay in advance.
- Dancers would have to wear a face covering. It was originally thought a visor only, but it is looking like it may have to be a mask with the recent Government changes.
- Cleaning between classes will affect timings of the class.
- Hand Sanitisers would be available on entry and exit.

My **Dancing in Scotland** website <http://www.dancediary.info/index.html> has been nominated for an award in the UK Enterprise Awards scheme, for services to dancers.

These awards are in their 4th year and you can read about the awards here: -

<https://www.sme-news.co.uk/awards/uk-enterprise-awards/> Voting has already taken place.

This year's results have been delayed by Covid-19 and the winners will be announced on Friday 30th October 2020. See SME News <https://www.sme-news.co.uk/about-us/>