



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

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# Glasgow Branch

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society





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**Scottish Charity Number:** SC008002

**Charity name:** The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society – Glasgow Branch  
(hereinafter called “the Local Association”).

**Charity contact information:**

Telephone number: +44 7902 127370

Website: <https://www.rscdsglasgow.org/>

Facebook: @RoyalScottishCountryDanceSocietyGlasgowBranch

Instagram: @RSCDSGlasgow

**Charity Trustees**

- Chair: Richard Sebastian Wanless
- Chair-elect: Ian Johnson
- Treasurer: Marilyn Mowbray
- Secretary: Debbie McAlees
- Aileen Warwick
- Marion Cusick
- Sandra McAllister (resigned Sep. 2023)
- Anne Murray
- Caitlin Abbott
- Lyndsey Brown
- Hilary Wood
- Gale McCallum
- Les Lambert (co-opted in Sep. 2023)
- Revathy Nayar (co-opted in Jan. 2024)
- Aileen McKenzie (co-opted in Dec. 2023)

Independent Examiner: Robert McColl

Honorary President: Ruth Beattie

Honorary Vice-President: John Johnston



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Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

## Office Bearers



**Sebastian**



**Ian**



**Debbie**



**Marilyn**

## Objectives and activities

Glasgow was where the Scottish Country Dance Society was founded. Its inaugural meeting, in the Athenaeum, Glasgow, on 26 November 1923, included five Glasgow-based enthusiasts of Scottish music and/or dancing: Francis Bisset, Michael Diack, Jean Milligan, Lilian Ross and Percy Thomson. They would come to play significant roles in the Society and the Glasgow Branch – the first of many branches.

The objects of the Local Association shall be to advance the education and engagement of the public in the Greater Glasgow area in traditional Scottish country dancing and in furtherance thereof:

- (a) to preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dancing
- (b) to provide or assist in providing education or instruction to Society standards in the practice of Scottish country dancing
- (c) to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means
- (d) generally, to do such other things as are or may be considered by the Local Association to further the foregoing objects and those of the Society in the Greater Glasgow area, including building working links with other local traditional dance and music initiatives.



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

## Structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

The Branch is governed in accordance with relevant UK and Scottish laws and regulations and in order of priority:

- The Charity's Constitution and Rules
- Motions passed by the Membership in General Meeting
- Decisions of the Branch Committee

### Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Local Association which is held within three months after the end of its financial year at such place and at such time and in such manner as may be determined by the Committee.

## Achievements and performance

### Chair's remarks at the AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024:

The last twelve months have been frenetic, exhilarating and decidedly memorable! Throughout 2023 we worked hard on Centenary celebrations, culminating in our spirited and much appreciated Centenary Ball in Glasgow City Chambers on 24<sup>th</sup> November at the invitation of the Lord Provost and attended by the Society Chair and Chair-Elect.

During the year we also enjoyed publicising the Branch with public dance demonstrations at the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games and in Kelvingrove Museum, promoting the Glasgow Branch 100th Anniversary Book and commemorating our thriving Seniors Group at a Centenary Afternoon Tea at the House for an Art Lover: this last with the lively participation again of the Society Chair, William Williamson, whose rendering of Highland dancing is now a Facebook feature! The 100th Anniversary Book has been a resounding success, having now sold 377 copies, making a profit of £1,975. In 2024, we have complemented the book with a recording of the music associated with the 13 featured dances. The recording is available for download on the Bandcamp platform. The Branch also played a key role in supporting the Society AGM in November 2023 just as we did in 2022. In addition, at the request of the Society, Glasgow Branch also made a major contribution to the planning of the Society's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on 23 November at the former Athenaeum in Glasgow, ending with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and flash mob dancing on Buchanan Street.





The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

At the same time as these exciting Centenary events, we continued the everyday work of the Branch, successfully running our six classes, nine Branch dances in addition to the Midwinter Ball and an increasingly varied number of outreach activities. As promised at the AGM in 2023, the Committee also made targeted investments using funds from our reserves. Some initial outlay of funds was required in planning Centenary activities, although ultimately these resulted overall in a profit of £1,397, primarily due to the sale of Centenary books. In addition, we ran a new Social Marketing Campaign attracting new dancers to our Beginners Classes in January 2024 and we contributed funds to assist two of our members undergoing their teacher training. In 2024 we added to the Centenary associated expenses by publishing the music accompanying the dances from the Centenary Book on Bandcamp at a cost of £1,000. However, by March 2024, even that had recouped nearly £700 in sales. As shown in the approved 2023/2024 accounts, overall, despite the additional expenses throughout the year and including the much appreciated £7 members' subscription, the Branch made a small profit of £530.50.

For me personally the last twelve months have been both challenging and rewarding. They have reinforced my belief in the unique value of Scottish country dancing. I strongly believe that Scottish country dancing and the community it has engendered brings a lot of light to the world. How energised one feels after an evening of dance, accompanied by our unique form of traditional music and after greeting and talking with our like-minded friends! It is also worth emphasising that our form of dancing has substantial physical and mental health benefits. You can read about this on the Branch website at this link: [Health Strategy](#). I am pleased to say that the Society is now embarking on a future campaign to promote the health benefits of Scottish country dancing, including such innovative ways as prescribing it for those who can thereby most profit. Can you imagine any better activity to provide “fun, fitness and friendship” as our own slogan so expressively describes it!

I would like to thank all Branch Members for their stellar support, especially during the time we were restarting activities after the COVID-19 epidemic. Let me express my appreciation to our Honorary President, Ruth Beattie, and Honorary Vice President, John Johnston for their valuable help and support. Thanks also to the many other members of the Branch who contribute valuable time to support our activities. In this respect, special gratitude is deserved by Elspeth Johnson for her assistance with our accounts and by Mary Webster and Margaret Tough for their diligent maintenance of the website. Many thanks to Peter Knapman for his excellent editing of our Newsletter and to the non-committee members of the Centenary subcommittee who provided excellent guidance of our many Centenary year activities, including Margaret Sanders who chaired the subcommittee as well as Muriel Bone, Eilidh Hart and Amy Bryson. Thanks also to many who volunteer to help with refreshments at our dances and to many who volunteer to participate in outreach activities.



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

Special thanks in addition to all our talented teachers and musicians and our dance demonstration teams who keep our traditions alive and flourishing.

It remains for me to wish the soon to be elected, incoming Committee, new Honorary President and Vice-President, new Safeguarding Officers and new External Examiner all the very best for the continuing success of Glasgow Branch. There may be new challenges, but more importantly novel opportunities ahead but I am confident the Branch will address both with energy and aplomb.

### Branch Report

#### *Membership:*

Our current membership stands at 234 of which 30 are life members. In addition, we have 19 associate members. We have 12 linked groups.

#### *Classes:*

Classes began in September 2023 with seven Branch Classes running over the year catering for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced. We were able to move the Advanced Class from Bellahouston to the more accessible site at the Glasgow Gaelic School for the second term beginning in January 2024. As in previous years, the Milngavie general class and Westerton beginners' class combined after Easter for a final term and ran into May and Hillpark Beginners had two additional classes in April. Additionally, four Spring Classes with a "historic theme" were held with four different guest teachers: Jimmie Hill, Anne Robertson, Janet Johnston and Peter Knapman.

At the beginning of 2024 a new social marketing campaign was launched with assistance from Social Marketing Gateway. Respondents were directed through Eventbrite to three free extra beginners' classes in Westerton, Garnethill and Hillpark Secondary School. Fifty-two people signed up through Eventbrite, of whom 22 have attended some classes during January and February. There was a decrease in March, but this coincided with a decrease in attendance at most of our Branch classes.

The Branch would like to thank all the musicians and teachers who make our classes possible; it is greatly appreciated.

#### *Dances:*

Eleven dances were held during the last year including 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances, the Centenary Ball in November 2023 and the Midwinter Ball in January 2024. Milngavie Town Hall became available again for dances from December 2023, but contemporaneously, Bearsden Hub was closed due to RAAC investigation and repair work.



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

The highlight of the year, as mentioned above in the Chair's remarks was the Centenary Ball in Glasgow City Chambers, a spectacular event in a spectacular venue.

*Glasgow Branch Newsletters:*

Three newsletters have been published during the year. We greatly thank Peter Knapman for continuing in the role of Editor and producing the newsletters with the Committee's and Membership's input. The Newsletters have benefited from novel and insightful contributions from Peter himself.

*RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend:*

This year the Society held their AGM and Autumn Gathering in Glasgow again, to coincide with the founding of the Society 100 years ago in Glasgow. Glasgow Branch assisted with logistics for the weekend. Five delegates attended the AGM in Glasgow, and a full report was published in the Winter Newsletter 2023. Many Branch members were present to take part in evening dances and some of the other enjoyable and informative weekend events.

*Glasgow Music Festival:*

The Festival was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March. Six primary school aged teams and, for the first time, one high school took part. St Andrew's Primary School from Falkirk was awarded the Marion B Hamilton Certificate with the highest score of 88% for dancing Hedwig's Reel. In the adult section there were three teams: Glasgow Dancers, Edinburgh University New Scotland Dance Society and Dundee University Scottish Country Dance Society. Glasgow Dancers were the winners and were awarded the Glasgow Branch Quaich for obtaining the highest score of 90%. Thank you to our new adjudicator, Les Lambert, for his positive comments, to Maureen Daniel for recording the comments and to Màrtainn Skene for the lovely music. Thanks also to the school staff, dance instructors and of course the pupils and dancers who all worked so hard and to all the Glasgow Branch volunteers who acted as stewards on the day. Sincere thanks go to Susan Ewington for all her hard work in making this year's festival a success.

*Primary School Festival - Day of Dance:*

This one-day event for Scottish country dancing was even more memorable than last year because it was held in Glasgow City Chambers, hosted by the Lord Provost. We were again very grateful to Walter Proven as our experienced MC and for the excellent music provided by John Carmichael and his band. The Chair of RSCDS, William Williamson, his wife Linda and the RSCDS COO Jon Berridge were also again in attendance. We were delighted that the Lord Provost herself joined in one of the dances! Thank you to Fiona McDonald who organises this event with Glasgow Education and all the RSCDS members who volunteered to help on the day.



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

*Seniors' Group:*

Four meetings took place throughout the year, including a performance of music by Ian Muir in the summer, and fascinating talks about the jute mills of Dundee and mountaineering by Patrick Murray and Les Lambert respectively. And of course, the exceptional Seniors Group Centenary Afternoon Tea at the House for an Art Lover, attended by RSCDS Chair, William Williamson, who entertained us with song and highland dancing. Musical entertainment was provided by Màrtainn Skene and poetry from Glasgow Chair-Elect, Ian Johnson and Margaret and Chris Sanders.

*Centenary Book:*

The Branch's Centenary book, launched at the Mid-Winter Ball of 2023 proved a great success, eventually generating a profit of over £1,900. Filming of the dances was completed, and the videos were posted on YouTube, the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary and Strathspey Server. In order to compensate for the lack of an accompanying CD, the Branch decided to publish the music for each dance on Bandcamp, which has also proved very popular.

*Outreach:*

The Branch has responded to many requests to hold or participate in a wide range of events. We have supplied various teachers, dancers and musicians throughout the year, for a range of activities including demonstrations at the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games and in Kelvingrove Museum to mark its 5,000th daily organ recital. In September members of the Westerton and St Joseph's classes performed demonstrations of 3 dances each at the Westerton Gala.

In June, volunteers from Glasgow Branch were invited to entertain the members of the Moments Café, a dementia friendly group, which meets in Cathcart Trinity Church Hall twice a month. A return visit was made in February 2024. In October, we made a return visit to St Francis Care Home in Govan to help them celebrate St Francis Feast Day. Further visits to the Care Home were held in December 2023 and on 25 January 2024, to mark Burns Day.

In August the Branch supported a summer program run by the charity called Fare by helping primary school children join in ceilidh dancing.

RSCDS again approached Glasgow Branch for support with a Ceilidh at the 31<sup>st</sup> Celtic Connections festival.

Special thanks go to our Outreach Convenor, Anne Murray for the remarkable way she organised a flash mob to dance on 26 November 2023 on Buchanan Street, in association with the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the founding of the Society.



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

### *Branch Administration:*

The Committee had several changes during this year, with the Membership Secretary retiring early and being replaced as well as two additional members being co-opted onto the Committee: Aileen McKenzie and Revathy Nayar. It remains challenging to attract Members to serve on the Committee. Committee meetings were split between face-to-face meetings at Sherbrooke Parish Church and over Zoom.

Mary Webster and Margaret Tough continued to provide invaluable and timely support and updating of the Branch Website.

Several sub-committees continued work from previous years: e.g., Centenary, Classes and Dance Programme subcommittees. The Health Strategy Subcommittee was incorporated into a Society wide initiative, in which Glasgow Chair, Sebastian Wanless participates.

The Class subcommittee was created to examine our class offering in detail and its work will continue under the newly elected Committee from May 2024. Its remit is to consider how to go forward with classes and dances, ensuring that the Branch meets its obligations to promote Scottish country dancing while being financially responsible and to hear the views of members and teachers on what we offer, anything additional they would like, and their reaction to the changes made to classes and dances in the future. These views will be solicited through a questionnaire designed by the subcommittee.

At the Midwinter Ball in January 2024, Branch awards were given to three ladies who have made major contributions to Glasgow Branch over many years: Margaret Sanders, Muriel Bone and Fiona McDonald (see photograph at the end of this report).

At this AGM, the following Committee Members are stepping down: the Chair, Sebastian Wanless, the Secretary, Debbie McAlees, the Treasurer, Marilyn Mowbray and the Social Events Convenor, Aileen Warwick. They all wish the new Committee the very best continuing success in the years to come.

### **Future plans**

Although the Centenary celebrations are now behind us, the year ahead still has plenty to keep us occupied, with classes, Branch dances and the Midwinter Ball. Hopefully we will also be obtaining feedback from members on these matters, through the slightly delayed questionnaire. There will also be 'Outreach' activities (details to be finalised nearer the



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

time): groups of dancers giving demonstrations, and at times encouraging others to try dancing too; involvement with the Primary Schools Day of Dance and Glasgow Music

Festival. We are looking to update our policies and procedures in the light of Sport Scotland guidance on implementing the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020, and we are at very early stages of looking at a couple of new projects, which we will share with members in due course, when there is a bit more to say.

## Financial review

As Sebastian has already said, this has been an exceptionally busy year with all the Centenary activities and events in addition to our normal programme.

Sebastian's figure for the overall profit from Centenary events covers the 3 years in which we have had income and expenditure for them. The figures in the accounts presented are only those incurred this year.

The classes continue to make a loss, some of which can be attributed to our 3 free Taster Classes in January. These, however, have yielded some new regular attendees.

The dances have made a handsome profit this year due to the great support from our members and also partly as a result of having duo rather than trio bands for many of the dances. The catering costs in the accounts include the cost of food served at the Midwinter Ball in January 2024.

The Glasgow Music and Primary Schools Festivals look as if they made a large loss this year. That is due to late payment by Glasgow City Council of the £750 for the band for the Primary Schools Festival. It has now been paid. The Nan Inch Legacy Fund now stands at just under £900.

The RSCDS Glasgow Branch accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the External Examiner's Report are to be found on the next pages.

Marilyn Mowbray (Treasurer)



# RSCDS Glasgow Branch - Accounts

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

	Receipts & Payments Account Year ended 31st March 2024		Receipts & Payments Account Year ended 31st March 2023	
	Income £	Expenditure £	Income £	Expenditure £
Class Fees	12,329.70		12,508.00	
Class Teaching		5,389.56		5,080.64
Class Music		5,082.41		5,407.41
Class halls		2,780.76		3,148.40
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,252.73</b>		<b>13,636.45</b>
Branch Dances	11,079.27		10,822.00	
Catering+Printing		2,551.74		2,428.58
Dance Bands		3,590.00		4,905.00
Dance Halls		2,016.26		2,741.41
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,158.00</b>		<b>10,074.99</b>
Subscriptions	6,136.00	4,673.00	5,240.50	4,547.50
Linked groups	70.00		84.00	
Donations	332.10		634.05	
Bank interest	478.99		365.95	
Branch running costs		1,158.03		655.09
Insurance		200.00		195.00
Newsletters		228.28		421.07
Branch Development		1,217.97		0.00
Dancer Development		400.00		0.00
Outreach	427.00	524.40	1,497.00	1,569.00
Festivals		1,043.98		
Seniors Lunches	1,348.30	1,407.49	1,357.65	1,573.04
<b>Total Centenary</b>	<b>5,934.75</b>	<b>5,341.73</b>	<b>2,422.05</b>	<b>1,431.10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,136.11</b>	<b>37,605.61</b>	<b>34,931.20</b>	<b>34,103.24</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b><u>530.50</u></b>		<b><u>827.96</u></b>	

Independently examined by

Date

9/5/24  
ABMcQQ

	Balances 31st March 2024 £	Balances 31st March 2023 £
Opening Balance	43,832	43,004
Surplus/(Deficit)	530	828
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b><u>44,362</u></b>	<b><u>43,832</u></b>
Represented by:-		
Skipton BS	25,529	25,351
Charity Bank	11,069	10,768
BoS a/c	7,739	7,688
Float	25	25
	<b><u>44,362</u></b>	<b><u>43,832</u></b>

## Note

### Debtors & Prepayments

Payments-future functions	441	709
Refund due for Primary		
School Day band	750	
Refund due from musician	31	
	<b><u>1,222</u></b>	<b><u>709</u></b>

### Creditors & Accruals

Overpaid sub	33	
Sub due to HQ		25
Receipts in advance of functions	84	2,020
	<b><u>117</u></b>	<b><u>2,045</u></b>

# ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY GLASGOW BRANCH

Charity No. SC008002



[www.rscdsglasgow.org](http://www.rscdsglasgow.org)

## **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charities trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The society trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Account Regulation does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)© of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## **Basis of Independent Examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the accounts.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1.

Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement:

.....to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Accounts Regulations, and

.....to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations  
have not been met, or

2.

To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Robert McColl  
9 James Watt Road  
Milngavie  
Glasgow  
G62 7JZ

Signed .....

date .....

9/5/24



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Dr. R. S. Wanless

Designation

Chair RSCDS Glasgow Branch

Date

9 May 2024

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The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024



Sebastian Wanless and his wife Tamara with guests, William and Linda Williamson, Gary Coull and Lizzy Conder at the Glasgow Centenary Ball



Dancing at the Centenary Ball in Glasgow City Chambers





The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024



Guests at the unveiling of the RSCDS Centenary Plaque at the former Athenaeum



Flash mob dancing at the former Athenaeum on Buchanan Street



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2023 to 31 MAR 2024



Sebastian Wanless (RSCDS Glasgow Chair) and William Williamson (RSCDS Chair) with recipients of Glasgow Branch awards: Margaret Sanders, Fiona McDonald and Muriel Bone (Midwinter Ball, January 12, 2024)