

Tribute to Alastair MacFadyen [1936 – 2015]

Members of Glasgow Branch were saddened to hear of the death of Dr Alastair MacFadyen on 20th July 2015. Alastair filled many roles with great distinction within the RSCDS and was a member of Glasgow Branch for more than 40 years.

Alastair taught branch classes for about 30 years including the Technique Class and Demonstration Class. He was also very much in demand for Weekend and Day Schools in the UK and around the world. Alastair took his teaching certificates in the early 60's. His examiner for the Preliminary Certificate (none other than Miss J Milligan) suggested he should be given his Full Certificate at the same time but Florence Adams immediately told her that was not possible! Later he became a tutor of certificate candidates, an adjudicator, an examiner for the Society and a Director of Summer School. He was also awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour.

Alastair was appointed as the Society's first Archivist after the death of Jean Milligan in 1978. In 1983 with Florence Adams he co-wrote 'Dance with Your Soul' and in 1988 he wrote the companion publication 'An Album for Mrs Stewart'.

Not only did Alastair serve as Glasgow Branch Chairman from 1980-1983 he also served as Chairman of the RSCDS from 1985-1988. He was appointed in 1988 as Convener of the working party who produced the Manual of SCD. He was President of the Society from 2007 until 2013 and also Vice President of Glasgow Branch from 1998 until 2014 when he made the decision to stand down due to health reasons.

Alastair's funeral took place in a small church near his home in Newton, Argyll. It was a beautiful day and the service was very simple but still managed to include mention of so many of Alastair's interests and activities – a very fitting way to remember him. The church was full with family and friends as well as members of the RSCDS (including many from Glasgow Branch).

I will always remember his enthusiasm in sharing his knowledge, sense of humour and a real interest in whatever you were doing. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Fiona McDonald