



rscds
Dunfermline
90th Anniversary
1929 - 2019



**RSCDS Dunfermline Branch
90th Anniversary Book**



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES

90th Anniversary Book

16 dances to celebrate
90 years of Scottish Country Dancing
in Scotland's ancient capital

Music arranged by Frank Thomson

Published by
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
(Dunfermline Branch)

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Foreword

Not long after the formation in 1923 of the Scottish Country Dance Society, as it was then known, the first Scottish country dance classes appeared in Fife. It was not until 1929 however that the Dunfermline Branch (then known as the Fife Branch) of the Scottish Country Dance Society was formed. Since then, dancing in Dunfermline has continued to flourish, and we are fortunate to have had so many distinguished teachers and musicians, along with hard-working committees, to give us all so much pleasure over the intervening years.

It is now 30 years since the last Dunfermline book of dances was released, so we are delighted to publish this collection of new dances in celebration of our Branch's 90th anniversary in 2019. Devised by Branch members and friends, with an exceptional range of original tunes, the sixteen dances in this collection celebrate Dunfermline's unique charms – both as a Branch, and indeed as Scotland's ancient capital. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the production of this book and its accompanying CD – the devisers, composers, teachers, musicians and 90th anniversary committee members, as well as the dancers who assisted in testing the many initial contributions. In particular, we would like to thank Frank Thomson, who has spent much time arranging the music, and George Meikle, who kindly typeset the music for the book.

It is with great confidence that we progress towards our second century as a Branch – and with matching confidence, we are sure that you will enjoy these very special dances.

Janette MacSporran
Honorary President
RSCDS Dunfermline Branch
2018

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The History of RSCDS Dunfermline Branch

The Fife Branch of the RSCDS was founded on 25th June 1929. Its early focus included providing support to those undertaking teacher training at the Dunfermline College of Physical Education and Hygiene. As in the larger colleges of Edinburgh and Glasgow, the teaching of Scottish Country Dancing was an important part of the curriculum, and it was only two years after the Branch's foundation that the first teaching exams were held in Dunfermline. The College later moved from Dunfermline but the tradition of Scottish Country Dancing remained – although classes went into abeyance when the Second World War began, they recommenced in October 1947, continuing in Dunfermline ever since.

When the St Andrews and Kirkcaldy Branches were formed in 1937, the Fife Branch was renamed as Dunfermline Branch, and it has continued to serve the West Fife area ever since. We have maintained a close relationship with our fellow Fife Branches over the years, hosting various joint dances and fundraising events to support Scottish Country Dancing in our schools.

The first meeting of the Fife Branch was chaired by the Countess of Elgin, and she was appointed as the first Honorary President of the Dunfermline Centre. Despite being appointed as President of the RSCDS in November 1957, the Countess continued her involvement with Dunfermline Branch for many years and she remained Branch President until her death on 20th June 1989.

Dunfermline is a small but very active branch, with members supporting a range of activities arranged by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. In 1933, Dunfermline hosted the Autumn School and Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society, attracting over 400 attendees at the evening dance. In June 1961, when Her Majesty the Queen visited the new RSCDS Headquarters in Edinburgh, Dunfermline Branch was invited to send two dancers to join in the special demonstration. This tradition was continued in 2013 when a Dunfermline dancer was involved in the presentation and demonstration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Dances, in a private audience for Her Majesty at Holyroodhouse. We are fortunate as well to have had teachers and musicians invited to join the staff of various Society events over the years, including the annual Summer School in St Andrews.

The Branch has a long history of demonstration dancing, including success at a number of festivals, participation in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and trips abroad to places such as Wilhelmshaven, Germany. In more recent years, the Branch has sent teams to Orlova in the Czech Republic to participate in a cultural exchange programme, and taken part in both local events and summer dancing at the Ross Bandstand in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.

As we look beyond our 90th anniversary, we take great pride in the achievements of our Branch so far – but even more, we look forward to adding to our achievements in the many years to come.

COUNTRY DANCERS' CONFERENCE AT DUNFERMLINE



The Courier and Advertiser, Monday, November 6, 1933

Country Dancers' Conference at Dunfermline

Four hundred Scottish country dance enthusiasts attended the Autumn School and Conference of the Scottish Country Dance Society at Dunfermline on Saturday. Photo shows the principal officials.

Front - left to right - Miss Forgan, Ayr (secretary of the society); Mrs Stewart, Ayr (hon. secretary of the society); Lady Elgin (president of Dunfermline centre); Mr Hubert Low, Broughty Ferry (chairman of society).

Back - left to right - Miss Drummond (principal, Dunfermline College of Hygiene); Mr R.T. Terris, Ayr (treasurer of the society); Lord James Stewart Murray (president of the society); Mrs Anstruther Gray (president of Fife branch); Miss Jean Milligan (principal teacher).

Acknowledgements

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