

# Island Fling



## December 2024

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society

c/o 3290 Woodburn Avenue

Victoria BC V8P 5B9

Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

Web address: [www.viscds.ca](http://www.viscds.ca)

### Executive Committee

President	Kathryn Knowles	250 598-3490	<a href="mailto:viscdspresident@shaw.ca">viscdspresident@shaw.ca</a>
1st Vice President and Publicity	Hilary Fedoruk		
2nd Vice President and Membership	Jane King		
Secretary	June Robinson		
Newsletter Editor	Ray Fischer		
Treasurer	Martha Morrison		
Social Convenor Committee	Ellen Campbell		
	Donna Clements		
	Sheila Eaglestone		
	Lori Morrison		
Teacher Representative	Joan Axford		

**In This Issue:** Classes starting! Christmas Social, Workshop and Ball!

### President's commentary, October 2024

Season's Greetings!!

I was just smiling to myself while I reviewed my last inclusion in the Fling; referring to one turkey dinner, and now planning another!! Fortunately, in my mind, there is also Christmas cake, shortbread, mincemeat tarts, and Christmas pudding to look forward to!

The St. Andrew's and Christmas Socials were well attended by our enthusiastic members. Mary Ross' accordion playing added greatly to the last social. Thanks again to the teachers for the interesting programs, and the social committee for orchestrating the events. I admired the way so many of the dancers included blue and white in November, and red and green in December, in their festive attire. There were also jingle bells and lights accessorizing the Christmas outfits! That's not to mention the seasonal costumes worn by the demonstration team during our entertainment break.

I understand class attendance had picked up after a slightly slower start this fall. Classes starting again on January 6th. Thank you, teachers and class reps, for keeping things running smoothly.

The demonstration team is warming up to perform at several Burns events in January. They performed at the Royal BC Museum's Winterfest in December and got a good reception with the audience participation. Thanks to Joan for her devotion to the dem team!

Dancing is such a terrific occupation during the longer winter evenings, good for body, mind and soul! My thanks to the executive for all your efforts behind the scenes that allow our group to function so well.

I hope to see you at the New Year's celebration. I am looking forward to experiencing the New Year's Mummings' performance!

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

I will leave you with visions of sugar plum fairies dancing in our heads,

Kathryn Knowles

**Check out our Facebook group: Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dancers.**

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for the next newsletter is **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please submit material to Ray Fischer at [ray@fischerperry.com](mailto:ray@fischerperry.com).

## **Class Descriptions – Spring 2024**

**Classes start January 6<sup>th</sup>**. For all classes the hall will be open **15 minutes before the start** of class. Tuesday classes are now 90 minutes.

### **Experienced Social - Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Teacher: Bob Anderson.**

Experienced social for dancers with a good knowledge of all common formations who wish to dance more challenging dances and formations.

### **Daytime Social-Tuesdays 1:15 – 2:45 pm, Teachers: Louise McGillivray and Gordon Robinson**

This is the class for those who prefer a daytime class. We learn/review formations, work on phrasing, covering, handing and the “teamwork” in Scottish Country dancing. We do old and new favourites, and dances from upcoming socials. A friendly group that would love to have you join them, regularly or occasionally!

### **Basic Class - Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Teacher: Sheila McCall.**

In the Basic class you will learn the five steps used in Scottish Country Dancing. You will learn basic formations and become familiar with the concept of sets, progression, and teamwork while you experience the joy of moving to lively Scottish music. You don't need to come with a partner, just come and join us for fun evenings as you learn.

### **Intermediate - Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 pm, Teachers: Gael Forster and Sarah Kell**

For dancers who want to move beyond basic formations and expand their repertoire, this class will teach a range of formations, and work on phrasing and handing. We will cover a mix of traditional favourites and newer dances at the basic and intermediate levels. For more experienced dancers, this will be an opportunity to review dance formations in a social dance setting. Dances from upcoming social programs will also be included.

### **Demonstration Team – Teacher: Joan Axford**

VISCDS also offers a demonstration team to perform at community events as part of the ethnic culture in Victoria. The team dances at seniors' residences and centres, the Highland Games, Burns celebrations, Folkloria, Greekfest, etc. It is an opportunity to share our dance and music, and to encourage others to join our group. Each year, the team learns a new routine. You do not have to be an expert dancer and the team is always welcoming new members. If you like being part of a team and attending community events, this could be for you. The team meets on Tuesday at 7:30 pm about twice a month.

For more information, please call Joan Axford at 250-474-1018 or e-mail at [joanaaxford@gmail.com](mailto:joanaaxford@gmail.com).

## **People**

You will all be saddened to hear that **Walter Balfour** has died. Several of you will have seen his picture in the Scottish Newsletter, as part of the group participating in the Saltire St. Andrews dinner. He had also given a presentation at the Saltire society earlier in November. So, despite a major setback earlier in the fall, he had recovered significantly and was continuing to be active and enjoying life. I had heard only last Wednesday that he was back in hospital.

Walter and Rosemary Balfour were regular participants and dedicated members of the VISCDS for as long as June and I have been members. Walter would sometimes brief dances at Summer Dancing and often gave the address to the haggis.

Gordon Robinson

Van Isle Dancer's as well as other SCD clubs may appreciate knowing that **Ruth Jappy** is now residing in a care facility in Delta and is quite frail.

I know that there are many dancers who have enjoyed Ruth's company, her workshops, classes, St. Andrews Day socials, and the Spring Fling that she and the Delta Borderer's Dance club organized.

Phone calls, emails, or visits to Ruth would not be recommended at this time. I do know that Ruth enjoys receiving cards, so once the mail system is up and running, perhaps dancers individually or by dance clubs, could send their good wishes to Ruth and perhaps share a special memory.

Send correspondence to Ruth's sister, Emily Gordon. She has an apartment in Ruth's house and would be able to personally deliver mail to Ruth.

Emily Gordon  
6496 108A St.  
North Delta, BC  
V4E 1H1

## Local Scottish Country Dance Events

We have [details](#) for the **Victoria Workshop and Ball!** Registration opens January 1<sup>st</sup>!

Dates for Socials, all at City Light Church Hall.

New Year's Eve Tuesday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 PM to 11 PM  
Burns Night Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 PM  
Valentine's Saturday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, (afternoon) 2:00 PM  
Spring Fling Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM

Cost is \$20 for socials with live music, and \$15 for other socials.

## Out-of-Town Scottish Country Dance Events

Salt Spring Island

**Jan 18<sup>th</sup>** Burns Supper [see poster to the right]

Vancouver (for full calendar see [here](#))

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>** [Burns Supper](#)

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup>** [Vancouver Ceilidh](#)

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>** [Love to Dance Scottish Workshop & Dance](#)

**Apr 26<sup>th</sup>** [Heather Ball](#)

Seattle (for full calendar see [here](#))

**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>** [Tacoma February Dance](#)

Portland

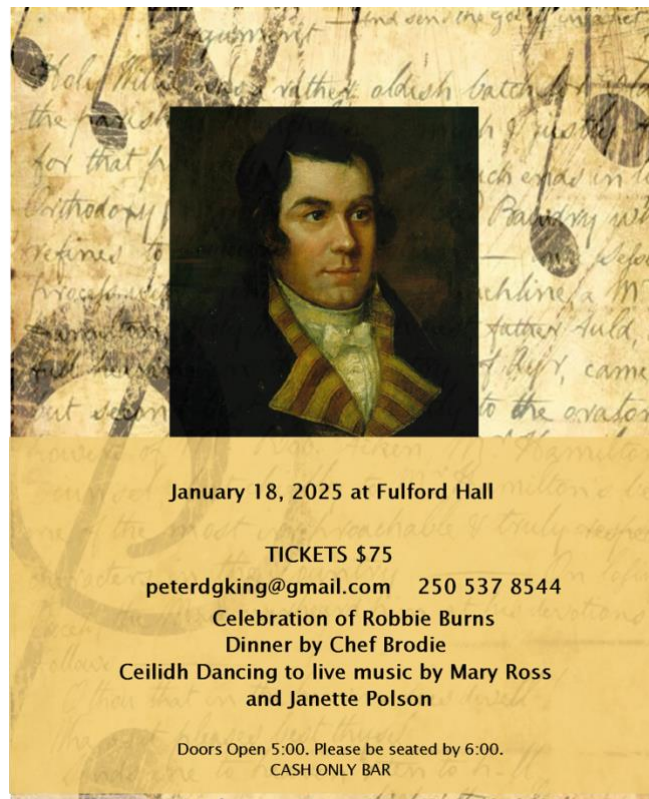
**Mar 1<sup>st</sup>** [Portland Workshop and Ball](#)

Calgary (for full calendar see [here](#))

**Mar 15<sup>th</sup>** [Calgary Spring Mini-Workshop](#)

Lethbridge, AB

**April 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>** [Lethbridge SCDC 2025 Workshop & Ball](#)



January 18, 2025 at Fulford Hall

TICKETS \$75  
peterdging@gmail.com 250 537 8544

Celebration of Robbie Burns  
Dinner by Chef Brodie  
Ceilidh Dancing to live music by Mary Ross  
and Janette Polson

Doors Open 5:00. Please be seated by 6:00.  
CASH ONLY BAR



**OUR 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
WORKSHOP AND BALL**

5 APRIL 2025

WORKSHOP TEACHER: ALAN TWHIGG  
MUSIC: MARY ROSS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS

TICKETS FOR EVENT: \$70  
LOCATION: EDELWEISS CLUB

## Christmas Social – December 14<sup>th</sup>

A good turnout of forty-four enthusiastic dancers enjoyed dancing to live music by Mary Ross. She played some of the dances to Xmas carols which got everyone into the spirit. There were four non-dancers enjoying the evening as well. Gordon Robinson put together a lively program and briefed all the dances. The 50/50 of \$45 was won by Sarah Kell. There were two tables full of goodies for everyone to enjoy (no Nanaimo bars this time! – ed.) and at the beginning of the break the Demonstration Team danced Spiffin to Xmas carols with Xmas hats on. Kudos to the cleanup crew and Social Committee for a job well done. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Morrison



A



## Membership report

We end the year with our paid membership standing at 88. This number includes our teachers, and seven life members some of whom no longer dance. We are excited to have 15 new members who joined the club in September and continue to dance on Tuesday evenings.

The Monday night class continues to be well attended with frequently more than three sets. The Thursday night class is also well attended, while the Tuesday afternoon class numbers have declined due to a few of the regular dancers suffering injuries or ill health. We anticipate some members returning in the new year to swell our numbers back to more than 90.

Jane King

## St. Andrew's Tea Social – November 16<sup>th</sup>

Thirty-seven dancers made their way on a Saturday afternoon to the City Light church for the St. Andrews Day Tea Social.

*Now I must point out that, as my name is Andre (which translates to Andrew in Scottish), St. Andrew's day actually falls on November 30. But I shall not quibble.*

Our dance also anticipated an RSCDS event that took place on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Dance Around the World**, by having an eclectic selection of dances from around the Scottish country dancing world. Dances were sourced from the both the Pacific and Atlantic rim nations, north and south hemispheres. Many thanks to Sarah and Gael who both set a fine program and briefed the dances.

As always, these events do not run themselves so a huge thanks to those that manned the gates, brought and served the grub and did the manual labour and, lest we forget, served the tea.

Finally – thank-you to those who participated. I can but hope you enjoyed it as much as did I.

Andre De Leebeek



The olden times, when a newsletter was done by real people and real typists and real typewriters (that not everyone had), and the choice of typeface was courier or *handwriting*.

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society  
NEWSLETTER

April 1982

*Please excuse the handwriting – our Secretary is holidaying on the Golden beaches of Australia - our Treasurer in Disneyland and our Membership exec. in Vancouver. Lucky Lassies..*

Thank goodness I have a computer and a word processor and digital cameras and photo editors.