

The Scottish Country Dance Teacher

TAS Newsletter February 2020

Newsletter of the Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)

Recognised as an RSCDS Teachers' Association

www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

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From the Chairman

We often hear of the need to introduce technique through stealth as many people eschew the idea of having to go through the perceived purgatory of 'step practice' and its attendant exercises and, whatever the right and wrong of this methodology, as teachers we perhaps need to reflect on the cause of this attitude and the importance of finding ways to change perception in relation to the use and point of technique. This is not easy, of course, and there is no 'quick fix'. Clearly, demographic issues and levels of commitment/involvement coupled with the 'have-a-go' attitude (lacking in real rigour and engagement) engendered by the media, and endemic in late 20th Century/early 21st Century culture, have all played a part in shaping this issue but we can perhaps overcome this to some extent.

The awareness of the fact that there are different kinds of learner – the visual, the aural, the kinaesthetic, etc – coupled with the concept of the teacher using and bolstering the idea of technique as a means of facilitating the pleasure and satisfaction to be gained in an evening's, or afternoon's, dancing is possibly a start to our thinking and sharing of good practice. These ideas may inform the shaping of future workshops and our input into the RSCDS Teachers' Conference at the Autumn Gathering in November.

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned my intention to start the process of collating a directory of potential venues for TAS workshops. To this end, I have appended a basic format to record such sites and would respectfully request that members make a return to me using the template shown on page 3. This return can be made by email to foroluf@gmail.com or on paper handed to me at future TAS events or dances where you might see me. I have already received some informal returns and my work on this project is under way.

Along with the hardworking members of your committee, I look forward to meeting and greeting all who can attend the Spring Workshop in Bridge of Allan on Saturday 25th April where we can share dancing, teaching and exchange of ideas linked to the varied and interesting programme on offer.

Oluf Olufsen

From the Editor

As I write, on the first day of Spring, the rain is rattling on the windows and in many parts of the country it has been snowing. Later in the Newsletter you will find the details of our Spring Workshop – here's hoping the weather will have improved by then so that we can all attend! Thanks to Susan Mackay for sharing the programme with me: what a variety of topics we will cover in the course of the day. Is there a member out there who'd like to volunteer to write a brief report on the event for the next Newsletter? Please let me know if you can help.

I would like to thank Anne Taylor for information about the new syllabus for the Dancing Achievement Awards.

TAS Dates for your diary

Spring Workshop – Saturday, 25 April 2020

The workshop will take place in Bridge of Allan Parish Church.
The provisional programme for the day is on page 4.

Autumn Workshop & AGM – Saturday, 29 August 2020

The Autumn Workshop and AGM will be held in Broxburn. Details will be circulated later.

Dancing Achievement Awards

The syllabus and list of dances for the Dancing Achievement Awards can now be found on the RSCDS website. <https://www.rscds.org/learn/dancing-skills-assessments/dancing-achievement-awards>

RSCDS register of qualified teachers

The Society is currently updating its register of RSCDS qualified teachers. If you are a registered teacher you should have received an e-mail with a link to a short questionnaire from Anne Taylor, Convenor of the Education and Training Committee. Please return the completed questionnaire by 31 March.

Dates for your diary
Lothians Joint Dance

RSCDS Edinburgh branch will host this year's joint dance on Saturday, 28 March 2020. The dance will be held in Lauriston Hall, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh, with music from Stuart Anderson and his Scottish Dance Band. Tickets cost £9 (£12 for non RSCDS members). For more information visit <https://www.rscdsedinburgh.org/index.php/functions-func>

RSCDS Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Branches joint dance

RSCDS Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Branches are hosting a joint dance on 29 May 2020. The dance will be held in the Devonvale Hall in Tillicoultry. Music will be provided by the Marian Anderson Scottish Dance Band. Tickets cost £7 and include a tasty supper. For more information contact 01324 562995 or visit <http://web.rscds-falkirk.org.uk/dances/>

TAS MEMBERS: VENUE RETURN

- Name of venue/hall/premises

- Full address (including county and postcode)

- Location (e.g. central, suburban, rural, etc.)

- Amenities (e.g. dancing space, other halls/annexes, kitchen facilities, parking provision, proximity to public transport links, etc.)

- Contact name and phone number (if known)

- Approximate charges for hour/day (if known)

- Any other relevant information

TAS

Teachers' Association Scotland

www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Workshop, Bridge of Allan, Saturday 25th April 2020

- Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS) invites all Scottish Country Dance teachers to a workshop for teachers – no teaching qualifications required

Venue:

Bridge of Allan Parish Church
12 Keir Street. Bridge of Allan, FK9 4NW

Musician: Bill Ewan

Programme

11:15-11:30 Coffee and Registration * Please bring your own mug*
11:30-12:45 Dances from Imperial Books 4-6 – Janet Johnston
12:45-13:30 Lunch - Please bring your own
13:30-14:30 Looking after Branch Archives - Alan MacPherson
14:30-15:10 Walking Scotland - Jayne Riddet
15:10-15:50 Bill Ewan - The Role of the Class Musician
15:50-16:00 Closing remarks

If you would like to attend, please email

treasurer@countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk