



# Orange County Ceilidh



Newsletter of the Orange County Branch of the RSCDS

Volume 43, No. 2

March/April 2025

Visit our website at [www.rscds-oc.org](http://www.rscds-oc.org)

“For naught can cheer the heart sae weel, As can a canty Highland reel” — Robert Fergusson

## Greetings from the Chair

Happy New Year, everyone! We started off the year with a splendid celebration of Robert Burns’ birthday at our annual Burns Supper and Ball at the Torrance Woman’s Club. Thanks to Anthea Macdonald for chairing the event and to everyone who made the evening a roaring success. The silent auction brought in a record amount of money, the music was fabulous, and everyone had a great time. See page 3 for photos.



We also enjoyed wonderful music and dancing at our Christmas Ball in December. Flindrikin again played for our dancing pleasure and a scrumptious buffet supper was provided by members of the branch. See page 5 for photos.

Members of the Orange County branch performed again this year at the Cerritos International Festival of Friendship, joining performance groups representing cultures from around the world. Thanks to Connie Learn for organizing it and to Pat Zschoche for prepping the dancers and leading the troupe.

Looking ahead, please note that our March dance will start at 4:00 p.m. to give those who prefer an earlier evening to attend. We will have the pleasure of dancing to our local band, the SO-CAledonians. And later in the month, the San Diego Branch will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with a workshop and ball. Linda Henderson of the San Francisco Branch will teach the workshops and Terpsichore will provide the music for the ball. Registration is open online ([dancescottishsd.org/50th-anniversary/](http://dancescottishsd.org/50th-anniversary/)).

I hope to see you on the dance floor soon!

*Terri Speakman, Chair*



## Orange County Classes

### MONDAY (Tuesday, starting March 25)

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center

17522 Beneta Way, Tustin

Intermediate: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Connie Walker: [samanthasem@yahoo.com](mailto:samanthasem@yahoo.com)

Pat Zschoche: [swisslassie@hotmail.com](mailto:swisslassie@hotmail.com)

### WEDNESDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center

17522 Beneta Way, Tustin

Basics: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Beginner: 8:15-9:30 p.m.

Connie Walker: [samanthasem@yahoo.com](mailto:samanthasem@yahoo.com)

### FRIDAY

Columbus Tustin Recreation Center

17522 Beneta Way, Tustin

Experienced: 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Pat Zschoche: [swisslassie@hotmail.com](mailto:swisslassie@hotmail.com)

**Note: Classes require enrollment through Tustin Parks and Recreation ([www.tustinca.org](http://www.tustinca.org))**

## The Next Big Event March Afternoon Dance

**March 8, 2025,  
4:00 p.m.**

**Tustin Senior Center  
Music by the  
SO-CAledonians**

## Calendar of Events

(see branch website [rscds-oc.org](http://rscds-oc.org) for flyers of upcoming dances)

### HERE

#### February 2025

8 Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, recorded music

#### March 2025

8 Branch Afternoon Dance, 4:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, music by the SO-CALedonians

#### April 2025

No Branch Dance

#### May 2025

10 Branch Dance, 7:00 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, recorded music

### THERE

#### February 2025

15 San Gabriel Valley Branch Ceilidh, 4:00 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, South Pasadena, Music by the SO-CALedonians

22 LA Branch Beginner Dance, 7:00 p.m., First Christian Church, Studio City, recorded music

#### March 2025

15 San Gabriel Valley Branch Tea Dance, 4:00 p.m., Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, recorded music

22 LA Branch Beginner Dance, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, recorded music

29-30 San Diego Branch 50th Anniversary Weekend. Visit [www.dancescottishsd.org/50th-anniversary/](http://www.dancescottishsd.org/50th-anniversary/) for full details and reservations.

### ELSEWHERE

#### February 2025

14-16 Aloha Winter Weekend, Honolulu, HI. Music by the Humuhumunukunukuapua'a and Strathspey Society Band ; Teachers Bruce Herbold and David Newitt. More info at [RSCDSHawaii.org](http://RSCDSHawaii.org)

16-21 RSCDS Winter School, Pitlochry, Scotland

#### April 2025

4-6 Washington DC Branch Capital Weekend, [www.capitalweekend.org](http://www.capitalweekend.org)

#### July 2025

4-12 Boston Branch Pinewoods Summer Camp; [rscds-boston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html](http://rscds-boston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html)

July 13-August 10 RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland; [rscds.org](http://rscds.org)

#### August 2025

1-10 TAC Summer School, Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, Quebec; registration opens Feb. 15, [tac-rscds.org](http://tac-rscds.org)

## Minutes of the COM of February 2, 2025

### Meeting Highlights:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance in the checking account is \$10,803, of which the Scholarship Fund balance is \$2298. Membership to Scotland and insurance was paid.
- **Membership:** 2024-2025 membership is currently 29 members and 38 associate members.
- It was approved to spend up to \$300 for website consulting services.
- All requested 2025 dates for dances at the Tustin Senior Center have been approved.
- 8 dancers participated in the Cerritos International Festival of Friendship on Feb. 1.
- The Intermediate class at Columbus Tustin will move from Monday evenings to Tuesday evenings starting in March. Connie W. is looking for a venue for a new basics class on Monday nights as the option for that through the city of Huntington Beach will not work.
- There was a loss of about \$300 on the Christmas Ball, primarily due to increased airfare for the musicians.
- The Burns Ball was very successful and broke even financially, due to a record high income from the silent auction.
- Catalina Workshop and Ball, May 1-3, 2026 is under development. The musicians will be Thistle House and the teachers will be Jeanne Moody and Gary Coull.

The next Committee of Management meeting will be held on May 4, 2025. Copies of the full minutes of the meeting are available from Recording Secretary Randi Kraemer.



*OC Branch founding members Rita & John MacKenzie, founding member and long-time teacher Shirley Saturensky and also long time teachers Bob Patterson and Renee Boblette celebrate Burns' (and Renee's) birthday on January 25.*

*Orange County Ceilidh*



2025 Burns Supper and Ball — Happy Birthday, Mr. Burns!



*Mistress of Ceremonies  
Anthea Macdonald*



*Piper Martin Johnson & Henchmen David Waller, David Morgan and Christopher Bradley assisted Poozie Nancie Kirsten McLatchie in delivering the haggis, made by Jon Reeves.*



*Norm McCallum provided  
the Selkirk Grace*



*Jim Bell recited the "Address to the Haggis"*



*Jodi and Ray McEdward regaled us with a lovely  
Toast to the Lassies and Reply to the Laddies.*



*Ann McBride with an unusual Tribute  
to the immortal memory of Robert Burns*



*Jeff Altman with the beautiful water-  
color painted by Margaret Burnett  
for the successful silent auction*



*Grand Marshals Elizabeth  
Seward and John Allen*



## The Celtic Year: Introduction

*Tempus Fugit!* We can all relate to that. Here we are well into February, and it seems like Hogmanay was just yesterday. We are finely tuned to the structure of our year, bearing all the seasonal, time, and daily changes with patience and a little wonder.

These annual events have existed since the beginning of time, and many civilizations have contributed to what we now know as our calendar. In this hemisphere we are familiar with the circular calendars of the Maya and Aztec peoples. The Iron Age Celts of Europe were no different. There may be few or no written records proving the form of their calendar, but as agricultural-oriented peoples they were tied to the seasonal changes, dependent on the wheel of the year.

Contrary to common belief, the Celts were never a “civilization” or distinct race. One theory suggests this diverse group originated from the Hallstatt and La Tène cultures of Central Europe (Austria). “These two form the core of the Proto-Celtic identity,” states the website <ancient-origins.net>. Spanning the early Bronze Age (1200-450 BCE) and late Iron Age (450-1 BCE), Hallstatt and La Tène overlapped and blended without a break. Furthermore, these peoples migrated westward, spreading across Europe. After contact with the Greeks, this collection of tribes gained a name: *keltoi*, “the hidden people”.

They certainly are hidden to us because of a lack of written records. Second-hand accounts by Roman and Greek authors exist, but these are often biased due to constant clashes/warfare between the two factions. Fierceness, courage, foolhardiness, and pride described the Celtic warriors. Eventually, they came to dominate much of central and western Europe, populating the outer regions of Britain. Of

course, the culture remains today in Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Brittany, Cornwall and the Isle of Man.

“The Celts were known for their stunning artwork, including metal artifacts like weapons and jewellery with [curving, swirly decorations]. [Celtic monks] produced iconic illuminated manuscripts, such as the *Book of Kells*. Celtic spirals and knotwork continue to be seen today.” This latter style of decorations on metalworks is a reflection of the La Tène culture.

Turning to their beliefs, the Celts were polytheists and worshipped regional and local deities. Many of the local gods and goddesses centered around the natural world, tying in with the sun and the seasons. It was instinctive to focus on the cyclic change of seasons for instructions as to when to plow, plant, harvest, and celebrate their bounty.

Their year was marked by four “fire” festivals: Samhain (1 November), Imbolc (2 February), Beltane (1 May), and Lughnasa or Lammas (1 August) to celebrate the transition of the sun throughout the seasons. These were often combined with solstice and equinox celebrations thought to be non-Celtic in origin, perhaps adopted from Germanic paganism or Neolithic sources. Called “quarter festivals”, these included: Yule/Midwinter (Winter Solstice), Ostara (Spring Equinox), Litha/Midsummer (Summer Solstice), and Mabon (Autumn Equinox). A series of future articles will describe and discuss each of the “Fire festivals” and expand on their places in Celtic society.

According to the entry for the date 11 April in *The Celtic Book of Days* by Sarah Costley and Charles Kightly, Julius Caesar commented on the Celtic custom of counting nights rather than days, “*dies natales et mensium et annorum initia sic observant ut noctem dies subsequatur*” (“They observe birthdays and the begin-

nings of months and years in such a way that day follows night.”). Just a fact to consider when thinking about the progress of the Celtic year.



Karen Kerman

Orange County Ceilidh



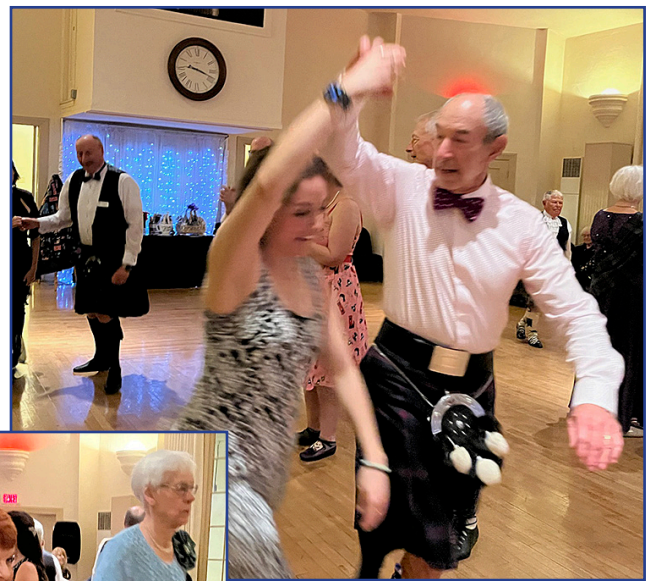
# 2024 Andrew Rankine Memorial Christmas Ball



Orange County Ceilidh



## More Scenes from the 2025 Burns Supper and Ball



### Catalina Island Workshop & Ball Coming May 1 - 3, 2026

Teachers:  
Gary Coull  
of Aberdeen, Scotland  
&  
Jeanne Moody  
of San Diego, California

Music by:  
Thistle House  
Musicians:  
Dave Wiesler  
David Courret-Knight  
Dan Emery

Reserve your Spot now with a \$100 deposit  
For Registration Forms & Information go to  
[www.rscds-interbranch.org](http://www.rscds-interbranch.org)

Sponsored by the four Southern California Branches:  
Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego & San Gabriel Valley



Orange County Ceilidh



## February Branch Beginner Dance

February 8, 2025, Dancing 7:00 p.m., recorded music  
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin  
Cost: \$15 Members; \$18 Non-Members

### SPECIAL BEGINNER SECTION

All Things Nice	J B	Ronald/Form. Found.
Easy Peasy Rights and Lefts	J B	Collin/Musicians' Wedd
Skye Time	R B	Skipper/Leaflet
Star Trek	J B	
The Dhoon	J B	Hamilton/SCD Children
The Ferryboat	R B	Hunt/Let's All Dance

### EXPERIENCED SECTION

Welcome to Ayr	J I	Book 47
The Pawling Porch	R B	Brunken/Moments
Scotch Mist	S A	Drewry/Summer 9
Glastonbury Tor	R I	Book 47
The Calican Scot	S B	Tague
Maitland to Manchester	J I	Wallace,Thomas/SF
The Waipu Wanderers	R B	West/Whangarei
Porchester Hall	S I	Meyer/London Jubilee
The Ship in Full Sail	J A	Forbes/Craigievar 2
Bill and Rajeev's Wedding Jig	J B	Lajoie/Spark O' Water
Smiling Lila	R I	Bartlett

## March Afternoon Dance

March 8, 2025, Dancing 4:00 p.m.  
Tustin Senior Center, 200 C Street, Tustin  
Cost: \$18 Members; \$20 Non-Members  
Music by the SO-CALedonians

Alan J. Smith	J B	Book 45
Smiling Lila	R I	Bartlett
Porchester Hall	S I	Meyer/London Jubilee
The Dancing Master	J A	Drewry/RSCDS 30 Pop
Ardnahoe	S I	Robertson
The Lass of Richmond Hill	R B	Turnbull/Graded 2
Best Set in the Hall	J I	Book 46
Starry Night	R I	Harmon/50 Yrs LA
The Falkirk Lass	S B	Book 53
The Cranberry Tart	J I	Glasspool/30 Pop V2
The House Keys of Lisbon	S A	Landon/Woodhall V4
Hedwig's Reel	R B	Phillips/RSCDS Gr 2
Burns Night	J B	McOwen/Boston 50
The One O'Clock Canon	R A	Book 47
Glasgow Lassies	S B	Book 34
The Roselath Cross	J I	Book 41
Glastonbury Tor	R I	Book 47

## Cerritos International Festival of Friendship





## OC BRANCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Revised 2020

The Branch has established a scholarship fund to encourage the development of Scottish Country Dancing teachers, dancers, and musicians in Orange County, and to provide opportunities for Southern California Scottish Country Dancing dancers to experience high quality live music both as listeners and as dancers.



To be eligible for a dance scholarship, the applicant must be a current member of the Orange County Branch and be presently attending class regularly for at least one year. Preference will be given to applicants interested in pursuing teacher training.

To be eligible for a musician scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Southern California, have demonstrated an interest in playing Scottish Country Dancing music, and should play an instrument relevant to Scottish Country Dancing, such as accordion, fiddle, keyboard, piano, recorder, etc.

Applications are available on the branch website and at branch dance classes. Applicants must provide information on how the funds will be used and will need to provide documentation of attendance. Requests must be received at least 30 days before the funds are needed. Awards will be limited to a total of \$500 a year. Requests and awards will be confidential. Scholarships will be granted without attention to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, color, nationality, ancestry, age, or place of origin.

The dance scholarship is in honor of Orange County Branch founding member and long-time dancer Dorothy Craik. The musician scholarship is in honor of Andrew Rankine, a noted accordionist, composer and renowned Scottish Country Dancing band leader.



If you are interested in applying, send your application to Scholarship Committee, c/o RSCDS-Orange County Branch, 8361 Castilian Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 or email to chair Terri Speakman at [tjspeakman@verizon.net](mailto:tjspeakman@verizon.net).

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If not deliverable, return to:

**The Orange County Branch** of the  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
8361 Castilian Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646

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**Thanks to all contributors!**

**THE ORANGE COUNTY CEILIDH IS  
PUBLISHED 6 TIMES PER YEAR.**

Deadline for the May/June *Ceilidh* is  
April 1, 2025.