ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Got questions?
events@rscds.org
+44 (0)131 225 3854

RSCDS.ORG

Autumn Gathering 2026

6th – 8th November 2026
Enjoy a weekend of dancing and discussion.

Loreburn Hall, Newall Terrace, Dumfries, DG1 1LN
Dumfries Academy, Academy Street, Dumfries, DG1 1DD

Chair's welcome

I am delighted that we are returning to Dumfries for the 2026 RSCDS Autumn Gathering, a town that has always offered a warm welcome to Scottish country dancers. It is a place rich in history, culture and hospitality, and I know it will provide the perfect setting for another memorable weekend together.

Whether you are a regular at the Autumn Gathering, returning after some time away, or joining us for the first time, this special weekend offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything we value about Scottish country dancing. From learning and dancing together, to meeting old friends and making new ones, there is something truly special about sharing the floor with hundreds of fellow dancers who share the same enthusiasm and passion.

Alongside an inspiring programme of classes and social dancing, we will gather for our Annual General Meeting and enjoy the many conversations, connections and friendships that are at the heart of our Society. These occasions remind us that the RSCDS is much more than an organisation, it is a worldwide community brought together by a love of dancing, music and friendship.

This Autumn Gathering will be particularly special for me, as it will be my last one as Chair of the RSCDS. It has been a great privilege to serve the Society in this role, and I am especially looking forward to spending this Autumn Gathering with members and friends from across the world, sharing in the enjoyment and camaraderie that make our events so unique.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful community. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces, meeting new friends, and, of course, joining you on the dance floor in Dumfries.

With the warmest of wishes,

Gary Coull
RSCDS Chair

Administrativia

1. Dumfries offers easy access by public transport and by Car. Both venues have a car park and on street parking. For more information see our Getting Here document.
2. There are several restaurants, cafes and accommodation options within walking distance of the venues.
    - Cafes in Dumfries
    - Restaurants in Dumfries
    - Accommodation in Dumfries
3. Members should note that photography and filming will take place during the weekend and may be used for publicity purposes.
4. Tea and coffee will be available during the intervals at the Friday Dance, and Saturday Ball and the Loreburn hall also has a bar where guests can purchase their own beverages. Tea, coffee and pastries will be provided at Dumfries academy on Sunday morning.
5. All dances will be recapped.
6. Line counting: In view of the length of the lines and to avoid undue delay, the first person is requested to count the lines quickly, report to the line marshal at the end of the line and return immediately to place. The line marshals will arrange for the sets to be completed.
7. Volunteers are still required to act as stewards and in other capacities throughout the weekend. Offers of assistance should be sent for the attention of Allana Creighton to events@rscds.org.

Cancellation Policy

If you wish to request a refund for Autumn Gathering 2025 event ticket, then please note that the Society charges one-of administration charge of 10% per attendee to cover bank transaction costs.

If, due to circumstances outside our control, we are required to cancel the Autumn Gathering 2026 event we will inform all ticket buyers and a full refund will be provided. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society shall assume no liability for any losses resulting from individual hotel bookings or pre-booked travel. Please check your personal travel insurance policy.

Please let us know if you would instead prefer to donate your ticket money to the Society if any of the above circumstances apply.

Autumn Gathering 2026 Weekend Programme

Friday 6th November

19:45 – 20:00	Loreburn Hall	Welcome and opening speech
20:00 – 23:00	Loreburn Hall	Friday Dance • Music played by Liam Stewart & his band • Dance programme by RSCDS Ottawa Branch • Informal dress code
23:00 – 01:00	Loreburn Hall	Bar open for after dance drinks

Saturday 7th November

09:00 – 14:00	Loreburn Hall	Registration & RSCDS Shop open
09:00 – 10:20	Loreburn Hall	Have Your Say on the Future of the RSCDS: Membership and Governance • Membership discussion & Strengthening the Management Board
10:30 – 12:00	Loreburn Hall	General Class • Teacher: Eric Finley • Musician: Liam Stewart
10:15 – 12:00	Departs from Loreburn Hall and concludes in a 'unique' coffee shop	A history walk around Dumfries – hosted by William Williamson • This walk will visit many important historical sights. There are no steep inclines but will include a few steps with a reasonable gentle speed. Participants should be prepared to walk for time specified
14:30	Loreburn Hall	AGM
19:00 – 20:00	Loreburn Hall	Welcome Reception
20:00 – 23:00	Loreburn Hall	Saturday Ball • Music Played by Neil Galloway & his band • Dance programme by RSCDS Belfast Branch • Formal dress code (kilt preferred)
23:00 – 01:00	Loreburn Hall	Bar open for after dance drinks

Sunday 8th November

09:00 – 10:20	Dumfries Academy	Coffee morning and chat with the Management Board (Tea, coffee & pastries provided)
10:30 – 12:00	Dumfries Academy	General Class • Teacher: Rachel Shankland • Musician: Ian T Muir
12:00	Dumfries Academy	Depart

Management Board Sessions

Saturday Morning
from 9am
Loreburn Hall

This session will be comprised of two topics. The morning will begin with a presentation to outline each topic and will then move to an opportunity to discuss and meet with the Management Board and Committee/Panel members.

Topic 1: Membership Discussion

Join us for an open discussion on the future of RSCDS membership. The Membership Working Group will present the findings of a recent survey exploring the views of members and non-members on a proposed new approach to membership, including new membership categories.

The session will allow open discussion to explore what people value most about membership, what could be improved, and how the proposed options might shape future membership decisions.

The discussion will be led by Jeremy Hill, Convenor of the Membership Services Committee and Membership Working Group, and Sebastian Wanless, Chair-Elect, alongside other members of the Working Group.

Topic 2: Strengthening the Management Board

As the RSCDS continues to evolve as an international charity, the skills and experience required to lead the organisation are becoming increasingly diverse. The Management Board is exploring ways to strengthen its expertise, including the proposal to appoint one or two non-executive directors to bring additional skills, fresh perspectives and independent scrutiny.

This session will invite delegates to discuss the potential benefits and challenges of this approach, including how non-executives could work with Branches and how appointments should be made.

The discussion will be led by Christopher Smith, Board Trustee, alongside John Gibson and Kirsty Thorburn from the Constitution and Governance group.

Sunday Morning
9am – 10:20am
Dumfries Academy

An opportunity to allow for reflective and informal discussion with Management Board, Committees and other Members. Drop in and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with networking and mingling.

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Find out more
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