



2025  
*Winter  
School*



ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY





THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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Charity No. SC016085, Company No. SC480530

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) is a Scottish Charitable Company, Limited by Guarantee, that promotes and celebrates Scottish country dancing around the world.

Registered Scottish Charity No SC 016085

The RSCDS is pleased to work in partnership with a range of agencies, organisations and businesses. We gratefully acknowledge their collaboration and appreciate their support.





# IN THIS BROCHURE...



- 1 Event information**  
What is Winter School?
- 2 Location**  
Gateway to the Highlands.
- 3 Accommodation**  
4\* Atholl Palace Hotel.
- 4 Blair Castle**  
Dance in one of Scotland's most iconic castles.
- 5 Music**  
Listen to enchanting sounds of Scottish tunes played by talented Scottish musicians. Learn about who will be playing this year.
- 6 Classes**  
Practise your SCD technique, learn new steps and formations and enjoy the physical and mental benefits of SCD. Learn about who will be teaching this year.
- 7 Dance**  
Experience the art of Scottish Country Dance during classes, social dancing and a ball carefully organised by The RSCDS.







# EVENT INFORMATION



Winter School is an official RSCDS event organised for dancers who would like to immerse themselves in a truly Scottish experience in an unforgettable surroundings.

Taking place over five days in the Scottish town of Pitlochry, Winter School attracts around 150 dancers from the UK, continental Europe, North America and Australasia. Attendees enjoy a 4-star stay in the Atholl Palace Hotel, with a range of classes, social dances and of course, the famous ball at Blair Castle.

The itinerary is filled with dance activities and opportunities to explore the rich culture of Scotland no matter if you are a local or a first-time visitor.







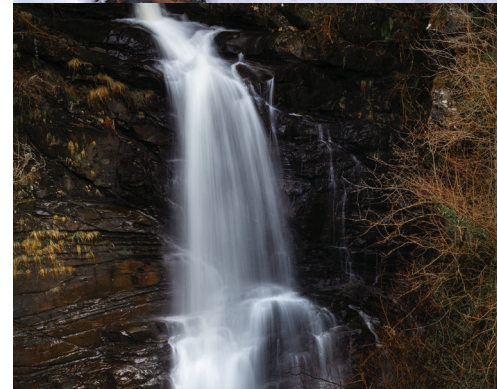


# LOCATION

Located between Scotland's bustling central belt and the windswept Cairngorms, Perthshire has earned the title of gateway to the Highlands. However, it is far more than just a pathway to the north. With quaint villages, enthralling history, rich culture and enchanting natural beauty, there is something for everybody.

The town of Pitlochry, where Winter School takes place, is one of Scotland's most beautiful and vibrant places to visit. Situated at the heart of Scotland, it has a timeless romantic quality. Thanks to its central location it is easily reachable from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness by car, bus or train.

[www.pitlochry.org/visitor-info/travel-tips/](http://www.pitlochry.org/visitor-info/travel-tips/)









# ACCOMMODATION

Stay at the wonderful Atholl Palace Hotel, the epitome of Scottish Baronial splendour.

Originally opened as the Athole Hydropathic in Victorian times, the hotel retains many features of the traditional large country house, with unique and quirky guestrooms, fine and casual dining options, spa and leisure facilities and standards which often exceed expectations.

Guests have the opportunity to visit the Atholl Palace Museum, explore the award winning gardens (Kitchen Herb Garden and Japanese Garden), playground, Black Spout Waterfall or indulge in an afternoon tea in the hotel lounge.

## Directions

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5LX  
[www.athollpalace.com/location/](http://www.athollpalace.com/location/)









# BLAIR CASTLE



Winter School offers the unforgettable experience for participants to dance in one of Scotland's most iconic historic sites, Blair Castle. The ball takes place on the last night of Winter School and is an excellent way to bring the week of dancing and socialising to a close.

The ballroom was designed by the Scottish architect David Bryce and completed in 1876 at the request of John Stewart-Murray, the 7th Duke of Atholl for his private army, the Atholl Highlanders.

Blair Castle has had a diverse history, witnessing both turbulent and peaceful times, enlarged and adapted over 750 years. Home to politicians, soldiers, agriculturalists and entrepreneurs, the family history is brought to life against a backdrop of fine 18th century interiors and Scots Baronial architecture, in 30 rooms.

Laid out within the 18th Century, the Gardens at Blair Castle feature a nine-acre walled garden, a wooded grove, gothic folly, a kirk ruin, and extensive deer park.

Please note the castle is only open for visitors from April to October. To find out more visit:  
[www.atholl-estates.co.uk/blair-castle/](http://www.atholl-estates.co.uk/blair-castle/)









# MUSIC



Music plays an important part in all of our events and the RSCDS is lucky to have many talented musicians playing for classes and dances throughout our dancing year.

At Winter School there will be a small selection of these musicians each year to play for the classes and the evening dances. They work hard entertaining us throughout the week, either playing solo in the classes or teaming up and playing together for the evening dancing. As if that wasn't enough, we end the week on a high with all the musicians playing together in the band for the fantastic ball in Blair Castle.

As well as our traditional jigs, reels and strathspeys you can occasionally hear our musicians showing us their talents for other musical rhythms and styles.

At the ceilidh you have the opportunity to sit back and relax while listening to the musicians play tunes of their own choice. The final evening starts off with a piper outside Blair Castle playing for our arrival and setting the scene for a wonderful atmosphere as you walk into the ballroom for an evening of dancing.





# THIS YEAR'S MUSICIANS

“

I always enjoy Winter School - friendships new and old, music and dance in a beautiful place. What's not to like?!

”

Ian



Ian Roberston

“

Winter School is like a great big house party - lots of fun in a fabulous location.

”

Muriel



Muriel Johnstone

“

At Winter School I enjoy having fun with friends old and new in a relaxed and friendly environment with good accommodation and great food. It also provides the rare opportunity to work with some of the best teachers and musicians in the world of country dancing.

”

Jim



Jim Lindsay

“

This will be my first Winter School and I am very excited to meet all the dancers and musicians in such a wonderful location in Scotland.

”

Ewan



Ewan Galloway







# CLASSES



Choose the class best suited for your level of skill.

## Intermediate

For newer dancers, as well as those returning to dancing, who are interested in improving all aspects of their technique including foot work, exploring the social aspects of dancing such as teamwork, the use of hands, phrasing, and musicality.

## Advanced

For dancers who are more experienced with a good understanding of the footwork and technique with good phrasing and teamwork, wishing to improve and develop their own dancing skills and knowledge as well as musicality.

## Very advanced

For dancers who have many years of experience, with excellent footwork and technique, phrasing, teamwork awareness and wish to be challenged further. This is a high impact, physically demanding, class and requires a very good level of physical fitness.

## Very advanced low impact

For dancers with many years of dancing experience, good technique and awareness of teamwork and wishing to be challenged further but no longer want the physical demands of high impact.





# THIS YEAR'S TEACHERS



“  
Fabulous music and  
dancing in a wonderful  
location with friends  
old and new.  
”  
Graham

“  
Who could resist the  
allure of a formal ball  
at Blair Atholl Castle?  
Peak Scottish Country  
Dancing!  
”  
Alice

“  
I am really looking  
forward to some  
fantastic music and  
dancing with friends  
old and new in the  
beautiful Winter  
School setting.  
”  
Deb

“  
A great way to spend  
some time immersed  
in Scottish dance and  
music in the beauty of  
Highland Perthshire.  
”  
Andrew



Graham Donald



Alice Stainer



Deb Lees



Andrew Nolan







# DANCE



Each class will have a different teacher every morning and you will be able to experience the different teaching styles and dance selections while working on technique, rhythm and teamwork.

The evening dances will have a variety of dances each night where you will have the chance to find and dance with old friends as well as making new friends on the dance floor. Dancing is for fun, fitness and friendship and those friendships can be extended off the floor and into the social atmosphere in the hotel lounge. The perfect place to gather and relax after the dancing.

The afternoon activities provide a rest from the dancing while taking in other aspects of the work of the RSCDS, and Scottish history and culture, or you can make use of the hotel facilities and recharge your muscles by going for a swim.











TO BOOK YOUR WINTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS  
CLICK THE LINK BELOW

**WINTER SCHOOL 2025 TICKETS**

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