

## **Dunkeld and District Strathspey and Reel Society**

**Scottish Charity SC009156**

### **Trustees' Annual Report 2025-2026**

Dunkeld and District Strathspey and Reel Society is proud to continue the musical heritage that is traditional in our area. The Society, founded in 1932 promotes new music as well as continuing to nurture the esteemed traditions of the past.

In August we returned to the Royal School of Dunkeld for our practices after our summer break.

Looking back to the end of our last session, we had a successful lunchtime concert in Dunkeld Cathedral on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025. It is a privilege to play in such a historic building with such acoustics.

We recruited a new committee member, Rona Gilmour at our AGM on the 26<sup>th</sup> May.

We were disappointed that the heating at the school was still causing problems. It was extremely cold even with the extra heaters provided. Members found it very difficult to play in these conditions, having to wear extra layers which is not conducive to playing a musical instrument.

In September we invited members of Mid Atholl Strings and Things (MAST) to join us for one practice. We were delighted that a number of MAST members were able to come along and by all accounts they enjoyed it. We definitely loved having them!

In November we had a concert and ceilidh at Birnam Arts which was well received. This is becoming an annual event. We made a little profit after paying the costs which helps towards our running costs. We were joined by the Dunkeld and District Traditional Youth Music Group who went down a storm as usual. Their parents are very supportive and help boost the numbers at the ceilidh.

After our Christmas break we were delighted to find that the heating at the school had been repaired and since then seems to be working perfectly – maybe too perfectly – but we won't complain about that! This makes such a difference to our wellbeing and indeed how we play.

In March we played at the Niel Gow Festival on the Saturday night. Again we were well received. It was a very enjoyable concert and great to be part of the local festival.

During the year Sandra Batty brought in music from the archive which was interesting from an historic perspective as well as broadening our repertoire. We are also delighted that she agreed to become our Depute Conductor.

It was decided to dispose of our current keyboard and speaker due to the age and standard of the equipment.

We are so happy that Dennis Deas , our Pianist has returned to practices after his illness.

We wish to thank Sheona Grenville Sutherland for her work in the society, latterly as President and as our Leader in recent years.

We are saddened by the passing of Ron Hobson who has been a stalwart of the DDSRS for many, many years. He has helped many members as they were starting out and continued to play with us until very recently.

Huge thanks is due to David Peacock who volunteered to take on the tea/coffee making responsibilities and has agreed to continue into the next year.

We are looking forward to another year of playing together. We wish to thank Pete Clark for continuing in the role of Conductor and musical director and also heartfelt gratitude to everyone for continuing to come along and support DDSRS.

Signed

Theresa MacVarish Clark - Trustee

9<sup>th</sup> June 2026