

## 2023 NOMINATIONS FOR YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE



**Beth Fairbairn**

*RSCDS London Branch*

**Proposer:** David Hall (RSCDS London)

**Second:** Raphaëlle Orgeret (RSCDS Lyon)

I've been dancing since before I was born and can't imagine how people manage without Scottish dancing in their lives. I have made friends all over the world and am keen to spread the joy of Scottish dancing amongst young people everywhere. Specifically, I would like to support young dancers who are isolated in their area to make connections with others, and to encourage global connections between young dancers, either through events such as Spring Fling or virtually through social media (I did a Youth Branch Instagram takeover for 2 weeks in summer 2020).

Living in Oxford I've had a lot of contact with the University Scottish Dance Society, and am keen to develop university groups, providing support for those who wish to form them.

As a keen and competent musician myself (of diploma standard), I would like to encourage young musicians, and to provide more opportunities for young dancers to be involved in music-making. I spent my gap year working at St Paul's Cathedral School, for which I undertook extensive safeguarding training. I am very aware of the importance of safeguarding for young people in Scottish dancing, and composed the Code of Etiquette for the Newcastle Festival 2023.



**Lucy Phillips**

*RSCDS South Wales Branch*

**Proposer:** Jane Rose (RSCDS Herts and Borders)

**Seconder:** Lizzy Conder (RSCDS Herts and Borders)

Over the last few years, I have held positions on the committees of the St Andrews University Celtic Society and Saltire Scottish Country Dance Group. Working in these youth focussed groups has given me a valuable insight I'd like to bring to the RSCDS Youth Services Committee to help encourage more young people into SCD.

If elected I would:

- Support branches in offering more children's classes and improving adult class offerings to better welcome new young dancers.
- Advocate for more support for university groups, particularly to aid with travel to festivals and day school events.
- Encourage branches to allow children at events to help support young people becoming parents and helping their future in dancing.

I have the following experience to support me:

- Gymnastics coaching with children from age 5 gives unique insights into better developing children's classes.
- Part of development team for the new RSCDS warm up book.
- Teaching at and serving on committees for St Andrews University Celtic Society and Saltire SCD.
- Set up a group to target students leaving university to keep them involved.
- As a financial advisor, I bring great time management, work ethic, teamwork, realism and responsibility.



**Elisabeth Witter**

*RSCDS Sutton Coldfield Branch*

**Proposer:** Lizzy Conder (RSCDS Herts and Borders)

**Seconder:** Elma McCausland (RSCDS Belfast)

Having danced all my life, I now have the pleasure of dancing with three generations in my family, and I am keen to share that joy as widely as possible. I want to help overcome barriers to entry, so that more people can join in, even if they are entirely new to dancing.

I see opportunities to extend the Scottish dancing net to include more families and younger dancers, and integrate them into dancing for all. That may be through informal or formal means, with each giving the chance to experience Scottish dancing in all its forms. Hence my particular interest in joining the Youth Services Committee, and therefore working with other Society Committees, Branches and local groups to explore all avenues.

Relevant skills, experience and qualifications:

- Demonstration standard dancer for over 30 years
- Qualified Society teacher since 1992
- Dance Club Committee member
- Teacher of classes for adults since the late Eighties, for children since 2015, and for families since 2018
- Regular caller for ceilidhs, parties etc.

Other relevant experience:

- Professional IT Report Writer and Trainer – including to UK Government
- Church Youth Leader
- Committees, including Project Boards and School Governor
- Dancing in France, Germany, Belgium
- Mum to a dancing teenager