



Herts and Borders



Ken Martlew

Citation sent to the RSCDS Management Board by Herts and Borders Branch which resulted in Ken Martlew being privileged to receive a Society Scroll of Honour at the Autumn Gathering AGM 2023.

Service to the Society

Ken Martlew started Scottish Country Dancing in 1978 and has been an enthusiastic force for the RSCDS aims and standards in Hertfordshire and beyond for many years. Since he was awarded his full teaching certificate in 1994, he has taught numerous day schools and classes both for RSCDS branches and for other clubs. Ken is a highly accomplished musician and has played for classes, day schools and dances the world over. Ken supported the formation of RSCDS Herts and Borders in March 2020 and agreed to become the first President. As such has supported the Branch through its first few years.

Ken travelled overseas to teach Branch Day Schools and workshops, including for the Central Germany Branch-at Kuckucknest, RSCDS Lyon and RSCDS Pretoria. Ken tutored a Teachers' Certificate course in 2010 and also the former Dancing Proficiency Award.

Ken played for RSCDS Summer School for 20 years. He plays regularly for day schools, recently at BHS Border Branch, RSCDS Oxfordshire, RSCDS Herts and Borders Triple Decker afternoons and RSCDS London. In the past he also played for Branch Day Schools at Tunbridge Wells, Cheltenham, Bath, Bristol, Winchester, Leicester, Leeds, Norwich, Cambridge and Somerset. Showing even more dedication, he was the class pianist at RSCDS Cambridge, at BHS Border and at RSCDS London for many years. He was the pianist for over 15 teachers' certificate courses at Summer School, BHS Border and Cambridge. Ken has taught music workshops for Central Germany Branch and RSCDS Lyon.

Ken's music appears in RSCDS Pretoria's 35th anniversary publication *Many Happy Hours* (2007).

Other teaching and playing outside of the RSCDS

Ken has always shared his skills in the Scottish Country Dancing world outside of the RSCDS. Hertfordshire did not have an RSCDS branch until 2020 and the promotion of dancing standards relied on Affiliated Groups. Ken was President of Berkhamsted Strathspey and Reel Club for many years, where he started the Monday class with his wife, Bar and Jane Rose. He has taught classes in rotas since, including the dem team for eight years in total, and remains a regular MC. In recognition of his service, in 2018 he was awarded the Bateson Medal for outstanding service to the club.

Locally he also taught Watford and West Herts Scottish Society and Chiswick Scottish Country Dance Club for several years. Further-afield, Ken has also taught at weekend schools and dancing holidays overseas including Turin, Kiev, the French Alps and Torremolinos.

Ken's playing engagements show the same enthusiasm and commitment, where for example as well as playing regularly for the Berkhamsted club, he played at the Bude weekend for 20 years, for weekend schools or dancing holidays in places ranging from Paris to the French Alps and from Moscow and Kiev to Cape Town.

Ken regularly plays with fiddler Barbara Manning: the duo has had numerous bookings in England and overseas for Social Dances and Balls.

Ken's contribution to Scottish Country Dancing is enormous and comprehensive and RSCDS Herts and Borders was delighted to nominate him for a Society Scroll of Honour.



Ken and Petula Martlew with William Williamson RSCDS Chair, Nov 2023



Herts and Borders RSCDS Branch Members with Scroll Recipient Ken Martlew, Glasgow 4.11.2023