



## Argyll Scottish Dancing Group

**Weekend School 4th – 6th October  
2019 at Dillington House**



# Musicians Weekend

## Tutor: Ian Muir

“The magic of making music is met by the camaraderie of a friendly house party. The Argyll musician’s weekend is an event not to miss. The intense day spent learning to play the dances for the evening dance explodes into an exciting and exhilarating evening. The response from the dancers to the playing brings all the theory and practice to life. This is all within the friendly and hospitable surroundings of Dillington House - from roaring log fires, to wonderful food and the chance to share with other musicians and likeminded people. Every course is different and there is always something to gain from Ian's vast experience which he is so willing to impart.” *Regular participant*

### The Course

The course is for musicians interested in playing for Scottish Country Dancing within the concept of the dance band, and is principally aimed at melodic instruments, piano and double bass. The course also aims to

develop further those participants who are already playing for dancing. Participants do not need to have had previous experience of playing in a band.

The sessions will provide a practical grounding in all aspects of band musicianship and playing for dancing, drawn from Ian's considerable experience playing in Scottish Dance bands over 40 years and will cover:

- The stylistic requirements of the Reel, Jig and Strathspey that make them uniquely Scottish
- Phrasing, sequencing of tunes and repertoire
- Exploring the drive and lift which inspires dancers to dance well.

There will be an opportunity on the Sunday morning to explore tempos and genres that are not usually encountered on the Scottish country dance floor, the art of simplifying tunes to make them accessible, and composing in the Scottish idiom.



## **Ian Muir**

Ian Muir started playing the accordion at school when he was 12 and formed his own band at the age of 14. At 17 he was invited to join McBain's Band, one of the South's most popular Scottish country dance bands at that time. In 1986 Craigellachie was formed and since its inception has been well received both in the UK and abroad. It has also played for other dance events including the Scottish Tattoos at the Royal Albert Hall. The band has appeared twice on BBC television, and has broadcast twice on Radio Scotland's Take the Floor dance programme.



Ian's philosophy has always been that the musical arrangements the band uses in its repertoire must be as good to listen to as they are to dance to and that the future of the music lies in encouraging youngsters.

In November 2014 Ian was appointed as the Musical Director of the RSCDS and leads the Music Courses at the St Andrews Summer School of the Society. He is a keen composer and many of his compositions have been published, recorded, and several have been adopted as originals for dances. As a solo musician Ian has played extensively for classes and day schools.

We start the weekend with dinner on Friday followed by either a free evening or enjoy the social dancing in the theatre to the music of Ian & Judith Muir. For the musicians there will be three classes on Saturday and two on Sunday morning. The course finishes after lunch on Sunday.

Our venue, Dillington House, was founded in 1949 as Somerset's residential centre for adult education and offers a unique creative

learning environment for personal and professional development.

Over recent years Dillington has been substantially refurbished to provide very high quality comfortable accommodation across three separate buildings. The accommodation is in en-suite bedrooms from the grand to the quaintly snug, from the traditional to the stylishly modern.

The food is excellent and the premises are fully licensed with the bar open prior to meals and each evening after the dancing. We would kindly request that parties are kept to the bar and public rooms.

Single	£373
Shared occupancy ensuite twin/double	£373
Single occupancy ensuite twin/double	£433
Non resident	£251
Saturday to Sunday only rate available on request from Dillington House	

**Bookings:** Participants book directly with Dillington on **01460 258613**.  
There is a £50 deposit required on booking.  
**Booking will open 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.**

**Address:** Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9DT

**E-mail:** [dillington@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:dillington@somerset.gov.uk)

**Website:** <http://www.dillington.co.uk> .