

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIII, Number 1
September / October 2014*



**The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
c/o The Folk Arts Center of New England
10 Franklin Street, Stoneham, MA 02180-1862**

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

Executive Committee *President:* Jeremy Thorpe *Vice President:* Betty Allen;
Secretary: Susan Haines; *Treasurer:* Bob Littlehale; *Members at Large:* Dale Birdsall, John Crabtree,
Kat Dutton, Alex Hall, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

Nominating Committee *Chair:*

Highland Ball 2015 *Co-Chairs:* Ed & Sara Pokrass • **Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2014** Betty Allen

November Concert 2015 *Artistic Director:* Jen Schoonover; *Producer:* John Crabtree

Pinewoods Scottish 2015 *Co-Chairs:* Beth Birdsall & Linda McJannet

Pinewoods ESS 2014 *Contact:* Jerome Fung • **NH Highlands** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Karen Sollins

Bookstore Dawn & Mike Little • **Equipment** Peter Tandy • **Archives** Susan Haines

Membership MaryEllen & John Scannell • **Mailing List & Database** Peter Tandy

Directory John Scannell • **Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen

TAC Representative Patti Tillotson

Webmasters Laura and Meyer Billmers **Back-up Webmaster** Matt Billmers

The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

Exec Committee Class Liaisons: Brookline, Cambridge: Kat Dutton

Brunswick ME, Kennebunk ME, Belfast ME, Greenland NH: Merrill Henderson

Montpelier VT, Fairlee VT, Salem MA: Dale Birdsall • Nashua NH: Linda McJannet

Great Barrington, Northampton, Albany NY: Alex Hall

Stow MA, Chelmsford MA, Newton MA: Betty Allen

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The Tartan Times Editor, Evelyn Murray, may be reached at 617-864-8945, by email at athollbrose@verizon.net or by snail mail at 37 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, MA 02138-1010

Layout Editor Barbara McOwen, **Mailing Coordinator** Marcie Rowland & Cal Perham

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTERS Laura and Meyer Billmers

Please proofread all information submitted for publication on the Branch website very carefully. The webmasters are happy to post event fliers and minicribs. However, it is considerably more work for us to have to do it more than once! If you have multiple documents to post, please try to submit them all at once, rather than piecemeal. Thank you in advance.

EXEC. NOTES – Susan Haines, Secretary

The Executive Committee held its transition meeting on July 30, 2014. A huge thank you to those leaving the Committee: Jean Farrington, Lance Ramshaw, Beth Birdsall, BDan Fairchild, and Vickery Trinkaus-Randall for a job well done. The Committee also welcomed new members Jeremy Thorpe as President, Susan Haines as Secretary, and Dale Birdsall, Merrill Henderson, and Linda McJannet as Members-at-Large.

After assigning Committee members as liaisons to the various Branch events and committees, Exec heard reports and updates from those groups that continue to meet during the summer. From Pinewoods, Scottish Sessions made a profit while ESS Pinewoods suffered a substantial loss with 43 empty beds. There will be further discussion concerning ESS.

Good news was reported from the Great Barrington Class as they now have enough members that they were accepted as a Branch Class. Yeah! More good news was reported from the Bookstore. Mike and Dawn were able to clear out old stock. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and keep on dancing!



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
21th Annual Concert of Scottish Music and Dance

A Parcel of Rogues

Calum Nasqua, Susie Petrov, & Dan Foughton

with Kieran Jordan, Jen Schoonover, and

the Demonstration Dancers of the RSCDS, Boston Branch



Saturday, November 8, 2014 at 3:00 and 7:30 PM

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library

33 Marrett Road, Lexington MA 02421

Info or to volunteer, e-mail jcrabmail@gmail.com, call 781 862 3540, Mail Order: see below. Purchase online (\$4.50 service fee): visit www.Mktix.com/rscd. At the door: adults/RSCDS members \$2 extra

Mail orders filled as received. Sorry, no refunds. Which show? Circle *one*: 3:00 PM *or* 7:30 PM
(Please use separate forms if ordering for both shows.)

Name _____	# Adults non-members _____	@ \$27
Address _____	# RSCDS members _____	@ \$25
City/State/Zip _____	# Children (<12) _____	@ \$15
Telephone _____	# in Group (≥8) _____	@ \$22
Seat preference ___ Orchestra ___ Mezzanine	Total: _____	

Wheelchair? ___yes Email address (for future concert notices): _____

Make checks payable to RSCDS, BOSTON, and send with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to: RSCDS Concert, c/o Laura Billmers, 66 Lowell St., Lexington, MA 02420-2810. Orders received after Nov. 1 or without a SASE will be held at the door in your name. Thanks!

*The 30th Anniversary of
18th Century Night
Saturday, November 20, 2014*

*Scottish Country Dance from the 1700's
Danced to the music of R.P. Hale and
Vince O'Donnell, violin.*

*Greenland Community Parish House, Greenland, NH
Dinner at 600 p.m. Dancing at 730 p.m.
Branch Admission \$12.00, non-member \$15.00*

*Program to be available on the Branch website.
For hospitality and questions please contact
Laurie Stevens at seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org
or 603-380-2144.*



***The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
9th Annual Autumn Social***

LAURA RISK (FIDDLE) & SUSIE PETROV (KEYBOARDS)

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m., Dance at 2:00 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

***Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (Branch Members) \$13.00 (Non-members), Students/
Under 18 - \$5.00***

*For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact
Gary Apfel at (802) 439-3459 or GaryApfel@gmail.com
Dance instructions can also be found at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/FairleeFSMinicrib.pdf>*

New York Capital District (Albany) Fall Frolic

1st - 2nd November, 2014

Music by the Pearlman Family - Ed, Neil and Lily

Workshop Teacher - Dale Birdsall

Location: YWCA, 44 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY

SCD Workshops Saturday morning and afternoon

Dance Party 7:30 pm Saturday

Brunch 10:30 am Sunday

More Information: Contact Lois New at 518-383-6580 or

loisanew@gmail.com

RSCDS Boston Branch Advanced Classes

The Branch is announcing a revised format for the advanced class.

**Each teacher will teach two consecutive classes, with input
from interested dancers as to content and emphasis.**

Stay tuned for a quick survey on your interests and preferences.

Fall dates are October 17 and November 21

Teacher: Robert McOwen

Location: The Calvary Church, 300 Mass Avenue, Arlington

Time is 7:30-9:30 pm

Musician - TBA

Cost: \$10 (students \$5)

The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our



Fall Dance Party



Saturday, October 18, 2014
Topsham Grange Hall - Topsham, Maine

Potluck Supper
5:45 PM \$1 & a Pbt

Dance 7:00 PM
Admission
\$10 for RSCDS members
\$ 12 for non-RSCDS members

Music By

Barbara McOwen, Fiddle
Robert McOwen, Guitar
Scott Weaver, Bass

Opening Waltz

The Legacy	32J 3C	Pinewoods Collection
Starlight	32R 3C	RSCDS Book 44
October in Rechberg	32S 3C Set	Zobel: Dancing on Air
Hunting Horn	32J 3C	McBryde: Scottish Dance Archives
Lords of the Wind	32R 3C	Boyd: Lord of the Rings Collection
Sugar Candie	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 26
Napier's Index	40J 3C	RSCDS Book 45
Maxwell's Rant	32R 3C	RSCDS Book 18

Intermission

Gay Gordons

Roaring Jelly	32J 3C	Foss: Glendarroch Sheets
Bratach Bana	32R 3C	Drewry: Bon Accord Book
Shores of Solway	32S 3C	Goldring: 10 Social Dances
Burns Night	32J 2C	McOwen: Celebrate 50
Currie Mountain	32R 3C	New Brunswick Collection
Asilomar Romantic	32S 3C	San Francisco Collection
Sleepy Maggie	32R 3C	RSCDS Book 11

Final Waltz

For further information contact:

Patti Tillotson
(207) 833-2329

pstillotson@gmail.com

Directions: From the South: At Portland take I-295N to Exit 31. Take Rte 196 E to Rte 201S. Turn Right.
From the North: Route 1 to Exit 196W. Follow to Route 201S, Go Left

Then go approximately .4 miles to Pleasant St (first street on the left after Volvo dealer), turn left on Pleasant St
— Topsham Grange is the yellow building with white trim immediately on the left.

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS

August

30-31 Capital District Games, Altamont Fairgrounds NY

September

7 *** Brookline Class starts its 2014-15 season p.14

8 *** Cambridge Class starts its 2014-15 season

19-21 * NH Highland Games, Lincoln NH

26 *** Stow Class starts new season of dancing p.14

October

11 *** R&S Society of Fairlee, VT. Annual Fall Social p.4

17 *** Boston Branch Advanced Class, Robert McOwen teacher, p.5

18 *** Brunswick Class annual Fall Party p.6

18-19 Nova Scotia Branch workshop with Marjorie McLaughlin

26 *** Brookline Class annual Halloween Party with live music

November

1-2 *** NY Capital District (Albany) Fall Frolic p.5

7-9 RSCDS Annual Conference weekend and AGM

8 *** Boston Branch Annual Scottish Concert p.3

21 *** Boston Branch Advanced Class with Robert McOwen teacher p.5

22 *** Greenland Class annual 18th Century night p.4

SAVE THE DATES

Dec 8 Boston Branch Annual Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Dec 21 Brookline Class Christmas party

Jan 4 Brookline Twelfth Night Party

Code Breaker: “***” an event sponsored by the Boston Branch. “***” other SCD events within the Branch area. “*” of possible interest (often a Scottish Concert) within the Branch area.

Please support events; the class/branch/group members work hard to put together their event, the musicians spend a lot of time preparing the music and rehearsing, the teacher(s) spend anxious hours planning programs, class material, etc. They appreciate seeing that their labours are not in vain when they look at a hall full of dancers all ready to put their best right (?) foot forward.....!

Two pieces of late breaking sad news:

The San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers note that the great Cape Breton fiddler, Buddy MacMaster passed away Wednesday night (August 20th)

Aonghas Grant sent news that Jean Redpath has entered hospice care.

CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2014-15 (CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
AUGUST			
22-24	New Hampshire Highlands	St. Methodios Center, Contoocook, NH	lonwright@comcast.net
OCTOBER			
11	Fairlee Autumn Social	Town Hall, Fairlee VT	garyapfel@gmail.com , 802-439-3459
18	Brunswick Fall Dance Party	Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, ME	Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329 pstillotson@gmail.com
NOVEMBER			
8	Annual Fall Concert	National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA	John Crabtree, jcrabmail@gmail.com
22	18 th Century Night	Parish Hall Greenland, NH	Laurie Stevens, 603-380-2144, seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org
DECEMBER			
8	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Old Town Hall, Salem, Massachusetts	Hannah McArdle, hannahmcardle@yahoo.com
JANUARY 2015			
1	Northampton New Year's Day Party	First Churches, Northampton, MA	Karen, 413-527-3407
FEBRUARY 2015			
7-8	Cardigan Weekend	Cardigan Mountain Lodge, NH	Lance Ramshaw, lance.ramshaw@gmail.com
MARCH 2015			
28	Salem Class Party	Bolles Hall, Salem, Massachusetts	Mary Ellen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org
APRIL 2015			
17-18	Boston Highland Ball	Various locations in MA	Ed and Sara Pokrass, spokrass230@comcast.net
MAY 2015			
2	Fairlee Spring Fling	Town Hall, Fairlee, VT	Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459

PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO Jean Farrington, jffar@verizon.net

SAVE THE DATE

January 4 (snow date 11th) • Brookline Twelfth Night Party • Location TBA

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30 pm, new location beginning January 12, 2014: Brookline Academy of Dance, 136 Westbourne Terrace, Brookline. Contact BrooklineClass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- * **Great Barrington:** Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, 39 Railroad St., Great Barrington (above Crystal Essence). Contact Jean Campbell, 518-672-4243 or Ted, 413-698-2944
- * **Cambridge:** Year-round, most Mondays 7:45-10:15 pm, at the Canadian American Club (www.canadianamericanclub.com) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, CambridgeClass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Chelmsford:** First Fridays year-round, 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Live music. Contact Rebecca Gore at rjgore@gmail.com or 508-574-1533
- * **Newton:** Wednesday mornings 10:30 am - noon. Sept through mid-June at Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton. July and Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdshoes14@gmail.com
- * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, First Churches, 129 Main St. (Rt. 9), Northampton (enter on Center St. across from the Iron Horse). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407
- * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays 8 pm, beginners at 7:30, First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, WeeBluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
- * **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. New: childrens class 7:00, adult beginners 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466, marcia.mdrising@verizon.net
- * **Yarmouth:** Thursdays 7:30 pm, Yarmouthport Congregational Church, 329 Main St (Rt. 6A), Yarmouthport. Contact Marla Menzies, 508-432-3711

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Year-round, Mondays 7:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact BelfastClass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; David Thompson, 207-469-3293
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, ptillotson@gmail.com
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-839-8637, crone4702@gmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Fridays 7:15 pm. Beginner's class upon demand. Greenland Parish Hall, Post Road (Route 151), Greenland. Contact Laurie Stevens, 603-380-2144, SeacoastDancers@rscdsboston.org
- * **Lancaster:** Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall, downtown Lancaster. Contact Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671
- * **Nashua:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, nashuascd@comcast.net, 603-891-2331

VERMONT

- * **Fairlee:** Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459
- * **Manchester Center:** Tuesdays 7-9 pm, First Congregational Church (on Route 7A, across from the Equinox Hotel). Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, hollyvalentine530@yahoo.com
- * **Montpelier:** Sept-May, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Union Elementary School, 1 Park Ave., Montpelier. Contact Martha Kent, 802-879-7618; Art and Sandy Farnum, 802-223-7483

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 6:45 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New or Cecil Lubitz, 518-383-6580; loisnew@nycap.rr.com; clubitz@nycap.rr.com

* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch, www.rscdsboston.org. Because of occasional weather and hall variabilities, etc. it's always advisable to get in touch in advance if you're not on a class contact list. To download this flier as a pdf, go to www.rscdsboston.org/FullFlyer.pdf. For updates, please email Classes@rscdsboston.org

MUSIC PAGE

In keeping with others in remembering that 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, we remember that the Great Highland bagpipe played an important part in that conflict. My source is the background to a video entitled *Instrument of War* which was produced several years ago (before DVDs). The video included archival footage, photographs, eyewitness accounts and personal memory. But the story is also told through letters from the frontline, poetry and literature of the period. For example this poem by Lt. Joseph Lee, written in the mud of the Somme:

What is the piper playing
That battles in my blood?
 Winds in it,
 Waves in it,
Waters at the Flood
 Sadness in it,
 Madness in it,
Weeping mists and rain -
 What is the piper playing
 That beats within my brain?

When Bonnie Prince Charlie met the English at Culloden, the Pipers again marched toward the sound of gunfire, but that was the last battle between the English and the Scots, thereafter the sound of the pipes of war was carried around the world as part of the British army: the pipers followed Wellington to Waterloo, they followed Woolfe in Canada and Clive in India. As a consequence they also led suicidal charges into machine gun fire in Flanders, the Somme, Ypres, etc.

Scotland contributed more soldiers to WWI than any other country in proportion to its population. Included in the number who did not return home is over 1000 pipers. This was because they were used as the encouragement for the men to 'go over the top.'

Harry Lunan who at the time of the making of the video was the only surviving WWI piper stated that in July 1916 at High Wood in Flanders, he piped a company of Gordon Highlanders across no-mans land into the enemy trenches (he even remembers the tune he played). William Charles, who served with the Canadian Army on the Western Front in 1915, stated that "It was my first time in the line, and you don't feel very good. Suddenly I heard the bagpipes ... I wanted to get into the bloody war right away. That's what the bagpipes do."

A legend grew around the Highland bagpipe. It wasn't so much that it ensured victory, but it touched a nerve inside people who heard it, whether friend or foe. Today, North America probably has more pipers than Scotland. The early settlers had taken the pipes to America (a piper kept Davy Crockett's men in good spirits during the siege of the Alamo), and the thousands of people of Scottish, Irish and Gaelic ancestry still keep the tradition going across the continent.

MUSIC BOOK

Barbara McOwen, along with Laura Risk and Peggy Duesenberry, has completed the second volume of *The Glengarry Collection*. This is a music book of Highland fiddler Aonghas Grant's repertoire and his life in stories and photographs. For non-musicians, it contains a lot of Scottish history and culture from a Highlander's point of view. For musicians, it focuses on Highland fiddling and its connections to pipe tunes and Gaelic songs, with chords, bowings, and grace-notes fully notated. The accompanying video includes recordings of Aonghas's impromptu and passionate performances of the music. Info: www.scottishfiddle.org/aonghasgrant

Bill Moorhead (from Chicago) forwarded this obituary from The Scottish Herald, dated July 1st, 2014.

John Drewry - Scottish country dancing pioneer

Born: July 14, 1923; Died: June 18, 2014. John Drewry, who has died aged 91, was arguably the greatest innovator in Scottish country dancing since the foundation of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society by Jean Milligan and Ysobel Stewart in 1923, the year, coincidentally, of Mr Drewry's birth. In collaboration with other enthusiasts, Miss Milligan collected old dances which, in some cases, she amended, publishing them in a regular series of instruction books. The formations and steps of these dances were limited, and it was not until Mr Drewry appeared on the dance floor that new and challenging forms and dances were devised.



Born in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, in a 15th century thatched cottage, Mr Drewry first took up Scottish country dancing in Cumbria as a member of a ramblers group. He joined the RSCDS Carlisle branch and was awarded the society's teaching certificate. It was Hugh Foss, another distinguished dance deviser, who encouraged him to begin to create dances during his sojourn in Cumbria. His appointment to the biochemistry department of the University of Aberdeen in the mid-1960s brought him to the national heartland of Scottish country dancing and inspired him to devote more and more of his leisure time to devising dances of subtlety and distinction.

The first of his dances to be published by the RSCDS was *The Silver Tassie*, with its new figure the *rondel*. Miss Milligan, a hard lady to please, bestowed on Mr Drewry the affectionate title *Mr Rondel* when he attended her classes at summer school in St. Andrews. In 1999, when he was awarded an RSCDS scroll

for his contribution to Scottish country dancing, nine of his dances had appeared in RSCDS books, and since then the society has published four more, not to mention dances using the formations for which he is the creator: the *rondel*; *set and rotate*; *corners pass and turn*; and *petronella in tandem*.

To watch these figures being executed with skill and pleasure at a dance in the Younger Hall, St Andrews, during the annual RSCDS international summer school, must have given their deviser, sitting up on the balcony in his later, frailer years, much satisfaction.

Jean Martin, a former chairman of the RSCDS, recalls: "When devising a dance it was usually the pattern of the dance which came first, though occasionally it was a tune, a place or a particular situation which prompted John to put pen to paper.

"Along with gardening and photography, another of John's leisure interests was hillwalking, and he often found his inspiration in the Scottish mountains. That is how the reel *Bratach Bana* came about. John was camping at Strontian beside Loch Sunart, listening to a Scottish country dance programme on Radio Scotland, when the tune *Bratach Bana* was played. He told me: 'I like the tune very much indeed and as I listened I worked out the shape of the dance, walking it out on the shore.'"

Mr Drewry has left a legacy of more than 800 dances, including more recently devised ones such as *Thomas Glover's Reel*, written in 1998 to recognise the Scottish Samurai and for a visit to Japan; also *Out of Africa*, to celebrate the golden wedding of a couple, now living in Banchory, who spent many years in Africa.

[Continued on next page]

[Continued from previous page]

This courteous modest man is remembered with affection and admiration wherever the dedicated lace up their pumps to take to the floor. His creations will continue to appear on dance programmes from Tayport to Tokyo.

He is survived by his sister Mary Hulse.

Photo: Robert McOwen and John Drewry, July 2012, by B. McOwen

Flowers of the Forest - Dr. Philip McLaren

Through very indirect channels we heard of Phil's passing in the spring in Hawaii after a long illness. Several years ago he found out about Scottish Country dancing and together with his wife Lyn, he was an enthusiastic member of the Brookline class. He also started his own class with various teachers in Quincy at one time. However, ill-health caught up with him and he had to gradually reduce the amount of dancig and finally stop. He had many interests in things Scottish, including his clan - MacLaren - and he led several trips to Scotland. There was a memorial service in the Quincy area last May 18th, but unfortunately the members of the Boston Branch were not told until much later in the year.

Note from The Teaching and Music Committee

Posted on the web site is a revised **Core Dance List** - so do go and have a look.

The Committee is planning **two workshops** for the 2014-15 dance season. The first is to be held in the Fall and being organized by Kent Smith and Jeanetta McColl, on the design of Dance Programs. The second, for the winter, is a proposed workshop to be led by Barbara McOwen on music for new musicians on playing for classes. Both may be of interest to newer teachers as well as more experienced teachers and the dance community in general.

Look out for more info on these items.

Candidate Classes are starting shortly, and dancers at all levels are needed for the candidates for their practice teaching sessions. This is a marvellous opportunity to get in some extra practice with both footwork and figures. There are two groups - one led by Susie Petrov is for the second part of the teacher certification, the qualification known as Part 5. The other group, led by Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, is for beginner candidates taking their parts 2 and 3 (dance technique and teaching).

Roberta Lasnik is heading up the search for volunteers, so contact her directly and she can give you more specific details. Gregor's group will be working out of the Stow Town Hall, Massachusetts. These classes are an important part of the purpose of the Boston Branch, and is partly supported by your membership dollars. With the large number of classes within our 'borders' (Massachusetts and Albany NY, New Hampshire, East side of Vermont and Maine), training new teachers is vital for the continuing health of the Branch.

As a part of your support, don't forget to send in your dues for the new season, reference the Membership form on page 15 as a reminder. You can also fill it out online at the Branch Website if you so choose.

— Evelyn Murray, for the Committee

USE OF FEET IN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING BY P.C. AND F.C. CANDIDATES

(February 1979)

In country dancing, feet are primarily to help the dance; to keep the evening moving, so to speak. The giving of feet adds greatly to the social feel of the dance, as we all can well see: where would we, as avid Scottish Country dancers, be, within the set or out, without our feet? On a slippery ballroom floor, the feet become even more essential. Gliding along on roller skates or, in winter, ice skates may be thought pleasant by many, but it is dangerous: a long surge in strathspey time may carry the dancer completely off the ballroom floor, while an imbalanced pas de Basque in quick time may prove extremely tiring, if not fatal. Appropriate use of the feet also gives to Scottish Country dancing its traditional flavor - use of anything else tends to rob us of our heritage.

The giving of hands is also simplified greatly by use of the feet - many a graceful dance figure has been spoiled by those making too great an effort to give hands across several feet of empty space. Therefore, feet should be used whenever possible in the dance - to locomote the body, to reach another dancer, or simply to add to the sociability of the set.

Feet should be offered at the correct height for two dancers moving together - two important points which will be discussed separately. The latter point is crucial to sociability and safety on the dance floor - inexperienced dancers sometimes make an effort to give feet when mirroring each other's movements (e.g. casting away from one another) or will attempt a quick toe-touch during an especially fast figure (e.g. corner-partner-corner-partner). Giving feet at such figures will not assist in ease of execution of the figure - newcomers should be encouraged to save the giving of feet for more appropriate times. Dancers should also be discouraged from using the "knee-knock"....., which is never correct, in order to "help" each other away from the center of the set toward the sidelines. Returning to the first point, the height to which feet may comfortably be given, the rule here is PRACTICALITY. Toes, instep and ankle may be used any time two dancers have time to make contact with one another during a figure. Distance is important here - necessarily. Social distance of feet is greater in strathspey time (note the importance of the "reach" on the first beat) than in quick time. When two feet are given, the man places his ankle under the lady's instep; at the end of the movement, he returns her GENTLY to the floor, at the bottom of the set, this being done most appropriately at the end of the couple's second time through the dance, as it is quite tiring for the gentleman in question.

Correct use of the feet, then, in Scottish Country dancing, adds greatly to the enjoyment of the dance and should be taught carefully and clearly from the start.

[The above taken from the San Francisco Branch's Reel and Strathspey-per Sept-Oct 1984]

THE STRATHSPEY TEMPO by Bill Clement

The Strathspey is unique to Scotland, but the tempo at which we dance our Strathspeys has varied over the years. In the Society's Bulletin No. 2, in 1932, the recommended tempo for the Strathspey was given 45 bars per minute. Today it is 32 bars to one minute one and a half seconds. This has been the recommended tempo since Duncan MacLeod was responsible for our early recordings. This shows clearly how we have slowed the tempo, but in so doing enabled the steps to be developed, or made more balletic, as the late Sir Iain Moncreiffe of That Ilk once said while he was Vice President of the Society. This is a style a great many of us have enjoyed. However, we must ask ourselves - has this change made Scottish Dancing less appealing to many?

CLASS ACTIVITIES

Marcia Rising sent in the following schedule for the Stow class:

Stow Class Meeting Dates for the 2014-2015 Season

Great live music lined up too! Thank you Gregor and Vickery!!

September 26 — live music with Catherine Miller, fiddler

October 10 & 24 — live music

November 14 & 28 — Perhaps a dance party - it's in the planning stages now

December 12 — live music

January 9 — live music — & 23

February 13 & 27

March 13 & 27

April 10 & 24

May 8 & 22

June 12 — dancing AND ice cream - nothing better!

Brookline Class

The Brookline held their annual meeting earlier this month and established the schedule of dates for the year.

We continue to meet at the Brookline Academy of Dance and plan on the following special functions:

September 7 — First Class of the new season, with Heather Day teaching. Same location, same cost for classes, but donations from those that can afford a little extra are most welcome.

October 26 — Annual Halloween Party with Flo Hearn, MC - come in costume - live music

December 21 — Annual Christmas Party with Heather Day, MC - live music - snow date Dec 28.

January 4, 2015 — Annual Twelfth Night Party - snow date Jan 11. What form this will take and where is very much 'up in the air.' We are looking at various venues, and then will decide the details.

IT IS OUR FOOTWEAR WHICH HAS CREATED A THEM AND US SITUATION - by Bill Clement

[This was originally sent as a letter to the London Branch's *The Reel* by Bill]

After the Aberfeldy Highland Ball in December 2006 the committee received a letter of complaint from someone who had attended the Ball, saying that a number of dancers were actually dancing in outdoor shoes. The person complaining was most likely an RSCDS member, not aware that at most Highland Balls in Scotland dancers customarily dance in outdoor shoes, also at all the Independent Schools in Scotland where they dance. Now I do believe there is a place for dancing in pumps such as classes, demonstrations and informal dances. However, when in evening dress it is lovely to be completely dressed and dancing in an evening shoe.

In 1946 four members of Edinburgh Branch were invited to Holyrood Palace one evening, when Mrs. Florence Lesslie, an Edinburgh Branch Teacher and Society Examiner, taught Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret *Mrs. Stewart's Strathspey*. Mrs. Lesslie, writing about that evening, said: "We also danced *Duke of Perth* (more than 20 times through!) and hardly a skip change in sight! I danced an *Eightsome, Foursome and Tulloch* with the King (wonderful) and later there was a *Sixteensome*. Altogether a marvellous night." [And all in outdoor shoes].

Mrs. Lesslie also said in her letter, "I must tell you I always wore heeled shoes in the ballroom & of course one's technique must change accordingly. Ladies in evening dress and dancing pumps look a bit odd bouncing up and down with skip change."

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch

September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015

Please fill out the form below legibly (even if your information has not changed from the previous year)

Name(s)	(1) _____	(2) _____
Address(es)	_____	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	_____
Home Phone(s)	_____	_____
Cell Phone(s)	_____	_____
Work Phone(s)	_____	_____
Email(s)	_____	_____
	Age Under 25? Yes / No RSCDS Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Part I/ Prelim. <input type="checkbox"/> Part 2/ Full	Age Under 25? Yes / No RSCDS Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Part I/ Prelim. <input type="checkbox"/> Part 2/ Full

Communications Preference (please check one): (If no preference is checked, the default will be electronic only)

All Branch mailings, including the Tartan Times, in electronic form

The Tartan Times in hard copy \$10/year

All other Branch mailings in hard copy form

Supporting Memberships

<u>Benefactor</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$170 Couple (same mailing address)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Couple (same mailing address)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Single	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Single

Regular Memberships

\$92 Couple Membership (same mailing address)

\$55 Single Membership \$35 Single Membership - Student / Limited Income

\$15 Associate Membership in the Boston Branch (only for members of other branches)

Associate Members please list your Primary Branch _____

Which Boston Branch Class(es) do you attend "*Regularly*" _____

I would like to volunteer to help with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Boston Highland Ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Concert	<input type="checkbox"/> Pinewoods Benefit Ball
<input type="checkbox"/> NHHG @ Loon Branch Tent	<input type="checkbox"/> ESS@ Pinewoods	<input type="checkbox"/> Pinewoods Scottish Session
<input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire Highlands		

Applications must be received by November 1, 2014, to be listed in the Boston Branch directory.

Make your checks payable (in US funds) to the " RSCDS Boston Branch "

Mail your application to: MaryEllen and John Scannell
 Co-Chairs: Boston Branch Membership Committee
 97 Birch Street
 Lynn, MA 01902
 Membership Questions: Email: membership@rscdsboston.org

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
The Folk Arts Center
10 Franklin Street
Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
(781) 438-4387

FIRST CLASS MAIL

COPY DUE DATE FOR THE OCT/NOV 2014 ISSUE IS OCTOBER 1st. PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER EVENTS TO THE EDITOR BY 10/1/14. DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD ALSO GO TO NANCY RAWSON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR

Note: Class Events flyers are limited to 1 half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep

From the Bon Accord and Nova Scotia Branch Newsletter, Feb 2005:

WHAT IS AN ADVANCED DANCER by Terry Jones

What is an advanced dancer? How do I recognize one? How do I know when I am one? Of all the concepts I try to explain, this is by far the easiest. "An advanced dancer is one who does basic patterns with advanced technique and advanced patterns with basic technique."

So often dancers seem to equate advanced steps with advanced dancing. They think that because they can "get through" or "pull off" an advanced pattern that they must be advanced. What they usually do not see is they have lost basic elements of the dance such as timing, rhythm, characteristic movement, leading/following or the general flavour of the dance.

What then remains is simply a demonstration of body placements, which, if watched like a silent movie, would be unrecognizable as to what dance is being done. I have been an athlete my whole life and have been teaching dance for 20 years. In that time I have studied lots of body movement. An advanced dancer never loses sight of the basics that make up the dance he or she is executing, unfortunately an intermediate dancer never loses sight of the step they are trying to do.....

So how do you apply this to yourself? Always remember that even when you can "do" a more advanced pattern, you should go back and see if the quality of movement changes when you move from basics to advanced and back. If the basic has a different "feel" than the advanced pattern, analyze why. Did you learn a new skill in the advanced pattern that will improve your basic? Then apply it. Have you forgotten (or not been able) to apply basic techniques to advanced patterns? Then you are still missing pieces. Keep working at it.

You want to insert elements of yourself into it, you want to be able to relax and just dance.

Never forget dancing is supposed to be fun!