

The Tartan Times

Volume LXIII, Number 5
May/June, 2015



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:* Joan Hill

Highland Ball 2015 *Co-Chairs:* Ed & Sara Pokrass

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2015 MaryEllen Scannell

Fall Concert 2015 *Artistic Director:* Robert McOwen; *Producer:* John Crabtree

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

Pinewoods ESC 2015 *Contact:* Stephen Thomforde • **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, Kennebunkport ME, Belfast ME, Greenland NH: Merrill Henderson

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

Great Barrington MA, Northampton MA, Albany NY: Alex Hall

Stow, Chelmsford, Newton: 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 Coordinators** Marcie Rowland & Cal Perham

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE WEBMASTERS

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. — *Laura and Meyer Billmers*

Notes from the Executive Committee

With this being the busy time of our dancing year, the Executive Committee has been following up on these major dancing events and trying to promote more attendance. The numbers seem to be declining for many activities which then has a negative effect on our treasury.

One project that Exec. has also been attempting is to work on improving Branch communications, including surveying the membership for their preferences and opinions.

— *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2015

Session 1 — July 10-13 • Session 2 — July 13-18

Theme for 2015 — “Into the Woods”



Teaching Staff

Linda Henderson
Graham Donald
Kathy Giacoletti

and an exciting team
of your favorite
Camper Teachers

Music Staff

Barbara McOwen (Music Director)
Special Guest from Scotland (fiddle)
Special Guest from Toronto (piano)
Anne Hooper (fiddle)
Tom Pixton (accordion)
Terry Traub (piano)
Robert McOwen (bass)
Campbell Webster (pipes)

Session 1: \$310 • Session II: \$415 • Sessions I and II: \$675 • (\$25 off for RSCDS members)

Scholarships and work exchanges available

For more information and to download an application form, visit:

<http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-pinewoods.html>

or contact the co-chairs Beth Birdsall and Linda McJannet at scdpinewoods@rscdsboston.org

We have waiting lists for both sessions, but things do change!

Memorial Day Weekend Party

May 23, 2015 American Legion Hall, Belfast, Maine



Featuring Special Guest Musicians from the San Francisco Branch

Susan Worland Bentley, Fiddle, & Lyle Ramshaw, Piano

3:30 *Tricky Dance Walk Through*
6:00 *Potluck Supper* \$1.00 plus a Pot
7:30 *Dancing* \$10.00 RSCDS members; \$12.00 nonmembers

☞ *Welcome to Belfast*

Julia's First Jig	8x32J3C—Lois New	The Kissing Bridge	8x32R3C—Book 47
Wellingtonia Reel	8x32R3C—Mervyn Short	The Spirit of the Dance	8x32S3C—TAC 50th Ann Coll
The Golden Years	8x32S3C—Book 48	Mrs. Stewart's Jig	8x32J3C—Book 35
The White Heather Jig	4x40J4C—J Cosh 22 SCD	The Magic of Merrill	8x32R3C—Lyle Ramshaw

☞ *Gay Gordons*

Pint O' Ale is Fain	8x32J3C—Devil's Quandy	Adieu Mon Ami	8x32S3C—Book 24
Fusilier's Dream	8x40R3C—Jean Patrick Coll.	Mary Erskine	8x32H3C—2nd Bk Grd SCD
Orwell Lodge Strathspey	3x32S3C(3Cset)—2005 Dia Jub	Anna Holden's Strathspey	6x32S2C(3Cset)—Book 42
Best Set in the Hall	8x32J3C—Book 46	The Highlandman Kissed His Mother	8x32R3C—MMM1

☞ *Waltz*

*Ceilidh and Potluck Brunch, Hosted by
Gayle & Drex, 3 Maple Street, Northport
Sunday, May 24, 10-2*

*For Party Information
Donna Griffith 207-785-2216 or
dwados@hotmail.com*

*For Hospitality Contact
Kim Jacobs 207-722-3139 or
belfastclass@rscdsboston.org*

Northampton Class

End-of-Season and 25th Anniversary Potluck and Dance

Music by Earl Gaddis and Beth Murray

Date: Saturday June 6, 2015 • Time: 5:30 Potluck • 7:30 Dance Party

Location: First Churches, Lyman Hall, Northampton, MA

Contact: Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407

Salem Class

“April” Party in May

Fantastic Music!

Date: Saturday May 9, 2015 • Time: 6:30 Gourmet Potluck • 7:30 Dance Party

Location: 211 Bridge St, Salem, MA

Contact: MaryEllen Scannell, 617-462-1925

Boston Branch
RSCDS

the Kennebunkport Scottish Country Dancers
welcome You to Our:



Downeast Fling

Saturday, June 13, 2015

Kennebunk Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

Admission: \$14, RSCDS members \$12



Music by: Highland Whisky with
Special Guest Anne Hooper



Program:

Opening Waltz:

The Happy Meeting	32J	2C	RSCDS Book 29
Catch the Wind	32H	3C	RSCDS Book 45
Argyll Strathspey	32S	3C	RSCDS Book 35
Marigold	40J	3C	Cosh, 22 SCDs
Cauld Kail	M(S16+R16)	3C	RSCDS Book 9
The Cranberry Tart	32J	3C	The 7 Yr Itch
The Sauchie Haugh	32S	2C	RSCDS Leaflet
The Royal Deeside Railway	32R	3C	RSCDS Book 40

Intermission — Finger foods welcome

Gay Gordons

Coats Land	32J	3C	Scotia Suite
Flight to Melbourne	32R	4C sq	RSCDS Book 47
Invercauld's Reel	32S	3C	RSCDS Book 11
Ladies' Fancy	32J	2C	RSCDS Book 13
The Paisley Weavers	32S	3C set	RSCDS Graded 3
The Reel of the 51 st Division	32R	3C	RSCDS Book 13

Field Lang Syne

Final Waltz:

Directions to Kennebunk Town Hall — Take exit 25 on the Maine Turnpike (Rt.85). Turn left onto Rt.35, east to Kennebunk. When Rt.35 crosses Rt. 1, go left on Rt. 1 for one block. Turn right onto a narrow street immediately before the Town Hall. Parking is on the right. For more information please contact Merrill before Saturday at 207-409-9050 or crone4702@gmail.com.

Pot luck supper at 5:30 pm at 20 Cottagewood Lane, Kennebunk, ME 04043, the home of Joanne Hulsey and Peter Sertner. Directions are at the end of the crib notes.



🌿 Three More End-of-Season Parties 🌿

Brookline Class — Sunday, May 17th — 6:30 pm

Parish Hall, Church of Our Saviour • 25 Monmouth St. • Brookline, MA

Program at www.rscdsboston.org • MCs Charles Liu & Heather Day

Contacts: Heather Day 617-244-8914 • Flo Hearn 781-235-6490

Newton Wednesday Morning Class — Wednesday, June 10th

Newton Lower Falls Community Center • 545 Grove St. • Auburndale, MA

Contact: Heather Day 617-244-8914

Stow Class — Friday, June 12th

Stow Town Hall • Stow, MA

Contact: Marcia Rising at marcia.mdrising@verizon.net

CHALLENGE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASSES

Teacher: Howard Lasnik • Musician: Tom Pixton

Howard's theme is: *The music and the dance:
Phrasing, effects of tune type, tempo, and more*

Fridays • May 15 and June 19 • 7:30-9:30 pm

\$10.00 (\$5.00 RSCDS Members)

Location: The Calvary Church, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington MA

From Cambridge and Rte 16, a large white church facility, same side and between the
Capitol Cinema and Walgreens, before Arlington Center

Info: call Evelyn Murray at 617-864-8945, or email Roberta Lasnik at rlasnik@juno.com

Note: Howard's theme should mesh nicely with Barbara McOwen's workshop "A Conversation," below.

A Conversation

About Scottish Music and Dance

Sunday May 31st, 2015 • 3:00 - 6:00 pm

First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem MA

\$7.00 (\$5.00 for RSCDS Members)

Forum Leader – Barbara McOwen

Tea and Shortbread provided by the Salem Class

More Info – bmcowen@comcast.net – www.rscdsboston.org

The Forum will include discussion, dancing, and playing. We will target the interface between dancers and musicians, including teaching and playing for dance classes; the various types of dance tunes; how the steps fit with the tunes and accompaniment; more.

Dance Names Redux

Breadalbane (Braghaid-Alban = the upland of Alba) Valley of the upper Tay including the lands on both sides of Loch Tay – The Braes of Breadalbane, RSCDS book 21-7.

Dumbarton Rock of Dumbarton was a capital of the kingdom of Strathclyde, royal burgh 1222, royal castle mentioned 1238, was held for Queen Mary 1568-70. *Dumbarton's Drums* The 'Scots March' played by drummers of Hepburn's Regiment at the battle of Leipzig 1631; now a regimental march of the Royal Scots – Dumbarton Drums RSCDS book 5-2.

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS - local & afar

May

- 2nd *** R & S Fairlee VT Spring Fling
8th * Fiddle & Cello Concert Lexington MA — p 10
9th * Fiddle Workshop with Laura Risk Salem MA — p 10
9th *** Salem Class Party — p 4
15th *** Boston Branch Challenge Class with Howard Lasnik Teacher — p 6
15-17 New York Branch Pawling Weekend
17th *** Brookline End of Season Party — p 5
21st * SRSNH Concert at the Portsmouth NH Library — p 10
23rd *** Belfast Class ME Memorial Day Dance Party & Weekend — p 4
23rd * Cape Breton Concert and Dance — p 10
31st *** A Conversation About Music and Dance — p 6

June

- 6th ** White Mountain SCD Spring Frolic
6th *** Northampton Class Potluck & Dance — p 4
8th *** Boston Branch Annual General Meeting - Canadian American Club — p 8
10th *** Newton Class End-of-Season Party — p 5
12th *** Stow Class End-of Season Party — p 5
13th *** Kennebunkport Class Downeast Fling — p 5
19th *** Challenge Class with Howard Lasnik — p 6

July

- 6-10 *** Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra — p 14
10-13 *** Pinewoods Scottish Session I — p 3
13-18 *** Scottish Pinewoods Session II — p 3
31-2 * Falcon Ridge Folk Festival — p 8

August

- 9-15 * Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School — p 10
11th * Visitors Day at Boston Harbor — p 10
15th * Maine Highland Games — p 14
28-30 *** New Hampshire Highlands Weekend — p 14

SAVE THE DATES

- Sept 18-20 * New Hampshire Highland Games
Nov 7th *** 22nd Boston Branch Annual Concert — p 11

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.....!

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
<i>MAY 2015</i>			
2	Fairlee Spring Fling	Damon Hall, Hartland, VT, 3:00 pm	Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459
9	Salem Class Party	Bolles Hall, Salem, MA	MaryEllen Scannell, weebtuets@rscdsboston.org
23	Belfast Class Memorial Day Weekend Party	American Legion Hall, Belfast, ME	Donna Griffith, dwadoss@hotmail.com
<i>JUNE 2015</i>			
6	White Mountain SCD Spring Frolic	Lancaster Town Hall Lancaster NH	Bill Tobin, 802-751-7671, billtobinharp@gmail.com
6	Northampton Class End-of-Season & 25th Anniversary Party	First Churches, Northampton, MA	Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407
13	Downeast Fling	Kennebunk Town Hall, Kennebunk, ME	Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050
<i>JULY 2015</i>			
6-10	ESCAPE (English, Scottish, Contra)	Pinewoods Camp Plymouth, MA	Meghan Murray, meghanism@gmail.com
10-13	Scottish Session I	Pinewoods Camp Plymouth, MA	Beth Birdsall 802-989-3147 and Linda McJannet 617-492-8180
13-18	Scottish Session II	Pinewoods Camp Plymouth, MA	Beth Birdsall 802-989-3147 and Linda McJannet 617-492-8180
<i>AUGUST 2015</i>			
28-30	New Hampshire Highlands	St. Methodios Center Contoocook, NH	Loren Wright, lonwright@comcast.net

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

Boston Branch Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 8th, 2015

7:45 pm at the Canadian American Club.

A quorum of members is required as always, so please plan on attending.

This is the time for members to ask questions, etc!

Followed by free dancing.

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm, Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. Contact BrooklineClass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 410 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact Jean, 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, Florence Civic Center, 90 Park St. (enter on Cosmian), Florence (nr. Northampton). 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: children and adult beginners 7:30-8:00, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact Marcia Rising, marcia.mdrising@verizon.net, 978-897-2466
- * **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, pstillotson@gmail.com
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, crone4702@gmail.com
- * **Stonington:** Year-round, Wednesday 7:00 pm; Island Community Center, off School St., Stonington. Contacts Mike / Dawn Little, 207-348-9308; mjlittle2318@hotmail.com; sugarmaple111@hotmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Tuesdays 7:15-9:15 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:** August through June, 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, mdkent@comcast.net, 802-879-7618

NEW YORK

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

* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, www.rscdsboston.org.

NOTE: 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

Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School: August 9-15, 2015, at Thompson Island, Boston, Mass. *Visitors Day* is Tuesday August 11. Contact the Folk Arts Center, www.scottishfiddleschool.org, 781-438-4387

Strathspey & Reel Society of NH: *Concert* Thursday May 21, Portsmouth Library. *Meetings* Sunday May 31, Leader Lissa Schneckenburger; Sunday June 28, Music Committee leading. *Annual Meeting*, Sunday June 28

Fiddle Workshop: Saturday May 9, 4:00-5:30, with Laura Risk, Bowes Hall, Salem - 617-462-1925

Fiddle and Cello House Concert: Friday May 8, 7:30 pm, with Elizabeth and Ben Anderson at Chez Margie, with opening by Scottish Fish - margie.bent@gmail.com

Cape Breton Concert and Dance: Saturday May 23, 8 pm, with Andrea and Betty Lou Beaton, Canadian-American Club - canadianamericanclub.com

MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF A CLASS MUSICIAN - by Don Bartlett (continued from last issue)

When a teacher wants the music to start cold (i.e. without walking steps beforehand), it is important that the cue words be loud enough to let the musician know exactly when to start playing. There are many choices of cue words: “ready and,” “go.” “with the music, ready and,” etc. Keep the following in mind:

- If you are varying the tempo or the rhythm, make it clear to the dancers and the musician what tempo and rhythm are wanted.
- “Ready and” is used for walking as well as for music; make it clear whether you do or do not want music.
- The dancers need two music beats to get ready to dance. When dancing to count, “ready and” provides two beats. When dancing to the music, “ready” is a warning, “and” followed by the lead note of the music provides the two beats. “Go” followed by the lead note provides two beats, just as “ready and” does for walking. However, this is a less common starting method.
- Don’t bring music in for a short phrase. Multiples of 8 bars are always OK; 4-bar multiples may be a satisfactory phrase depending on the music; any sub-division of 4-bar phrases should almost always be counted.

To get the right number of bars of music a teacher should:

- Ideally say the number of bars wanted, or otherwise -
- Anticipate needs and speak to the musician in advance, or
- Ask for music for a particular figure, or
- Ask for music starting at a particular figure and continuing until stopped by a clap or a loud “thank you”
- Just start the music and coach the dancers loudly to keep the music going.

A wise teacher will expect, and if necessary ask for, the correct phrase of the correct tune for each figure of a dance. The music pattern is given in the RSCDS books with music. There is not much point in dancing to the right tune if you are dancing to the wrong part of it. Sometimes, however, a musician may feel that the tune chosen for the dance or the music pattern indicated is not appropriate. In this case the teacher should respect the judgement of the musician.

A teacher is responsible also for the tempo of the music played for dancing, although the musician’s judgement is usually adequate and sometimes better But musicians have bad days and make mistakes, and teachers sometimes have valid reasons for wanting unusual tempos. Accordingly, if the tempo is not the one you want, ask the musician discreetly for a different tempo. (The tempo error is yours because you did not discuss tempo requirement in advance.) But beware: teachers are inclined to ask for the tempo they themselves would choose to dance to. This tempo may not be appropriate to the capabilities of the dancers in a festival or demonstration team. And tempos in class should usually be somewhat slower than social dance tempos in order to give the dancers time to place their feet and bodies correctly.

SAVE THE DATE!

RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH PRESENTS

Fellswater

in our 22nd annual
Concert of Scottish Music and Dance
with
Highland Dance Boston
Demonstration Team of the Boston Branch

Saturday, November 7, 2015 • 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm
Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library, Lexington, MA

More details coming soon to www.rscdsboston.org

Fellswater is Boston's Celtic music ensemble, playing a wide range of music from Scotland, Ireland, Brittany and Canada. Musicians are Betsy Ketuclat, fiddle; Jim MacConduibh, guitar/bouzouki; Sarah MacConduibh, Irish flute /whistle; Andrew McIntosh, small pipes.

PEOPLE NEWS Flowers of the Forest -

The Westminster (VT) Scottish Country Dance class regrettably announces the death of our longtime teacher, **Bernard McGrath**, FSA Scot, in February.

Bernie was born in Edinburgh in 1937, and began Scottish Country dancing in school there at the age of 6 or 7. He went on to enjoy many other forms of dance, and won ballroom dance competitions. When he met his future wife, Mollie, he turned his focus to Scottish Country Dance. Mollie likes to say she taught him all he knew.

After the couple settled in Westminster, VT, Bernie began teaching Scottish Country Dance locally. Over the years he started classes in Brattleboro, Westminster, Chester and Fairlee, VT, and in Keene, NH. The Westminster and Fairlee classes are still active, and the Keene class was active until recently. Bernie was very involved in Summer's End, a Scottish Country Dance weekend held in Hillsboro, NH, and Fairlee, VT, which brought in many expert teachers over the years. He organized dance demonstrations in many Vermont and New Hampshire venues, including area nursing homes.

A favorite moment: a little old lady once exclaimed, "You're so light on your feet!" Bernie replied, "Aye, for heavy people we are."

Bernie was very proud of his Scottish heritage, and with a little time could turn anybody into a Scot. He was a popular vendor at Loon Mountain, and put many people into kilts and dance shoes all over New England through his store, Heather and Thistle. He was a correct and elegant dancer, and an exuberant MC. He is very much missed by the Westminster class, which he taught for over thirty years. — **Jessie Haas**

As Old as Time - a temple of the past in the Outer Hebrides

[from Scotland Magazine, edition 78, Feb-Mar, 2015]

Standing tall against the relentless salt winds of the Atlantic Ocean on the exposed eastern coast of the Outer Hebridean island of Lewis are in the region of 50 standing stones of differing heights. In their midst is a small, chambered cairn. The stone circle and the north avenue are believed to have been built before 2000 BC, while the three single lines and the tomb were most probably added around 1500 BC.

Yet nobody knows how or why they came to be there or what they are for although there is no absence of debate on the subject. As with Stonehenge, 700 miles to the South in England, or the Ring of Brodgar 230 miles away on Orkney, the mystery of their being lingers on. Archeologists have revealed that a small settlement existed at Callanish until 800 BC, but thereafter heavy peat deposits smothered the stones. What became of the inhabitants is lost and it was only after a depth of almost 6 ft was cleared on the site around 1857, that the stones re-emerged in their full glory and the speculation began.

Was this some great out-of-doors temple erected for sacrificial pagan worship? Or more simply, a giant chromometer or sun dial marking out the phases of the lunar cycle? Images of long ago druid rituals flood the imagination. One story has us believe that back in the mists of time there were three giant islanders who refused to abandon the old religion and Christian missionary St. Kieran, in the best Greek Medusa tradition, turned them to stone. But that doesn't account for the remainder.

There is also an apocryphal association with a range of mountains 30 miles to the south where Lewis meets Harris and what is known locally as the Sleeping Maiden or Sleeping Lady. Viewed from a distance, these undulating, treeless hills form the silhouette of a horizontal woman, her hair flowing over her shoulders and into the landscape. On the summer solstice between June 22 and 23, it is said that the moon rises at her feet and travels along her body to her breasts, where it catapults into the heavens.

More information may be found at www.callanishvisitorcentre.co.uk



Standing Stones of Callanish, Lewis

Outlander Series Will Return to Scotland

[From Scottish Life Magazine, Winter, 2014]

The filming of the Starz network's *Outlander* TV series, based on Diana Gabaldon's tremendously popular *Outlander* books, has been a boon to the Scottish economy — the largest inward investment ever by a movie or television project. The filming of the first year's six episodes in locations all over Scotland is thought to have pumped 30 million GBP (about 32 million US dollars) into the economy, and the 200-member production crew will return to their base of operations in Cumbernauld, northeast of Glasgow, again next year with the announcement that Starz has ordered a further 13 episodes. Gabaldon's eight novels have sold more than 25 million copies worldwide.

[Both the above two articles came via the Clan Donnachaidh Society of the Northeast's Newsletter, Northeast Donnachaidh Doings Vol xxvi, no. 1, Winter 2015]

Members of the Penobscot Bay Scottish Country dancers gave a demonstration followed by general dancing on December 31, 2014. These pictures were published in the *Island Advantage* - the East Penobscot Bay weekly newspaper, January 8, 2015



Scottish dancing ushers in Last Night!

Members of the Penobscot Bay Scottish Country Dancers performed and gave informal lessons to curious onlookers on the evening of December 31 in the Blue Hill Consolidated School gymnasium. Certified instructor and Deer Isle resident Mike Little led the group, which holds Wednesday night classes at the Island Community Center in Stonington from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The dancers were part of downtown Blue Hill's Last Night! celebration sponsored by Flash in the Pans. Photos by Terlin Schmitt.



NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLANDS

A Scottish Country Dance Weekend in the New Hampshire Woods

Dance Instruction by

Beth Birdsall • Lance Ramshaw • Cecily Selling

Music by

Terry Traub, piano • Catherine Miller, fiddle

Emerald Rae, fiddle • Howard Lasnik, snare

Dates: August 28-30, 2015

Location: St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH

Cost: \$205 (dormitory) • \$370 (single rooms) • \$270 (semi-private rooms in lodge)

For application form & information contact

Roberta Lasnik 781-643-3977 rlasnik@verizon.net • Loren Wright 603-891-2331 lonwright@comcast.net

Maine Highland Games

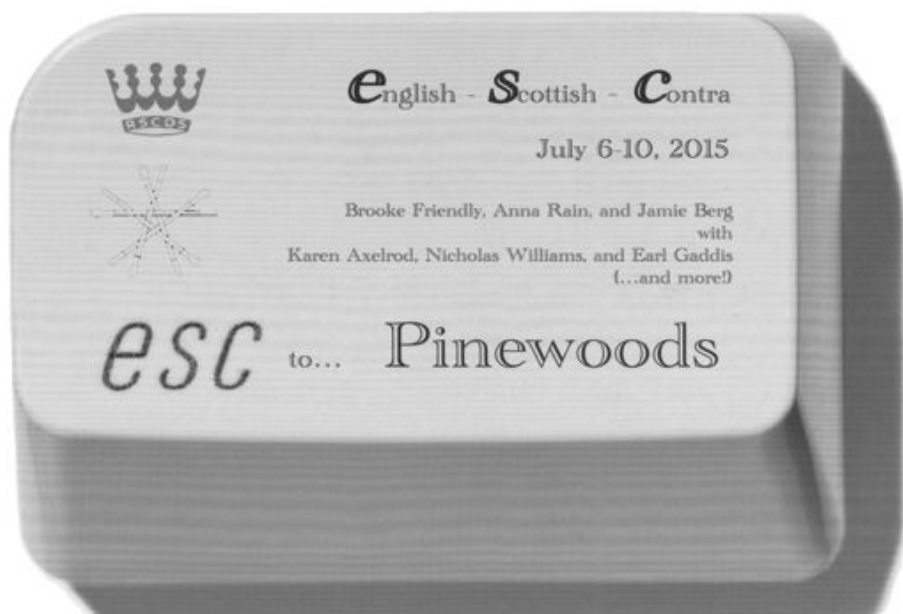
Saturday August 15, Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham, ME

Events include athletics, solo piping & highland dance competitions.

Albannach will give two performances during the day. Other entertainers include

Charlie Zahm, Isla, Eric McDonald & Will Woodson, and Frank Ferrel. Clan tents and vendors.

Go to www.mainehighlandgames.org for more information.



ESC Week is Growing!

We're now bringing you the best of English Country, Scottish Country, and Contra dancing — and much more. Come enjoy your favorite traditions while perhaps sampling something new in a fun and friendly session. From the energetic to the elegant, ESC offers a unique and satisfying mix of music and dance in daily classes and mixed evening programs. So ESCape to the Cape this summer for the new English Scottish Contra ESCperience!

News Flash — Places are available as of May 1st! www.rscdsboston.org

In Praise of Country Dancing

[George Fogg discovered this article. It is an editorial from in *The Guardian*, www.guardian.co.uk, Friday 30 January, 2009. It was reprinted in the *English Country Dance Society's Newsletter*]

In these difficult times it is more important than ever to remember what makes for a happy life. Naturally work and financial security are important. But the top influences are community, exercise, listening to music and doing things in a group. These are the top four predictors of contentment.

Counterintuitively, perhaps, they are all found together in country dancing. It seems unimportant whether it is Scottish, Irish or English, line dancing or the polka, the effect of all that twirling with family and friends while responding to the music produces a sense of wellbeing hard to replicate in any other single activity. It may be at odds with other known attributes of country dancing – the quasi-martial atmosphere of barked commands, the withering look of your partner when you go up rather than down the line, the pipes at what seems unnecessarily close quarters, and other people jumping on your toes. Yet the cumulative impact defies the individual elements. Economists who have made a business of studying happiness, such as Richard Layard and Richard Easterlin, might point to the larger impact of cohesive, broadly equal societies – Scandinavia, Canada, Ireland and New Zealand show up most strongly on the happiness heat map – but those of us condemned to the miserylands of Britain know that, in a community hall near us, happiness awaits in the shape of friends and strangers, old and young, all ready to share in a common activity. It is quite pointless, except that we feel better afterwards.

From Montreal — April 1976 issue of The Scottish Dancer, editor Maurice Whitby:

DEAR PADDY: I am very confused, can you please help me?

My teacher keeps talking about something that I first thought was the Teachers' Sit-in, but now I think it is the Tea Position. I am too shy to ask what this means. I am afraid that I may get thrown out of class because I do not like Tea at all and always drink coffee except when I am drinking Scotch. I am quite happy drinking Coffee or Scotch in almost any position, one of which might be the Tea Position; does this matter? — CAFFEINE

DEAR CAFF: You are worrying needlessly, my dear. You do not have to like tea in order to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing; you can drink anything you want to in whatever position you enjoy most.

What your teacher is talking about is the T-position and it refers to the position of your feet halfway through each step; when you bring the instep of the back foot up against the heel of the front foot, they form a letter T. Your teacher is right to emphasize this. A lot of dancers are lazy and ignore it. If you are sitting out a dance at the next Social, particularly a strathspey, watch the dancers' feet. Even in something as straightforward as "Down the middle and up" you will not see many T-positions; in a circle round and back, the feet often do not come together at all! So carry on drinking your coffee and Scotch, but do take a little time out to practise your T-position. Get used to the feel of your feet closing together and you will soon be doing it automatically without even thinking about it. — PADDY

DEAR PADDY: A friend who has been dancing for many years tells me that, in the old days, the sets for Scottish Country Dancig always used to form up in straight lines. Is this true or is she pulling my leg? — RIPLEY

DEAR RIPLEY: Believe it or not, your friend is telling the truth! Wandering or zig-zag lines always did exist in Montreal but only recently have they started to outnumber straight ones. — PADDY

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 JULY/AUGUST 2015 ISSUE IS JUNE 10th.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR SUMMER AND EARLY FALL EVENTS TO THE EDITOR.
DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR
AND TO JEAN FARRINGTON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR
Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep

*Editorial — I have made two changes to the policies of the Tartan Times. First the **Copy Due Date** every even month, has shifted forward to the 10th. The shortened lead time is due to the mostly electronic transmission of the Tartan Times to members. Second, **Jean Farrington's Calendar** on page 8 - which was instituted by Exec some years ago - is now the **CONFLICT** calendar. Thus it is essential that as soon as any class/group/exec/committee sets a date that this information is sent to Jean. Then this calendar will serve to avoid unfortunate clashes and allow for good planning of events to maximize attendance at dances, etc. It differs from the calendar managed by the web masters as that lists those events once information such as program, location, teacher, etc. has been sent to them. They then establish links from the calendar to 'whatever.' As there has been some confusion about the two calendars, I think this explains the different functions of both. — **Evelyn Murray, Editor***

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

Weekend of July 31, Aug 1 & 2, 2015

Dodds Farm, 44 CR7D, Hillsdale, NY (tri-state corner of MA, NY & CT)

Tickets and info 860-364-0366