

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIV, Number 1
September/October 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:* Andrea Aeschlimann; *Secretary:* Susan Haines; *Treasurer:* Cathy Crabtree; *Members at Large:* Janet Anderson, Dale Birdsall, Kat Dutton, Cathy Goode, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet

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

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Chris Gallagher, **Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2015** MaryEllen Scannell
Highland Ball 2016 *Co-Chairs:* Emily Peterson & Laurie Somario

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

Pinewoods Scottish 2016 *Co-Chairs:* Beth Birdsall & Linda McJannet

Pinewoods ESC 2016 *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 • **Directory** John Scannell, **TAC Representative** Patti Tillotson, **Mailing List & Database** Peter Tandy • **Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen

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

The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

Exec Committee Class Liaisons: **Brookline, Cambridge & Stow:** Kat Dutton

Brunswick ME, Kennebunk ME, Greenland NH: Merrill Henderson

Montpelier VT, Fairlee VT, & Albany NY: Dale Birdsall • **Salem MA :** Andrea Aeschlimann,

Great Barrington MA, Northampton MA: Cathy Goode; **Belfast ME, Nashua NH:** Linda McJannet
Chelmsford, Newton: Cathy Crabtree

THE TARTAN TIMES is published by the Boston Branch for its members. A free copy is sent to every North American Branch and to nearby Affiliated groups if they send their email. Annual subscriptions are available for \$10. Checks should be made payable to RSCDS Boston Branch (Canadians, please send a money order in U.S. Funds). Mail to

Cathy Crabtree, Boston Br. Treasurer, 3 Patriots Dr., Lexington, MA 02420

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 Susan Haines, Branch Secretary

The Executive Committee held its transition meeting on July 1st. Thank you to Bob Littlehale who served as Treasurer for 16 years, to Betty Allen who has served as Vice President, and to John Crabtree and Alex Hall who were wonderful members at large. Thank you all for your time and contributions to this committee.

At the same time, the Executive Committee welcomes Andrea Aeschlimann as the new Vice President, Cathy Crabtree as the new Treasurer, and Janet Anderson and Cathy Goode as members at large.

At this time, Pinewoods Scottish Sessions and the new ESC(ape) Session have come and gone, and the Executive Committee is waiting to see the financial outcomes (at the late August or September meetings). A sexual harassment policy has been approved and will be applicable to all Branch events. The Teaching and Music Committee has been working on the final details for Pinewoods but has also been discussing a few possible workshops for the coming year. Stay tuned for more information! As a reminder, it is time to renew your membership. The new membership form has been posted on the Branch website.

Lastly, as a new dancing season is just beginning, the Executive Committee would like to wish you a happy and successful year. See you on the dance floor!

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
22th Annual Concert of Scottish Music and Dance



Fellswater

With

Beth Murray, piano

Highland Dance Boston with Michelle Hurst

The Demonstration Team of the Boston Branch

Saturday, November 7, 2015, at 3:00 and 7:30 PM

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington MA 02421

For more info or to volunteer: concert@rscdsboston.org or (781)710-5696

Mail Order: see below. At the door: adults/RSCDS members \$2 extra

Purchase online (\$4.50 service fee): visit www.MKtix.com/rscd.

Which show? Circle **one**: 3:00 PM **or** 7:30 PM (Please use separate forms if ordering for both shows.)

Name _____ # Adults non-member _____ @ \$27

Address _____ # RSCDS members _____ @ \$25

City/State/Zip _____ # Children (<12) _____ @ \$15

Telephone _____ # in Group (≥8) _____ @ \$22

Seat preference: __Orchestra __Mezzanine Total: \$ _____ .00

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!

Mail orders filled as received. Sorry, no refunds.

*The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
10th Annual Autumn Social*



**TERRY TRAUB (KEYBOARDS), CATHERINE MILLER
(FIDDLE) & DAN HOUGHTON (PIPES & FLUTE)**

Saturday, October 24, 2015

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 (RSCDS Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),

Students/Under 18 - \$5.00

For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact

Gary Apfel – (802) 439-3459 or GaryApfel@gmail.com

Dance instructions can also be found at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/FairleeFSMinicrib.pdf>

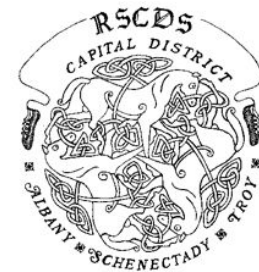
*The Capital District NY Scottish Country Dancers
(RSCDS Boston Branch)*

NY Capital District Fall Frolic

Save the Date!:

October 31 – November 1, 2015

YWCA, 44 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY



Music by the Frost & Fire Trio, led by Peter Macfarlane

Friday: Contra Dance at the Albany Elks Club with the Frost & Fire Trio, 8pm

Saturday: SCD Workshops at the Newbitz house with Dale Birdsall
Dance Party at the YWCA, 7:30pm

Sunday: Brunch at the Newbitz House, 10:30am

Contact: Lois New 518-383-6580 or loisscd@gmail.com

The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our



Fall Dance Party



Saturday, October 17, 2015
Topsham Grange Hall - Topsham, Maine

New

Potluck Supper

5:45 PM \$1 & a Pot

Dance 7:00 PM

Admission

\$10 for RSCDS members

\$12 for non-RSCDS members

Music By

New N

Catherine Miller, Fiddle
Terry Traub, Piano

Opening Waltz

Granville Market
Anderson's Rant
City of Belfast
Fair Jenny's Jig
The Kissing Bridge
The Sauchie Haugh
The Paisley Weaver
JBMilne

32J 3C
32R 3C
32S 3C Set
32J 3C
32R 3C
32S 2C
32J 3C
32R 3C

RSCDS Graded 2
RSCDS MMI
RSCDS Book 48
Wallace: From the Redwood Forrest
RSCDS Book 47
RSCDS Leaflet
Anne Wolf: The Rowan Tree Set
Foss: Fitchet

Intermission



Gay Gordons



Welcome to Ayr
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan
Invercauld's Reel
The Laird of Milton's Daughter
The Falls of Rogie
Balquidder Strathspey
The Montgomerie's Rant

32J 3C
32R 5C Set
32S 3C
32J 3C
32R 3C
32S 3C
32R 3C

RSCDS Book 47
Goldring: 14 Social
RSCDS Book 11
RSCDS Book 22
Attwood: Alexander Book 1
RSCDS Book 24
RSCDS Book 10

Final Waltz

For further information contact:

Patti Tillotson

Home (207) 833-2329 Cell (207) 841-3232

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.

NHampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain - The Brunswick and Kennebunk classes are sponsoring a booth at the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, September 18, 19, and 20, 2015, to promote the Boston Branch and Scottish Country Dancing. We are looking for volunteers to help staff the booth. If you are planning to attend the New Hampshire Games and would be willing to help us out, please contact Merrill Henderson, crone4702@gmail.com, or Patti Tillotson, pstillotson@gmail.com.

BROOKLINE CLASS 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY - A TEA DANCE

SUNDAY, October 4th, 2015

at the Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA

Serving a Scottish Tea at 5:00 pm followed by dancing to live music - with a program which is a mixture of Ceilidh dances, Strathspeys and Reels or Jigs.

MCs Heather Day, Naomi Lev, Evelyn Murray & Julie Smith

Special guest: Hamish Blackman, piper

More information on flyers and the web site. Bring a friend along!

Contact Info Evelyn Murray, athollbrose@verizon.net



CLASS STARTS FOR 2015-2016 SEASON

Stow Class - Friday, September 25th. The class normally meets every 2nd and 4th Fridays during the season. Stow Town Hall, Stow, MA Contact Marcia Rising — marcia.mdrising@verizon.net

Brookline Class - Sunday, September 13th. Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth St. Brookline, MA. Teacher in September is Heather Day. Contact Evelyn Murray 617-864-8945

Cambridge Class - Monday, September 14th. at the Canadian American Club, Watertown. Contact: CambridgeClass@rscdsboston.org

Other classes use contact info on page nine.

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS – local and afar

September

- 13 *** Brookline Class starts its 2015-2016 class season, Ch of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA
14 *** Cambridge/Watertown Class starts their 2015-2016 season Canadian/American Club
18-20 ** New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln NH p 5 - **HELP needed**
25th *** Stow Class first meeting of new dancing season p 6

October

- 4 *** Brookline Class celebrates its 40th Birthday p 6
17 *** Brunswick, ME Fall Dance Party p 5
17 ** New Haven Br. annual Nutmeg Workshop p 12
24 *** Fairlee VT Class Autumn Social, p 4
30-31 North Carolina, Charlotte SCD Society: A Reel Scottish Weekend p 12

November

- 31-1 *** NY Capital District Fall Frolic p 4
6-8 Annual RSCDS AGM Weekend, Perth, Scotland
7 *** Annual Boston Branch Concert p 3
7-8 * New York Br Annual Jeannie Carmichael Ball p 12
13 *** Stow Class Party, Marcia Rising 978-897-2466

December

- 5th *** Boston Br. Pinewoods Benefit Ball, Salem, MA

Save the dates:

- 10th January 2016 Brookline Class annual Twelfth Night Party
5-6 March New Haven annual Highland Ball w/end p 12
19th March Boston SDCEA Scholarship Dance
15-17 April New England Folk Festival
14th May Boston Branch Highland Ball

Code Breaker: *** an event sponsored by the Boston Branch, ** other SD events within the Branch area, and * of possible interest (perhaps a concert) within the Branch geographic area.

Please support events; the class/branch/group members work hard to put together their event, musicians spend a lot of time preparing the music and rehearsing - and we are specially blessed in New England having so many fine musicians who are also willing to play for our events. Also the teachers spend anxious hours preparing programs. They are well rewarded when they see a hall full of dancers all ready to put their best right (?) foot forward!

HIGHLAND GAMES IN THE LOCAL AREA

- Sept 5-6 Capital District Scottish Games Altamont, NY, scotgames.com
Sept 18-20 New Hampshire Highland Games, Loon Mtn. Lincoln, NH nhscot.org
Oct 12 (Sunday) Scotland Highland Games Festival, www.scotlandgames.org

CONFLICT CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2015-16 (CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
AUGUST			
28-30	New Hampshire Highlands	St. Methodios Center Contoocook, NH	Loren Wright, lonwright@comcast.net
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
4	Brookline Class 40 th Anniversary Party	Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA	Evelyn Murray, athollbrose@verizon.net
17	Brunswick Class Fall Dance Party	Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, ME	Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
24	Fairlie Autumn Social	Town Hall, Fairlie, VT	Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459, garyapfel@gmail.com
NOVEMBER			
7	Branch Fall Concert	National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA	John Crabtree, 781-862-3540
13	Stow Class Party	Old Town Hall, Stow, MA	Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466
DECEMBER			
5	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Salem, Massachusetts	Mary Ellen Scannell, webluets@rscdsboston.org
JANUARY 2016			
FEBRUARY 2016			
6-8	Cardigan Weekend	Cardigan Lodge, Bristol NH	Lance Ramshaw, lance.ramshaw@gmail.com
MARCH 2016			
19	SCDEA Scholarship Fund Dance	First Parish Church Weston, MA	Gregor Trinka-Randall, 978-897-3997, trink68@uwalumni.com
APRIL 2016			
MAY 2016			
14	Boston Highland Ball	TBD	TBD

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

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 rgore@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: 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, 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.

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

Two 18th century poems in praise of Scottish Traditional Music

By the Rev. John Skinner (1721-1807), published in 1800

There needsa be sae great a praise,
Wi' dringing dull Italian lays,
I wadna' gi'e our ain Strathspeys
For half a score o' 'em:
They're douff and dowie at the best,
Douff and dowie, douff and dowie.

They're douff and dowie at the best,
Wi' a' their variorum:
They're douff and dowie at the best,
Their allegros and a' the rest,
They canna please a Highland taste,
Compar'd wi' Tullochgorum

By Robet Fergusson in his "Daft Days," published in 1772

Fiddlers! your pins in temper fix
And roset weel your fiddlesticks,
But banish vile Italian tricks
From out your quorum,
Nor fortes wi' pianos mix -
Gie's Tullochgorum.

For naught can cheer the heart sae weel
As can a canty Highland Reel;
It even vivifies the heel
To skip and dance;
Lifeless is he wha canna feel
Its influence.

Tempo for Scottish Country Dancing

(An extract from George Emerson's book "Rantin' Pipe and Tremblin' String - A History of Scottish Traditional Music")

Apart from phrasing, and those characteristics of nuance and stress which give lift to the music, the most crucial matter from the point of view of the dancer is tempo. This must be appropriate to the dance and to the dancer. In general Scottish dance musicians tend to the fast rather than the slow side of the range of acceptable tempi. Fast tempi, except in certain step dances, are essential to the inferior dancer, and it is striking, in the case of Scottish Country dancing, that as the general level of proficiency and appreciation ascended during the nineteenth-thirties and forties, the desirable tempi became slower. There can be no fixed metronome setting for Scottish dance music, for even the nature of the dances themselves has an influence; but excessive tempo is the enemy of good dancing. The ideal tempo is that which enables the dancer to articulate the steps and movements with fluency, shape and continuity.

The slow Strathspey in Country dancing is a great test of a dancer; only the very accomplished can make the slow tempo expressive and satisfying. Then indeed it is a thing of largo-lente beauty, 'kindlin bauld' as Burns expressed it, as dance and music. Even the sprightly rhythm desirable for certain tunes as the 'Strathspey Reel' and the 'Highland Fling' should be taken at an easy pace. Then it is a matter of expression and shape. Without these, however, a slow tempo is a drag, and herein lies the challenge both to the dancer and the musician.

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016

Branch Class eligibility is based on applications received by Nov. 2, 2015

You support the Branch classes you attend by becoming a member. Branch classes with a minimum of 8 members benefit from Branch Insurance & Music subsidies.

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 Age Under 25? Yes / No
 RSCDS Teacher Yes RSCDS Teacher Yes

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
- Branch mailings in electronic form, but the Tartan Times in hard copy \$10/ year
- All 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

Memberships

\$92 Couple Membership (same mailing address)

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

Boston Branch Class(es) you attend "*Regularly*" _____
(used to determine Class eligibility)

\$15 Associate Membership - Only for members of other Branches. Primary Branch _____

Check if you would like to volunteer for any of the events listed below:

- Boston Highland Ball Annual Concert Pinewoods Benefit Ball
- ESC@ Pinewoods Pinewoods Scottish Session New Hampshire Highlands

Application information received by November 2, 2015 will 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/ Membership
97 Birch Street
Lynn, MA 01902
Membership Questions Email: membership@rscdsboston.org

BOSTON BRANCH SEMI ANNUAL MEETING Monday, November 9th.

Note that since the approval for the change of the fiscal year at the Meeting in June, 2015, the Annual Meeting and Semi Annual Meetings will have to swap dates. (The current fiscal year is now November 1st to October 31st.)



BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership for 2015-2016 season if you haven't done so yet. See page 11 for the actual form, but best to download from the website. The cut off for the Tartan Times is this issue, and the cut off for being listed in the Directory is November 2nd, 2015

HAVE SHOES....WILL TRAVEL.....

New Haven Branch Nutmeg workshop, 17th October at the South Britain Congregational Church.

The Charlotte Scottish Country Dance Society are holding A REEL SCOTTISH WEEKEND, October 30 – 31, 2015.

The teachers are: John Wilkinson, Edinburgh (former RSCDS Chairman); Ruby Wilkinson, Edinburgh (RSCDS Director of Schools). Music by Marion Anderson's Scottish Dance Band with Max Ketchin & Bill Ewan. Location: British International School, 7000 Endhaven Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277. The Workshop Package includes concert & dance Friday; classes Saturday morning and afternoon; dance on Saturday evening; coffee prior to class, lunch; catered dinner; light buffet at the dance intermissions. Hotels: Courtyard Marriot 704 846-4466 and Holiday Inn Express, must be booked by 12th Oct and mention RSCDS Scottish Dancing to obtain special rates. Registration and queries to Jack Presley at 704 814-9647 or JPres79334@aol.com

New York Branch Jeannie Carmichael Ball and Brunch weekend (42nd) November 7-8 at the Thayer Hotel, West Point, \$120 pp for the weekend, reservations on their web site.

NY John Drewry Evening Dance, Dec 5th, the hosts are the Brooklyn class.

New Haven Ball Weekend Saturday March 5th & 6th.

Ball at West Hartford, Brunch at the New Haven High Lane Club at 11 am.

MISCELLANY

Extract from “The Queen, The Lady’s Newspaper” 10th February, 1892

“.....One feature of the ball was a set of fancy quadrilles, composed of Lady Cardross’s party, consisting of eight couples — four gentlemen being in Highland dress, and four officers in uniform, placed alternately. The dresses of the eight ladies were exceedingly pretty, consisting of white tarlatan, with tartan scarf, fastened at the shoulder with a cairngorm brooch, and a bunch of golden wheat ears and heather; the skirts being looped up here and there with the same. Each Highlander wore a cairngorm brooch set in a bunch of wheat ears and heather; while the four officers wore sprigs of the same, prettily tied up with a blue ribbon on the shoulder. The whole effect was most pleasing.....” [reprinted from the 1963 RSCDS Bulletin]

What’s In a Name? The Cuillins of Skye by Barry Pipes

Travelling to Scotland? Why not get your vehicle across the Kyle of Lochalsh (if you can afford what the locals complain is an extortionate bridge toll) and visit the beautiful Isle of Skye?

Take the usual A87 tourist route through Broadford on your way to Portree, and you will be driving by a mountain range to your southwest which includes what Brit rock climbers believe to be the ultimate mountaineering experience in the UK — namely, the Cuillins of Skye. There are both Red and Black Cuillins (different types of geology), of which the latter are fearsome rocky crags composed of basalt and gabbro, a very rough type of rock beloved by mountaineers.

Twelve of the Black Cuillins are Munros, i.e. Scottish mountains over 3000 feet (feet give a better sense of the height than metres). The highest Black Cuillin is Sgurr Alasdair at 3255 feet. Especially challenging for climbers is the seven-mile-long Black Cuillin Traverse from Sligachan to Glen Brittle.

By the way, Cuillin seems to really be a plural word (The Cuillin of Skye?). Legend has it that it is derived from the chieftain of a race of giants in days of yore. His name was Cuchullin. His stories were sung about by Ossian, a controversial poet, minstrel and narrator of Scottish fables whose name would be quite well known to students of early Gaelic literature.

Plural or not, dance *The Cuillins of Skye*, a delightful Roy Goldring strathspey, published by the RSCDS in the booklet “Four Scottish Country Dances for 1978”.

[From the Toronto Br. Set and Link, Feb 2009.]

Foos yer Doos? - Aye Peckin awa’

Some say that “Doric” - the way they speak around Aberdeen - is a dialect, but others suggest that it is a language of its own. Many Doric words currently used in everyday speech, can be found in the book *Spikkin Doric* by Aberdeen author and *Press and Journal* writer, Norman Harper. Of interest to natives of the Northeast of Scotland, *Spikkin Doric* breaks down Doric

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page:

phrases and words to regions of Banffshire, Buchan, Deeside, Donside, Formartine, Garioch, the Mearns and Moray. Here are some examples - Doric words include *sclabdadder* and *foggietoddlers*. Dinne ken fit they mean? Look them up in an easy to use Doric Dictionary <http://doricphrass.com/>

Some favourite Doric phrases are: Coppit bonnie - caught red-handed
spewin feathers - thirsty
Foos yer doos? - how are you doing?
loons and quines - males and females

A good collection of Doric poems can be found in *A Drappie Doric* by Jimmy Simpson of Huntly. Here is an extract from his poem "Learnin' the Wife to Drive"

I'll tell ye o' a couple, nae very far frae here
They've bidden in the howe amon's for mony and mony a year
A douce, quait-livin' pair they were, an nivver kent tae strive
Until the day that Meg announced that she'd like tae learn to drive.

So Dod got oot the car an' set her ahin' the wheel
An' teit her a'a aboot te gears, the clutch an brakes as weel
She bocht hersel' a pair o' L's an' read the Highway Code
Took oot a Drivin' Leeshins an' made ready for the road.

[From the Newsletter of the St. Andrews Soc of Ottawa, Spring 2014]

History of the Highland Games

For nearly a thousand years, clansmen, chiefs, and competitors came from all over Scotland and banded together to compete against one another in what is often defined as one of the most rigorous forms of competition in the world, the Scottish Highland Games.

Scottish Highland Games did not evolve easily, In the beginning stages of these gatherings, only the art of sport and battle practice were displayed.

According to tradition, one of the first Highland Games was held towards the end of the eleventh century, when King Malcome Canmore became concerned about the way in which important news and documents were delivered to his highland retreat. He needed strong, healthy runners that were full of stamina. To achieve this, he had the competitors race one another over rocky terrain to the top of Creag Choinnich. The winner received a beautiful baldric sword, a purse of gold, and the title of the King's Messenger.

[from the Newsletter of Northeast Clan Donnachaidh, Summer 2015]

In the 19th century three Highland Games were started in the United States: Detroit, Northern California and one here in Boston, originally held in Brookline, then Quincy, before fading away. It is said that the US Amateur Athletics Association grew out of these three Games.

COUNTRY DANCING - HOW IT WAS TAUGHT

[Extracted from "Traditional Dancing in Scotland" by J.F. & T.M. Flett, published in 1964 by Routledge and Kegan Paul, London.]

From the beginning of the period covered by living memory up to the early years of this century [i.e. the 20th - Ed.] four main types of social dance were in use in Scotland, namely Reels, Country Dances, Square Dances, and Circle Dances. Today, the distinction between these types of dances became blurred, but to older people in Scotland the four types were clearly differentiated, and each had its special characteristics.

A true Reel consists of setting steps danced on the spot, alternated with a travelling figure - the setting steps can be varied as the dancers please, while the travelling figure is usually the same throughout the dance. In many Reels there is also a change in musical rhythm in the course of the dance, an unusual feature in social dances. A typical example of a true Reel is the Scotch or Highland Reel, a dance now more commonly known as the *Foursome Reel*; in this, the setting steps are performed with the dancers in line, and the travelling figure is in the form of a figure 8 with a third loop added. This particular Reel also displays the change of rhythm, for it is usually begun as a strathspey, and in the course of the dance the music changes to a reel. In addition to the true Reels, the general class of Reels also includes a few dances, not constructed in the manner of true Reels, but performed in the same style; the best known of these dances is the modern *Eightsome Reel*, which was composed about 1870-80.

The term Country Dance today covers many different forms of dance, but to older people in Scotland it means a dance in which the dancers form two parallel lines, and each progresses down the set in turn. The progression can be made either one place at a time, as in the well-known *Petronella* and *Flowers of Edinburgh*, or directly from the top to the bottom of the set as in *Strip the Willow*.

The term Square Dance also has several meanings nowadays, but among dancers in Scotland before 1914 a Square Dance meant a dance among the Quadrille type, performed by four couples, with the dancers standing initially in the form of a square: typical examples are the Quadrilles, the Lancers, and La Russe.

Circle Dances are the progenitors of our modern ballroom dances. The oldest of these is the Waltz, and this is typical of the whole class of Circle dances in that each couple performs the dance independently of the other couples. Other old Circle Dances are the Polka, the Common Schottische, the Highland Schottische, La Varsoviennne and Pas de Quatre; all of these were in common use in Scotland at one time or another.

When Country Dances were first introduced in Scotland, they were essentially a dance of the upper classes, but as time went on they spread to other classes of society; and by 1775-1800 they had become generally accepted throughout the Lowlands and the adjacent parts of the Highlands. Nowadays we have come to think of Reels and Country Dances as 'National Dances', and they are regarded as being on a different plane from ordinary ballroom dances. But for a proper understanding of the history of social dancing in Scotland, it is essential to realize that, for as far back as living memory extends, Reels and Country Dances were regarded as being on exactly the same footing as Square and Circle dances. Moreover, in common with all other social dances which were in current use, Reels and Country Dances were taught by professional dancing-teachers in the normal course of their classes.

It is essential to realize also just how thoroughly the teachings of the professional dancing-teachers permeated the structure of social dancing in Scotland, for before 1914 most young people attended dance classes at some time or other. In the bigger towns there were dancing academies. In Glasgow, for example, the best known teachers about the year 1900 were James Orr Robertson, Joe Diamond, James B. MacEwan, and J.D. MacNaughton, and all of these either owned their own dance halls or had the permanent hire of a hall - these halls corresponding to the studio of the present day dancing-teacher.

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE NOV/DEC 2015 ISSUE IS OCTOBER 10TH.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL FOR FALL AND EARLY WINTER 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**

THE WORLD'S TOP TEN - Ros McKie

[From The Rant, July 2015, the newsletter for the RSCDS Hunter Valley Branch, Australia.]

On the website of the International Branch of the RSCDS there is a section titled "Campbell's Lists" which makes for fascinating reading. A South African dancer, Campbell Tyler, has a database of dance programs that have been submitted to him from around the world (including Australia). There are 1,500 programs from over 400 clubs and branches and he has been collecting them since 2008. As of December 2014 the top ten on the list are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Montgomeries Rant | 6 Minister on the Loch |
| 2 De'il Amang the Tailors | 7 Mairi's Wedding |
| 3 The Reel of the Royal Scots | 8 Maxwell's Rant |
| 4 Pelorus Jack | 9 Reel of the 51st Division |
| 5 Scott Meikle | 10 Catch the Wind |

The International Branch was formed in 2004 to cater for those who had no branch to join and it now has 250 members from 28 countries, some of whom belong to Branches in their own areas. It organizes a weekend school every two years and there's a report on this year's event by Marney Wilson. Its website is rscds-ib.org

Comment: It's interesting to see almost all are quicktime; only one strathspey. Very much what occurs at a ball, where encores are almost always reels. – Ed.