

# The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIV, Number 2*  
*November/December 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

**Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen • **Mailing List & Database** Peter Tandy

**TAC Representative** Patti Tillotson

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

**The Boston Branch Website is** [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org)

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

**Brunswick & Kennebunk ME, Greenland NH:** Merrill Henderson

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

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

**Chelmsford & Newton MA:** 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 Branch 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](mailto: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*

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## **Notes from the Executive Committee**

As the new dance season is starting, the Executive Committee wishes everyone a wonderful year! During the summer, it appears that all three of the dance camps (ESC, Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, and New Hampshire Highlands) were quite successful and everyone had a wonderful time.

Plans for the Fall Concert, the Pinewoods Benefit Ball, and the Highland Ball are all moving right along. As classes are just gearing up, there are a few that are hoping their membership and class attendance will improve. There are also several class parties this Fall that we hope you all will attend and enjoy.

As a reminder, the Semi-Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday November 9, 2015, 7:45 P.M. at the Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington St., Watertown, MA.

*Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, RSCDS Boston Branch Secretary*

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch  
 22<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.MKtix.com/rscd).

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 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 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 Frost & Fire**

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](mailto:loisscd@gmail.com)

In addition, Frost and Fire will play for the following dances:

Friday: Contra Dance at the Albany Elks Club, 8pm  
(Info: [http://www.danceflurry.org/show\\_event.php?&id=1](http://www.danceflurry.org/show_event.php?&id=1))

Sunday: English Country Dance at Channing Hall, 2-5pm  
(Info: Nancy Yule, 518-477-5684, [CapitalECD@gmail.com](mailto:CapitalECD@gmail.com))

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**MAY 13-15, 2016**  
RSCDS Boston Branch presents:  
**BOSTON HIGHLAND BALL  
WEEKEND**

Mark your calendars now for the Friday Welcome Dance (May 13),  
the formal Saturday dinner and ball (May 14) and the  
Sunday potluck brunch and lawn dance (May 15).

Bands and MCs will be announced soon at  
<http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-HighlandBall.html>  
along with flyers, programs and mini-cribs





# Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Sponsored by the Salem Class of the Boston Branch of the RSCDS

Saturday December 5, 2015 7:30 PM

**The Bridge at 211**

211 Bridge St Salem, MA

Gourmet Pot Luck @ 6:30 PM \$1 + a Pot

Music by: *Saucy Bess*

Catherine Miller, Nora Smith: fiddles - Tom Pixton: accordion + piano

Campbell Webster: drums + pipes

MC: Cathy Fahey & MaryEllen Scannell

The Legacy	32J 3C	PW Coll. Iain Goddard
Sauchie Haugh	32 S 2C	RSCDS Leaflet
Duran Ranger	32R 3C	BK 13
Flights of Fancy	32J 3C	Celebrate 50
Delvine Side	32S 3C	BK 2
Fireworks Reel	32R 3C	BK 48
Airie Bennan	32J 5C	Foss Glendarroch
City of Belfast	32S 3C	BK48
Pinewoods Reel	32R 3C	Yankee Sampler

### Intermission

The Isle	32J 3C	Grd Bk
MacDonald of the Isles	32S 3C	Carnforth Coll. 2
Montreal Rendezvous	32R 3C	Montreal Moments
Blue Bonnets	32J 2C	BK 3
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	32 S 3C	RSCDS Leaflet
Da Rain Dancin	32 R 3C	From the Redwood Forest

## Locals please bring goodies for the refreshment table to share

Questions contact MaryEllen Scannell 617-462-1925 or weeb luets@rscdsboston.org

Reservation Form (space is limited)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Total (\$27 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you would like or can offer hospitality. \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Salem Scottish Dancers" and mail to:

MaryEllen Scannell 97 Birch St Lynn, Ma 01902

**All attendees will automatically be entered into a drawing for a guaranteed space for Scottish PW 2016!!**



# Stow Class Party



*7:30 pm. Friday, November 13, 2015  
Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow, MA*

*RSOS Members - \$7. Non-RSOS Members - \$10. Families - \$10 maximum*

*Musicians: Jerome Fung and Nora Smith*

*MCs: Gregor and Vickery Triebaus-Randall and Jeanetta McColl.*

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## **EDITORIAL: Scottish Dances for Seniors**

With reference to the article on page 16 on improved health and push back for Alzheimers, the Branch should seriously consider setting up classes for seniors in Senior Centers, even Nursing Homes, as a contribution to the health of our local citizens. Especially good for the newer teachers to consider, as usually the location has a suitable facility. It is necessary to modify some of what we normally do, such as precise footwork, but it can be very rewarding. Peggy O'Connor and I taught at the St. Paul's School for the Blind back in the 70s. We geared it around the needs of the students and it worked. I've also taught a class of deaf teens - that was challenging but again very rewarding. To encourage many of our regular dancers at classes who fit in the senior category remain in the class for as long as possible, consider adding more strathspeys to your teaching roster, and dance programs. Miss Milligan advocated that herself, now I know why!

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## **The Country Dance Society of Boston are celebrating their Centennial (1915-2015)**

Saturday November 7th at Nevins Hall, Memorial Building, 150 Concord Street, Framingham, MA.

The program starts at 1:00 pm with afternoon events, movies, exhibits, lectures, posters, etc. Formal catered dinner at Nevins at 5:30pm and English/American dancing from 7:30-11:30 pm. See [www.cds-boston.org](http://www.cds-boston.org) for details, register by October 31st.

## CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS – local and afar

### October-November

31-1 \*\*\* NY Capital District Fall Frolic p 4

### November

6-8 Annual RSCDS AGM Weekend, Perth, Scotland

6-8 Kingston Branch 49th Annual Workshop & Ball

6-8 \* Fiddle Hell, 150 workshops etc., Westford, MA

7 \*\*\* Annual Boston Branch Concert p 3

7-8 \* New York Branch Annual Jeannie Carmichael Ball

8 \* Highland Light Scottish Society Heritage Sunday p 11

9 \*\*\* Boston Branch Semi-annual General Meeting, Can-Am Club, Watertown

13 \*\*\* Stow Class Party, Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466 p 5

14 Montreal Branch Fall Social, 7:30 pm at the Red Barn

### December

5 \*\*\* Boston Branch Pinewoods Benefit Ball, Salem, MA

20 \*\*\* Brookline Class Christmas Party

21 \*\*\* Cambridge Class Holiday Party, Can-Amer Club Watertown

### January 2016

10 \*\*\* Brookline Class annual Twelfth Night Party p 11

23 \* Highland Light Scottish Society Robert Burns Supper

### February

6-7 Ottawa Branch Ardbrae Ball Weekend, music by Torridon SD Band

5-7 \*\* Mt. Cardigan Weekend, contact Lance Ramshaw

20 Toronto Branch annual Tartan Ball

### Save the dates:

5-6 March New Haven annual Highland Ball Weekend

19 March Boston SDCEA Scholarship Dance

15-17 April New England Folk Festival

13-15 May Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend

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 ....!

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**PLEASE SUPPORT THE BRANCH BY ATTENDING THE SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 7:45  
Reports include Pinewoods Scottish Sessions and ESCape.  
FREE dancing to follow!**

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

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
November			
7	Branch Fall Concert	National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA	John Crabtree, 781-862-3540
9	Semi-Annual AGM	Can-Am Club, Watertown MA	Jeremy Thorpe, president@rscdsboston.org
13	Stow Class Party	Old Town Hall, Stow, MA	Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466
December			
5	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	211 Bridge St, Salem MA	Mary Ellen Scannell, weeblyets@rscdsboston.org
21	Cambridge Class Holiday Party	Can-Am Club, Watertown MA	Alex Bowers, cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org
January 2016			
1	Nashua Class New Year Party	Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua NH	Loren Wright, 603-891-2331
10	Brookline Class Twelfth Night Party	Church of our Saviour, Brookline MA	Evelyn Murray, athollbrose@verizon.net
March 2016			
19	SCDEA Scholarship Fund Dance	First Parish Church, Weston, MA	Gregor Trinka-Randall, 978-897-3997, trink68@uwalumni.com
May 2016			
13	Welcome Dance	Weston, MA	Emily Peterson, Laurie Somario, highlandball@rscdsboston.org
14	Boston Highland Ball	Melrose, MA	Emily Peterson, Laurie Somario, highlandball@rscdsboston.org
15	Boston Ball Brunch	Lincoln, MA	Emily Peterson, Laurie Somario, highlandball@rscdsboston.org

**PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO Jean Farrington, [jffar@verizon.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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, [hdschoes14@gmail.com](mailto:hdschoes14@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mjlittle2318@hotmail.com); [sugarmaple111@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, [hovashe@yahoo.com](mailto:hovashe@yahoo.com)
- \* **Montpelier:** Sept-May, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Union Elementary School, 1 Park Ave., Montpelier. Contact Martha Kent, [mdkent@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:loisanew@nycap.rr.com); [clubitz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:clubitz@nycap.rr.com)

\* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, [www.rscdsboston.org](http://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](http://www.rscdsboston.org/FullFlyer.pdf). For updates, please email [Classes@rscdsboston.org](mailto:Classes@rscdsboston.org)

## MUSIC PAGE

**Canadian-American Club Gala:** As the Cambridge Class now meets regularly at the Canadian-American Club in Watertown, our organizations are somewhat tied together. Consider coming along this Sunday, November 1st – the Can-Am Club is holding its 3rd annual Gala Fundraiser / Family All-Day Event. It will run 1:30 - 8:00, with music and dance performances, and traditional Cape Breton dancing for all. Scottish country dancers will find the dancing very easy, and this is a chance to try the dancing, and to see some of our favorite Scottish and Cape Breton local musicians and dance performers.

Schedule		Performers	Type	Content
15 Min	1:30-1:45	Boston Scottish Fiddle Club	Scottish/Cape Breton	Fiddle Group
30 Min	1:45-2:15	Jaclyn O'Riley's Sean Nos Dancers, Dan Noveck	Irish	Irish Dance
30 Min	2:15-2:45	Gordon Aucoin / Terry Traub	Scottish/Cape Breton	Fiddle/Piano/Guitar
30 Min	2:45-3:00	Teddy Aucoin / Terry Traub	Country Singing	Singing/Guitar
30 Min	3:00-3:30	Ed Pearlman & Laura Scott	Scottish	Fiddle/Step Dance
30 Min	3:30-4:00	Scottish Fish	Scottish	Fiddle/Cello Ensemble
30 Min	4:00-4:30	Roger Treat / Harvey Tolman / Terry Traub	Scottish/Cape Breton	Fiddle/Piano
80 Min	4:40-6:00	Wendy MacIsaac accompanied by Janine Randall, Jen Schoonover and her students	Scottish/Cape Breton	Fiddle/Piano/Step Dance with Square Sets
30 Min	6:00-6:30	Boston Uilleann Pipers Club Performance Group	Irish	Uilleann Pipes
30 Min	6:30-7:00	Chris DeBarge/ Pioneer Valley Pioneers	Country/Old Time	Country / Old Time Band
30 Min	7:00-7:30	Katie McNally	Scottish/Cape Breton	Fiddle
30 Min	7:30-8:00	Tom Sheridan	Irish	General Dance Music
30 Min	8:00-8:30	Raffle		

**Hanneke Cassel in Concert:** November 19th, Wamsutta Club, New Bedford, Mass., 7:30 pm. Info: [www.musicinthegallerynovember.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.musicinthegallerynovember.brownpapertickets.com). And December 5th, Club Passim, Cambridge, Mass., 5:00 pm & 8 pm. Info: [www.clubpassim.org/club/hanneke-cassel-band](http://www.clubpassim.org/club/hanneke-cassel-band)

**Fiddle Hell:** “The unique sound of many fiddlers playing a tune together.” About 300 fiddlers, fiddle accompanists, and fiddle aficionados will gather at the Wesford Regency Inn, Westford, Mass., for the 11th annual Fiddle Hell, November 6-8. The location offers lots of workshop and jamming space, loads of free parking, nice rooms if you wish to stay there (and a swimming pool!), and good food both onsite and nearby. Sessions, workshops, the concert and dance, and late night jams will all be under one roof. There will be more than 230 scheduled workshops and jams. Some of the leaders familiar with Boston-area Scottish dancers are – Dave Reiner, Barbara McOwen, Becky Tracy, David Kaynor, Ed Pearlman, John Chambers, Frank Ferrel, Lissa Schneckenburger,, Mark Simos, Jenna Moynihan, and Andrea Beaton direct from Cape Breton.

Though Fiddle Hell is the same weekend as the Boston Branch Annual Concert, it is very possible to do both. For info, complete schedule and listings, go to [www.reinerfamilyband.com/introduction.html](http://www.reinerfamilyband.com/introduction.html)

**Music Sessions:** There are several regular fiddle sessions that welcome fiddlers of all ages and experience, and listeners can also enjoy a pint and the company and the tunes. Sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month take place at the Canadian-American Club, 7:30 - 10:00, organized by the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club and led by Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman. Bob Littman organizes a fiddle session at the Indo Pub in Beverly, Mass., on the 2nd Saturdays, 3:00 - 6:00. The Gaelic Club meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 3:00 - 6:30 pm, at the Canadian-American Club, for Cape Breton fiddle music and Gaelic singing. And every Friday night the Can-Am Club sponsors lively open-mike performances of Canadian fiddle music.

## PEOPLE NEWS

The following item came from Gregor Trinkaus-Randell via Michael Little. With reference to Road to Stow: Erratum for the dance *The Hamiltons' Delight*, a 32-bar Jig for 3 couples in a 4 couple set. Bars 1-8:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> couples dance Rights and Lefts, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> couple turns by the right 3/4 and dances out the ends (man down and woman up), and cast to the left (anti-clockwise) around the set to their partner's place.

### Travellers:

Joel LaMarre is currently travelling in Australia, and by all counts having a great time. Evelyn is off on Saturday to join up with Jean Farrington to represent the Boston Branch at the RSCDS AGM Weekend in Perth, Scotland. Later Evelyn is fulfilling a long held dream to travel down the Rhine. Both Joel's and the Rhine trip were organized by Laurie Stevens of the Greenland class. Barbara and Robert McOwen spent time in California this summer again doing some interesting activities.

### Song Books

When Andy Taylor-Blenis was clearing out prior to selling her Newton house, she found a number of Scottish Song books, *Scotland Calling in 50 Scottish Songs* (price 6d – so that dates them!). Pocket-sized with a cheerful tartan cover. Obviously originally property of the Boston Branch – what to do with them? Please contact Evelyn after Nov 23rd with suggestions. They could go to NH Highlands for example.

### Highland Light Scottish Society

They are holding their Heritage Sunday, November 8th at 10 am The date for their Robert Burns Supper is January 23rd, 2016, at the Holiday Inn, Rte 132, Hyannis. Contact Jeanie Drinkwater, 508-362-7805 or [jeanniebill@comcast.net](mailto:jeanniebill@comcast.net) for more information.

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## Brookline Twelfth Night Dance

Sunday, 10th January, 2016  
6:30-10:00 pm

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

Music and Program TBA

## **What's in a Name? *Dumbarton Drums***

About three months ago, Kathryn and I were driving back to Glasgow after a visit to Largs. As some of you may know, if you take the scenic waterside route, the road runs alongside the River Clyde between Greenock and Glasgow.

Being a bit peckish, we pulled into a nice restaurant called The Wheelhouse and secured window seats overlooking the Clyde. Right there across the water before our very eyes was Dumbarton Rock, which is a plug of volcanic basalt that sticks out of the Clyde to a height of about 250 feet. On its summit, one can find the ruins of Dumbarton Castle, a medieval fortress which dates back to the Kingdom of the Britons sometime in the 6th century.

That reminds me of a Scottish country dance, I said to myself, and a while later, the penny dropped. Ah! Yes! *Dumbarton Drums*. I thought there might be a connection! I'd better research this!

My findings were that, as a dance, *Dumbarton Drums* is very close to the name of an old Scottish song. The song's lyrics start "they sound sae bonnie, and remind me o' my Johnnie ..." But there is a fine difference between the name of the dance and the traditional song. The latter title has an apostrophe "s". The genitive case I think it is called. While it is not too clear, I believe that ownership of the drums in question refers to George Douglas, 1st Earl of Dumbarton, a 17th-century Scottish nobleman and soldier who led what would likely be called today a regiment of mercenaries. Dumbarton's Regiment fought primarily in France on behalf of King Louis XIV.

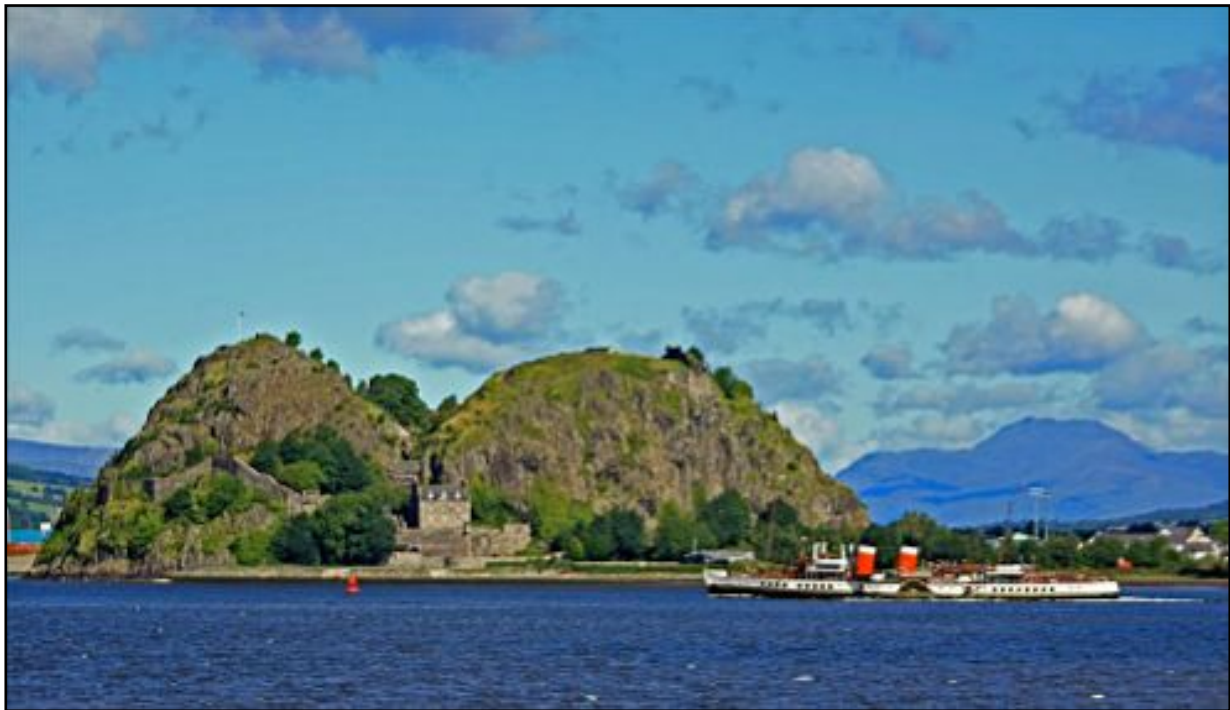
As it happened, that regiment ultimately became part of the British army and was named The Royal Scots. Worth noting is the fact that the The Royal Scots became the oldest and most senior regiment of infantry in Britain. In recent years, however, most of these historical military units have been merged to form The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

*Dumbarton's Drums* was the official march of The Royal Scots, although, as a quick march, the music of the original song no longer seemed to apply.

So where does this leave us? If one visits the town of Dumbarton on the north bank of the Clyde, and walks around the Rock and its Castle, don't expect to hear any paradiddles or other form of musical banging about. If you really want to hear the original song *Dumbarton's Drums*, it was recorded by The Corries, a Scottish folk music group back in the 60s. It is still available to be heard on YouTube.

The Scottish country dance called *Dumbarton Drums*, with no apostrophe "s", is a 32-bar reel that originated in *RSCDS Book 5*, way back in 1928. It was devised by a Thomas Wilson. Not heard of him? He also devised *Seann Truibhas Willichan* and we've all danced that a time or two.

...Barry Pipes [mccallum.pipes@rogers.com](mailto:mccallum.pipes@rogers.com)



The Dumbarton Drums and Castle  
*Story and photo courtesy Toronto Branch RSCDS*

## **Favourite Tartans of the Scots**

*[reprinted from The Scotsman, 28 November, 2007]*

As part of St. Andrew's Day celebrations, the Scotsman newspaper invited "leading" Scots to designate their 'Five Best' this and that, and the Scottish Tartan Authority was asked to nominate ... you've guessed it ... five tartans. Here are the choices:

"With thousands of tartans around the globe, the choice of five must at best be a very eclectic mix. Tartan means many things to those who wear it, but these five symbolise the diverse attractions and universality of this ancient Celtic art form.

### **1. LERMONTOV**

This Russian family tartan typifies the adventurous, high-achieving Scots who left home in search of fame and fortune, and left Russia a proud legacy of over 450 surnames of Scottish mercenaries and entrepreneurs who settled there. George Lermont was one such early adventurer who left Fife in 1613 to fight for Tsar Mikhail Romanov and founded the famous Lermontov dynasty. The Lermontov tartan was designed in Scotland and was presented in Moscow to the Lermontov Family Association.

### **2. FIREFIGHTER'S MEMORIAL**

In view of our own recent British fire disaster, this is a very appropriate new design from the United States to "salute firefighters everywhere in the world, who are ready to sacrifice their lives every day for the protection of others." Incorporated in this design is red for fire and the fire engines, and black in remembrance of those who have fallen in the line of duty. A poignant touch are three red lines made up of three threads, four threads and three threads - 343 - the number of firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11

### **3. BALMORAL**

This unusual and distinctive tartan was designed in 1853 by Queen Victoria's Consort, Prince Albert, and takes us back to the great Victorian love affair with Scotland and its Highland inhabitants. Still worn today by the Royals, it is also a reminder of that other great love affair between Victoria and Albert. Their love of Scotland and its Highland dress was the accolade that set tartan on the road to its global popularity.

### **4. BLACK WATCH**

Early records show this was the tartan appointed for the Highland Companies in 1725 and later for the Black Watch in 1739. It represents the world of the Scottish Regiments – fiercely heroic fighting men who have inspired friends and terrified enemies over the centuries. Their exploits are the bedrock of military history and one of the most well-known military orders was said to have been given at the siege of Lucknow in 1857-58 by Sir Colin Campbell: "Bring forrit the tartan, Let my ain lads at 'em." The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders that day won six Victoria Crosses before breakfast.

### **5. MACBEAN**

From 19th century India to 20th-century space travel, the MacBean tartan admirably demonstrates the uniqueness of tartan – the only fabric design in or out of this world that "flutters" in the space breeze of the moon's Ocean of Storms. It was taken there in 1969 by Commander Alan Bean, Apollo 12's lunar module pilot. It highlights in dramatic fashion the great emotional niche occupied by Scotland's national icon of tartan."

*[In the same week, The Scotsman asked 100 Scots to submit a short piece on their favourite aspect of Scotland. This was The Scotsman's submission:]*

## **Tartan**

“Millions wear it, churches bless it, models strut it, descendants seek it. The world's greatest national icon is tartan. This quintessential Scottish beacon unites a far-flung diaspora that celebrates its links with one of the most admired nations on earth. We should be proud of that.”

### **The Story of Tartan - written by Douglas N. Anderson**

In the history of tartan and Highland costume the year 1745 was at once an end and a beginning. Two years later the ban on Highland dress which following the failure of the Jacobite Rising closed a long period of natural evolution and opened another rather more self-conscious one. Also, from 1745 onwards an increasing amount is known about the subject in contrast to the fragmentary evidence of before. It is the interpretation of this early material which provokes considerable academic disagreement, the principal point of contention being the existence or otherwise of uniform tartans within the clans. The opposing opinions can be found convincingly argued by many scholars elsewhere but a balance of the evidence suggests a middle view which is probably somewhere near the truth.

It seems reasonable to believe that the concept of a formalised clan pattern is largely a 19th-century distinction, but that previously certain identified colours and patterns had been associated with particular areas. It might very well be that “district tartans” evolved into family tartans and that both existed at the same time, being used according to the wearer's whim – perhaps even both together.

The mixing of different patterns or varying setts of the same tartan was commonplace in the 18th century as paintings of the period illustrate. A typical Highland gentleman of around 1735 would wear the ancient and correct form of trews which were more suitable for riding than the belted plaid or kilt. These were breeches and stockings all in one, the material being cut on the cross to fit tightly and carefully seamed to preserve the pattern. Tartan coats were now popular, often decorated with gold or silver lace. The great plaid is worn loosely draped around the body and normal accessories such as sword, dirk, and powder horn are carried. Among the gentry hair was queued and liberally powdered with a variety of unhygienic compounds.

When the Dress Act prohibiting the use of tartan in Scotland was repealed by Parliament in 1782 a revival of interest in it very quickly followed. It became fashionable to adopt Highland dress, or a version of it, often of a style derived from the contemporary military pattern rather from the traditional. Significantly, too, tartan was no longer the product of local croft industry, but was coming now from the looms of commercial Lowland weavers. Many of the old setts of pre-Proscription days had been irretrievably lost and scores of quite new designs as yet unnamed filled the makers' pattern books.

In the summer of 1822 the popularity of the Celtic revival received a prestigious boost by the State visit to Edinburgh of George IV. The predominantly Highland flavour of the Royal visit was energetically supported and if, in retrospect, there was more than an element of pantomime, it was taken very seriously by the participants and became a notable event in the story of tartan. From this date many hitherto anonymous patterns achieved elevation, to “clan” status and, by association, an instant pedigree. But more important, the King's evident approval assured a continued and increasing public enthusiasm for Highland dress; indeed, if some of the 1822 costumes were fancifully “ancient,” worse was yet to come.

Some of the Highland wear became more a costume than regular attire, including inappropriate eagle's feathers in the wearer's bonnet. What did women wear during the 18th and 19th centuries? For the most part for working women whatever they had available and the ability to attach the hem to the waist was more important. Women who worked in the fields, or at gutting fish would be bare legged from the knees down and bare footed as well for the most part. In the often wet and chilly climate of Scotland this would have been very

uncomfortable, however it was practical. We know what ladies of some leisure wore from the many paintings that have survived, especially those by Lawrence and Ramsey. Little use of tartan, just the occasional scarf artistically draped across the shoulders is sometimes seen until Queen Victoria's love affair with Scotland. Then tartan used initially as trimming and later for whole dresses became the fashionable attire for those that could afford silk and fine wool fabrics.

*[In the most recent issue of the RSCDS Scottish Country Dancer there is a letter from a member of the Liverpool Branch on p. 27 which comments upon the lack of tartan worn by women attending a dance event, and especially if part of a demo team. Thus the Scottish Country Dancing event often looks quite "un-Scottish." I couldn't agree more. There are so many beautiful tartans and incorporating them into one's wardrobe is not difficult. Skirts, blouses, adding a tartan sash to a plain dress, all are possible. If one is handy with the sewing machine the opportunities are legion. For those who cannot sew it is more difficult, but a tartan sash or scarf is readily available to all. The Victorians used tartan fabric in many different ways – by trimming the bottom of a skirt, as sashes around the waist, collars and cuffs on a blouse, etc.]*

*I hope that more dancers will grab onto the idea and show that tartan is not limited to the gentlemen's kilts! – ed.]*

## **ISCDS Danish Trip a Delight**

*[From the Montreal Branch Scottish Dancer Sept-Oct 2015]*

This summer four of our dancers – Don Nemiroff, Holly Boyd and Polly and Dale Birdsall – signed up for a dancing and sightseeing trip to Denmark sponsored by the International Branch of the RSCDS. As Holly reports:

“The Copenhagen ISCDS weekend workshop was marvellous. We were met at the airport, escorted through the intricate train system (thank goodness) to our hotel and treated like kings and queens. We spent 4 days in classes and dancing with live music and very lively teachers. It was a really nice experience to dance with people from all over Europe – quite a few young dancers too! and other parts of the world (Australia, Russia, Canada, USA). We all had a love of SCD in common though we didn't all do everything exactly the same way – and that was interesting too. After the dance weekend, there was a six-day holiday through Denmark. Forty-six people went on that and it was fun getting to know some of our new friends better. All in all, a wonderful experience. We will be keeping our eye on what the ISCDS does next.”

Dale adds: “We agree that it was great and we are waiting for the next weekend and tour in two years.” The travellers took lots of photos of Danish scenic spots they enjoyed, but were too busy dancing at the workshop to capture the dancers, three guest teachers, or the band, Craigellachie. But Don did his best to recruit new SCD dancers at Legoland!

*[While in the world of Montreal this next piece of people news comes from the November issue]*

Tom Speirs won a prize for the Best-Dressed golfer at the St. Andrews Society Golf Day on August 29. Also enjoying the event were Richard South, Janet McLean and Pat Welage (all in the kilt or kilt skirts as appropriate, of course).

Tom reports he had the pleasure of chatting there with John and MaryAnn de Chastelain, who have danced with us many times, and Chris Dickson, a former Montrealer who was visiting from Scotland. Chris's late husband, John Bowie Dickson, was a SCD teacher for many years in Montreal and wrote many well-known dances such as *The Luckenbooth Brooch*, *The Wind on Loch Fyne*, and *Bauldy Bain's Fiddle*. *[Not to forget The Pinewoods Reel written for the Boston Branch!]*

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE JAN/FEB 2016 ISSUE IS DECEMBER 10TH.  
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL WINTER AND EARLY SPRING 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**

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**IN CASE YOU STILL NEED A REASON TO CONTINUE DANCING the following was published in the Oct. 15, 2015 *Harvard Women's Health Watch*:**

Reports at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in July 2015 verified that women are at higher risk than men for developing Alzheimer's, and also progress more rapidly from mild cognitive impairment to outright dementia than men do. But not all the news was bad. A study reported at the meeting indicates that physical exercise can halt, and even reverse, the decline in people with mild cognitive impairment.

In that study, conducted by researchers at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, 65 previously sedentary women and men with mild cognitive impairment exercised at peak capacity for at least 45 minutes four times a week for six months. At the beginning and end of the study, researchers tested participants' cognitive skills and examined their blood and cerebrospinal fluid for levels of tau protein — a principal component of the amyloid plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease. They found the participants scored significantly higher in the cognitive tests at the end of the study than they had at the beginning. Their tau protein levels had declined substantially as well.

The results indicate that aerobic exercise is more effective than any current approved medication in forestalling Alzheimer's disease. Given women's increased risk for Alzheimer's, it behoves all of us to exercise as vigorously and as regularly as is deemed safe for our health. If you have any doubts about your exercise capacity, talk to your doctor.