

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIV, Number 3
January/February, 2016*



**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 MA: 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 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 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 for the Tartan Times

At the October Executive Committee meeting, the budget for the 2016 Highland Ball was presented with the focus being on looking at any possible ways to save money and to prevent or lessen the loss that was incurred with the 2015 Ball. This is the 60th Anniversary Highland Ball, and Tullochgorum is providing the music.

With the success of Pinewoods ESCape 2015, both CDS and RSCDS Boston have agreed to proceed with ESCape 2016, The ESC committee is comprised of Meaghan Murray, Dan Blim, and Kat Dutton, and the dates are July 4 through 8.

Probably the most important thing to note this month is that the official Branch calendar on the web site is now a Google Calendar. It is easier for everyone to navigate, and information such as fliers, programs, and dance notes can be all be attached and links created. — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, RSCDS Boston Branch Secretary*

MAY 14 2016

RSCDS Boston Branch's 60th Anniversary

BOSTON HIGHLAND BALL with TULLOCHGORUM

MCs: Howard Lasnik, Bruce Mabbott, Cathy Fahey

Barbara McOwen - fiddle

Anne Hooper - fiddle

Terry Traub - piano

Robert McOwen - bass

Campbell Webster - drums, pipes

Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall,
590 Main St, Melrose MA

YOU ARE INVITED TO DRESS FOR A BLACK-AND-WHITE THEMED BALL.

Reception 5:30

Dinner 6:30

Grand March 7:45

Ball 8:00

Dinner and Dancing: \$80/\$85/\$50

(RSCDS/non-members/students)

Dance *or* Dinner: \$50/\$55/\$35

Admission includes \$1 for Memorial Hall Restoration Fund

See www.rscdsboston.org/events-HighlandBall.html for ticket orders, directions, and mini-cribs,

as well as info on Friday Welcome Dance (May 13), and Sunday Brunch (May 15)

Ball Prep walkthrough workshop hosted by Salem class, Thursday May 12.

Questions? Contact Emily Peterson at highlandball@rscdsboston.org

PROGRAMME:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Espie McNabb | J 8x32 | MMM 1 |
| The Magic Airt o' Gow | S 8x32 | Rondel Bk |
| The Kissing Bridge | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 47 |
| Airie Bennan | J 5x32 - 5C | Glendarroch Sheet 2 |
| Maine Medley | M 8x(S16+R16) | Celebrate 50 Boston |
| Cadgers in the Canongate | R 8x48 | RSCDS Bk 9 |
| Joie de Vivre | J 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 39 |
| The Glasgow Highlanders | S 7x32- longways | RSCDS Bk 2 |
| The College Hornpipe | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 20 |
| Mrs Stewart's Jig | J 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 35 |
| Asilomar Romantic | S 8x32 | San Francisco Coll 2 |
| Sleepy Maggie | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 11 |
| Fair Jenny's Jig | J 8x32 | Redwood Forest |
| City of Belfast | S 3x32 - 3C | RSCDS Bk 48 |
| Maxwell's Rant | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 18 |
| Pelorus Jack | J 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 41 |
| Delvine Side | S 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 2 |
| Reel of the 51st Division | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 13 |

The Cambridge Class at Watertown (Canadian/American Club)

Please join us for an Informal Burns Night Celebration - Monday 25th January

Double social hour featuring Scottish dances with a Burns theme
(Simple social dances for all with some Ceilidh-style dances)

Address to the Haggis and to the Immortal Memory
Robert Burns Songs
Music by Elizabeth Anderson and Friends
MCs: MaryEllen Scannell and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall

The cash bar will be open in the downstairs area
Admission: \$9 / \$5 students / season pass
Wear some tartan and bring your friends!

Alex, On behalf of Cambridge Class Committee

New Haven Branch Highland Ball Weekend - Music by Thistle House

Ball is Saturday, March 5th, 2016, in the West Hartford Town Hall Meeting & Conference Center, 50 S. Main St., West Hartford CT 06107. 5:00 appetizers and 6:00 dinner, followed by dancing
Brunch on Sunday March 6th at the High Lane Club, 40 High Lane, North Haven, CT 06473. 11:00 am Brunch and dancing. For more information contact co-chairs Karen Pestana, kgpestana@yahoo.com 860-539-2944 or Judy Locker at jlocker24@hotmail.com, 860-688-8037 (please include RSCDS in subject line)

Ball program: A Wee Nothing, The Whistling Wind, Asilomar Romantic, Rory O'More, John McAlpin, Caberfei, Flights of Fancy, Sands of Morar, The Dancing Man, The Chequered Court, The Duchess of Atholl's Slipper, Scott Meikle, Light and Airy, The Robertson Rant, Catch the Wind, The Machine Without Horses, Gramachie, and Reel of the 51st Division.

Recital - Anne Hooper and George Kern, Sunday, February 28th

Anne Hooper (violin) and George Kern (piano) will be performing on Sunday 28th February at 2:30 pm hopefully in the Central Baptist Church, 67 Washington Street, Quincy, MA 02169.

Answers to Quiz on page seven:

1. Loch Tummel
2. Stains Castle
3. Kilmuir, Skye
4. A measure of alcohol (about a pint)
5. Prestonpans
6. Red Deer
7. A Butterfly
8. The Scottish Crossbill
9. Charlotte Charpentier
10. Allan Pinkerton

*RSCDS Boston Branch's Brookline Class extends a warm invitation
for you to join the celebration of
Twelfth Night, with dancing & supper
on Sunday, January 10, 2016, 6:30-10pm*

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

Music by Highland Whisky

MCs Evelyn Murray & Flo Hearn

Cost: \$12 for RSCDS members, \$15 non members

Contributions to the refreshments are welcome

*Information: rscdsboston.org, or Evelyn, athollbrose@verizon.net 617-864-8945
or Heather, hdshoes14@gmail.com*

RSCDS Branch special class

**Exploration of Scottish Country Dancing
using Laban Movement Analysis**

Sunday, February 28th, 2016; 2 - 4 pm

Teacher: Jen Schoonover • Musician: Barbara McOwen

Location: Bridge @211 Bridge Street, Salem, MA

Cost: \$7 RSCDS members and students, \$10 non-members

What is a “slow turn”? a “long cast”? what is the difference between the first and second halves of a Grand Chain? how can I have relaxed arms, yet offer strength when turning a partner? how can I feel that I am dancing and not just going through the motions? how can music inspire more dynamic shading of my dancing?

If any of these questions have been burning in your mind, please join us for a workshop of Scottish Country Dance and Laban Movement Analysis. We will explore the principles to analyze and clarify movements used in Scottish country dance. Feel free to bring along more burning questions, and a spirit of exploration.

More information: Rebecca Gore, phone 978-250-1687, email: rigore@gmail.com

Web: www.rscdsboston.org

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Annual General Meeting & Weekend

The meeting was held at the Gannochy Trust Sports Complex in Perth, Scotland on November 7th. Jean Farrington, Cate Gray (also a Boston Branch H.Q. representative) and Evelyn Murray were the three delegates for the Branch (according to our membership numbers we are allowed five). The meeting progressed through the agenda in a somewhat hesitant progression, which was unusual. A new Treasurer was appointed and he gave his initial sense of the Society's finances. Again the Society spent more than it received, but as it had received several generous bequests, the excess was covered. At least that is what I understood to be the case. In other similar organizations I have been involved with, the budget is the controlling mechanism preventing overspending. The rule being "if not received, cannot be spent" - or reference Mr. Macawber! No budget for the next year was presented to the delegates although I understand there is one.

So the bad news for the overseas branches is that the annual dues are to be raised by £2 as of July 2016, despite some heavy hitting from delegates representing mostly these branches. The vote was 184 for, 145 against, with 2 abstentions. As we do not receive the same benefits as do those branches within Scotland the current process does not encourage branches to push membership in the RSCDS. In Boston we are required to send more than half of the subscription members pay the Branch to the RSCDS every year. This increase, at approximately \$3 per member will have to come from the subscription paid to Boston Branch. Thus reducing the money available to the Branch by this amount. The only visible benefit is the magazine for individuals. Of course there are hidden benefits, such as help in examining candidates for the teaching certificates, but these are a hard sell to the dancer who pays in addition to class fees, is also asked to join the Society through membership in the Branch. The Branch supports the classes by paying liability insurance and a music subsidy for one dance party each year, to all classes with a minimum of eight members. Class fees paid by dancers go to the individual classes paying for hall rental, live music, etc. and range from \$3 (Stow) to \$9 (Cambridge). As a branch we need to sort out the procedure for proxy voting, as we lost two votes due to information being sent far too late for Exec to respond this past year.

Four Society Scrolls of Honour were presented to the following: Stuart Adams (a past chairman) John and Jennifer Kelly from San Francisco, and George Meikle, the Leader of the Lothian SCD Band.

On the previous evening there was a dance and following the AGM the Provost (mayor) of Perth's Reception, and then the Ball. Both the programme and the band were excellent, just the floor that is dreadful. It was good to meet old friends and make new ones. — *E.M.E. Murray*

For those who do not know the words, here are the usual two verses which are sung at the end of many events:

Auld Lang Syne - Robert Burns

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Should Auld acquaintance be forgot | And here's a hand my trusty freen' |
| And never brought to mind | And gie's a hand o' thine |
| Should auld acquaintance be forgot | And we'll tak' a right gude willy waught |
| And days of Auld Lang Syne | For Auld Lang Syne |

Refrain:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| For Auld Lang Syne my dear, | For Auld Lang Syne my dear, |
| For Auld Lang Syne | For Auld Lang Syne |
| We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet | We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet |
| For Auld Lang Syne | For Auld Lang Syne |

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS – local and afar

January, 2016

- 8-9 * Boston Celtic Music Fest, p 4
10 *** Brookline Class annual Twelfth Night Party p 5 & 16
23 * Highland Light Scottish Society Robert Burns Supper
25 *** Cambridge Class (at Watertown) Burns Night p 4

February

- 6-7 Ottawa Branch Ardbrae Ball weekend music by Torridon SD Band
6-8 ** Mt. Cardigan weekend contact Lance Ramshaw
12-14 Hawaii annual SCD weekend of SCD Honolulu, p 6
20 Toronto Branch annual Tartan Ball
28 *** Special Branch Workshop “ Laban Movement” p 5
28 * Anne Hooper and George Kern recital, p 4

March

- 5-6 New Haven annual Highland Ball Weekend p 4
19 *** Boston SDCEA Scholarship Dance, p 14

April

- 6 Tartan Day - wear tartan to celebrate Scottish heritage!
15-17 * New England Folk Festival at Mansfield, MA

May

- 13-15 *** Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend p 3

Save the dates:

- 4 - 8 July *** ESCape - to Pinewoods
8-16 July *** Scottish Sessions I & II at Pinewoods

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!

QUIZ (from the Newsletter of Scottish Heritage USA) - no prizes, just a bit of fun!

1. Where is the Queen’s View?
2. Which ruined castle is said to have inspired Bram Stoker (Dracula)?
3. Where is Flora MacDonald buried?
4. What was a munchkin?
5. Where is the oldest example of a mercat cross still in its original site?
6. What is Scotland’s largest animal?
7. What is a Scotch Argus?
8. Name the only bird that is unique to Scotland?
9. What is the name of Sir Walter Scott’s wife?
10. Who was the first detective in Chicago? *Answers on page four*

CONFLICT CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2016 (CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS)

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 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 Trinkaus-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 |
| 21 | Fairlee Spring Fling | Fairlee Town Hall Fairlee, VT | Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459 |

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

The RSCDS has recently produced some very good and effective brochures. The first: **Enjoy dancing? love music? ... Try Scottish country dancing!** It is colourful, with minimum words, depending on the excellent photography to make the point. It's a pity that a way cannot be found to transmit such a brochure for use by branches around the world - with some small modifications that could be possible.

The second brochure contains information on two systems for help in teaching: **Education Programmes for Children and Young People** ... are you looking for a programme of Scottish dancing? For primary age students there is **Jigs and Reels**. The complete resource pack contains detailed instructions for 30 dances, working through early and second levels and party dances; two CDs containing the music for the lesson plans and a DVD with video footage to demonstrate the dances, as well as a voice-over of coaching words for some of the dances. Available from HQ cost is £50 (approx \$75-80)* plus shipping.

Dance Trad is for older students - ceilidh, country & creative. This is a programme for teachers of Scottish dancing for young people. Contains detailed instructions for 14 ceilidh and 16 Scottish country dances, 2 CDs and 2 DVDs — the video footage includes illustrations of steps, formations and progressions. Cost is £55 (approx \$78-85)* plus shipping.

The rest of the brochure covers medal testing which is probably not of interest. However, they are well designed and eye-catching. * *variation depends on the rate of exchange*

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, 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, 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, hovashe@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

Alasdair Fraser's Summer Fiddle Camps, 2016

Sierra Fiddle Camp - June 18-26, Nevada City, California. Applications and information at www.sierrafiddlecamp.org or call 530-478-9004. Applications open 12/15/15 priority deadline 3/01/16.

Valley of the Moon - Aug. 26-Sept 3, Boulder Creek, California. Applications and information at www.valleyofthemoon.org or call 707-537-8677. Applications open 12/15/15, priority deadline 3/01/16.

Sabhal mor Ostaig - July 23-30, Isle of Skye, Scotland. Follow the web address on www.alasdairfraser.com

Crisol de Cuerda - July 31-Aug 7, Spain. Contact at www.crisoldecuerda.com

Next meetings for the Strathspey & Reel Society of New Hampshire feature as workshop leader Julia Plumb January 31st. On February 28, Sylvia Miskoe - Members' Tunes Month. At the SRSNH November meeting, Kip Ferguson performed (with help) the following variation on a familiar holiday song:

On the first day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me a recht guid willy-waught
On the second day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me two argyll socks
On the third day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me three wee sheep
On the fourth day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me four fifths of scotch
On the fifth day of Hogmanay, my love gave to me five Highland coos
On the sixth day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me six Scottie puppies
On the seventh day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me seven Shetland sweaters
On the eighth day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me eight plates o' oatmeal
On the ninth day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me nine holes of golfing
On the tenth day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me ten tins of shortbread
On the eleventh day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me eleven lumps o' haggis
On the twelfth day of Hogmanay, my true love gave to me twelve tartan neckties.

Boston Celtic Music Fest, January 8-9, 2016

On Saturday the 9th there are several Scottish events at Passim and the First Parish Church in Harvard Square, including -

The Scottish Fish at 11 am

Highland Dance Boston with Fresh Haggis at 12 noon

The Boston Branch RSCDS Demonstration Team at 12 noon

Elizabeth and Ben Anderson at 12:30 pm

Barbara McOwen and Anne Hooper at 1:30 pm

Gaelic Singing with Jen Schoonover and friends of Kyte McKillop at 2 pm

Scottish Session with the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club at 2 pm.

Go to the link <http://passim.org/bcmfest/lineup-tickets> for more info.

PEOPLE NEWS

Recently **Tony Moretti** celebrated his 95th birthday. To celebrate there was a party and one of the members of Tony's class in Manchester, **Eleanor O'Donnell** composed the following poem to honour this special occasion.

Poem for Tony Moretti, dance teacher Extraordinaire, on his 95th birthday

Your life's journey has taken you from Scotland to the USA
Very many friends have joined you along the way
As a country dance teacher you are known far and wide
Your dance compositions are a source of pride
At a St. Andrew's dinner in Manchester, NH, John and I first met you
Who persuaded us to join the Queen City Scottish country dance class in 1972
We got together in Grace Church hall every Friday night
Learned the steps and dances till we got them right
The Koerbeers, Miskoes, Blakes, Carl, Mary Leonard and Ben
The Buchan family, Macquarries, Charlie Wolfe and Gen
All tried their best to follow your directions
But sometimes couldn't understand your Scottish inflections
At times you would get exasperated with us all
But Betty calmed you down when "TONY!" she would call
At nursing homes, country dancing demos we were asked to make
Our "skillful displays" succeeded in keeping the residents awake
You took classes in Cambridge, then to the Boston Ball,
We enjoyed weekends in Pinewoods, Washington, Fredericton and Montreal
With Evelyn Murray and others you helped to plan
The first New Hampshire Highland Games which began
On August 1, 1976, which was a beautiful day
On Loon Mountain it was perfect for listening to the pipe bands play
The date of the annual event was changed to September
Since then it has rained at Loon Mountain more times than I remember
We attended many Burns Suppers and other Scottish celebrations
And enjoyed listening to you perform Burns' poems recitations
Many good memories of those years I have brought to mind
So auld acquaintances are not forgot and days of auld lang syne

— *Eleanor O'Donnell 5/30/2015*

Happy 95th birthday, from Eleanor and John, your Scottish friends from Falkirk and Bonnybridge, now living in New Hampshire.

Tony now lives in Florida with his son Freddy and his family. His love of anything Scottish was personified in his love of Scottish country dancing, which he taught for many years. He and his wife Betty always welcomed people with a warmth that was truly genuine and affectionate.

Ann Miller has moved from Sophia Snow, and is now residing in Sherrill House. Her address is Sherrill House, Rm 307-B, 135 South Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02130. Do go and visit her - she said the best times are mid-morning or in the afternoon.

Roberta reports that **Howard Lasnik** is home recovering from repairs to a perforated colon. We wish him a speedy recovery and back on the dance floor very soon.

The Story behind the Dance: Ian Powrie's Farewell, by Karen Kerman

[reprinted from the Orange County Ceilidh November/December, 2015]

Who was Ian Powrie, and why a farewell to Auchterarder? Ian was a fiddler, and his Ian Powrie Band are Scottish country dance music legends. A quote from a web site electricScotland.com places him as "... one of Scottish country dance music's best loved figures, with a band sound and fiddle style that are instantly recognisable as his own."

Born May 26, 1923, at Bridge of Cally, Perthshire, Scotland, John Powrie was onto music from the beginning. Forever known by the Gaelic equivalent, Ian, he was the oldest of five children, all of whom were somehow involved with music. A skilled player of the melodeon and leader of a dance band, Ian's dad William encouraged his son at an early age. Violin lessons began at age four, and he performed an ad for Beltona label records at aged five. Early tutoring steered him along classical lines, and his teachers forbade Ian to play Scottish music. His study aided in his mastery of his instrument furthered his technique. However, the pull of traditional music from spontaneous gatherings and ceilidhs proved too strong, and as a teenager he was playing in his dad's band.

After the family moved to Bankhead Farm near Forteviot, Ian quit school to become a full time "tractor-man" and formed his own band. World War II interrupted both farm life and music, and in 1942 Ian volunteered for the RAF, receiving pilot training before being sent to Canada to complete training. He flew various types of aircraft until 1946. Returning to Scotland and the farm, Ian, with brother Bill, eventually took over and re-formed his father's band, concentrating on a repertoire of half traditional and half modern music. Radio broadcasts and dance gigs were their forte. Wouldn't you know it! He met his future wife at a dance, and Leila Mailer became Mrs. Ian Powrie in 1951.

Although seemingly tied to radio, his success gained him renown, and he continued to surround himself with outstanding musicians. The great break came when they were introduced to recording manager George Martin, the fifth Beatle. A test recording was made, and "Bothy Ballads for the Gay Gordons" became a best seller for the band. Big name Andy Stewart became linked with Ian as the medium shifted to television in the early 1960s, and Powrie's Band performed on the show *White Heather Club* in over 80 performances. "This gave them the status of best band in the land." The band toured the world and played full summer seasons in Scotland's theatres. Toss in a concert at Balmoral Castle for Her Majesty the Queen and several London performances, and the circuit was complete. His busiest year was 1962, and the very next year he accompanied Andy Stewart to Australia and New Zealand.

In the midst of all this fame, however, Ian did not forget his roots and purchased a farm near Auchterarder. This remained the family home until 1966, when, after a tour of Australia, he announced plans to emigrate there. West Kirkton Farm was sold, cases packed, a final LP recorded, and farewell concerts performed. As a tribute to Ian and his music, Bill Hamilton devised the 128-bar jig we enjoy dancing. This lively dance reminds us of the whirlwind of activities that Ian and his band must have engaged in every time there was dance music needed. "While living Down Under Powrie was in great demand as both a fiddler and competition judge."

Ian and Leila returned to Scotland in 1984 and resettled near Auchterarder. From here he worked on variety shows, traveled to North America – both Canada and the US, and made a CD. After 15 years, the family emigrated again to Australia. They were living in "Perth Down Under" when he died in 2011.

Remembered as a great family man with an immense love for life, he had a way of making everything fresh and new. "The music he created over 60 years continues to be enjoyed the world over, no doubt due ... to the philosophy passed down from Powrie's father to his superbly talented son 'It's not what you play, it's how you play it.'" We also, no doubt, will long remember the jig that bears his name and the legend of a man tied to Scottish country dance and Scottish country dance music. Ian Powrie said, "Farewell" but, by no means, with finality. Here is a link to a video clip of Ian Powrie's story: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNgysjtF2CQ>



SDCEA Scholarship Dance



7:30 pm, March 19, 2016
First Parish Church in Weston
349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA
Donation: \$20 (Students \$15)

MCs: Laura DeCesare, Katarina Dutton, and Susie Long
Musicians: Beth Murray, Catherine Miller, Anne Hooper

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Leap Year | 8 x 24J (2C) | RSCDS Book of Graded SCD |
| A Clean Sweep | 8 x 32S (3C) | Drewry, Stoneywood Collect. |
| The March Hare | 3 x 32R (3C) | Red Thistle Dances |
| Widdershins | 8 x 32J (3C) | Highlander Collection Vol. #1 |
| The Lang Whang | 8 x 32S (3C) | Dickson, Dunedin, #1 |
| Cadgers in the Canongate | 8 x 48R (3C) | RSCDS Book 9 |
| Wisp of Thistle | 8 x 32S (3C) | RSCDS Book 37 |
| A Trip to Bavaria | 4 x 32R (4C) | RSCDS, Guide to SCD |

Intermission

Gay Gordons

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Roaring Jelly | 8 x 32J (3C) | Foss, Glendarroch |
| Jean Martin of Aberdeen | 3 x 32S (3C) | RSCDS, 3 Dances of 2006 |
| The Buchan Eightsome Reel | 10 x 40R (sq. set) | RSCDS Book 21 |
| Gaelforce Wind | 8 x 32J (3C) | Haynes, Carnforth, #3 |
| Village Reel | 8 x 32S (2C) | RSCDS Book 20 |
| Reel of the Royal Scots | 8 x 32R (3C) | RSCDS Leaflet Dances |

Waltz

All proceeds benefit the RSCDS Boston Branch scholarship funds.



Bletchley Park and Hugh Foss

The home of British code breaking during WWII was rescued from demolition and has been renovated into a place to visit, with the usual amenities. It is situated just outside London, and may be reached by both train and bus as well as by car. It is fascinating to see the conditions under which the workers toiled on often very seemingly mundane tasks. They were often cold, worked in three shifts, midnight to 8 am, 8 am to 4 pm and 4 pm to midnight, without the understanding we now have of the toll shift working can have on the human body and mental fatigue. Also the fact that most did not have any idea how the work they did fitted into the whole. However, their work shortened the war by two years, thus saving many lives. As we know everyone who worked there signed the Secrets Act and following the war could not tell anyone, even closest family members about the work they did, until gradually from 1970 onwards the information leaked out.

One of the major problems during this time was finding people who were conversant in other languages such as German and Japanese. One of the leaders in the Code breaking efforts was Scottish country dance devisor **Hugh Foss**. It turns out that he had been brought up in Japan as his parents were working there. He was a brilliant mathematician and as a consequence he became head of the Japanese section at Bletchley.

Now you can go into the Library at the Mansion, pull up his name and follow his track record. Which I found a fascinating thing to do this past October upon visiting Bletchley Park together with Jean Farrington. —
E.M.E. Murray

Have Shoes and would like to travel? What about a tour of New Zealand in 2016?

Date is March 2016, a 10-12 day tour in a small van with 6-8 passengers led by Christine Grobler of RSCDS, Orange County, CA. The tour covers the North Island - Auckland, Rotorua and Wellington - and the South Island - Christchurch, Marlborough, and hike Abel Tasman National park. Includes dancing in Christchurch and Wellington. Costs \$4800-\$5000, including airfare, accomodation, some meals, transport and tours. Contact: Christine Grobler: chrisgrobler@cox.net, 949-412-2088 or www.toursbychris.com

or Hawaii?

Feb 12 - 14, 2016: The annual Weekend of SCD. Dance lessons, social dancing to live music, and a semi-formal ball and ceilidh. Teacher is Linda Henderson from California and music by Humuhumunukunukuapua'a and Strathspey Society Band. Contact www.rscdshawaii.org

or Lyon, France?

April 8 - 10, 2016: The RSCDS Lyon are hosting an anniversary weekend with Roberta Gotfried and Fred DeMarse as teachers, and The Flying Kiwis for musicians. Welcome Ceilidh on Friday evening, Highland, cultural and gastronomic variations. Contact: www.rscds-lyon.fr/en

or Prague?

June 24 - 30, with teachers Ron Wallace and Muriel Johnstone on piano. Five days of intensive dancing. Additional sight-seeing tour to Southern Bohemia. Details at <http://www.dvorana.cz>

or Summer School at St. Andrews?

17 July - 14 August (participants usually stay for one week or one fortnight). Book online at www.rscds.org or contact Moira Thomson@rscds.org or (from the US) dial 01144 131 225 3854

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
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Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
(781) 438-4387

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE MAR/APRIL 2016 ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 10TH.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL 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**

Brookline Twelfth Night Program

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>The Jubilee Jig</i> | <i>8x32 Jig</i> | <i>RSCDS Leaflet</i> |
| <i>West's Hornpipe</i> | <i>4x32 Hornpipe</i> | <i>5 Dances for 1965</i> |
| <i>The Braes of Tulliemet</i> | <i>8x32 Strathspey</i> | <i>Bk 7-12</i> |
| <i>Hooper's Jig</i> | <i>8x32 Jig</i> | <i>MMM II</i> |
| <i>The Monmouth Ramble</i> | <i>4x32 Strathspey</i> | <i>Charters, Celebrate 50</i> |
| <i>Fireside Reel</i> | <i>8x32 Reel</i> | <i>18th Century</i> |
| <i>The Hunting Horn</i> | <i>8x32 Jig</i> | <i>McBride, SD Archives</i> |
| <i>The City of Belfast</i> | <i>3x32 Strathspey</i> | <i>Bk 48-6</i> |
| <i>The Montgomerie's Rant</i> | <i>8x32 Reel</i> | <i>Bk 10-1</i> |

Intermission & Supper

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Scott Meikle</i> | <i>4x32 Reel</i> | <i>Bk 46-3</i> |
| <i>Gang the Same Gate</i> | <i>8x32 Strathspey</i> | <i>Bk 36-4</i> |
| <i>The Luckenbooth Brooch</i> | <i>8x32 Jig</i> | <i>Glendarroch, No. 18</i> |
| <i>Neidpath Castle</i> | <i>3x32 Strathspey</i> | <i>Bk 22-9</i> |
| <i>The Duke of Perth</i> | <i>8x32 Reel</i> | <i>Bk 1-8</i> |