

The Tartan Times

Volume LXIV, Number 5
May/June, 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 & 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 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

The Executive Committee has been busy discussing the November Concert and deciding on a band. The performers for the November 12th Concert are fiddler Jeremy Kittel along with Keith Murphy on guitar and Joshua Pinkham on mandolin. Possible acts for the 2017 Concert have also been discussed, but no decisions have been made.

The AGM is scheduled to be held on June 6th at the Canadian-American Club in Watertown. Please save the date and watch for more information.

Have you seen the publicity postcard that Jeremy designed? It contains a lovely picture of some Branch dancers plus a map of where the 20 Boston Branch classes are located. Anyone interested in finding a class is then directed to the website for more information. These postcards are available for distribution to the classes or whenever dance demonstrations are occurring. Thank you, Jeremy!

— *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

MAY 14 2016

RSCDS Boston Branch's 60th Anniversary

BOSTON HIGHLAND BALL with TULLOCHGORUM

MCs: Howard Lasnik, Bruce Mabbott, Cathy Fahey

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

Barbara McOwen - fiddle
Anne Hooper - fiddle
Terry Traub - piano
Robert McOwen - bass
Campbell Webster - drums, pipes

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 Bannan | 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 |

FRIDAY MAY 13 2016



RSCDS Boston Branch's

HIGHLAND BALL WELCOME DANCE

8:00 PM

with THE GUNNS

at First Parish Church
349 Boston Post Rd, Weston MA

Dan Wheatley and friends

Lance Ramshaw, MC

Tickets in advance or at the door: \$13 RSCDS / \$15 non-members

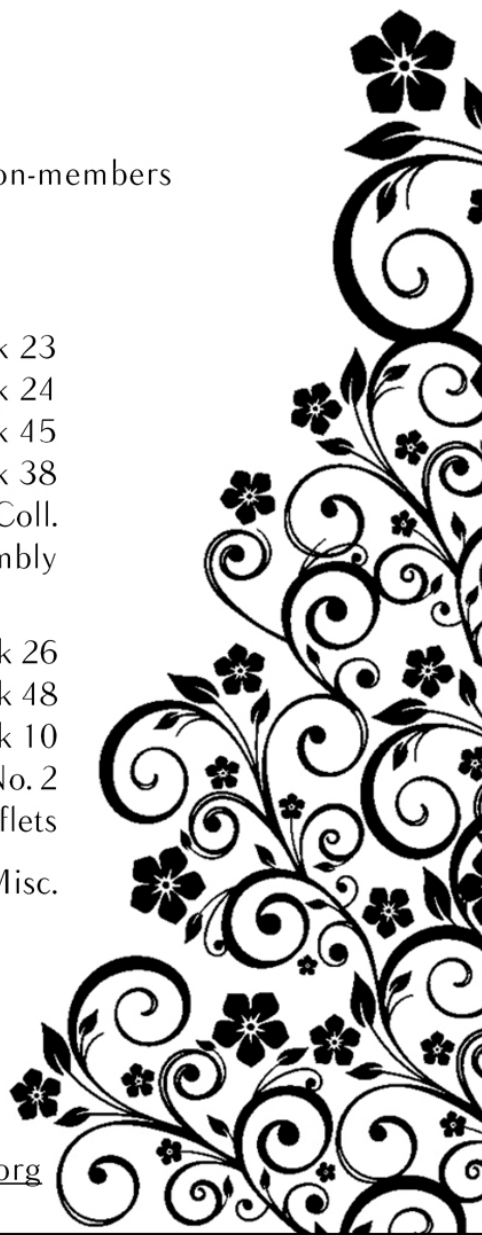
PROGRAMME:

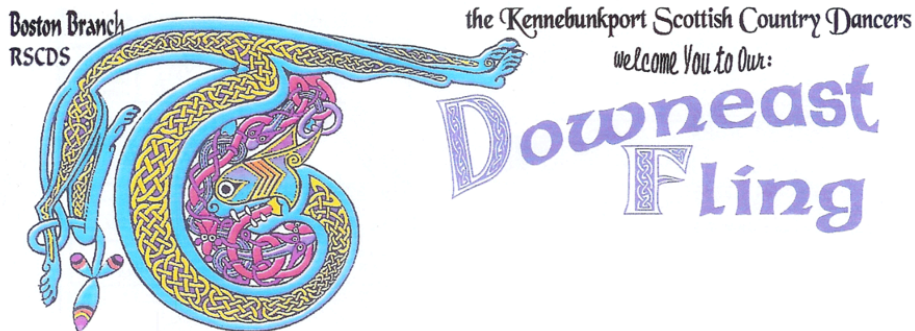
| | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Miss Hadden's Reel | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 23 |
| Balquidder Strathspey | S 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 24 |
| Catch the Wind | H 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 45 |
| Follow Me Home | J 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 38 |
| The Spirit of the Dance | S 8x32 | TAC 50th Anniv. Coll. |
| The Australian Ladies | R 8x32 | Glasgow Assembly |

* TEA *

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Old Nick's Lumber Room | J 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 26 |
| City of Belfast | J 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 48 |
| The Montgomeries' Rant | R 8x32 | RSCDS Bk 10 |
| Airie Bannan | J 5x32 | Glendarroch No. 2 |
| The Sauchie Haugh | S 8x32 | RSCDS Leaflets |
| The Highlandman Kissed His Mother | R 8x32 | Miss Milligan's Misc. |

See www.rscdsboston.org/events-HighlandBall.html
for ticket orders, directions, and mini-cribs,
as well as info on Ball Prep (May 12), Ball (May 14),
and Sunday Brunch (May 15)
Questions: Emily Peterson, highlandball@rscdsboston.org





Saturday, June 18, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Kennebunk Town Hall

Admission: \$15 • RSCDS members \$12

Preceded by pot luck supper at the home of Joanne Hulsey and Peter Sentner
20 Cottagewood Lane, Kennebunk

*Music by Peter Macfarlane - fiddle,
Viveka Fox - fiddle & bodhran, Susie Petrov - piano*

For more information please contact Merrill 207-409-9050 or crone4702@gmail.com

Brookline Class End-of-Season Dance Party

Sunday, 22nd May, 2016

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Parish House, Church of Our Saviour

25 Monmouth St., Brookline, MA

Music by Sylvia Miskoe, Vince O'Donnell & Lance Ramshaw

MC: Priscilla Borden

Admission: \$12 • \$10 RSCDS members


The Program and Prompt Sheets are on the Branch website, rscdsboston.org
For further info please contact Flo Hearn at 781-235-6490 or hearn2@verizon.net

Memorial Day Weekend Party

May 28, 2016 American Legion Hall, Belfast, Maine



Music by Terpsichore

Elke Baker, Fiddle, & Liz Donaldson, Piano 

3:30 *Tricky Dance Walk Through*
5:45 *Potluck Supper* \$1.00 plus a Pot
7:00 *Dancing* \$10.00 RSCDS members; \$12.00 nonmembers

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

* Welcome to Belfast

Around the room dance

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Light and Airy | 8x32J3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Bk 4 | The Fireworks Reel | 8x32R3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Bk 48 |
| Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan | 5x32R[5C Set]—Goldring | It's Nae Bother | 6x32J2C[3C Set]—2nd Graded Bk |
| Miss Eleanor | 3x32S[3C Set]—RSCDS Bk 49 | Miss Milligan's Strathspey | 8x32S3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Lflt20 |
| Tribute to the Borders | 8x32J3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Lflt 11 | Flowers of Edinburgh | 8x32R3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Bk 1 |

* Gay Gordons

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| St Andrew's Fair | 8x32J3C[4C Set]—5 RSCDS | Melanie's Strathspey | 4x32S4C[4C Set]—D. Thompson |
| The Accordion Player | 32R3C[4C Set]—P. Stevens | Pelorus Jack  | 8x32J3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Bk 41 |
| The Pleasure is Mine | 6x32S2C[3C Set]—Goldring | John McAlpin | 8x32S3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Mag 2006 |
| Catch the Wind | 8x32R3C[4C Set]—RSCDS Bk 45 | Da Rain Dancin' | 8x32R3C[4C Set]—Whiteadder Coll |

* Intermission and Desserts

* Waltz

Ceilidh and Potluck Brunch, Hosted by
Carolyn and Peter Maruhn, Montville
Sunday, May 29, 10-2



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

The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont

15th Annual SPRING FLING

MUSIC BY
VIVEKA FOX, HOLLIS EASTER, PETER MACFARLANE, &
SUSIE PETROV

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Walk Through at 2:30 p.m., Potluck at 5:30 p.m., Dance at 7:00 p.m.
Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont
Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (Branch Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),
Under 18 - \$5.00

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

CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE EVENTS AND CONCERTS - LOCAL AND AFAR

May

- 7 London Branch (Canada) Annual Spring Ball, music by Scotch Mist
13 *** Highland Ball Friday evening Welcome Dance, music by The Gunns p 4
14 *** Boston Highland Ball, music by Tullochgorum p 3
15 *** Boston Branch Brunch p 3, with music and dancing
20-22 New York Branch Weekend at Pawling, music by Scotch Mist
21 *** Fairlee VT Annual Spring Dance p 6
22 *** Brookline End-of-Season Dance with live music p 5
28 *** Penobscot Bay Memorial Weekend Dance Party, music by Terpsichore, p 6
28-29 Dublin, SCD Club, Eire, Celebrates 50 years of dancing

June

- 5th * SRSNH Concert at Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA p 10
18 *** Kennebunkport Class Downeast Fling p 5
24-26 Midwest Scottish Weekend in Beloit, WI p 15
24-30 Prague SCD Week with Ron Wallace and Muriel Johnstone info www.dvorana.cz/

July

- 4 - 8 *** ESCape - to Pinewoods for English, Scottish and Contra dancing
8-16 *** Scottish Sessions I & II at Pinewoods
July 17-Aug 1 RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland
July 31-Aug 7 Teacher's Association of Canada Summer School p 15

August

- 13th Central NY Highland Games, Syracuse, NY
20th * Maine St. Andrews Society annual Highland Games

Save the dates:

16-18 Sept – NH Highland Games, Lincoln, NH

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!

Tuolumne Tournee

Tuolumne Tournee is a Strathspey devised by Shirley Saturenky, an Orange County SCD teacher with music composed for it by Muriel Johnstone. It was devised while several SCDancers were staying at the Tuolumne Meadows Lodge in Yosemite National Park in 1994, and the twisting and turnings of the hiking trails led to the suggestion to devise a dance dedicated to this beautiful location. Anyone who has been watching the re-run of Ken Burns' "National Parks" will appreciate the description above. The 149-mile Tuolumne River (pron. TWAW/I'-mee) rises in and flows through the rugged countryside of California's Sierra Nevada, crossing the Yosemite National Park from east to west. Before leaving the park the river is dammed by the O'Shaughnessy Dam, creating the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. This damming was done despite years of protests led by Scottish naturalist John Muir in the early 1900s to provide water for San Francisco.

The Los Angeles Branch included "Tuolumne Tournee" in their book *Celebrating Fifty Years of 25 dances newly devised and/or collected together for their publication.*

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

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| 28 | Belfast Class Memorial Day Weekend Party | American Legion Hall, Belfast ME | Donna Griffith, 207-785-2216, dwados@hotmail.com |
| JUNE 2016 | | | |
| 18 | Downeast Fling | Kennebunk Town Hall, Kennebunk ME | Merrill Henderson, 207-839-8630, crone4702@gmail.com |
| JULY 2016 | | | |
| 4-8 | Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra | Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth MA | Kat Dutton, 443-468-9296 |
| 8-11 11-16 | Pinewoods Scottish Sessions | Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth MA | Beth Birdsall, 802-989-3147 Linda McJannet, 617-492-8180 |
| AUGUST 2016 | | | |
| 26-28 | N.H. Highlands | St. Methodios Center Contocook, NH | Loren Wright, lonwright@comcast.net |

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

Advice from Miss Milligan – Co-founder of the RSCDS

Writing in 1956 for *101 Scottish Country Dances*:

“Never dance too fast. Speed does not really give spirit. Real spirit and liveliness come from within the dancer, and quick music often ruins much of the pleasure of dancing, because it is liable to turn the dance into something of a riot. To dance well one needs time to think of what is going next, and time to use all the bars of music given for each formation.”

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 Ted, 413-698-2944 or Maria, 413-344-3023
- * **Cambridge:** Year-round, most Mondays 7:45-10:15 pm, at the Canadian American Club (www.canadianamericanclub.com) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, CambridgeClass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Chelmsford:** First Fridays year-round, 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Live music. Contact Rebecca Gore at rjgore@gmail.com or 508-574-1533
- * **Newton:** Wednesday mornings 10:30 am - noon. Sept through mid-June at Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton. July and Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdshoes14@gmail.com
- * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Florence Civic Center, 90 Park St. (enter on Cosmian), Florence (nr. Northampton). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407
- * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays 8 pm, beginners at 7:30, First Universalist Church, 211 Bridge St., Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, WeeBluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
- * **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. New: children and adult beginners 7:30-8:00, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact Marcia Rising, marcia.mdrising@verizon.net, 978-897-2466
- * **Yarmouth:** Thursdays 7:30 pm, Yarmouthport Congregational Church, 329 Main St (Rt. 6A), Yarmouthport. Contact Marla Menzies, 508-432-3711

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Year-round, Mondays 7:30 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact BelfastClass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; David Thompson, 207-469-3293
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, crone4702@gmail.com
- * **Stonington:** Year-round, Wednesday 7:00 pm; Island Community Center, off School St., Stonington. Contacts Mike / Dawn Little, 207-348-9308; mjlittle2318@hotmail.com; sugarmaple111@hotmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

VERMONT

- * **Fairlee:** Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459
- * **Manchester Center:** Tuesdays 7-9 pm, First Congregational Church (on Route 7A, across from the Equinox Hotel). Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, 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; loisnew@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 & Natalie Haas in concert, **Tuesday & Wednesday, May 3 & 4 at 8:00 pm** at **Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge**. Info: www.passim.org

The Scottish Fish in concert, **Sunday May 15 at 7:30 pm** at **Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge**. The Fish are a veteran 5-girl Scottish fiddle band from Arlington and environs, and have started planning their first CD. Info: www.passim.org

Andrea Beaton & Wendy MacIsaac are playing for a Cape Breton dance party and concert on **Saturday May 28th, 8-11:30 pm** at the **Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington St, Watertown**. Advance tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2538122>

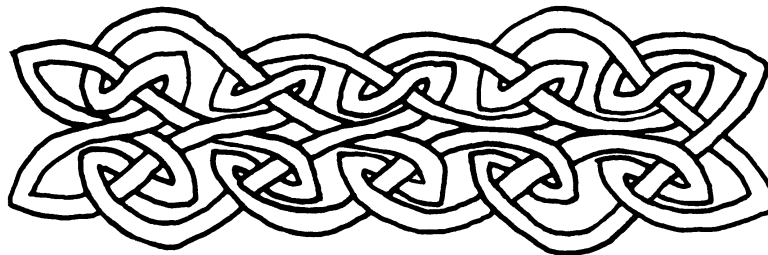
Don't miss a very special concert by a special group in a special location - *The Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire* will perform at **Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Sunday June 5th, at 2:00 pm**. Members of the SRSNH will be playing under the big tent. Limited seating, reserve your space by May 22nd by calling the Wayside Inn at 978-443-1776, ext. 1. Tickets are \$12.50. For info, contact Marilyn Goodrich at 978-443-6865. This is part of The Wayside Inn's Celebration of 300 years' providing hospitality on the Old Post Road in Sudbury, MA.

The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club is presenting its First Annual Gala, **Saturday, June 11, 7-11 pm**, at the **Canadian American Club in Watertown MA** with the new Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra led by Neil Pearlman and featuring Hanneke Cassel with special guests Katie McNally, Ed Pearlman, Rachel Reeds, and more. Concert, cash bar, silent auction, ceilidh dancing with Anne Hooper and Terry Traub. Tickets (\$25 / \$10 under 18) available at the door or at brownpapertickets.com. This event will help support the fiddle club's programs - the Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, the Wednesday sessions, the Sunday workshops, the NEW Friday Young Fiddlers Workshop Series, Annual Tune Books and more... Volunteers are needed - learn how you can help make this fundraiser a success: contact Katharine MacPhail at macphailkat@gmail.com, Sue Chari at sue.chari@gmail.com, Lucinda Brandt at benliz999@rcn.com

Post Meridian (Maggie MacPhail & Paul Franzosa on Scottish fiddle and guitar) are performing on **June 18 at 7:00 pm** at the **Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge**. Maggie is the youngest of the Fish and a sometime member of the Cambridge Class. Info: <https://lilypadinman.com/>

36th annual *Old Songs Folk Festival of traditional Music and Dance*, **June 24, 25, 26** at the **Altamont Fairgrounds, Altamont, NY** (near Albany). Tickets available at www.oldsongs.org

Somerset Folk Harp Festival **July 21-24** at the **Hilton, Parsippany, NH**. Go to www.SomersetHarpFest.com for more details.



What's in a Name? The Countess of Dunmore's Reel

by Barry Pipes, mccallum.pipes@rogers.com

It's quite a rare occasion when I get to write a piece about a dance devised by one of our very own. This is one of those infrequent events, the dance having been created by none other than Deirdre McCuish Bark, well-known to many of us, and the current Chair of the RSCDS Toronto Association.

Other than Deirdre, did anyone else know who the Countess of Dunmore was? And Deirdre's interest in her – what was that all about? Then, I remembered Deirdre telling *Set & Link* readers recently about her trip with hubby Keith to visit family on the Hebridean island of Harris (which is not to forget Lewis, the northern half). That's Deirdre's family of course, the MacCuishes. Keith himself hails from the English county of Lincolnshire, which is perhaps better known in some quarters for its poachers — but I digress, and that is a story for another time.

With a lead like that, however, it didn't take me long to find a connection with both the Countess of Dunmore and the internationally known key product of the isle of Harris, which is of course Harris Tweed, a rough, closely woven woollen fabric. Incidentally, Dunmore itself is quite a small Scottish community far from the Hebrides, located between Falkirk and Stirling.

Born to an English peer and his Russian wife in 1814, Lady Catherine Herbert was married at the age of 22 to Alexander Murray, who in turn ultimately inherited the title Earl of Dunmore. After 11 years of marriage, Alexander died. Among other holdings, Catherine Murray, now Countess of Dunmore, inherited 150,000 acres in Harris. And as those who are familiar with the British aristocracy also may know, the wife of an Earl usually takes the courtesy title of Countess.

Catherine, the now-widowed Countess, decided to take a strong interest in the Harris Tweed industry, which in the 1840s was somewhat in the doldrums. To overcome this situation, she recognized that some revolutionary changes were necessary to combat the competition that had sprung up between the spinning and weaving of Harris Tweed, which was all done by hand, and the rapid growth of machine-made cloth.

She was so successful in this endeavour that sales burgeoned and Harris Tweed was well on the way to international acclaim. Enough about the Countess' history, what about the dance?

I must admit that the first time I saw it being performed I thought that I was looking at *Linnea's Strathspey* being danced in reel tempo. I have since learned that I was looking at a progression common to both dances called, somewhat quaintly in my view, a chaperoned promenade chain. Chaperoned? No, one does not need to have one's mother-in-law in attendance, but I hope that I got the name of that progression right. Whatever, I have indeed danced it a time or two at this point, without embarrassment. It is a very satisfying progression to achieve competently when you have your wits about you.

Well done, Deirdre! The RSCDS saw fit to include your *Countess of Dunmore's Reel* in its relatively new *Book 49*. We Toronto-area dancers should be very proud of your accomplishment in devising this interesting dance.



What About Other Dances Related to Atholl and Murray?

from *The Editor, E.M.E. Murray*

Barry Pipes' article on the new dance, *The Countess of Dunmore's Reel*, reminded me that there are other dances that belong in this group, some old and some new. The family name of Dunmore is Murray, similarly for the Earls of Mansfield. The popular dance in Scotland, *The Earl of Mansfield* (a 48-bar reel) published by the Society as a leaflet, was devised by John Drewry in 1980. John inscribed it to William, Earl of Mansfield, President of the Royal Scottish Dance Society at the time. The Earl served as President for many years, and recently passed away at his home near the Palace of Scone, the Mansfield ancestral home since the time of James the VI and I.

Other family names are recognized and published in the Society Books 27 and 11 respectively with the two dances *Murray of Lintrose*, devised by John Bowie of Perth, 1784, and *Miss Murray of Ochertyre*, also by John Bowie, 1798. The Ochertyre family used to reside near Crieff. In the era of patrons being necessary in order to survive in the music and dance environment no doubt he was acknowledging the families by naming dances after family members.

From slightly earlier we have a strathspey, *The Duchess of Atholl's Slipper*, written around 1770-75, but there is no hint of the story behind her slipper! The recommended tune in RSCDS Book 9 is of the same name and it is noted that it was collected in the Border country. *The Duke of Atholl's Reel* (a jig) is ascribed to Skillern, 1776. The Society published it in Book 16.

During the second half of the 18th century the famous fiddler, Niel Gow, was fiddler to five Dukes of Atholl. This meant that any time guests were entertained by the Atholl family either in Dunkeld or at Blair Castle, Gow would be asked to come and provide entertainment either during dinner or frequently to lead dancing in the evening. We do know that two daughters of the family danced for the visit of Robert Burns and his school teacher friend at the Castle in 1787. Niel Gow was born in Inver, a tiny village near Dunkeld, and with his musical sons enjoyed the patronage of the Murray family during his and their life times. Today visitors to Blair Castle can see the portrait of Gow painted by Sir Henry Raeburn hanging in the ballroom, together with his fiddle which rests in a display case. Niel is remembered in the dance *Niel Gow's Farewell to Whisky*, in book 34, which was collected in Canada and made available to the Society by Miss Jenny MacLachlan. The music selected is from the tune of the same name, composed by Niel and published in his Fifth Collection, 1809. Following along these traditional lines, Ron Gonnella composed the tune *The Duke of Atholl's Jig* which was "dedicated with gracious permission to George Iain Murray, 10th Duke of Atholl." It was first played and presented to His Grace at a dinner held at the Atholl Arms, 25th May, 1985. I devised the dance *The Vale of Atholl* to this tune which was first danced at this dinner, sponsored by both the Scottish Murray Clan Society and the North American Society.

This was following in the path of *The Braes of Atholl* which was originally published in Walsh's Country Dances, 1731. Danced to the tune of the same name, it is quite a complicated dance for this period. The Society published it in Book 8. The last dance is *Lady Jean Murray's Rant* published by Rutherford, 1749-1756, and danced to the strathspey *Atholl House*. Lady Jean was the elder daughter of James, second Duke of Atholl. Born in 1730, following the last Jacobite Rising and the Battle of Culloden, she met and married John, Earl of Crawford, in 1747 and, sadly, died in the same year.

In addition there are a good number of dances with titles reflecting this area of Perthshire.



Another Story Behind a Dance – John Drewry’s Finnan Haddies

by Karen Kerman, from an article printed in the *Orange County Ceilidh*, Jan/Feb 2015

Finnan haddie. Hmmmm ... Where did I hear that before? baked finnan haddie was a staple for winter dinners in my childhood. Curious about the name I asked my dad – a native of New Hampshire and really knowledgeable about many things. His answer satisfied me, and I continued to enjoy this treat.

Of course, finnan haddie is smoked haddock. It originated in the former fishing village of Findon, Aberdeenshire, pronunciation most likely shortened to “finnan.” As with many local traditions, there are alternative claims to fame, and finnan haddie is no exception. Some attribute the origin of this delicacy to a corruption of the name of the village of Findhorn on the River Findhorn in Moray. This friendly rivalry dates from the 18th century although the Oxford English Dictionary notes “it may have been a popular dish in Aberdeenshire since as early as the 1640s.”

Whatever the exact place and/or date of its origin, finnan haddie has been known for a long time, at least in Scotland. The fisher folk used the “cold-smoking” process, employing a green wood and peat method characteristic of that northeast region. This compares with the fish that was smoked for preservation, which became tough when exposed to the heavy smoke. Conversely, the locally produced fish had a finer and a more delicate flavor. These haddies were an immediate success, and many recipe variations have developed since the late 19th century. It seems that the villagers and those using this product on a regular basis hit on something that could be more widely marketed. London, perhaps? Indeed, James Boswell* wrote that Scottish smoked fish could be obtained in that city.

Smoked haddock also has a long association with two other well-established smoked fish dishes: cullen skink – a traditional fish soup, and the Arbroath smokie – whole fishes split, dried, and then smoked over a hardwood fire. Quite tasty, so I understand! Apparently, the transplanted Scots of New England and Maritime Canada brought their recipes and specialties as they emigrated, and finnan haddie found a new home, becoming popular with the fishing communities as well as others.

If there is a dance entitled *Finnan Haddies*, why not a song? Believe it or not, research turned up a link to YouTube and The Oregon Chorale singing *Finnan Haddie* by Vijay Singh. Zebrine Kuehn directs while accompanied by Eliot Grasso on tin whistle. This is the URL: www.youtube.com/watch?v=55mxBvG80Fw. Cole Porter also mentions it in a song, *My Heart Belongs to Daddie*. A 1942 Warner Brothers cartoon punned it with the title *Fin n’ Catty*.

Since *Finnan Haddies* is a strathspey, we won’t be smoking the dance floor to execute it. But we can really enjoy this John Drewry creation. It is quite a dance with some interesting movements and unique figures.

The dance is published in **The Bankhead Book, Part 4 (1993-1994)**. The tune is *Finnin’ Haddies* from Kerr’s *3rd Collection of Merry Melodies for the Violin*, tune 73, page 10. The dance directions are too long to publish here, but briefly the first 8 bars contain set, turn and circle. The next is an exercise in set and link. The next involves corner, pass and turn with promenades. The last 8 bars are tidying up so that all end correctly in the order 3, 1, 4, 2, with 4th and 2nd couples on the opposite side. The dance is for 4 couples in a 4-couple set starting with the 3rd and 4th couples on opposite sides.

* James Boswell was the first biographer of Dr. Samuel Johnston. In particular he wrote about traveling to Scotland and the Hebrides with Johnston in August and September, 1773.



PEOPLE NEWS

It is **Tony Moretti's** 96th Birthday on May 31st this year. I suggest that everyone who reads this and remembers Tony send him a birthday card.

His address is: 22709 Marsh Wren Drive, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639.

He is living with son Freddy and wife and still looks the same as he did when he and Betty lived in New England. Recently I met with Eleanor O'Donnell and she passed along to me some SCD books from herself and Mary Leonard. Both were keen dancers in Tony's Manchester NH class. The class helped with the start of the New Hampshire Highland Games and in the early days were part of the Demonstration Team at these games. Eleanor said how much she missed the dancing at recent games at Loon, especially the Ball. (The books will be passed along to new teachers.) – *The Editor*

Flowers of the Forest – Mary Brandon

by *Sandy Gallamore, Richmond, VA*

It is with sadness to announce that **Mary Shoolbraid Brandon** died late night on March 10, just shy of her 91st birthday.

Born into a dancing family, she was the fourth generation dancing in Fife, Scotland, taking her teaching inspiration from her mother, Mamie. After receiving her teacher's certificate at St. Andrews, Mary moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, and became involved with teaching dancing to local children and dancing festivals for school children. Mary was an influence in the visit of Miss Milligan to Vancouver in 1963, who encouraged a branch to be formed. In 1964, the Vancouver branch was established, with Mary being one of the first committee members.

In 1966, Mary married David Brandon and moved to Los Angeles. David and she were still active in dancing in the Los Angeles Branch (which David assisted in establishing). They moved to Hawaii for David's work and established the Hawaii Branch. After David's retirement, they returned to Los Angeles and continued to be involved in local dancing. Mary tutored several classes locally and traveled to Japan to instruct their candidates.

In 1987, Mary received the RSCDS Scroll of Honour for contributions with the Vancouver, Los Angeles, and Hawaii Branches. She was later an RSCDS examiner, one of the first in North America.

Mary has two books of dancing, *Memories of Fife* and *Dances with a Difference*, including dances with original tunes by her musical brother, Murray Shoolbraid of Salt Spring Island, BC. Her most notable dances include *Mamie's Jig* (written for her dancing mother), *Sandy Butterly*, *Double Sixsome* and *The Balgeddie Reel* (a staple in the Southeast USA).

Mary retired from dancing and moved to Santa Barbara to enjoy the terrific sunsets. She is survived by her brother, sister-in-law, stepson and stepdaughter. [*David died in 2002. – ed.*] While you may not have known Mary, or even met her, her legacy of dancing has influenced generations of dancers and, for that, I know that I am personally thankful for all her contributions, great and small.



The photograph (undated) is of David Brandon, Helan Platt, Mayor Frank Fasi, Mary Brandon and a piper. Mayor Fasi was proclaiming the first-ever Scottish Games in Honolulu which Helan had organized. Helan and her daughter Sandra used to live in the Boston area, and moved to Hawaii where they met the Brandons. Mary taught SCD there for a number of years before moving back to the mainland. She taught at Pinewoods Scottish Sessions in the 70s.



Teachers' Association (Canada)
affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

**TAC Summer Events 2016 Information
for Scottish Country Dancers**

TAC Teachers' Conference Weekend

29 - 31 July 2016

TAC Summer School Week

31 July - 7 August 2016

Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

If you have not yet registered - Take advantage of the Early Fee schedule to secure your place by registering for either or both events before 1 May 2016. Registration Fees increase thereafter from 1 May through 30 June – so Register now.

If you have already registered - Thank you and please encourage other dancers to join you at the Summer Events.

Information on the Wednesday afternoon bus tour options and on availability of an extra night's accommodation will be posted on the website by late May.

Midwest Scottish Weekend, 24-26 June, 2016

Location Beloit, Wisconsin. Register online with Pay Pal, or download the form and mail it in. All info including programs and cribs at <https://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/> Qs to Mady Newfield, 630-584-0825 or Diana Hanks, 262-679-8522. Friday night welcome dance, classes to live music taught by Sandy Gallamore (Richmond, VA) and Janice Lacock (Madison, WI). Banquet and Ball on Saturday evening, dancing to music by Mara Shea and Dave Weisler.

Autumn in Gamundia, 28-30 October, 2016:

An international dance weekend for experienced dancers, in Schwabisch Gmund, Germany. Teacher Antoine Rousseau. Contact Ute Ritzal, ute.pitzal@rechbergscottishdancers.de

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE JULY/AUG 2016 ISSUE IS JUNE 10TH.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL OF SUMMER & EARLY FALL EVENTS TO THE EDITOR.
DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR
AND TO JEAN FARRINGTON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR
Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep**

NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLANDS

Scottish Dance Weekend

August 26-28, 2016

St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Camp Merrimack Road, Contoocook, NH

Teachers:

Terry Harvey, Newtown Square, PA • Sue Ronald, Edgewater, NJ • Jen Schoonover, Rockland, MA

Musicians:

Katie McNally, *Music Director, Fiddle* • Emerald Rae, *Fiddle* • Terry Traub, *Keyboard* •
Howard Lasnik, *Percussion* • Elias Alexander, *Piper*

Accommodations:

Choice of single sex dormitories (cost \$210) • Limited single rooms in retreat house (cost \$370) •
Semi-private room in retreat house (cost \$275)

Information:

Roberta Lasnik – 781-643-3977, rlasnik@verizon.net • Loren Wright – 603-891-2331, lonwright@comcast.net
• rscdsboston.org/events-NHHighlands

*Deposit of \$50 minimum must be paid with application; total payment by August 1
Deduct \$10, if paid in full by July 1*