

The Tartan Times

Volume LXIV, Number 6
July/August, 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, Sue Chari, Cathy Goode, Merrill Henderson, Jeffrey Hopper, Linda McJannet

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

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Peter Olszowka • **Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2016** MaryEllen Scannell
Highland Ball 2017 *Chair:* Emily Peterson

Fall Concert 2016 *Artistic Director:* Robert McOwen; *Producer:* Abbie MacQuarrie

Pinewoods Scottish 2017 *Co-Chairs:* Laura DeCesare and Ross Parker

Pinewoods ESC 2017 *Contact:* Meghan Murray • **NH Highlands** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare

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, MA:** Sue Chari

Brunswick, Kennebunk & Belfast ME, Greenland NH, Stow, MA : Merrill Henderson

Montpelier VT, Fairlee VT, Albany NY: Jeremy Hopper • **Salem MA:** Andrea Aeschlimann

Great Barrington MA, Northampton MA: Cathy Goode; **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

The AGM was held on June 6, 2016 with the re-election of Jeremy Thorpe as President and Susan Haines as Secretary. In addition, Sue Chari and Jeffrey Hopper were elected to the Executive Committee as members-at-large, and Rosemary Jackson was elected to the Nominating Committee. A proposed By-Laws change allowing Associate Members to be able to vote in Society meetings also passed. The Executive Committee welcomes Sue and Jeffrey and would like to thank Dale Birdsall and Kat Dutton for their service and contributions to the Committee.

The Branch postcards are still available for anyone who would like to distribute them to publicize the Branch and where to find classes. Also, the Branch now has an outreach coordinator, Jessi Kittel, who will do advertising on social media.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary

Save the date: The RSCDS Boston Branch's 23rd annual

Concert of Scottish Music and Dance

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Two shows - 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm

featuring

American fiddler and former
U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion

Jeremy Kittel and his Trio

and

Will Woodson (pipes) with
Eric MacDonald (guitar)

Location: Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library
Lexington, MA

Jeremy Kittel is a contemporary American musician and composer. His primary instruments are the violin and viola and his styles include Celtic, bluegrass, jazz, and folk music.

Go to rscdsboston.org/concert for up-to-date information

The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
11th Annual Autumn Social

MUSIC BY A PARCEL OF ROGUES:
SUSIE PETROV, CALUM PASQUA, AND DAN HOUGHTON

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m., Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (RSCDS Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),

Students/Under 18 - \$5.00

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

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

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

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***

The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our

Fall Dance Party

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Topsham Grange Hall - Topsham, Maine



Potluck Supper

5:45 PM \$1 & a Pot

Dance 7:00 PM

Admission

\$10 for RSCDS members

\$12 for non-RSCDS members

Music by **Fiddle Fancy**
with Terry Traub
& Catherine Miller

Opening Waltz

Joie de Vivre	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 39
Pittenweem	32H 3C	Brandon: Memories of Fife
Bob Campbell	32S 3C	Drewry: Canadian Book
Major Ian Stewart	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 35
The Clansman	32R 2C	RSCDS Book 32
Rose of the North	32S 3C	Goldring: Leeds Silver Jubilee
Gaelforce Wind	32J 3C	RSCDS Third Graded Book
Mrs Macleod	32R 3C	RSCDS Book 6

Intermission

Gay Gordons

Flora's Fancy	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 49
The Saltire Society Reel	32R 3C	RSCDS Leaflet
The Minister on the Loch	32S 3CSET	Goldring: 15 Graded & Social
Beach Dancer	32J 3C	Eddy West
Mrs. Jappy's Measure	32S 3C	Zobel: Dancing on Air
Mary Erskine	32H 3C	Goldring: 15 Social Dances
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	32S 3C	RSCDS Leaflet
Reel of the 51st Division	32R 3C	RSCDS Book 13

Final Waltz

For further information contact:

Patti Tillotson

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

pstillotson@gmail.com



Directions: From the South: At Portland take I-295N to Exit 31. Take Rte 196 E to Rte 201S. Turn Right.

From the North: Route 1 to Exit 196W. Follow to Route 201S, Go Left

Then go approximately .4 miles to Pleasant St (first street on the left after Volvo dealer), turn left on Pleasant St
— Topsham Grange is the yellow building with white trim immediately on the left.



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 already registered - We look forward to your participation. By July 15th we will post an Information Bulletin on the [Campus Information](#) page with details on what to bring, where to park, where to find the registration desk, etc. Meanwhile, note that many preliminary details are already available on the Campus Information page and other [Summer School](#) drop-down menus. For an additional night's accommodation, reserve via [Extra Options 2016](#) by **30 June**. For a Wednesday 3 August afternoon bus tour, reserve via [Extra Options 2016](#) by **27 July**. Online registration is encouraged so that we have sufficient numbers to confirm the bus tours.

Are you still planning to come to any of TCW, SS Week, SS Weekend 2016 - Reserve via [Summer Event Registration](#) by **30 June**.

Will not be coming this year - Please pass on information about this year's 2016 TAC Summer Events to others who love to dance. Plan on coming in **2017** to the University of British Columbia, **Vancouver, BC**, Canada for Teachers' Conference Weekend 21-23 July 2017 and/or TAC Summer School 23-30 July.

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Our mailing address is:

Summer Events Registrar
Box 99, Picture Butte, AB, T0K 1V0, Canada

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

July, 2016

- 24th SRSNH Annual Picnic, at Sylvia Miskoe's, p 10
29-31 ** TAC Teacher's Conference weekend, p 6
31 - Aug 7 ** TAC Summer School, p 6

August

- 15-19 ** Scotch on the Rocks, The Keppies invite you to a week in Wolfville, Nova Scotia,
Duncan and Maggie Keppie, keppie@eastlink.ca
20th * Maine St. Andrews Highland Games, Topsham Fairgrounds, ME
26-28 *** New Hampshire Highlands weekend, p 4

September

- 11th *** Brookline Class start of new season of dancing
16-18 * New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln, NH
16-18 Scottish Weekend at Timber Ridge, WV, p 12

October

- 7-10 ** Scots Gathering at Canmore, AB, Ron Wallace & Elaine Brunken
Music by Mary Ross and Ron Krug and lots more www.calgaryscots.org
8th * Concert with Charlie Zahn sponsored by the St. Andrew's Soc. MA, p10
15th *** Brunswick Class annual Dance Party, p 5
22nd *** Fairly Autumn Social, p 4

November

- 4-5 ** RSCDS Annual Conference weekend, p 12
12th *** Boston Branch annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert, p 3

December

- 3rd *** Annual Pinewoods Benefit Ball, p 12

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!

Heavens Above

Fiona was an expert harpist who was frequently asked to play for weddings, receptions, parties and other such events. She was also a blonde and had an angelic, cherubic face. She was on her way to an engagement in a hotel in Edinburgh and stepped into the lift (elevator) with her large golden harp. Just before the doors closed, an elderly gentleman stepped on,. As the lift rose, he looked thoughtfully, first at Fiona and then her harp, and asked "*How far up does this lift go?*"

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
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	New Hampshire Highlands	St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH	Roberta Lasnik – 781-643-3977, rlasnik@verizon.net
OCTOBER 2016			
15	Brunswick Maine Fall Dance Party	Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, ME	Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
NOVEMBER 2016			
12	Annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert	Masonic Rite Museum, Lexington, MA	rscdsboston.org/Concert2016
DECEMBER 2016			
3	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Salem, MA	MaryEllen Scannell, webluets@rscdsboston.org

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

Save the date:

PINEWOODS BENEFIT BALL

Saturday, December 3, 2016

Pot Luck 6:30 pm and Grand March 7:30 pm

Location: The Bridge at 211 Bolles Hall, Salem, MA

MUSIC BY PARCEL OF ROGUES

All proceeds benefit Pinewoods Camp

Contact: MaryEllen Scannell, webluets@rscdsboston.org

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; lois anew@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

SRSNH ANNUAL PICNIC returns to its original site! The date is Sunday, July 24th, and location returns to Sylvia Miskoe's place at 102 Little Pond Road, Concord, NH 03301. Time is 1-5 pm. Sylvia is providing house, 2nd piano, plastic flatware, and chairs. Please bring your own food, beverage and instruments. RSVP to Sylvia at sylviamiskoe@gmail.com

The St. Andrew's Society of Massachusetts is presenting the popular singer **Charlie Zahm in concert Saturday October 8th** at the First Congregational Church, Brimfield, MA (very easy to find as it is a traditional NE white church on a small hill in the center of town!). For more info contact Rev. Peter-Michael Preble at rev.peterpreble@gmail.com

Lissa Schneckenburger Upcoming shows:

Sept. 2nd 7:00 pm Unity, ME @ Unity Center for the Performing Arts - in Concert with Low Lily
Sept 3rd, 9:00 pm - Portsmouth NH @ Portsmouth Book and Bar - in Concert with Low Lily

SDCEA is Here to Help -- and has been for Almost 30 Years

The SDCEA (Scottish Dance & Cultural Education Association of Boston) is available to help cover part of the cost of dance or music events, if that would make a difference to your being able to attend. It was formed back in 1987 to provide financial assistance to dancers and dance musicians, making it possible for them to participate in Scottish dance and music events.

The funds come from memorial donations to honor members of the Scottish dance community, from the proceeds from an annual fundraising dance, and from individual donations. Most of the funding is designated for Boston Branch members, though some funds are available for use by non-Branch participants.

Over its 28-year history, more than \$48,000 have been awarded to 182 individuals to participate in dance camps/weekends/workshops or to attend teacher or music training workshops. Historically, roughly 75% of the funds have gone to Pinewoods participants, 17% for teaching or music workshops, and the rest for balls and other events.

If you think that we could help, see <http://rscdsboston.org/member-financial.html> for information and application forms. Or if you would like to help support fellow dancers, donation forms can also be found at that same link, or checks can be sent directly to the Treasurer, 106 Alden Road, Concord MA 01742.

The SDCEA is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations are tax deductible.

PEOPLE NEWS

For anyone traveling north to Canada might like to include a visit to Scarborough, Ontario! The reason being that From Monday September 19 to Saturday October 1, 2016 **The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry** is being Exhibited at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 115 St. Andrew's Road, Scarborough, Ontario. Weekdays - noon to 8pm; Sat 24th - 10 am to 6 pm; Sunday 25th - 2-6 pm and in October it's 10 am - 4 pm. This tapestry has been sewn by many to depict modern Scottish life rather like the Bayeau Tapestry depicted the times in the 11th century in France and England. This is a chance to view it as it goes on a world wide tour.

Pinewoods Camp – News

As most know by now, Judy Savage, who has so ably been the Executive Director for Pinewoods Camp for so many years, is retiring in January 2017. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors is actively searching for her successor. It is not an easy task as the position is key to the smooth running of the Camp. If anyone would like more information, please go to <http://www.pinewoods.org/jobs/executive-director-position>.

Flowers of the Forest — Donald John (Iain) Morrison Macfarlane 30 Sept 1925 – 24 April, 2016.

Iain Macfarlane was one of the best Scottish Country Dance teachers and dancers. His phrasing was also exact and right on! He was born in Scalpay, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, and arrived in Canada with an extensive background in teaching Scottish country dance. The list of his achievements and positions held in both Hamilton and then the Toronto branches is breathtaking. In 1992 he was awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour. Iain was a native Gaelic speaker. He is remembered for his passion for Scottish dance, his practical creativity, and his generosity and ability to elevate the lives of those who knew him.

[The Editor based much of the above on the article "Remembering Iain Macfarlane" in Set & Link from the Toronto Branch, June 2016]

Have shoesWill travel.....

Scottish Weekend, September 16-18, 2016

Timber Ridge Camp, Highview, WV

Teachers: Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Jamie Berg, Sandy Gallamore

Plus the Fabulous Scottish Weekend Musicians

with featured musician James Gray

New this year! Register on line, pay with credit card, PayPal, or check. Go to www.scottishweekend.org Call Fred Eustis at 410-922-6369, if you would like a registration form mailed to you. Scholarship applications due by August 1st, apply on line as above Questions: email us at 2016@scottishweekend.org

Note: The RSCDS Annual Conference weekend is November 4-5, 2016. Held at the Bell Centre, Perth, Scotland. Program includes: AGM, Friday evening Dance, workshops, and Ball Saturday evening. Contact RSCDS HQ at 12 Coates Crescent for applications. Both Jean Farrington and Evelyn Murray are planning to attend.

From the not so long ago past!

THE DEADLY EFFICIENCY OF THE SCOTS

[From a letter to the Montreal Star, March 27, 1976]

Take the average Englishman as he moves about the home he calls his castle. Watch him enjoying his breakfast marmalade (invented in Dundee) on toast. Or slipping on his national costume, a soiled raincoat (patented by Charles MacIntosh, a Glasgow chemist). Follow him out onto an English lane (surfaced by Charles MacAdam of Ayr), smoking an English cigarette (first manufactured in Britain by Robert Gloat of Perth). The English bus takes him to work on pneumatic tires invented by J.B. Dunlop of Dreshorm, The English train which ships him into town works on a principle devised by James Watt of Greenock. See him in his office answering his mail (the adhesive stamp was a Scottish invention).

At home his wife is preparing his national dish - the roast beef of old England (prime Aberdeen Angus); this sets his patriotic heart beating a little faster as he enters the dining room whistling a nationalistic air ("Ye Mariners of England" by Thomas Campbell of Glasgow), for roast beef is one of the revered institutions, like the Crown (which has rested on a Scottish forehead since 1603).

After dinner young Albert is packed off to the Boys Brigade (founded by a Scot), young Ted goes out to the Scouts (the Chief Scout is a Scot), while young Ethel plays on her bicycle (invented by MacMillan, a Dumfriesshire blacksmith). Mum is in the kitchen steeping the wash in bleach (a Scottish invention) while Dad listens to the news on television, invented by John Logie Baird of Helensburgh; on it he will hear all about the doings of the U.S. Navy (founded by John Paul Jones from Kirkbeam, Kirkcudbrightshire) and wonder idly whether the four minute early warning system will be much use to the U.S. (radar was invented by Sir R.A. Watson Watt of Brechin).

After the kids come home, Mum will return to the kitchen to fry fish (Finnan haddock from Aberdeen) and chips (from Ayrshire potatoes) while Dad supervises the homework; logarithms were invented by John Napier of Edinburgh, and English literature is stuffed with books like Treasure Island, written by a Scot, and Robinson Crusoe, based on the life of a Scot from Kinghorn, Fife. In desperation Dad will pick up the Bible; here at last is one book where he will not be reminded of the Scots. But he is wrong. The first man mentioned in is a Scot, James VI and I, who authorized the translation. It's hopeless.

There is nowhere an Englishman can turn to escape the deadly efficiency of the Scots. Even desperate measures are in vain: he could take a drink (but Scotland provides the best in the world); he could stick his head in the oven and end it all (but coal gas was invented by William Murdock of Ayrshire); it might be argued that, in that case, he could always take his rifle and blow out his brains, but even here is a difficulty - the breech-loading rifle was invented by a Scot. Anyway it wouldn't work: they would plunk him on the operating table, pump him full of penicillin (discovered by Sir A. Fleming of Darvel), give him an anesthetic (by courtesy of Sir James Simpson of Bathgate) and perform an operation (antiseptic surgery was pioneered at Glasgow's Royal Infirmary). The first thing he would hear would be the voice of a Scottish surgeon telling him he is safe, "safe as the Bank of England" (founded by William Paterson of Dumfries).

Comment: The above is clearly dated material from only 40 years ago! However with the variable results pending from Brexit one can only wonder how England would cope without Scotland.

TWO NOTABLE SCOTS

Alexander Fleming

[originally published in Winnipeg Branch's newsletter Light and Airy]

Fleming was a poor Scottish farmer. One day he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his farm implements and ran to the bog. There, a terrified boy was mired to his waist in black muck. Farmer Fleming saved the boy from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up at the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. The nobleman offered to pay the Scottish farmer but he refused payment for what he had done. At that moment, the farmer's son came to the door of the family home.

"Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes," the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal," proclaimed the nobleman. "Let me provide for him with the level of education my own son will enjoy."

Farmer Fleming's son attended the best schools and graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London and later became known throughout the world as Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin.

Years later, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman was Lord Randolph Churchill. His son's name was Sir Winston Churchill.

Hugh Foss

[Taken from Set and Link, newsletter of the Toronto Branch]

Hugh Foss was the quintessential mathematician who is best known not for his Scottish dancing contributions but for his work as a code breaker.

Foss was born in 1902 in Japan where his father was a missionary. He joined the British Government Code and Cypher School in 1924 and there encountered the Enigma machine which was the basis of most military transmissions. In 1934 Foss and Strachey broke the Japanese Naval Attache's cipher. During WWII he became Head of the Japanese Naval Section at Bletchley Park. In 1943 the Japanese had developed an advanced model of the machine and Foss wrote a paper which was the key to cracking this code. He was sent to Washington where he assisted U.S. officials and contributed greatly to elucidating the code and the workings of the machine. The Allies were then able to read coded traffic between Berlin and Tokyo. In Washington Hugh's penchant for wearing sandals earned him the nickname "Lend Lease Jesus." Foss wrote nineteen or more publications on dancing. His writings cover the spectrum from *Notes on the Evolution of Scottish Country Dancing in Scotland* to *Sunday Writings*, a collection of poetry and tongue-in-cheek debates about the execution of certain dance figures and the nature of the RSCDS itself.

He did not devise new figures but used established ones in unconventional ways: the fugue, and the use of reels of 4 and half reels of 4 diagonally. This latter strategy led him to do a great deal of work on 5-couple sets. Once, at a ball, after the music had started and realizing that he was in a 5-couple set, the solution to uneven participation in a 5-couple set came to him: after the first time through the first couple slips to third placed dances a second round from this

place, while the top couple begins at the same time. He gave instructions and the set members immediately understood. This method works for any odd numbered set: imagine *The Reel of the 51st Division* danced by a 9-couple set!

A look at the directions of a typical Scottish Country dance leads one to recognize a series of algorithms, i.e. a series of mathematical procedures leading to the execution of a task which is characteristic of a computer program. Such a presentation evokes a ready resonance with left-brain dominant people – those analytical, deductive, linear thinking, having good spatial perception – science and math types. They tend to visualize formations easily and execute them well. Right-brain dominant people – the creative, intuitive, multitasking, parallel thinking people – supply the style and grace to dance movements. It is easy to argue that this fortuitous blend of talents goes a long way to account for the success and longevity of Scottish Country dancing.

NEWTON SCD CLASS

The classes this summer will be held in several locations depending on the availability of space on specific dates.

- 1: The VFW post 440, 295 California street, Newton. Plenty of parking available. They will let us know which particular room we will be using any day, and I will post a note at the front door (as last year).
- 2: The Scandinavian Living Center, 206 Waltham street, West Newton, where we danced this week. There is visitor parking on site, and judging by this week, there is sufficient information that it will be OK to park there. Contact Heather for questions.

Schedule:

July 20th - Scand;

July 27th - VFW;

Aug 3rd - TBD -- watch this space

Aug 10th Scand;

Aug 17, 24 and 31st, VFW.

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 AUGUST 10TH.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL OF YOUR 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**

***Dancing Through* – by Pat Blatt**

When I was one and twenty
I thought I'd take a chance
And go to evening classes
For Scottish Country dance.

When I was one and thirty
I felt I knew it all —
The complicated dances
Didn't bother me at all.

When I was one and forty
I **knew** I was the cream
For I was made a member
Of the demonstration team.

When I was one and fifty
I went on the committee —
A lot less carefree dancing
A lot more nitty-gritty.

When I was one and sixty
I knew without a doubt
I was dancing rather gently
And sometimes sat one out.

Now I am one and seventy
And I'm still having fun,
But I wonder how the feet will cope
When I am eighty-one.

Pat Blatt has written several volumes of her poetry and raised over £1,500 for the North London Hospice with her wry-humored verse about Scottish Country Dancing. Pat's poetry collections, priced at 75p each, may be purchased from her at 50 Fitzjohn Avenue, Barnet, EN5 2HW, England. All proceeds go to the Hospice.