

The Tartan Times

Volume LXV, Number 1
September/October, 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:* Charles Liu

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: Jeffrey Hopper • **Salem MA:** Andrea Aeschlimann

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

Chelmsford, Newton MA: Cathy Crabtree

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(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 recent Executive Committee, there were discussions concerning the upcoming November Concert, in particular to be certain the publicity is out and that ticketing information is available. It was decided to once again use Meerkat for online ticketing. At the same time, discussions on the 2017 Concert are also occurring.

ESC, Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, and New Hampshire Highlands all appear to have been quite successful. Thank you to all of the organizers, campers, and volunteers! Without your efforts, this would not be possible!

Reminder – now is the time to renew your membership! If you need a form, it is available on the Branch website. Eight members are needed for a class to be considered a Branch Class, which in turn allows the class to receive insurance coverage and to apply for music subsidies.

As the new dance season begins, you are urged to look at the Calendar on the Branch website for classes and parties. We hope to see you on the dance floor! — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

Royal Scottish Dance Society, Boston Branch
23rd Annual Concert of Scottish Music and Dance

the Jeremy Kittel Trio

also featuring

Will Woodson and Eric McDonald

Highland Dance Boston

The Demonstration Team of the Boston
Branch

Saturday, November 12, 2016, at 3:00 and 7:30 PM

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Rd, Lexington, MA 02421

Information: (914) 483-7481; Concert@rscdsboston.org
<http://rscdsboston.org/events-november-concert.html>

U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion Jeremy Kittel is a contemporary American musician and composer. Fluent in multiple genres, his music draws from Scottish, Irish, jazz and more. His trio will include Joshua Pinkham on mandolin and Keith Murphy on guitar and piano. Opening up the night will be the dynamic bagpipe and guitar duo of Will Woodson and Eric McDonald, two of today's finest proponents of traditional Scottish music. A stage full of country and highland dancers will round out this festive Scottish celebration.

For more info or to volunteer: concert@rscdsboston.org or (914) 483-7481

Or visit: www.rscdsboston.org/events-november-concert.html

Mail Order: see below. At the door: adults and RSCDS members add \$2

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

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

Name _____	# Adults non-member _____	@ \$27
Address _____	# RSCDS members _____	@ \$25
City/State/Zip _____	# Children (under 12) _____	@ \$15
Telephone _____	# in Group (8 or more) _____	@ \$22

Seat preference: Orchestra Mezzanine Total: \$ _____ .00

Wheelchair? yes Email address (for future concert notices): _____

Make checks payable to "RSCDS Boston", and send with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to:
RSCDS Concert, c/o Margaret Lepley, 35 Woodbury St, Arlington, MA 02476

Orders received after Nov. 4 or without a SASE will be held at the door in your name. Thanks!
Mail orders filled as received. Sorry, no refunds.

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.

The Capital District NY Scottish Country Dancers

(RSCDS Boston Branch)

NY Capital District Fall Frolic

October 29-30, 2016

YWCA, 44 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY

Music by Frost & Fire

Peter Macfarlane, Viveka Fox, Aaron Marcus



Saturday: Party Prep at the Newbitz House, 2pm

Dance Party at the YWCA, 7:30pm (\$20 at the door)

Sunday: Brunch at the Newbitz House (Bringing a dish optional), 10:30am

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

***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>

Booth staffing at NHHG

Once again this year, the Kennebunk and Brunswick classes are sponsoring a booth to promote Scottish Country Dancing and the Boston Branch at the New Hampshire Highland Games (Sept. 16-18). It would be great to have help in staffing the booth – handing out information, answering questions, and signing up folks who have an interest. If you think you could help, please let us know, and give a day and approximate time. We also will have audience participation dancing Friday afternoon and, as the schedule appears now, one dance workshop each on Saturday and Sunday. If you are at the games, please join us. For the audience participation especially, it's nice to have a few experienced dancers. If you are interested in attending and helping but the admission price is keeping you away, please let us know that, too. — Merrill Henderson crone4702@gmail.com and Patti Tillotson

DISCOVER SCOTLAND
NO PASSPORT REQUIRED.

41st New Hampshire
HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL

September 16-18, 2016 • Loon Mtn Resort, Lincoln, NH

TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST. BUY NOW AND SAVE!
Prices go up on August 15.

LISTEN • CHEER ON • WATCH • SHOP • ENGAGE • TASTE

NH SCOT

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

September

- 11th *** Brookline Class start of new season of dancing
12th *** Cambridge at Watertown Class starts its new season of dancing
16-18 * New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln, NH, p 6
16-18 Scottish Weekend at Timber Ridge, WV
18th * Concert with Anne Hooper, p 10
23rd *** Stow class starts its new season of dancing, p 8
25th * Concert with Anne Hooper, p 10

October

- 1st Montreal Branch Fall Workshop and Social p 12
7-10 ** Scots Gathering at Canmore, AB, with 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 Society of Mass., p 10
15th *** Brunswick Class annual dance party, p 4
19th Montreal Branch English & Scottish dance, Burlington VT; info ConstanceKent@gmail.com
22nd *** Fairlee Autumn Social, p 5
28-30 SF Branch Asilomar CA Weekend workshop & ball; Pat Coyle, Graham Donald, Sara Gratiot,
Robert McOwen, Lin Pettengill, Andrew Smith; Music by Stringfire & Tullochgorum
29th *** Albany NY, Capital District Fall Frolic p 5

November

- 4-5 ** RSCDS Annual Conference weekend, p 12
4-6 Kingston Branch 50th Workshop & Ball
4-6 Fiddle Hell, p 10
11-13 Ottawa ECD ball & workshop weekend; info ottawaenglishdance.org
12th *** Boston Branch annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert, p 3
12th Toronto workshop and afternoon social
12-13 NY Branch annual Jeannie Carmichael Ball, p 12
13th Canadian-American Club Annual Fundraiser Gala, p 10
early *** Boston Branch RSCDS Annual General Meeting, p 8

December

- 3rd *** Annual Pinewoods Benefit Ball, see below
18th *** Brookline Class annual Christmas Party

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 the hall full of dancers all ready to put their best right (?) foot forward !

Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Saturday December 3, 8-11 pm, at The Bridge at 211, 211 Bridge St, Salem, MA. Music by *A Parcel of Rogues*. The flier will be available soon at the Branch website.

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
OCTOBER 2016			
15	Brunswick Maine Fall Dance Party	Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, ME	Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, pstillotson@gmail.com
22	Fairlee Autumn Social	Town Hall, Fairlee, VT	Gary Apfel, 802-439-3459, garyapfel@gmail.com
NOVEMBER 2016			
11	Stow Class Party	Old Town Hall, Stow, MA	Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466
12	Annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert	Scottish Rite Masonic Museum, Lexington, MA	rscdsboston.org/Concert2016
early Nov.	RSCDS Boston Branch AGM	Canadian American Club, 202 Arlington St, Watertown	Jeremy Thorpe, president@rscdsboston.org
DECEMBER 2016			
3	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	211 Bridge St., Salem, MA	MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org

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

CLASSES: NEW SEASON (2016-2017)

BROOKLINE, MA: Sunday, September 11, location Church of Our Savior Parish House, 25 Monmouth St., Brookline. 6:30-8:30 pm cost \$7 per person. Newer dancers especially welcome. Contact info: Evelyn, athollbrose@verizon.net and 864-8945

CAMBRIDGE @ WATERTOWN, MA: Monday, September 12th, Canadian/American Club, Contact Alex Bowers, alex_bowers@meei.harvard.edu

STOW, MA: Stow Town Hall, 8:00-10:00, cost is \$3 per person. Beginners at 7:30 pm. Contact Marcia Rising marcia.mdrising@verizon.net

Sadly – MONTPELIER, VT: We won't be holding the Montpelier, VT class this year. If you like, you can say that it's "on hiatus" like the Manchester class. It might come back sometime!

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership for the 2016-17 year if you haven't done so yet. The membership form can be downloaded from the website. If you don't renew soon, this is the last issue of the Tartan Times you will receive. The cutoff for being listed in the Directory is November 7th, 2016. For any questions regarding membership, please contact MaryEllen Scannell, Membership Chair, at Membership@rscdsboston.org

BOSTON BRANCH SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, early November, 2016 at 7:45 pm

The AGM will take place in lieu of the Monday night Cambridge Class in Watertown, at the Canadian-American Club, 202 Arlington St, Watertown, Mass. Admission is free, and there will be free dancing after the meeting. Watch the website for precision on the date.

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 Lavalley-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:** On hiatus until further notice. Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, hovashe@yahoo.com
- * **Burlington:** Mondays, 7-9 pm; Champlain Club, 20 Crowley Street, Burlington. Connie Kent, 802-355-5901
- * **Montpelier:** On hiatus until further notice. 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

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 New England white church on a small hill in the center of town!). Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets are available from the link on the web site for the St. Andrew's Society of Mass.

For more info contact Rev. Peter-Michael Preble at rev.peterpreble@gmail.com

Scottish Fiddling in America

If you go to the NHHGames (16-18 Sept.) do look for the fiddle events.

Paul Brockman wrote the following for the Virginia Games program in 1976 about the inspiration of starting FIRE.

The Scottish fiddler plays the music of Scotland, jigs, reels, strathspeys and song airs and of course the music of the pipes. Some would maintain that inside every fiddler beats the heart of a frustrated piper. I prefer to think of it the other way round. In either case the stirring drive of pipe music is present in the best fiddle tunes, in the marches and strathspeys of the great Scott Skinner, whose vigorous bowing and strongly bowed ornamentation marked Scottish fiddling as distinct from its Irish stylistic cousin, giving Scottish fiddle tunes a definite scent of heather and sea air.

What of Scottish fiddling transplanted to America? In Nova Scotia little has changed. But the Scottish fiddler who settled further south found fellow musicians among the Irish, the French – even the English. His repertoire changed and broadened.

Yet today, you can hear *Miss McLeod's Reel* played in Galax, Virginia and in Hartford, Connecticut. Sometimes the bowing and the ornamentation and emphasis will be different; at other times you could swear you were at Kinross, where Scots still gather to compete as Americans do today.

Scottish fiddling in America is where you find it, and when you do, it's sure to be setting feet to tapping – as far as Alexandria, Virginia and Lincoln, New Hampshire!

Two September Concerts!

Sunday, 18 September 2016, 3:00 pm: Sarah Arneson soprano, Anne Hooper Webb violin, George Kern piano. Works by Schubert, Mozart, Brahms. Central Baptist Church, 65 Washington St., Quincy, Mass. 02169.

Sunday, 25 September 2016, 3:00 pm: Anne Hooper Webb violin, Nancy Donaruma violoncello, George Kern piano. Works by Handel, Debussy, Dvorak. Rivera Recital Hall, Rivers School Conservatory, 333 Winter St, Weston, Mass. 02493.

For more information, please call 617-471-5924.

Fiddle Hell

Weekend of November 4-6, 2016: 150 scheduled workshops, jams concerts and dancing at a roomy hotel in Westford Mass. www.reinerfamilyband.com

Canadian-American Club Gala

Sunday November 13, 2016 1-11 pm: Fundraiser Gala featuring many local Cape Breton and Scottish soloists and groups, headlined by Troy MacGillivray and Janine Randall. Dancing, concerts, fun – info www.canadianamericanclub.com

MORVEN'S GARDEN

A 32-bar strathspey for 3 couples in a 4-couple set

- 1-8 1st couple dance mirror reels on their own sides with the 2nd & 3rd couples, taking hands whenever possible. To begin, 1st couple dance in and down, 2nd couple dance out and up, and 3rd couple dance in and up. 1st and 2nd couples finish in the center, facing each other up and down the dance, nearer hands joined.
- 9-16 1st and 2nd couples dance the Rondel; on the last 2 bars (bars 15-16), the first couple cross to 2nd place, opposite sides, facing each other.
- 17-28 2nd, 1st, and 3rd couples dance rights and lefts for 3 couples.
- 29-32 First couple dance a half figure of eight to end in 2nd place, own sides, the woman down around the 3rd woman and the man up around the 2nd man.

Devised by Merrill Henderson, Melanie Lee, and Patti Tillotson in honor of Morven Troost, founder and long-time organizer of the Kennebunk, Maine, Scottish Country Dance Class.



Photo: B.McOwen, December 2012, Salem, Mass.

Have Shoes.....will Travel.....!

The RSCDS Annual Conference Weekend

The Annual General Meeting weekend of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is November 4-6, at the Bell Centre, Perth, Scotland. The program includes: Friday evening dance; Saturday forum, AGM, class and ball; Sunday class. Contact RSCDS HQ at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, UK EH3 7AF or rscds.org for applications. Both Jean Farrington and Evelyn Murray are planning to attend. For teachers there is a **Teachers' Conference** scheduled for Friday, 4th November. It will be held in the Bells Sports Centre, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Special Events in Nova Scotia

We've heard from Lydia Hedge about two events for 2017:

The RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch is celebrating its 35th Anniversary in **2017**. We will be having two special events during the year and we are also releasing a book of dances and a CD, recorded by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. We hope that the book and CD will be released in the next 6 months.

On **May 7, 2017**, we are hosting a "**Royal Tea Party**" – an afternoon dance, 2 pm, in **Truro, NS**. There will be live music (The Macadians) and prizes for the best HAT (men and women). Following the dance, there will be a high tea with special treats (strawberry shortcake, scones and clotted cream, etc).

On the **Oct 6-8, 2017** weekend, our 35th Anniversary Fall Workshop will be taking place in **Dartmouth, NS**. This will include Friday: Ceilidh evening, Saturday: morning and afternoon classes, evening Banquet and Ball; and Sunday: a morning Teachers' Class. Our teachers will be Ron Wallace (USA) and Jim Stott (Scotland). The music is still being finalized, but Mara Shea (USA) is confirmed at the moment. We are hoping that many former members of the NS Branch, ISCDS attendees, visitors, (oh, ANYone who wishes) will attend some or all of the weekend.

Details will be posted on the NS Branch website soon, at www.rscdsnovascotia.ca Registration will open in **March of 2017**. Any queries can be sent to lydiahedge@accesswave.ca

The Australian Winter Schools

This annual event is rotated among the various RSCDS Branches in Australia, and attracts dancers from all over the world. So info on the next two will allow anyone interested to start making plans! The Australian Winter School 2017 will be hosted by the Adelaide Branch. Teachers are Jean Dodds (South Australia), Audrey Emmett (Western Australia), Wayne McConnel (NZ), Robert McOwen (USA), Andrew Timmins (South Australia) Barbara Lupton (South Australia). Two bands are featured – The Iain Robertson Trio from Scotland, and The Balmoral Scottish Dance Band from Australia/New Zealand. See www.rscdsadelaide.org.au/ws2017.

In 2018 the Hunter Valley Branch will be hosting this event. The Hunter Valley Branch Secretary is Allyn Douglas: hvrscds@gmail.org

Montreal Fall Workshop & Social – October 1, 2016

Teacher for morning classes: Jody Poapst of Ottawa. Music for classes and afternoon social: Torridon Scottish Dance Band. Kildonan Hall, Church of St Andrew & St Paul, 3419 rue Redpath. Flyer with full details and registration form is available at classes or from holly.boyd@gmail.com. Links to programme, dance cribs and videos at <http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/5605>. NB: Please register before September 24! If we don't have enough dancers by then, the event will be cancelled, and all fees reimbursed.

Jeannie Carmichael Ball weekend, 12-13 November 2016

The Jeannie Carmichael Ball and Brunch weekend will take place at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, New York, on 12 and 13 November 2016. The musicians are Hanneke Cassel and Dave Wiesler. This is a rare opportunity to dance to Hanneke and Dave's wonderful music! For more information, please see the website: <http://rscdsnewyork.org/jcball/index.html>

The history of Scotland and thus its culture (music, language, literature, etc.) goes back thousands of years. For example the village of Skara Brae, located in the Orkneys is dated roughly to 5,000 years ago. Yet it was built on a midden – so there were people living there before that! Here is a brief overview from an article first published by the NY Branch Newsletter, December 1995.

ALBA – by James Fraser

Alba, not a word that stirs the blood; no glasses raised in toast or voices in song. You may be surprised to learn, however, that for thousands of years it was the only name for what most of us knew as *Scotland*. For the Gaelic (pronounced Gaalic) speakers of the world it still takes precedence over “Scotland” and the suffix “Alpin” as in McAlpin” denotes connections with the rulers of an ancient kingdom.

It was not until the 9th century A.D. some six thousand years after permanent settlement of the country, that Kenneth the Hardy became the first great king of Alba. As a member of the tribe known as Scots, whose origins are presumed to be from Ireland, he set out to subjugate every other tribe in the country. By the early years of the 11th century his descendants had united the lands roughly within the present boundaries, although without the Shetlands and Orkneys, but included the Isle of Man and Cumbria (the present English Lake District). By then the country was called Scotland by the people in the south who had pushed north after waves of immigration by people who spoke the origin of present day English. The Gaelic of the Celtic (“Keltic”) peoples moved with them to the northern mountains and to the islands where even today it remains.

The first written description of Scotland was made by the Romans. As they were less than successful in their invasion efforts, these descriptions are far from complimentary, quite rude in fact! I suppose when one is under constant assault and even loses a complete Legion (the Ninth), it’s hard to be objective! They retreated behind Hadrian’s Wall and continued to insult the “Caledonians.” Only one tribe was officially called Caledonii, most of the rest were Picts, but the Romans didn’t worry about that. Caledonii we were and Caledonia was where we lived.

The end of Roman Rule in Europe set huge waves of emigration into motion bringing Norsemen, Vikings, Jutes, Angles, Saxons, and eventually Normans to Scotland. They created a history that is both rich and horrifying, tragic, and exultant. For eight hundred years the only wars we ever fought were against the English, and while Bannockburn (1314) secured our independence, the country has never recovered from Flodden (1513). History to the Scots is very real. Tales of Wallace and Bruce, Douglas and McGregor are standard fare for schoolchildren while we all mourn Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Our group includes some folk who were born in Scotland and has many of Scots descent as well as not; a few who just like to dance. Perhaps the above will begin a conversation about the history of Alba and to which may help explain that peculiar person, the Scot.

PEOPLE NEWS

Gail Wine sent along this post from Facebook from Campbell Webster:

Tonight I will have one of the biggest highs in my piping career that most people will never experience. Tonight I get to walk in my father’s footsteps for a few hours and take his place as one of the Sovereigns Pipers playing for the Queen at Balmoral Castle for the Ghillies Ball. The current Sovereigns Piper has arranged for as many living sovereigns pipers to join him for this special surprise for the Queens 90th birthday, and I have been asked to take my father’s place. Very much looking forward to representing dad at this special event and will hopefully do him proud!

Cheers to all and can't think of a more special way to end this amazing summer!

[*And from Lezlie:* Cam is just wrapping up a dream summer “vacation” in Scotland where he's been playing with the phenom rock group, The Red Hot Chili Pipers and performing in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as a guest member of the Scots Guards pipe band.]

National Anthems

At SCD Formal Balls it is customary to sing the National Anthem of the country in which the ball is being held and, depending on circumstances, one or two more. I have noticed that for some this is a puzzlement as to firstly ‘why,’ and secondly a natural desire ‘let’s get on with the dancing.’ In Boston it is customary to sing first the British National Anthem “God Save our Queen.” The reason for this is that H.M. The Queen is Patron of the Royal Scottish Dance Society. Then we launch into “O Canada” – this is as a courtesy to any Canadian guests present – and finally into “The Star Spangled Banner.” It is correct procedure to follow this order of the anthems – in other words whatever is sung/played the host country’s anthem is always sung/played last.

I hope this helps dancers to understand the why, and of course to stand still and join in if possible. Even if not a citizen of the host country it is only good manners to respect others’ affiliations.

Julie Smith sent me the following piece a long time ago, but I think it is pertinent. The British anthem did evolve over time, whereas the Canadian was written specifically as the new National Anthem for that country. Julie found the information from The Fireside Book of Folksongs, pub. Simon and Schuster, NY 1947.

God Save The King*

1. God save our gracious King, Long live our noble King, God save the King. Send him victorious, Happy and glorious Long to reign over us, God save the King.	2. O Lord and God arise, Scatter his enemies And make them fall. Confound their politics, Frustrate their knavish tricks, On thee our hopes we fix, God save the King.	3. Thy choicest gifts in store On him be pleased to pour, Long may he reign! May he defend our laws And ever give us cause To sing with heart and voice, God save the King!
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Percy Sholes in his Oxford Companion to Music says, “This must be the best known tune in the world. It is sung throughout the British Isles under the above title, throughout the United States as ‘My Country, ’Tis of Thee,’ throughout the German Reich as ‘Heil Dir in Siegerkranz,’ and in many other countries under different names.” The tune, he claims, has no known composer. It is apparently a recasting of folk song and plainsong elements appearing as far back as the 16th and early 17th centuries. Its great popularity dates from 1745, the year of the second Jacobite rebellion, when it was sung in all the theaters of London and used as a rallying song of the House of Hanover.

The song has never been the official British national anthem, though it has been sung generally with that significance. But on October 20, 1946, in St. Paul’s Cathedral, King George VI lent his presence and approval to a change in the traditional form. In an effort to express the ideal of world brotherhood as symbolized in the United Nations, the second stanza was discarded. The new version replaces that stanza with the old third, and adds a new third stanza, written almost a century ago but never generally accepted. The new stanza was written by Reverend W.E. Hickson, 1803-1870:

2. Nor on this land alone,
But be God’s mercies shown
From shore to shore,
Lord, make the nations see
That men should brothers be,
And form one family
The wide world o’er.

* As the information used by Julie is dated 1947, George VI was still alive. When he died in 1952, his daughter, the present Queen, succeeded to the throne and thus we sing “Queen” instead of “King.”

Poignant Letters Reveal Young Queen Mother's Friendship with Wounded WWI Soldier

[from The Telegraph online article by Patrick Sawyer on August 6, 2016 and also published in the Northeast Clan Donnachaidh Doings, Summer 2016]

She was an impressionable 16-year-old, anxious to help the young men who had endured the horrors of war and were sent to her Scottish castle home to recuperate. But for Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, later to become Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, one young man in particular stood out among the many being treated at Glamis Castle.

A series of six letters being put up for auction has now revealed the teenage crush which Lady Elizabeth appears to have developed over a young Private called James Harding. The pair exchanged correspondence after meeting at Glamis, where Lady Elizabeth was in the habit of touring the makeshift ward, talking to soldiers, writing letters home on their behalf and running their errands – such as buying Woodbine cigarettes and matches for them at the village shop.

Lady Elizabeth's sister Rose had trained to be a nurse and her brother Fergus had been killed in the battle of Loos in 1915, making her all the more determined to do her bit for the war effort. The letters reveal that her relationship with Private Harding went beyond that between hospital visitor and patient, becoming deeper with every encounter during his stay at Glamis.

She played the card game of 'Hearts' with Harding and his friend Private Nix, in which the two soldiers conspired to leave her holding the Queen. On November 29, 1916, Lady Elizabeth wrote to Harding: "The games of 'Hearts' were great fun. I enjoyed them very much, even tho' I was treated badly by you and Nix!" She later wrote him a letter enclosing a humorous verse she had written about the incident, with the lines: "I sometimes go into the ward/And play a game or two/And if I get the Queen of Spades/T'is only due to you - Private Harding." The poem goes on: "Oh Private Harding! And if again I get the Queen/(I'm sure there is a plot)/There will be the most awful trouble/and a 'telling off' will be the lot/of Private Harding.

After Private Harding left Glamis Castle, Lady Elizabeth even went as far as suggesting they meet. In her third letter, on October 2, 1918, she writes: "I am going to stay with my sister near Musselburgh next Tuesday and shall be arriving at Waverley Station at 4.49 ... I don't know if you are doing work of any kind yet, but if you are not, I should be pleased to see you for a few minutes if you could come ... it would be nice if I brought a pack of cards and we could play 'Hearts' on the platform!" She then writes a fourth letter to arrange a meeting with Harding for the following day.

While there is no suggestion the pair's relationship strayed beyond friendship, it is clear Lady Elizabeth held a deep affection for Harding and cared for his wellbeing. Indeed, the letters continued after the war, when many soldiers were faced with economic hardship, finding that the hero's welcome home they received following the Armistice did not guarantee them a job.

In September 1919 Lady Elizabeth, now aged 19, wrote to Harding, commiserating over the difficulties he was having finding employment. "It seems to be very difficult now ... I wonder what sort of job you might want? I might by chance hear of one you'd like, though you'd probably want to be in Edinburgh. I do hope something will turn up," she wrote. When he wrote to her in November of that year to say he had found work she replied: "I can't tell you how pleased I am to hear the good news. It is too splendid, after so long, and I am only so sorry that I was so useless and couldn't help you more."

Lady Elizabeth went on to marry Prince Albert, Duke of York, at Westminster Abbey, January 1923, despite turning him down on two previous occasions. She gave birth to her first child, Princess Elizabeth – the future Queen – in April 1926. The six surviving letters from the correspondence between Lady Elizabeth and Private Harding were auctioned with an estimated price of £5,000 and £7,000. Valentina Borghi, memorabilia specialist at Dreweatts & Bloomsbury Auctioneers, said: "These are a full set of letters, written and signed by Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon before her marriage to the Duke of York, so they are quite rare."

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE NOV/DEC 2016 ISSUE IS OCTOBER 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**

MISCELLANEOUS - From British Newspapers:

(Daily Telegraph) Commenting on a complaint about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible that Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house.'

(The Guardian) Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the general public to know what it looks like.

(Unknown source) A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster.

(from the SRSNH Granite Skyes 4/15) When Sandy MacGillivray came back from his first trip to London, everyone in the village was keen to find out how he had got on.

"Did you like it?"

"Oh, it was no' bad."

"Ah good as that, was it?"

"Well there was just the one thing wrong. The other guests in my hotel just would not go to their beds. They were in the corridor outside my room shouting and banging on my door until three o'clock in the morning.

"So what did you do, Sandy?"

"Och, I just kept on playing my bagpipes."