

The Tartan Times

Volume LXV, Number 2
November/December, 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

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 Secretary's notes will appear in the January Tartan Times. – Ed.]



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 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 Northampton Class New Year's Day Dance

Sunday, January 1, 2017

First Churches' Lyman Hall, Northampton, MA

(enter on Center Street, across from the Iron Horse.)

Music by Nora Smith and Kate Barnes

Potluck at 5:30 pm • \$1 plus dish to share

Dancing at 7:30

\$10 RSCDS members, \$12 for non members

Contact Karen at 413-527-3407

New Years Day Dance & Potluck Dinner

3:00 p.m., Sunday, January 1, 2017
Church of the Good Shepherd
214 Main St., Nashua, NH

Music by "The Gatz City Scottish Dance Band"

David Arnold, piano
Howard Lasnik, percussion
Matt Petrie, pipes and fiddle
Terry Traub, accordion and fiddle

\$12 (\$10 Boston Branch member), plus a main dish, salad, or vegetable to share.
More info? Contact Loren Wright, 603-891-2331, NashuaSCD@comcast.net

The Brookline Class Twelfth Night Dance and Supper

Sunday, January 8th, 2017

Parish House, Church of Our Saviour,
25 Monmouth Street, Brookline, MA
(additional parking next door)

Music by Highland Whisky

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

Contributions to the refreshments are welcome

Information: rscdsboston.org or

Evelyn, athollbrose@verizon.net / 617-864-8945

Snow postponement to the following Sunday if Brookline has a parking ban in effect.

PINEWOODS BENEFIT BALL

Saturday December 3, 8-11 pm

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.

BOSTON BRANCH SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, November 7, 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.

BROOKLINE CLASS SCHEDULE

Oct 16 & 23 Priscilla Bordon, Oct 30th Flo Hearn

Nov 6th Susie Nov 13th, 20th, & 27th Laura DeCesare,

December 4 Evelyn, Dec 11th no class

Dec 18th Class' annual Christmas Party with live music and MC Flo Hearn

Dec 25th and Jan 1st no classes

Jan 8th annual Twelfth Night Dance and supper, Music by Highland Whisky, MC Evelyn

Come and join the class on Sunday evenings, young persons are always welcome accompanied by an adult.

Class starts at 6:30 finishes at 8:30pm in the Parish House (wooden floor) Church of Our Savior, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. One block from Beacon St, at Carlton.

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

SCD ON THE CAPE

The class meets (approx) every other Thursday at the Howes Hall @ The Congregational Church, Yarmouthport. Beginners come at 7:00 pm then more experienced join in at 7:30. Fall dates are 10/20, 11/3, 11/17, and 12/8. New dancers are always welcome. Contact is Marla Menzies thru the Highland Light Society of Cape Cod web site www.CapeScots.org or 508-432-3711



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

October

- 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 4

November

- 4-5 ** RSCDS Annual Conference weekend, p 12
- 4-6 Kingston Branch 50th Workshop & Ball
- 4-6 Fiddle Hell, p 10
- 7th *** Boston Branch semi annual meeting p 8
- 11th ** Stow Class dance party p 14
- 11-13 Ottawa ECD ball & workshop weekend; info ottawaenglishdance.org
- 12th *** Boston Branch annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert, p 3
- 12-13 Toronto workshop and afternoon social teachers w/shop on Sunday p 12
- 12-13 NY Branch annual Jeannie Carmichael Ball, p 12
- 13th * Canadian-American Club Annual Fundraiser Gala, p 10
- 13th * Heritage Sunday on the Cape
- 19th Montreal Branch November Social, p 12

December

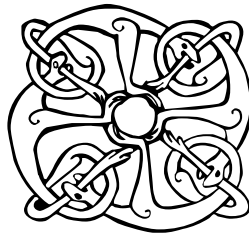
- 3rd *** Annual Pinewoods Benefit Ball, p 6
- 16-18 Italy, Bologna Ball weekend p 12
- 18th *** Brookline Class annual Christmas Party
- 19th *** Cambridge Class at Watertown Holiday Party

January 2017

- 1st *** Northampton Class New Years Day Potluck and Dance p 4
- 1st *** Nashua Class annual New Year's Day Dance and Potluck, p 5
- 8th *** Brookline Class annual Twelfth Night Dance and Supper, p 5

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 !



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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
OCTOBER 2016			
29	Albany Class Fall Frolic	44 Washington Ave, Schenectady, NY	Lois New, loisscd@gmail.com
29	Chelmsford Class Animal Party	Community Center, Princeton St, N. Chelmsford	Rebecca Gore, 508-574-1533, rjgore@gmail.com
NOVEMBER 2016			
7	Branch Semi-annual General Meeting	Canadian-American Club, Watertown, Mass.	
11	Stow Class Party	Old Town Hall, Stow, MA	Marcia Rising, 978-897-2466
12	Annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert	National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA	concert@rscdsboston.org
DECEMBER 2016			
3	Pinewoods Benefit Ball	The Bridge @211, Salem, MA	MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org
JANUARY 2017			
1	Northampton Class New Year's Day Party	First Churches, Northampton, MA	Karen 413-527-3407
1	Nashua Class New Year's Day Party	Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua, NH	Loren Wright, nashuascd@comcast.net
8	Brookline Class Twelfth Night Party	Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA	Evelyn Murray, Athollbrose@
FEBRUARY 2017			
3-5	Cardigan Mountain Weekend	Cardigan Mountain Lodge, NH	lance.ramshaw@gmail.com
MARCH 2017			
18	SDCEA Scholarship Dance	First Parish Church, 349 Boston Post Rd, Weston MA	Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, 978-897-3997, trink68@uwalumni.com

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

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- * **Brookline:** Sept-May, Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm, Parish House, Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline. Contact BrooklineClass@rscdsboston.org, Evelyn Murray, 617-864-8945; Heather Day, 617-244-6914
- * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 410 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact 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

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, raffle, fun – info www.canadianamericanclub.com

Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Young Fiddlers' Friday Workshop Series

The Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA

Admission: \$10 BSFC members, \$15 non-members. (Youth Memberships available for \$35.)

These workshops will be briskly-paced evenings geared toward musicians under 21. All instruments are welcome. Expect to learn a tune or two by ear, meet old and new friends and play a session.

Listeners welcome if space is available. Contact Katharine MacPhail macphailkat@gmail.com in advance to reserve your spot and to get on her e-mail list. Space is limited.

Upcoming Friday Workshops, 7:15 - 9:45 pm

November 11 Neil Pearlman

December 9 Elizabeth Anderson

Christina Tourin, Harpist

You can get onto her monthly Emerald Harp listing for new music she has composed, a link to her harp therapy organization and her amazing schedule – for the next few months she will be in the UK, Italy, and California. Each month on her Emerald Harp page she has a 'tea time concert where you can listen to harpists from all over the world.' Google Christina to find her.

On the Making of Violins.....

From the Foreword for William C. Honeyman's "Scottish Violin Makers: Past and Present" written by John Turner when this book, originally published in 1898-99, was reprinted by Scotpress in 1984:

Violin makers, like violinists, are a diverse but interesting breed. Honeyman seems to understand both very well, which is demonstrated by this excerpt from his comments on W.L. Beloe, a 19th century maker from Coldstream, Scotland: "Beloe was a genius in many things, and is described by one who knew him as specially good at "blowing his own horn." He professed to have discovered the real Cremona varnish, and to use it on his later violins – from about 1887. He was a splendid fishing rod maker, and had few equals at preparing and dressing fishing rod flies. He was also a first class taxidermist, and used to relate that he would have taken first prize for a case of stuffed birds, at a great exhibition, had it not been "so well done that the judges mistook it for a case of living birds.." He was a player and teacher of the violin, and a teacher of dancing and calisthenics, and a clever and intelligent gardner. Altogether Beloe was an extraordinary man, who, from the poorest circumstances, rose well up in all his professions, though, perhaps, not as far up as he imagined." Knowing that he was really a better fishing rod maker certainly gives me a different perspective for the next time someone places a Beloe violin in my hands and asks me what I think of it.

Report: Booth staffing at NHHG

We had a successful weekend, sponsored by the Brunswick and Kennebunk classes, for Scottish Country Dance at the New Hampshire Highland Games. Dozens of folks danced in audience participation on Friday afternoon and in workshops on Saturday and Sunday morning. Our promotion tent broadcast dance music for most of the weekend and attracted many inquiries. We handed out our whole stack of postcards listing classes in the Boston Branch (and some flyers for the New Haven Branch provided by them) and lots of flyers for the fall concert, as well as flyers for individual classes. Many thanks to Peter Tandy and Jim Celagno (Rhode Island), who helped set up the tent; Jeff and Sue Hopper, Jo and David Ward, and Karen Pestana (New Haven Branch), who helped staff our tent; Kat Dutton, who helped with the Sunday morning workshop; and to members who danced in the audience participation and workshops and helped those unfamiliar with the dance.

– *Merrill Henderson and Patti Tillotson*

Heritage Sunday, November 13th

At 10:00 am at the Congregational Church of Yarmouthport, Cape Cod. Organized by the Highland Light Society of Cape Cod. Blessing of the Tartans and the Blessing of the Bairns is not to be missed. Contact Jeannie Drinkwater if you have a name for the Flowers of the Forest.

The J. Philip McLaren Memorial Lecture Series, Wednesday November 16

at the Quincy Historical Society on Adams Street, Quincy. Guest Speaker is Professor Robert Allison, history professor at Suffolk University. His topic will be the relationship between Massachusetts and Nova Scotia. Before the talk, the St. Andrew's Society of Massachusetts Scholarship recipients will perform, and light refreshments will be available. This series of talks is sponsored by Jeff and Mary Smith. Phil McLaren and his wife Lynn were active members of the Boston Branch, dancing primarily in the Brookline Class, and they also started a class in Quincy, until his health no longer allowed him to dance. He passed away in Hawaii after a long illness about two years ago.

Strathspey and Reel NH Meeting Schedule

Sunday Oct 30th Leader is Jennifer Armstrong; Nov 27 Leader is Don Roy; and December 18th Leader is Mari Black. They have concerts scheduled for April 2nd Bass Hall; and NEFFA sometime during April 21-23. On November 6th there is a Special! Mining the SRSNH Repertoire hosted by SRSNH President and *Granite Skyes* Editor at the Dugan-Eppich residence in Madbury, starting at 3 pm. RSVP to Connie at 603-343-5446 or connie.eppich@gmail.com Pot-Luck is a possibility!

If you are worried about Inflation?!

The Scots Parliament in 1644 passed an Excise Act fixing the duty on aquavitae* or other strong liquor at 2/8d per pint – the Scots pint being approximately 1/3 gallon. For the remainder of the 17th century, various alterations were made to the types and amounts of duty collected. After the Union of the Parliaments in 1707, English revenue authorities entered the picture; ninety years later the excise laws were in such a hopeless state of confusion that no two distilleries were taxed at the same rate. Illicit distilling flourished, the smugglers seeing no good reason for paying the government for the privilege of making their native drink.

Things were straightened out by 1840, when the duty was 5d on a 26 oz bottle. By 1939 that had risen to 9/71/2, or 671/2% of the retail price of the bottle; by 1970 it had risen to between 75% and 85% of the retail price, and in 1976 it was increased to between 80% and 88%. I do not think we want to know what percentage it is now in 2016!

* we are talking about whisky, aquavitae is an alternative name!

Have Shoeswill travel.....

Bologna, Italy - December 16-18, 2016.

As has become tradition, the Ball will be located in the beautiful **Hotel I Portici**, via indipendenza 69. The hotel is just 500 meters from the train station and well connected to the Airport.

Live music with **Luke Brady!**

RSCDS teacher **Fiona Mackie!**

Short program:

- Friday evening SCD class
- Saturday morning and afternoon SCD class, night Grand Ball
- Sunday morning SCD class

You can download the crib and programs from the site www.rscds.it. Do not hesitate to contact us for information and reservations

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>

Toronto Branch Events

Teachers' Workshop with Linda Henderson (San Francisco) Sunday, November 13th. Open to all teachers and those who would like to teach. Part of a very full weekend starting with a social dance on Friday night with Linda; Saturday Workshop and Afternoon dance music by Scotch Mist. Then the date for their 54th annual Tartan Ball is February 18, 2017. Info Deirdre Mac Cuish Bark at barkd@rogers.com

London Ontario) Branch Tartan and Taffeta Gala on November 19th. Music by Scotch Mist, tickets from Alasdair Campbell, 519-641-3550.

Montreal Branch November Social, Saturday November 19th

Location: Red Barn, 20609 Lakeshore Road, Bale d'Urfee, 7:30 pm. General Admission \$15, RSCDS members \$12. Note that the #211 which runs from the Lionel Groux Metro stops nearby. Extra parking at the Library and Curling Club.

Aloha Winter Weekend, Hawaii, Feb 17-19, 2017

Teachers are David Newitt, Bruce Herbold, & Patti Cobb, music by Humuhumuunukunukuapua'a & Strathspey Society Band. Info www.rscdshawaii.org

International Branch Weekend April 28-May 1st

Location is Pafos, Cyprus. Teachers: Ellie Briscoe (USA) Jean Dodds (Australia) and William Williamson (Scotland). Music by James Gray, Ian Robertson & Andrew Lyon. Info www.rscds-ib.org

NOVA SCOTIA

One of the four Atlantic provinces on the east coast of Canada

- second smallest province (P.E.I. is the smallest)
- made up of the mainland and Cape Breton Island, also includes 3800 coastal islands
- capital city and largest city is Halifax, population (2010) 403,437
- Halifax is an international seaport and transportation center
- Flower: Mayflower; Tree: Red Spruce; Bird: Osprey
- “Nova Scotia” means “New Scotland” in Latin
- Motto: “One defends and the other conquers”

The People

- There are 942,500 people living in Nova Scotia (2010)
- Most communities live along the coast, many live in or close to Halifax
- The first people were the Micmacs (Mi’Kmaq)
- People came from Britain, Western Europe, and Southern Europe
- Over eighty percent are of British ancestry, eighteen percent are of French ancestry
- Other groups include German, Dutch, Poles, Ukrainian, Chinese, Scandinavian and native people
- N.S. has the oldest African-Canadian community

History

- The Vikings first visited around the year 990
- Explorer John Cabot came to Nova Scotia in 1497
- Micmac lived there; they hunted, fished, gathered plants and berries
- French settlers came in 1605
- A French settlement named Port Royal was built in 1605
- The area was turned over to the British after a war and the French colonists forced to leave
- Some went back to France while others went to the U.S.A. (the Arcadians)
- Later settlers came from England, Germany and Scotland
- In 1783 the United Loyalists came from the United States
- In 1784 Nova Scotia was partitioned and the colonies of New Brunswick and Cape Breton Island were created
- In 1820 Cape Breton became part of Nova Scotia again
- In 1867 Nova Scotia became part of the Dominion of Canada



Stow Class Party



*7:30 pm, Friday, November 11, 2016
Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow, MA*

RSCDS Members - \$7. Non-RSCDS Members - \$10. Families - \$10 maximum

Musicians: Catherine Miller & Terry Traub

MCs: Gregor and Vickery Trinkaus-Randall and Susie Long

The Frisky	8x32J	RSCDS Book 26
John McAlpin	8x32S	Foss, Galloway Album
Jessie's Hornpipe	8x32R	RSCDS Book 8
The St. John's Strathspey	8x32S	Craigievar Book 2
Widdershins	8x32R	Highlander Collection 1
Narcissisity	8x32J	Sue McKinnell
Balmoral Strathspey	4x32S	RSCDS Book 22
De'il Amang the Tailors	8x32R	RSCDS Book 14

Intermission

Swashbuckling Iain	8x32J	San Francisco Collection 2
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8x32S	RSCDS Leaflet #20
Catch the Wind	8x32R	RSCDS Book 45
Newburgh Jig	8x32J	RSCDS Book 48
The Sheltered Cove	8x32S	Aye Afloat
Maxwell's Rant	8x32R	RSCDS Book 18

Directions from the east: 1.) Take Route 128 to Route 20 towards Waltham. Turn left towards Route 117 going west. Take Route 117 approx. 14 miles to Stow center. The Town Hall is just after the traffic light on the right. 2.) Take Route 2 to Route 62 in Concord. Turn left into West Concord and follow Route 62 into Maynard. Go straight at the traffic light onto Rt. 27. At the junction with Rt. 117 turn right and see above.

Directions from the north/west/south: Take Rt. 495 north or south to exit 27 (Rt. 117). Go east on Rt. 117 for approx. 4.5 miles to the center of Stow. Town Hall is directly in front of you at the fork in the road.

Parking: Park on the side of Crescent Street or at the Town Building across Rt. 117 from the Town Hall.

What was Dancing like Then?

Originally titled "Let's do it Cold & Raw!" by Norm McCallum

Let's do it "Cold and Raw" – the dance, that is! In three years "Cold and Raw" will be at least three hundred years old. We know that because it is in *The Complete Dancing Master of 1718*. It is one of the oldest dances I have seen – I wonder what the oldest dance is? And we missed the tri-centenary of "The Old Way of Killiecrankie" which is in the 1710 Holmain manuscript. Its name and age alone make "Cold and Raw" deserving of notice and worthy of a place on upcoming programs. Imagine all the musings about the inspiration for such a name.

I find old dances interesting and I was pleased to learn I was not alone when Roberta Gotfried taught five early 18th Century Scottish Country dances one Saturday. They were: "New Biggin,"* a mid-18th-century jig; "The old Way of Killiecrankie," 1710, a reel for 3 couples danced to a Niel Gow tune; "Lady Susan Montgomery," 1740, a strathspey for 4 couples; "The Periwig," a reel; and "The Colonel," a jig from 1740. "The Collonel," as it is also known, had these instructions:

"Sett and cast off, then the Man setts down and the Woman up. The man runs the figure 8 with the 2nd couple while the Woman does the same with the first. Change pairs and figure as before....."

We enjoyed them all – there was something in them that made them fun to dance; is quirkiness the right word? Or was it because we had bridged the centuries?

I often wonder what the people were like who did these dances? What did they work at, what were their worries, what did they think of the events at that time? They lived in tumultuous times. The Highlanders in the north and western isles were regarded with the same suspicion as settlers in the American frontier regarded the "savage Indians." In 1715 the first Jacobite rebellion took place and was followed thirty years later by Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745. There were cheers in Glasgow when news of the defeat of the Highlanders at Culloden came through. Both Jacobite rebellions were crushed by a combination of Scots and English forces.

The Scottish Enlightenment had begun. Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* came out in 1745. And the Industrial Revolution in Scotland was about to change society forever. The Scottish Enlightenment would soon flourish and its thinkers would influence the world.

But many people were still highly superstitious. Encouraged by the biblical admonition, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," many believed in witch hunting. In fact as late as 1727, an old woman in Dornoch was strangled by the Sheriff-Depute for turning her daughter into a pony. It was not until 1736 that the Statutes against witchcraft were repealed by Parliament. But those who believed in literal biblical interpretation continued to oppose the repeal as "contrary to the express laws of God."

Maybe we are not so different after all. I think it is just neat, it is cool, that we enjoy an activity which was enjoyed 300 years ago in Scotland – just like those other old Scottish past-times: golf and curling.

* A *biggin* is a new building

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 JAN/FEB 2017 ISSUE IS DECEMBER 10TH
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL OF YOUR WINTER 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**

From The Scottish Dancer, published by the Montreal Branch, 6/1976. That Editor gives the source as "Francis Gay – "The Sunday Post," April 25, 1976.

The Bonny Lass at a Forfar Dance

At a pinch I can get through "The Dashing White Sergeant", and when I'm really on form, I might even manage an Eightsome. But I have to admit that the more intricate Scottish Country dances are completely beyond me. Which is why I want to tell you about a Scottish Country dance held in Forfar. Guests from all over the country were there, including Bill Millar from Arbroath. During the evening, Bill asked a young lady to dance "the New Rigged Ship" with him - a 48-bar Reel (sic); she was a stranger to him, but Bill soon realized she danced beautifully.

When the dance ended, he thanked her and saw her back to her seat. As he walked away, another woman laid a hand on his sleeve. Bill turned. "Perhaps you don't realize it." she said, "but that woman you have just danced with is completely blind." Bill couldn't believe it at first, but it was true, and he discovered that she works as a secretary at the Forfar Guide Dogs Centre.

Incredible that a blind woman should do such a complicated dance without her partner realizing she was unable to see him? Unbelievable that she should dance through every birl without putting a foot wrong? I find it so. and I can only marvel at that unknown sense which enables a blind lass to meet life with such calm assurance.