

# The Tartan Times

*Volume LXV, Number 3*  
*January/February, 2017*



**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 Committee:** Susie Long, Kat Dutton, Diane Lockhart

**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](http://www.rscdsboston.org)

**Exec Committee Class Liaisons:** **Brookline & Cambridge, MA:** Sue Chari

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

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

**Great Barrington & 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](mailto: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 proof read 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**

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## **Notes from the Executive Committee for the Tartan Times**

The November Concert has come and gone (with a financial loss), but plans are underway for the 2017 Concert. Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas have been confirmed to perform, and the location will be the Somerville Theater. Other changes are occurring within the Branch. The Highland Ball organizers/planners are no longer just two people but will instead have a committee doing the organizing. Each member will be responsible for one of the weekend events. Susie Long will cover the Friday Welcome Dance, Kat Dutton will cover the Ball, Diane Lockhart will cover the Sunday Brunch, and Emily Peterson will participate as the legacy member of the committee. Another change/improvement for the Branch is becoming a reality. Jeremy Thorpe has been seeking a program that would allow for on-line payments and where a form could be created to provide data to the event organizers. The first on-line form is for Membership, and it seems to be working well. The Branch website has undergone a major overhaul and is easier to use and more user-friendly. Thank you to all those who have contributed their time and talents. To all event organizers, please remember to update your event information in the calendar as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please e-mail to [calendar@rscdsboston.org](mailto:calendar@rscdsboston.org) . — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

# RSCDS Boston Branch's 61st Annual Highland Ball

May 13, 2017

## Music by Saucy Bess

Tom Pixton                      Accordion and Piano  
 Catherine Miller              Fiddle  
 Nora Smith                      Fiddle  
 Cam Webster                    Pipes and Drums

MCs:

Lance Ramshaw  
 Jennifer Schoonover  
 Steven Rusche

You are invited to dress for a chromatic-themed ball! Wear your favourite bright colour so we can have a rainbow on the dance floor!

5:30 - Reception and Cocktails  
 6:30 - Dinner  
 7:45 - Grand March  
 8:00 - Dance

Dinner and Dancing: \$80 / \$85 / \$50  
 (RSCDS members / nonmembers / students)  
 Dinner or Dancing only: \$50 / \$55 / \$35  
 Scholarships available!

**Melrose Memorial Hall**  
 590 Main St  
 Melrose, Massachusetts  
 Admission includes \$1 for the  
 Memorial Hall Restoration Fund.

### Program:

Joie de Vivre	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 39
MacDonald of the Isles	32S 3Cset	Haynes, Carnforth 2
The Carl Cam' Ower the Croft	32R 3C	MMM2
Swashbuckling Iain	32J 3C	San Francisco Collection 2
The Sheltered Cove	32S 2C/3Cset	Zadworney, Aye Afloat
The Australian Ladies	32R 3C	Campbell, Glasgow Assembly
Gaelforce Wind	32J 3C	Haynes, Carnforth 3
The Robertson Rant	80S Square	RSCDS Book 39
Netherby Hall	32R 2C/3Cset	Drewry, Bon Accord
Follow Me Home	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 38
The Haar on Skye	32S 3C	RSCDS Graded Book 3
The Peat Fire Flame	40R 3C	Drewry, Bon Accord
The Legacy	32J 3C	Pinewoods Coll v2
Sugar Candie	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 26
Ferla Mor	32R 3C	Drewry, Deeside Book
The Compleat Gardener	32J 3C	RSCDS Graded Book 3
The Spirit of the Dance	32S 3C	TAC 50th Anniversary
Mrs. MacLeod (of Raasay)	32R 3C	RSCDS Book

For more fun, join us for our  
Welcome Dance on Friday  
 May 12th, and Sunday Brunch  
 on May 14th! See website  
 below for more details!

For ticket orders, directions, and mini-cribs, visit:  
<http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>

Questions? Contact Katarina Dutton  
 at [highlandball@rscdsboston.org](mailto:highlandball@rscdsboston.org)



# 61<sup>st</sup> Boston Highland Ball Weekend, May 12 - 14, 2017

## Ticket Request Form (due by May 1st)

Mail this form with your check made payable to **RSCDS Boston Branch**:

% Katarina Dutton, 54 Dartmouth St, Medford MA 02155

Checks must be in US currency, drawn on a US Bank (or use money orders in US currency)

Scholarship Funds are available! See Member Resources link at: [www.rscdsboston.org](http://www.rscdsboston.org)

**New this year: You can complete your application and make your payment online!**

See <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html> for details.

Please include the name of each person attending as it should appear on the name tag.

Ticket confirmations will be sent to the email address provided.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Considerations: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

(City)

(State, Zip)

### Saturday Evening Ball, May 13, 2017:

	RSCDS Members	Non-Members	Full-Time Students	
Full Ticket	\$80 x _____	\$85 x _____	\$50 x _____	= \$ _____
Dinner Only	\$50 x _____	\$55 x _____	\$35 x _____	= \$ _____
Dance Only	\$50 x _____	\$55 x _____	\$35 x _____	= \$ _____

### Friday Evening Dance, May 12, 2017: (Not included in Saturday Ticket Price):

*\*\*Tickets for the Friday evening dance can also be purchased at the door*

*Finger Food Contributions are welcomed for this dance*

RSCDS Members: \$13 x \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Members: \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sunday Brunch Only (Included in any Saturday Ball ticket purchase)

12 Years old and up \$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Included :** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### HOSPITALITY (Please request early)

I / We CAN OFFER hospitality for : # \_\_\_\_\_ people and/or # \_\_\_\_\_ beds on Fri / Sat / Sun / All nights.

I / We NEED hospitality for: # \_\_\_\_\_ people and/or # \_\_\_\_\_ beds on Fri / Sat / Sun / All nights.

Additional details? \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday Brunch Contributions (Please Circle) :** Casserole / Fruit / Salad / Bread / Dessert

*Food should be ready to serve or require warming only. Please bring necessary serving dishes and utensils.*

For updated information, go to <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>

For questions, email us at [highlandball@rscdsboston.org](mailto:highlandball@rscdsboston.org)

# ***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

## ***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 with Terry Traub***

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

Contributions to the refreshments are welcome

Information: [rscdsboston.org](http://rscdsboston.org) or

Evelyn, [athollbrose@verizon.net](mailto:athollbrose@verizon.net) / 617-864-8945

*\*The function will be postponed to the following Sunday, 15th January,  
if Brookline has a parking ban in place.*

# New Years Day Dance & Potluck Dinner

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

**Music by** "The Gate 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](mailto:NashuaSCD@comcast.net)

## Burns Night Celebration

The Oxford & Cambridge Society of New England, the Ancient British Universities (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews); Trinity College, Dublin; and The National Trust for Scotland **Burns Night**

**Saturday, February 4, 2017.**

Winchester Country Club

Reception at 5:30 pm, Procession to Dinner at 7:00 pm

Performances and Dancing til 11:30 pm

Pipers Kevin and Heather Wisheart and drummer Quinn McCormack  
Highland Dance Boston

The Demonstration Team of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston

Dame Elish Angiolini, Principal of the St. Hugh's College, Oxford will give the Immortal Memory

For information and tickets contact the Oxford & Cambridge Society of New England. The cost of dinner is \$140/person and includes a free drinks ticket from the full bar. Dress is Black Tie or tartan attire. Please respond with your reservation by January 30, 2017.

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

### January, 2017

- 1st \*\*\* Northampton Class New Year's Day Potluck and Dance, p 5  
1st \*\*\* Nashua Class New Year's Day Dance and Potluck, p 6  
8th \*\*\* Brookline Class Twelfth Night Dance and Supper, p 5  
25th Robert Burns' birthday

### February

- 3-5 \*\*\* Cardigan Mountain Winter Sports and Scottish Dance Weekend, info at ramshaw.info  
4th \* Oxford & Cambridge Burns Night Celebration, p 6  
11-12 Ardbrae Ball Weekend, Ottawa, p 14  
17-19 Hawaii Branch Aloha Weekend, p 14

### March

- 1st \* The Chieftains Concert, p 10  
4-5 \*\* New Haven Branch Ball Weekend, p 14  
18 \*\*\* SDCEA Scholarship Dance, contact [trink68@uwalumni.com](mailto:trink68@uwalumni.com)

### April

- 6th Tartan Day celebrated in North America  
21-23 \*\* New England Folk Festival, Mansfield, MA (Branch demo team performing) – info at neffa.org  
28 - May 1 International Branch Weekend, p 14  
30th \*\* New Haven Kilts and Ghillies Tea Dance, p 14

### May

- 12-14 \*\*\* Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, p 3 & 4  
19-21 New York Branch Pawling Weekend, p 14

### Save the Date:

3-7 July – ESC week at Pinewoods: English, Scottish & Contra, info at [rscdsboston.org/pinewoods.html](http://rscdsboston.org/pinewoods.html)  
July 7-15 – Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, p 14

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 .... !



### Blue Hill Class, ME (formerly Stonington, ME)

Michael Little reports that the class is now meeting off the island and up the peninsula to Blue Hill, ME. The exact location is now Halcyon Grange, Route 15, Blue Hill, at the new time of 6:30 pm on Wednesdays. No change for the contacts, Dawn and Mike Little.

CALENDAR FOR THE RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH 2017 (CLASS PARTIES, EVENTS, BALLS)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
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, <a href="mailto:nashuascd@comcast.net">nashuascd@comcast.net</a>
8	Brookline Class Twelfth Night Party	Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA	Evelyn Murray, <a href="mailto:athollbrose@verizon.net">athollbrose@verizon.net</a>
FEBRUARY 2017			
3-5	Cardigan Mountain Weekend	Cardigan Mountain Lodge, NH	ramshaw.info
MARCH 2017			
18	SDCEA Scholarship Dance	First Parish Church, 349 Boston Post Rd, Weston MA	Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, 978-897-3997, <a href="mailto:trink68@uwalumni.com">trink68@uwalumni.com</a>
MAY 2017			
12-14	Highland Ball Weekend	Melrose Memorial Hall, Melrose, MA	Katarina Dutton, <a href="mailto:highlandball@rscdsboston.org">highlandball@rscdsboston.org</a>
JULY 2017			
3-7	ESC Week at Pinewoods	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Meghan Murray
7-15	Pinewoods Scottish Sessions	Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, MA	Laura DeCesare & Ross Parker

PLEASE SEND ANY CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS TO Jean Farrington, [jffar@verizon.net](mailto:jffar@verizon.net)

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### Notes on Dance Titles and Music Titles

Sometimes the dance titles and tune titles, although similar, are different. The Boston Highland Ball program lists the last dance as *Mrs MacLeod (of Raasay)*. The title of the dance as it appears in the RSCDS Book 6 is *MRS MACLEOD*. The name of the tune as it appears in the RSCDS Book 6 is *Mrs MacLeod of Raasay*. – The Ed.

The tune appears in older manuscripts variously as *Mrs MacLeod of Raasay*, *Mrs McLeod of Rasay*, *Miss McLeod's*, *Mrs Macleod of Raasay*, and many combinations of the above. The oldest appearance in my library is in *Niel Gow's 5th Collection* (1809), and the title is *Mrs McLeod of Rasay's Reel, an Original Isle of Sky Reel Communicated by Mr McLeod*. It is printed as a 16-bar reel. – The Format Ed.



# 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](http://www.canadianamericanclub.com)) 202 Arlington Street, Watertown. Beginners welcome! Contact Alex Bowers, CambridgeClass@rscdsboston.org
- \* **Chelmsford:** Year-round, First Fridays 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Live music. Contact Rebecca Gore at [rjgore@gmail.com](mailto:rjgore@gmail.com) or 508-574-1533
- \* **Newton:** Sept to mid-June Wednesday mornings 10:30 am - noon. Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton. July-Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, [hdshoes14@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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
- \* **Blue Hill:** Year-round, Wednesdays 6:30 pm, Halcyon Grange, Route 15, Blue Hill. Contacts Mike / Dawn Little, 207-348-9308; [mjlittle2318@hotmail.com](mailto:mjlittle2318@hotmail.com); [sugarmaple111@hotmail.com](mailto:sugarmaple111@hotmail.com)
- \* **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-833-2329, [pstillotson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:crone4702@gmail.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:** Aug-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua. Contact Loren Wright, [nashuascd@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:loisanew@nycap.rr.com); [clubitz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:clubitz@nycap.rr.com)

\* Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, [www.rscdsboston.org](http://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](http://www.rscdsboston.org/FullFlyer.pdf). For updates, please email [Classes@rscdsboston.org](mailto:Classes@rscdsboston.org)

## *MUSIC PAGE*

### **SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG on the Isle of Skye**

**What is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig?** It is a College focussed on the education of Gaelic language speakers, those who would like to learn or need more learning in this language of Scotland. Courses on offer include full-time and part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate, distance learning courses and short courses. The College's short courses program has grown in popularity over the years, and each year nearly a thousand people of all ages and backgrounds come for instruction in Gaelic language & culture, Gaelic song, fiddle, accordion, photography, community-based courses and a range of other specialist subjects offered by a talented team of instructors. These 5-day courses are a great way to learn the language and enjoy a good music session or two. The College also offers short courses of two weeks during Easter and the summer months. They also run weekend courses and workshops both at Sabhal as well as in different communities across Scotland. Some new courses being added include flute & whistle with Hamish Napier, Fiddle with Ewen Henderson and Adam Sutherland, accordion with Mairearad Green, clarsach with Ingrid Henderson, Aspects of Highland Material Culture and 'A Seascape of Gaelic Song' with Margaret Stewart, Gaelic for beginners in the Quiraing Lodge with Muriel Fisher and for fluent speakers a Gaelic pronunciation course with Iain & Muriel Urquhart, and creative writing with Alison Lang. In the evenings there are ceilidhs, concerts, music sessions, conversation circles and workshops. People come from all over the world, attracted by this special place on Skye. The Gaelic culture is very rich in traditions, song and music. For more detailed information, visit [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk).  
Thigibh a chèilidh oirnn! [- from The Scottish Banner, December 2016]

### **BCMFest - 2nd Weekend of January**

The 14th Annual Boston's Celtic Music Festival, known colloquially as the BCMFest, will take place January 13-14, 2017. It is an annual showcase for the Greater Boston area's rich trove of Celtic musicians, presenting music, song and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic-related traditions. Events are held in Harvard Square's Club Passim; the First Church, Cambridge; and The Atrium. Performers include Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman; Laura Cortese & Friends; Heather Cole-Mullen; Jenna Moynihan; Scottish Fish; Galen Fraser; Elizabeth & Ben Anderson; Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra; Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston; Rachel Reeds & Friends, and more. There are concerts and participatory dancing and sessions. As a bonus, the BCMFest Academy will offer classes taught by festival performers on Saturday afternoon in Passim's main offices at 126 Church Street. Ticket information, performer updates and other details about the festival will be available at [passim.org/bcmfest](http://passim.org/bcmfest).

### **SRSNH Monthly Meetings – January thru March**

29th January – Workshop Leader is Mari Black

26th February – Workshop Leader is Jeremiah McLane

26th March – Rehearsal for spring concerts.

The Concerts are: Bass Hall with Dave Wasilew leading; April 21-23 NEFFA and TBA Portsmouth Library.

### **Cape Breton Dance & Fiddle Workshops – 3rd Sunday of each month, October - June**

At the Canadian-American Club, Watertown, MA

Dance workshops with Jen Schoonover or Mary MacGillivray, 12:30-2:00 pm

Fiddle workshops with Gordon Aucoin, 2:00-3:30 pm

Then stay for the Gaelic Club, 3:30-6:30 pm for fiddling, dancing, Gaelic singing, refreshments and cash bar

Families welcome; friendly atmosphere

### **Concert: The Chieftains, March 1st, 2017**

At the Chevalier Theatre, Medford, MA. For tickets contact 617-531-1257

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES:**

### **Jeannie Carmichael talks about how Scottish Country dancing started in Boston**

*[This was first published in The Tartan Times, January, 1967]*

A few years ago at the request of Beverly and Alistair Duncan, Jeannie made some notes about the start of Scottish country dancing in Boston. We are thus fortunate in having in her own words the early history of its development. Jeannie wrote:

Pre-charter, pre-branch, we were a small group, sometimes not more than one set - one stormy night just five dancers and myself, but we carried on. It was John McDougall, Duncan Hay, and Fred Newcombe, who asked if I'd teach them Scottish country dancing. We met at 87 Beacon Street, (the Girl Scouts' office) every Monday early in 1948.

How did John McDougall, Duncan and Fred know about Scottish country dancing to ask me to teach them? They saw it when a group of Scots students at Harvard and Radcliffe danced for a party of the English Folk Dance Society as it was called then. How did the Scots get there? I had a telephone call from Mrs. Meade of the Student Center: "There are some Scots who wanted to dance The Eightsome Reel and other Scottish dances. If she got them together, would I run an evening for them?"

NEFFA demonstration 1949 – our first NEFFA demonstration. Dancers were Kay Jacobs, Helen Spaulding, Emily Hartman, Theora Morison, Ann O'Brien, John McDougall, Duncan Hay, Irvin Davis, and Fred Newcomb. Dances were (I think) Mrs. MacLeod, Moneymusk, & Scottish Reform. That night in the audience was a Mrs. MacDonald, who, at the end of the evening, came up to say, "I know who would be interested in what you are doing." Next day over the telephone a voice, then unknown, but by now very familiar to us all, – could he come to visit us? The following Monday, still at Beacon Street, came Mr. and Mrs. A. Cameron Steele. Before the end of the evening Alice Steele was among us dancing. Through Mr. Steele's good offices, we danced at his lodge first, then for the Scots Charitable, then at the Clan Sutherland Tartan Ball, then at the Worcester Pipe Band's dinner and ball, then regularly at the Clan Sutherland's Highland Games.

In the fall of 1949 after my visit to St. Andrews [*the SCDS Summer School – ed.*] we were recognized as the Boston Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society (then not yet RSCDS). On Irvin Davis' advice, we became incorporated under the Commonwealth of the State of Massachusetts. It was April 1950 before we received the charter. Mr. Cronin, then Secretary of State for Massachusetts, wished to present it personally, so it took time to arrange a date when he could be present.

How we spread outside the State, and the first Pinewoods weekend: David Bridgham, who danced with us from the beginning, began talking about our dancing to Mary Ann Herman of Folk Dance House, New York. She wanted to see it, so at an English Weekend at Pinewoods a few of us – four couples – found a free floor at a non-scheduled time and danced for Mary Ann. From that came the invitation to run a Scottish workshop at Folk Dance House. The first weekend in March soon became the regular date for the Scottish workshop. Dancers from Albany and Schenectady visited these and so came an invitation to dance in the Albany district and this was the start of the up-state New York groups. With these and ourselves in Boston, we dared risk an all-Scottish weekend, and that weekend in 1954 was ever so successful, under the chairmanship of Charlie Campbell. We sent invitations to all addresses in the SCDS bulletin, and so came the Canadians. From then on most of you know the story.

*[More material from the Archives will appear in future issues. – ed.]*

## 2016 RSCDS Annual AGM Weekend

The weekend went smoothly with classes both Saturday and Sunday mornings. The AGM was held in the afternoon, the most exciting item from the meeting was the unanimous vote by the delegates to elect Jean Martin as the Society's next President. Most dancers will be familiar with the dance Jean Martin of Aberdeen, so you also know her home city. My own interface with Jean is when the AGM has been held in Aberdeen and how kind she was to a friend, Miss Margaret Brander, who, for the last two times was wheelchair-bound. Margaret had broken her hip which was just pinned and left her almost disabled. The sports building where the meetings were held was not friendly to such a situation. Both times Jean helped with advice to enable us to keep Margaret able to participate. We wish her well in her new tenure and look forward to meeting again.



*Jean Martin*

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## Editorial: ARCHIVES

I am including an item from my own archives for the Branch in this issue, plus an article in the current Newsletter for the Country Dance Society, Boston Centre reminded me to say that the Boston Branch Archives are housed in the Milne Special Collections, New Hampshire Library of Traditional Music and Dance, University of New Hampshire at Durham. Our materials join those of CDC-Boston Centre, NEFFA, Pinewoods Camp, Inc., and CDSS. When sorting through your papers please save anything you think is pertinent for the history of events and activities of the Branch. These items should be sent to the Branch Secretary; currently this is Susan Haines. She has the job of sending items on to the University. As so much of committee work is done more and more electronically, it is important to keep archival material for future use by dancers and researchers. Similarly long-time members who are turning out a basement or attic should also be on the lookout for suitable items. Gregor Trinkhaus-Randall is a qualified archivist, and he arranged for the Branch archives, which had originally been stored in Julie Smith's basement, to be placed at UNH. The University is making digital copies of our material.

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## PEOPLE NEWS

The editor had supper with **Cal and Irene Howard** last week. They are both cheerful and as well as can be expected. Cal is no longer driving, which further limits their contacts with their music and dancing friends. I suggest that people who remember them from dancing, demo team, The White Cockade, etc., call and drop by when you are in the area. The phone number is 781-272-0396, they live at 6 Tami Lane, Burlington, which is a short turn off Rte 62.

## **Keep Your Brains by Dancing !!! Ros McKie**

[reprinted from *The Rant*, November 2016, the Newsletter for the Hunter Valley Branch, Australia.]

Does this sound a weird title? It actually summarizes an article by Geoffrey Selling in a recent TACTALK where he highlights recent research that shows that dancing is the best activity to avoid dementia. The research studied senior citizens, 75 or over, for 21 years and found that the risk of dementia was reduced for each of the following type activities by the given percentage amounts:

Bicycling, swimming, or playing golf	0%
Reading	35%
Crossword puzzles (at least 4 days a week)	47%
Dancing frequently	76%

Evidently the fact that dance combines both physical and mental activity is very important. So let's keep dancing!!!

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## **Who ARE the Scots, what is so special about being of Scottish descent?**

Perhaps the book *The Makers of Scotland* by Tim Clarkson might unravel some of the conundrum. Clarkson covers a thousand years of Scottish history, this account incorporates both historical and contemporary research into old theories and controversies. During the first millennium AD, the most northerly part of Britain evolved into the country known today as Scotland. The transition was a long process of social and political change driven by the ambitions of powerful warlords; tribal chiefs and Roman generals, at first, followed by dynamic warrior kings who campaigned far beyond their own borders. From Lothian to Orkney and from Fife to the Isle of Skye fierce battles were won and lost, but by AD 1000 a dynasty of Gaelic-speaking kings, the Picts, and Scots began to forge a single, unified nation which transcended enemies. This chronicle brings to life the great warrior kings of early Scotland. An interesting read.

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## **Wednesday, January 25th, 2017, is Robert Burns' Birthday**

This date commemorates Scotland's bard's birthday and is usually celebrated on or around this date with a dinner and a speaker who proposes the toast to The Immortal Bard. Often a formal reply is given and various other toasts made, including one to The Lassies. Other entertainment usually follows, including dancing, singing and performances by musicians. Burns wrote many songs, adapting older songs or completely re-writing the words. The book that made him famous is the first edition of Robert Burns' poems *The Kilmarnock Edition* which was published in 1780 by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems: Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month.

Favourite Scottish Country dances with Burns song titles are: The Lea Rig, Corn Rigs, Ha! Ha! The Woin' O' It, Green Grow the Rashes, A Man's a Man for a' That, etc. These are all RSCDS-published dances. Then in J. Cosh's 22+2 we have The Lad o' Kyle. The list could grow longer, but it is obvious that his songs continue to live on in many forms.

*HAVE SHOES ... WILL TRAVEL ...*

**Pinewoods Scottish Sessions July 7-10 & July 10-15, 2017**

Teaching Staff include special guests from Scotland and Norway; Fred DeMarse, San Francisco; and Kate Neally, Delaware Valley. Music by the Parcel of Rogues and Friends.

**Ardbrae Ball Weekend, Ottawa, Feb 11-12, 2017**

Dinner and ball, plus Sunday brunch, with music by Torridon. Hospitality is available with local dancers so contact [ardbrae.org/docs/D20170211ArdbraeBallFlyer.pdf](http://ardbrae.org/docs/D20170211ArdbraeBallFlyer.pdf) for more information

**New Haven, CT Highland Ball Weekend, March 4-5, 2017**

Information at <http://www.nhrscds.com/new-haven-highland-ball/>

**Kirkcaldy Branch RSCDS 87th Annual Ball, Saturday 4th March, 2017**

Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, dancing to David Cunningham & his Band. Formal Dress. Tickets are £26 before 1/21, £28 before 2/18. Contact info: Anthea Hansford, [achansford35@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:achansford35@hotmail.co.uk)

**Helensburgh & District Branch 39th SCD Weekend, 31st March-2nd April, 2017**

Teacher Anne Robertson, Musician Susan MacFadyen, Ball music The Scott Band & Dance Music Jim Lindsay. Contact Helen Cameron at email [helencameron@hotmail.com](mailto:helencameron@hotmail.com); Branch website: [www.rscds-helensburgh.org.uk](http://www.rscds-helensburgh.org.uk)

**RSCDS New Haven Kilts and Ghillies Tea Dance, Sunday April 30, 2017**

3:00-7:00 pm at the South Britain Congregational Church, Parish House (693 S. Britain Rd.) Southbury, CT. Music by Dave Wiesler and guest fiddler TBA. Contact Ingrid Davis at [ingrid20@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ingrid20@sbcglobal.net)

**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](http://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](http://www.rscds-ib.org)

**New York Branch NEW Pawling Weekend, May 19-21, 2017, Berkshire Hills, Copake, NY**

(their 54th annual spring weekend) Teachers will be: a special guest from Paris, France; Arthur McNair, Pittsburgh; and Rebecca Roman, Buffalo, NY. Music by Scotch Mist with guest artist Catherine Miller for the Ball, Friday night dance and classes. Teacher's Workshop on Saturday afternoon. Children are welcome. Cost is \$300 before 3/31 & \$350 thereafter. For more information call 201-694-4646 or [pawlingweekend@gmail.com](mailto:pawlingweekend@gmail.com)

**Australian Winter School, July 9-16, 2017, Adelaide, Australia**

The 42nd Australian Winter School will be held in Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia. Teachers include Robert McOwen, Jean Dodds and Andrew Timmons. Music by Ian Robertson, Jim Lindsay and Judi Nicholson. For info - [rscdsadelaide.org.au/ws2017](http://rscdsadelaide.org.au/ws2017).

**RSCDS Summer School July 16 - August 13 at St. Andrews, Scotland**

The beautiful and historic seaside town of St. Andrews, Fife, is the original Mecca for Scottish country dancers since the 1930s. The four one-week sessions include courses in Scottish country dancing at all levels; the Teaching Certificate, music courses, a Junior Summer School (ages 8-11) and a course leading to the Dancing Achievement Award, as well as social dancing, balls in the famed Younger Hall, ceilidhs, and meeting with fellow dancers from all over the world. Teachers for 2017 include Atsuko Clement, Linda Henderson, David Queen, Graham Donald, Robert McOwen, Craig Houston and Sue Porter. Musicians include George Meikle, Robert Mackay, Luke Brady, Moira Reekie, Muriel Johnstone and Ian Muir. For all particulars, go to [rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017](http://rscds.org/article/summer-school-2017).

**Always Wear a Smile**  
**a poem by Jackie Graham, Grafton class, Hunter Valley**

I saw some Scottish Dancers dancing up the street  
Hopping and skipping with their toe tapping feet  
I was mesmerized, besotted! Awake, the country lass  
So I went and joined the local Scottish Country Dancing class

*Chorus:*

*Learning Scottish Country Dancing takes a little while  
And I learnt that while you're learning to always wear a smile  
That practice makes perfect – I've been told that more than once  
Words I keep repeating when round the room I pounce*

Well I couldn't find my corners and strathspeys were too fast  
When I set I travelled and my progressions went right past  
Once I danced a six-bar reel when I thought it was an eight  
Then wondered where my partner was when I returned too late  
The dancers kept on dancing and my head began to spin  
When my partner took me by the hand and put me right again

*Chorus*

I always think I've got it right with steps plotted in my brain  
Until I bow and curtsy then I muck it up again  
Someone gives a gentle shove – instructions come in fast  
Next thing you know is I've danced a pas de bask  
Then I finally get it with the music getting faster  
Then oops off I go again – Am I Arthur or a Marther?

*Chorus*

*Learning Scottish Dancing takes a little while  
And I learnt that while you're learning to always wear a smile  
And I learnt that while you're dancing to always wear a smile  
And I learnt that while you're stumbling to always wear a smile  
I think I'll call this poem 'Always wear a smile'*



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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**COPY DUE DATE FOR THE MAR/APR 2017 ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 10TH.  
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL OF YOUR SPRING EVENTS TO THE EDITOR.  
DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR  
AND TO JEAN FARRINGTON FOR THE BRANCH CALENDAR  
Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" deep**

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*The following item is not about dancing but is of general interest. The info came via Scottish Life Magazine (Fall issue) and the Newsletter for the Clan Donnachaidh Society of New England*

### **The National Museum of Scotland Immortalized in Lego**

The imposing Victorian architecture of the National Museum of Scotland, with its great central hall rising the full height of the building, is a wonder of design and engineering. And to celebrate the building's 150th anniversary, an equally wondrous 11<sup>1/2</sup> - foot replica, made entirely of Lego blocks, was commissioned. The work, by renowned brick artist Warren Elmore and his team, used more than 90,000 bricks and represented 350 hours of work. "I think the most challenging part was building some of the artifacts and the sculpture gallery – for example the Tyrannosaurus and the Formula One car," said the artist. The display now has pride of place on Level 3 of the museum, next to the cafe, and will remain there for the foreseeable future. The museum is located on Chambers Street, Edinburgh and admission is free.

