

The Tartan Times

Volume LXVI, Number 1
September/October, 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:* Marsha Byrnes;
Secretary: Susan Haines; *Treasurer:* Cathy Crabtree; *Members at Large:* Janet Anderson,
Sue Chari, Sharon Gilmour, Cathy Goode, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Charles Liu

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Ed Pokrass • **Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2017** MaryEllen Scannell
Highland Ball 2018: *Contact:* To be announced

Fall Concert 2017 *Artistic Director:* Robert McOwen; *Producers:* Linda McJannet & Cathy Crabtree
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** Gregor Trinkaus-Randall
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 & Newton MA:* Sue Chari

Brunswick, Kennebunk & Belfast ME, Greenland & Nashua NH, Chelmsford, MA: John Salyards

Stow MA: Sharon Gilmour • *Burlington, Montpelier & Fairlee VT, Albany NY:* Jeffrey Hopper

Salem, Great Barrington & Northampton MA: Cathy Goode

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 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*

Notes for the Tartan Times from the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee held its transition meeting in late June and then recessed until the end of August, so there is not a lot of new information to share. • The Fall Concert will be held on November 11, 2017 at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum in Lexington, MA. with shows at 3 and 7:30 PM. The featured performers are Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas along with Campbell Webster, Highland Dance Boston, and the Demonstration Team of the RSCDS Boston Branch. Robert McOwen is the Artistic Director and Linda McJannet and Cathy Crabtree are the co-producers. Informational postcards are being distributed throughout the Branch and will be available at the New Hampshire Highland Games. Ticket information is posted on the Branch web site. • Due to the decreasing number of attendees at the Highland Ball, Exec is looking for ways to attract more dancers, in particular, the out-of-town dancers. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee. • At this time, the majority of the Branch classes are just starting up after taking the summer off. Please check the Branch website for class information and the Branch calendar for upcoming events. Happy Dancing! — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Boston Branch
24th Annual Concert of Scottish Music and Dance

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

Campbell Webster (pipes)
Highland Dance Boston
and the Demonstration Team
of the Boston Branch

Saturday, November 11, 2017

3:00 and 7:30 pm

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum
33 Marrett Rd., Lexington, MA 02421

Info: concert@rscdsboston.org or 617 492 8180
<http://rscdsboston.org/event-fall-concert.html>

Mail orders filled as received. Sorry, no refunds.
(Please use separate forms if ordering for both shows!)

Name _____ # Adults non-members _____ @ \$27
Address _____ # RSCDS members _____ @ \$25
City/State/Zip _____ # Students _____ @ \$15
Telephone _____ # in Group (≥8) _____ @ \$22
Seat preference ___ Orchestra ___ Mezzanine Total: \$ _____
Wheelchair? ___yes
Email address (for future concert notices only) _____

Which show? Circle one: 3:00 PM or 7:30 PM

Make checks payable to *RSCDS, BOSTON* and send with a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to:
RSCDS Concert, c/o Laura Billmers, 66 Lowell St., Lexington, MA 02420-2810
Orders received after Nov. 3 or without a SASE will be held at the door in your name. Thanks!
To order online, visit www.mktix.com/rscd (service fee added: \$2.00-4.50 depending on ticket price).

The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our



Fall Dance Party



Saturday, October 14, 2017

NEW LOCATION! Harraseeket Grange Hall, 13 Elm St., Freeport, 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

Ed Pearlman, Fiddle
& Beth Murray, Piano



For further information contact:

Patti Tillotson pstillotson@gmail.com
Home (207) 833-2329 Cell (207) 841-3232

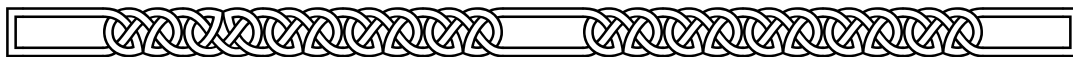


Harraseeket Grange, 13 Elm St, Freeport: From I 295 Exit 22, (Freeport/Durham) follow the exit ramp →

- From the South → turn left towards Freeport Village → turn right onto Rt 1 South (Main St)
- From the North → merge right towards Freeport Village → turn right onto Rt 1 South (Main St)

Travel on Rt 1S (Main St) about 1/10 mile → turn right onto Elm Street (by Key Bank)

The Grange Hall is on the left behind the Azure Cafe → Parking at the Grange Hall & behind Key Bank



Additional Information about Classes and Events:

Stow Class

Marcia Rising has confirmed these dates for the remainder of 2017: Fridays September 22, October 13 & 27, December 8 and 22. November 18 will be our dance party night so be sure to spread the word. It is a SATURDAY evening.

Brookline Class

Held in the Parish House of the Church of Our Saviour, 25 Monmouth St., Brookline Sundays at 6:30-8:30 pm starting September 10th, every Sunday with various teachers. Cost is \$7 with students half price. No dancing Dec 24th and 31st. Tentative dates are December 17th for the Christmas party and January 7th for the annual Twelfth Night Party.

Some dates for your Travel Calendar

Nov 11th 2017 – Toronto Branch Day School. See www.dancescottish.ca for more info

Nov 17-19 2017 – San Francisco Branch annual weekend at Asilomar, Pacific Grove CA. Contact www.rscds-sf.org/ for more info

July 8-15, 2018 – 43rd Australian Winter School at Tomaree, Hunter Valley Branch. For more info: www.hvws2018.comaaa

The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
12th Annual
AUTUMN SOCIAL

MUSIC BY
KATIE MCNALLY, ED PEARLMAN, & NEIL PEARLMAN

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m.

Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Lyme Congregational Church – 1 Dorchester Road on the Green –

Lyme, New Hampshire

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

Students/Under 18 - \$5.00

See reverse for driving directions. 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/events-calendar.html>

The Capital District NY Scottish Country Dancers
(RSCDS Boston Branch)

NY Capital District Fall Frolic

October 28, 2017

YWCA, 44 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY



Music by Boston Hospitality
Ed Pearlman and Beth Murray

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| Saturday: | 1:00-2:30 | Workshop – Beth Birdsall - Newbitz House |
| | 3:00-4:00 | Party Review – Beth Birdsall - Newbitz House |
| | 7:30 | Dance Party at the YWCA (\$25 at the door) |
| Sunday: | 10:30 | Brunch at the Newbitz House (Bringing a dish optional) |

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

RSCDS Annual General Meeting



The RSCDS AGM & Conference Weekend is all about dancing and discussing Society matters, some of which include elections to the Management Board and Committees. Booking is now open for this year's Conference Weekend at the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth from Friday 3rd November to Sunday 5th November.

Friday: • Teaching Conference; • Country dance party with Scott Band and his Scottish Dance Band in the Main Arena; • Ceilidh dance in the Coaching Hall.

Saturday Morning: • Open Forum; • Country dance class taught by Andrew Nolan, accompanied by George Meikle.

Saturday Afternoon: • AGM - the Boston Branch will be represented by Evelyn Murray and Jean Farrington; • Scroll of Honour presentations will held at the Civic Reception immediately prior to the Ball in the evening.

Saturday Evening: • Scottish Country Dance Ball, with Colin Dewar and his Scottish Dance Band.

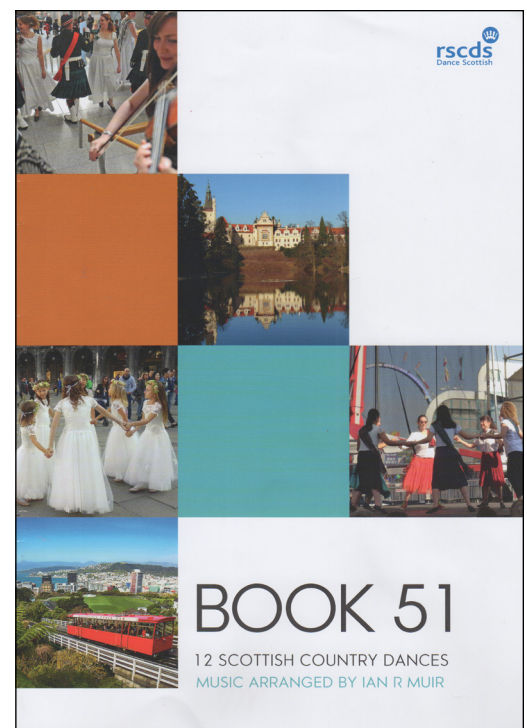
Sunday Morning: • Members of the Board & Management Committees meeting; • Presentation on Scottish dance music in the Coaching Hall. • The Weekend will conclude with a country dance class taught by David Queen, accompanied by Rodger McAndrew.

There will also be a full programme of forums and workshops with details to follow. See the website at www.rscds.org for more information, and registration forms.

Book 51 and CD Now Available

The RSCDS Book 51 contains 12 Scottish country dances with music arranged by Ian R. Muir. (It is important to retain Ian's middle initial "R" since there is another musician, Ian T. Muir, who also contributed to the book.) All of the dances in Book 51 are modern compositions that were chosen as being appropriate "for young and less experienced dancers." This means that many simple figures such as Circle Six (or Circle Eight) occur frequently in the book, but complicated figures such as The Knot or Set & Link for Three Couples do not appear. The dance devisors hail from around the world (England, France, Germany, U.S., and New Zealand), and many of the titles of the dances refer or appeal to younger dancers ("The Edinburgh Toy Shop," "Save the Children," etc.). There is also a wide variety in the music, ranging from tunes by Isaac Cooper, an 18th-century composer of Scottish dance tunes, to tunes by modern composers, such as Anselm Lingnau, who also maintains the Strathspey server. In summary, Book 51 is well-conceived and well-executed and represents another important contribution to the literature of Scottish country dancing. –

Robert McOwen [*Robert taught these and other RSCDS dances at the RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews, August 2017 – Ed.*]



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

September

- 10th *** Brookline Class start of 2017-18 season, p 9
11th *** Cambridge Class at Watertown start of 2017-18 season, p 9
15-17 * New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival at Lincoln, NH, p 10
22nd *** Stow Class start of new season of dancing, p 9
30th Montreal Branch Workshop & Social; contact holly.boyd@gmail.com

October

- 1st *** Boston Branch New Membership Year Begins, p 15
6-14 Celtic Colours, Cape Breton Island, p 10
14th *** Brunswick Class annual Dance Party, p 4
14-15 * New York Branch Jeannie Carmichael Ball, NEW location - Briarcliff Manor, NY, p 13
20-21 Ottawa Ardbrae Dance, 150th Celebration & Funstop, ardbrae.org
21st *** Fairlee Autumn Social and Potluck, p 5
28th *** NY Capital District Fall Frolic, p 5

November

- 3-5 Kingston Branch 50th Workshop and Ball, rscdskingston.org
3-5 ** RSCDS Annual Conference weekend and AGM, p 6
3-5 * Fiddle Hell, Westford, MA, p 10
11th *** Boston Branch annual Scottish Music & Dance Concert with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, p 3
12th * Canadian American Club Gala Benefit, p 10
18th *** Scholarship Dance Party, Stow Town Hall, MA, contact Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, p 9
25th Montreal Branch Fall Social at the Red Barn, contact Holly Boyd

December

- 9th *** Pinewoods Benefit Ball [Note date change; contact the Salem Class for more info, p 9]
17th *** Brookline Class annual Christmas Party, contact Brookline Class, p 9

Save the date:

- *** Brookline Class annual Twelfth Night Dance and Supper - Jan 7; contact Brookline Class, p 9
*** Fairlee Class Spring Dance - May 12; contact Gary Apfel, p 9
NY Pawling Weekend - May 11-13, 2018
*** Boston Highland Ball Weekend - May 18-20, 2018 [Note change of weekend]

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.

The purpose of this Calendar is to not only provide a listing of current events, but also to note future events. This helps in planning an event to avoid clashes and conflicts. So it would be great if future planners of Branch and Class events would send to Evelyn and Barbara just the date, name of event and if possible a contact name. When all the pieces are together then it would of course be put on the website. – Ed.



New Class in Bedford

Heather Day is teaching a new class in Bedford, Mass., and she wrote this article and submitted these photos on behalf of the Bedford Council on Aging.

As the lovely sunny days of summer are waning and thoughts begin to turn to back to school and Fall activities, here is a suggestion: Learn Scottish dancing. The Scots have enjoyed this type of folk/social dancing for centuries. The first written records of dances date to the mid-1700s, when itinerant dancing masters – “dancies” – would go from town to town with their fiddles, to teach the locals the steps and accompany them with their own music. In the last century, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society has promoted dancing worldwide, training teachers and supporting music and dance in many countries, where all are welcome from age 8-80 and beyond.

Many of the figures and steps will be familiar, albeit with different names, to any who have seen contra or square dance. However, in addition to Reels and Jigs, Scottish Dancing is unique in having slower tempo dances, known as Strathspeys. These are quite elegant and conjure up visions of elegantly dressed ladies in long gowns with their partners in full kilt regalia dancing in castle halls.

The Bedford Council on Aging is hosting a class in Scottish dancing for beginners, on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2 pm beginning September 12th. All ages are welcome, and don't worry, you do not have to wear the kilt! Come and see how much fun it can be at this free class. For more information contact the Bedford Council on Aging at 781-275-6825.



SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford:** Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm, Bedford Senior Center (COA), 12 Mudge Way, Bedford (yellow bldg. behind Town Hall). Register at Senior Center as guest. All levels welcome. Heather Day, 617-244-6914, hdshoes14@gmail.com
- * **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
 - * **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:** Year-round, First Fridays 7-9 pm at the Chelmsford Community Center at 31 Princeton St, North Chelmsford. Beginner & family-friendly. Contact Rebecca Gore at rjgore@gmail.com or 508-574-1533
 - * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact Ted, 413-698-2944, tedfr@rnetworx.com or Maria, 413-344-3023, mariaw235@gmail.com
 - * **Newton:** Sept to mid-June Wednesdays 10:30 am - noon. Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton. July-Aug at VFW Post 440, 295 California St, Newton (park in the back parking lot). 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 Ave.), Florence (nr. Northampton). Contact Karen Lavallee-Tente, 413-527-3407, or text to 413-210-8012.
 - * **Salem (Wee Bluets):** Year-round, Thursdays, 8-10 pm, adult beginners 7:30. The Bridge at 211, 211 Bridge St, Salem. Contact MaryEllen Scannell, weebluets@rscdsboston.org, 617-462-1925
 - * **Stow:** Sept-June, 2nd and 4th Fridays. Footwork/figures: 7:15, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contacts: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, vickery@bu.edu; Marcia Rising, 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, The Grange, Route 15, Blue Hill. Contact Mike/Dawn Little, 207-348-9308; mjlittle2318@hotmail.com; 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
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, crone4702@gmail.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- * **Greenland (Seacoast Dancers):** Oct-June, Tuesdays 7:15-9:15 pm. Beginner's class upon demand. Greenland Parish Hall, 44 Post Road (Route 151), Greenland. Contact Merrill Henderson, crone4702@gmail.com, 207-409-9050 or Laurie Stevens, 603-501-9488, seacoastdancers@rscdsboston.org
- Lancaster:** Sept-June, Fridays 7:30 pm, Lancaster Town Hall, 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, 603-891-2331

VERMONT

- Burlington:** Mondays, 7-9 pm; Champlain Club, 20 Crowley Street, Burlington. Contact Connie Kent, 802-355-5901, constancekent@gmail.com
- * **Fairlee:** Sept-June, Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Fairlee Town Hall, 75 Town Common Rd. (just off Route 5, Main St.). Contact Gary Apfel, fairlee@rscdsboston.org, 802-439-3459
 - Manchester Center:** On hiatus until further notice. Contact Holly Sherman, 802-362-3471, hovashe@yahoo.com
 - * **Montpelier:** On hiatus until further notice. Contact Martha Kent, mdkent@comcast.net, 802-879-7618

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 6:30 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/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf. For updates, please email classes@rscdsboston.org

MUSIC PAGE

Fiddle Club News

Boston Scottish Fiddle Club • Sessions on 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30-10:00 at the Canadian American Club, September 20, October 18, November 15 • Meetings/Workshops on 1st Sundays, 2:00-6:00 in Belmont, October 1, November 5, December 3rd. • The BSFC Orchestra is performing at the N.H. Highland Games at Loon Mt • www.bsfc.org

Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H. • Gatherings on last Sundays, September through June, 12:30-4:00 in Concord, N.H., include workshops, refreshments, sessions, rehearsals. • www.srsnh.org

Canadian American Club • Gaelic Club on 3rd Sundays, 4-6 pm, October 15, November 19, December 17 with traditional music, cash bar, refreshments, a family place where everybody knows your name • Regular dances and concerts and celebrations at the Club • Sunday November 12: Can-Am Club Gala Benefit • www.canadianamericanclub.com

Fall Festivals

New Hampshire Highland Games - Weekend of September 15-17, 2017. Piping, drumming, clarsach, highland dance and fiddle competitions. Also concerts, sessions, workshops, shopping, traditional food, fun, everything Scottish. www.nhscot.org

Celtic Colours - Week of October 6-14, 2017. Concerts, workshops, dances all over Cape Breton Island; sign up early and often at celtic-colours.com

Fiddle Hell - Weekend of November 3-5. A yearly gathering of fiddlers to meet, jam, learn, dance and have all kinds of fiddle fun. Many great sessions & workshop teachers. www.reinerfamilyband.com/introduction

Friends of Highland Music

FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC is a recognised non-profit organization established for the advancement of education and interest in Highland music and culture.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We work with others to promote teaching and playing traditional music and we keep a stock of instruments for hire to learners. We have taken tutors and instruments into schools to introduce children to our traditional music and in doing so have helped initiate traditional music classes in communities.

- We periodically hold a Spring Event on an aspect of Scottish music from an expert in the field. To date we have held events on the fiddle, clarsach, bagpipes, accordion and Gaelic song.

- In our Tune for You scheme, one of our patrons, Eric Allan, will, for a fixed donation to our funds, write a tune – the title and dedication to be decided by yourself. Eric also runs the Slow Jam, a music group which meets fortnightly in Ness Bank Church Hall, Inverness and plays Scottish music in a relaxed style.

- We award frequent OurMusic grants to help those aged 23 and under, living in the Highland Council area, to broaden their skills and understanding of traditional music. We give Financial Assistance to musical groups and projects.

- We donated trophies for fiddle and accordion sections in the Inverness Music Festival and support the Jacobite Song section.

See the website at www.friends-of-highland-music.org for more information and how to join.



PEOPLE NEWS

Following not too long after the Stow Class's very successful pool party at *Bob and Pauline Hamilton's* home this past month, Bob was taken into the hospital. He was there a couple of days and then sent to re-hab. The good news is that he did so well at re-hab that he has returned home in time for the annual family cookout over Labor Day weekend.

Bob and Pauline have been stalwart members of the Stow class for many years. This is another place where you will find a great mix of young and not-so-young dancers every two weeks during the season. I also would hazard a guess that Bob's regular dance activity is helping both him and Pauline cope with their senior years.

Please all wish Bob a very happy Birthday on Sept 9th, when he achieves 90 years young.

Robert and Barbara McOwen have literally spanned the globe this past summer! This was due to first Robert teaching at the Australian Winter School then following that with teaching at the RSCDS Summer School held in St. Andrews, Scotland. So below is a little portion of the extra time they had in Scotland. – *Ed.*



Colin & Sarah Garrett were stopping at Inveraray on their way to Colonsay, and Robert & Barbara McOwen decided that Inveraray was a good stopping-off place between Fort William and Pitlochry. They all met up for dinners, touring the castle, and two glorious nights of music at the Garretts' B&B, which sported a grand piano. The Garretts attended Pinewoods several times in the 80s. Sarah played piano at St. Andrews Summer School in 1991 and still keeps up with new tunes coming out; Colin has re-directed his violin energies towards making and restoring them.

Colin & Sarah send their greetings to their Boston and New York Branch friends. Others whom Robert and Barbara met up with also wish to say hello: *Kae Sakurai & Michael Smith, Georgina Finlay, Johan MacLean, Atsuko Clement, Jean Martin, Helen Russell, Sue Porter, Pat & Peter Clark, Aonghas & Moira Grant, Linda Gaul, Muriel & Bill Zobel, Pete Clark & Theresa MacVarish, Robert MacKay, and Henry Thompson.* – *Layout Ed.*



Concerts

Hanneke Cassel - Saturday September 9, Immanuel Church, Chelmsford - hannekecassel.com

MAC (Ryan McKasson, Elias Alexander & Colin Cotter) - Saturday October 21, Passim - clubpassim.org

Alasdair Fraser - November 9-12, New England concerts including Boston Branch Concert - alasdairfraser.com

Childsplay - November 17, 18, 19 - childsplay.org

Burren Backroom Series - *Coig* (from Nova Scotia) September 6; *Jeremy Kittel Trio* September 13; *Nordic Fiddlers Bloc* September 27; *Open the Door for Three* October 1; *Low Lily* October 25; *Maeve Gilchrist & Keith Murphy* November 8; *Tony McManus* December 13; More - burren.com

The St. Andrews Society of Massachusetts present a Concert featuring *Charlie Zahm & Ted Marks* on Saturday, October 7th at 7:00 pm, at the First Congregational Church, 20 Main Street, Brimfield MA. Tickets are \$20 at the door, or \$15 in advance from Brown Paper Tickets – brownpapertickets.com/event/3057678. The church is easily found as it is on the right up a hill, as you drive through Brimfield on Rte 20 from the MA Pike.

I was recently asked what to do with a kilt which in the normal usage needed cleaning. Being somewhat of a pack rabbit I was able to locate the following article from the past. It was originally published in the Atlanta Branch Newsletter The Petronella Paper, dated about 25-30 years ago. – Editor

ON CLEANING KILTS by Bob Rubey

I was very pleased to plagiarize many of the ideas of Bob Martin, of Greenville, S.C., kilt maker and painter, who wrote that wonderful series of articles on Scottish attire for *The Scottish American* some time ago. Bob advised me, when I complained about how a dry cleaner had so badly mis-ironed one of my kilts that I have never gotten it “right” again, that he considers it a serious mistake to send a kilt to the cleaners. The mechanical action of the dry cleaning process is tough on the fiber surface.

When his son spilled a pint of car oil on his kilt, Bob scrubbed the area with waterless hand cleaner to remove the oil. Rinsing the area did succeed in removing the oil. He then soaked the kilt in Woolite and hand worked it gently to remove all traces of the hand cleaner. He then used his normal method of cleaning his kilt, which is first to spot clean with a cloth with undiluted Woolite on any spots or very soiled areas (occasionally a soft brush is called for), then, fill the bathtub with about 6 inches of cold water and add about 12 capfuls of Woolite. Swish the kilt around in the water until it is completely soaked, then fold the kilt and lay it face down (the apron is probably the dirtiest area) and let it soak for approximately an hour. Remove the kilt and let the dirty water drip off. Hang the kilt on the clothes line with enough pins so that it won't fall off (and get dirty all over again). Take the garden hose and rinse it completely, making certain that all soap is removed (especially as it is important to get all the soap out of the inner part of the pleats), and finally let the kilt drip-dry (out of direct sunlight). Bob says that if it doesn't rain, and you start this in the early morning, the kilt will be dry for that evening's use. (note that Greenville is generally hotter than Boston in the summer). He adds that if it is necessary to touch up the pleats to use a dry steam iron with a well-damped pressing cloth (an old pillow case made of cotton makes an excellent pressing cloth), or use a steam press.

He advised that if you are concerned about the kilt shrinking, you need not worry, as shrinkage of woolens is caused by heat and agitation. So since he knows you have used cold water and have handled the kilt with care, you have no worry. He adds that this system has worked for him for years, and he wears his kilt daily, but takes no responsibility for what you may do.



One of many Scottish country dance cartoons by Alistair Smyth of Fort William. See his website at www.alistairsmyth.com

Mr McFixit Tells You How It's Done: Tying the Sash Rosette

[From the Orange County Branch RSCDS Newsletter]

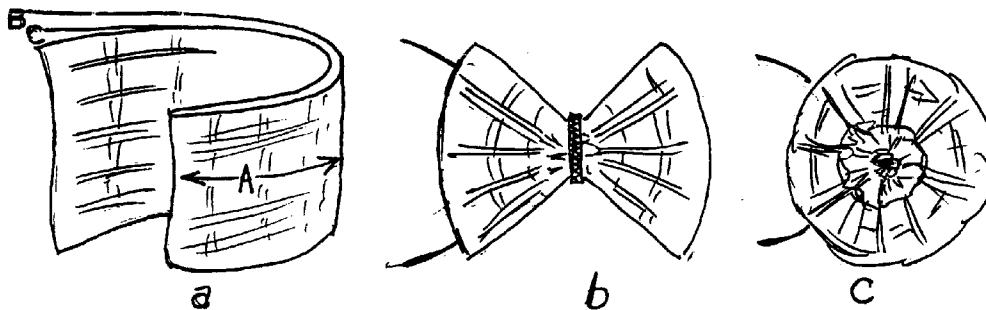
Preparing to dress for a formal function, the lady is often called on to make a sash rosette to be worn over her shoulder. To some, this is a mysterious art, but no more - here's how it's done:

To make a rosette of the lady's evening sash, it must be folded double, and the folded end turned back on itself as in Fig. a. The ends b and c may be equal, but if not, the longer end must be b, the end on the bottom as the rosette is made. The longer the turnback (a), the larger the rosette, but if a is more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the width of the sash, the rosette cannot be made to lie flat. Midway of the turnback must be one of the turning points of the sett of the tartan, that is, a mirror sett across the sash at the midpoint of the turnback should see the same thing both ways. If you have a non-reversing tartan, like Buchanan, the mid-point of the turnback should come between two of the lightest stripes.

Now the turned-back portion must be gathered into pleats, and a heavy rubber band put around to hold it (see Fig. b). This may take two people, one to hold the pleats, and the other to slip the band over all of it. The pleats must be adjusted under the rubber band so that it is exactly at the midpoint of the turned-back portion, right on the turning point of the sett of the tartan.

Finally the corners of the turned-back portion are brought together to complete the rosette (Fig. c). They may be pinned, or if the rosette is to be permanent, they may be sewn. A decorative Celtic pin hides the rubber band, though another pin must be used from the underside to attach the rosette to the lady's dress.

- Fig. a The doubled end of the sash folded back
Fig. b The rosette pleated and fastened with a rubber band
Fig. c The corners brought together to complete the rosette



Jeannie Carmichael Ball

The New York Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, the New Jersey Branch of the RSCDS, the Scottish Country Dance Society of Westchester, and Scotia Dancers invite you to join us for the premier New York dance event of the year. This year we are delighted to be dancing to the music of David Knight (violin) and Liz Donaldson (keyboard). The new location is the Edith Macy Conference Center, Briarcliff Manor, NY. Festivities begin at 3:00 on Saturday October 14 with a ball walk-through, and continue with a sherry hour, dinner, grand march and ball, followed by an after-party. The activities continue on Sunday with a brunch and more dancing. For more information and registration, go to rscdsnewyork.org.

Over the years, discussions range on all sorts of topics relating to our dance format. Part of this is that basically it depended upon oral memory. By that I mean individuals remembering from their own past and also asking others to relate what they remembered and that method is then described. As we are human and not perfect - neither are our collective memories - so differences of opinion arise. Certainly in the following subject there are differences of opinion, which is possibly why the Society gives its answer the way it does. The following is taken from the London Branch (UK) Newsletter, The Reel, some years back. Author of this article is not specified. – Ed.

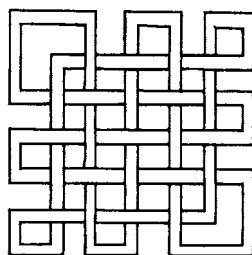
THE POUSSETTE

John Mitchell has made an erudite contribution to the debate on whether men should commence a poussette on their left or right foot. In an interesting and detailed letter he writes, “The forerunner of the poussette was the draw, in which the dancers took a two-handed hold and the first man drew his partner out to the men’s side and the second lady drew her partner out to the ladies side. ... When the cotillions and quadrilles were introduced from France towards the end of the 18th century the poussette was danced around the square. The dancing couple took a two-handed hold and the man pushed his partner to commence. When the poussette was transferred to longwise country dancing, the first man pushed his partner out to the ladies’ side and the second lady pushed her partner out to the men’s side to begin.

“The introduction of the waltz hold enabled dancers to waltz, polka, or two-step around each other. ... This is the period from which the Waltz Country Dance and the Polka Country Dance date. Both should be danced with a waltz hold and the appropriate steps. I first learnt the Polka Country Dance with a polka, one and one half times round to progress, many years before the Society invented the present complicated poussette for the dance (Book 3). ... John Duthie invented the modern figure in 1925 and originally he did not want the men to commence with the left foot. ... However, in *The Complete Guide to Scottish Country Dancing*, which he co-authored with Allie Anderson, the change of foot for the men is specifically mentioned. ... This book also includes two different poussettes; the normal poussette, the way we dance it today, and the Border Poussette which has a quarter turn on bar 6, a quarter turn on bar 7 and fall back on bar 8. This of course is easier to dance, looks nicer and, I understand, is the way John Duthie originally intended the figure to end.”

In an effort to discover why the Society today teaches men to commence the poussette on their left foot, *The Reel* consulted Tom Steele, teacher of our advanced class and a member of a Headquarters Working Group currently drafting a manual of Scottish Country Dancing. Tom comments: – “By the time the Society was formed the poussette was commonly danced using a ballroom hold. The men, therefore, started on their left foot as they would do in a waltz. The formation, like our modern poussettes, could either be all-round or progressive, Each took eight bars of music with the couples dancing around each other. Research showed, however, that this was not the traditional form of the poussette. A letter, dated 25th February, 1802, to William Watson, a farmer in Blantyre, from his dancing teacher, throws light on this. It clearly states that the poussette was to be danced with a two-hand hold. This letter is the earliest reference to a poussette in Scotland and can now be found in the Atholl Collection. The Society decided that it would revert to this original hold for the poussette but retained the men starting on their left foot which had by then become familiar and well-established.”

It is interesting that the Society justifies the left-footed poussette solely on the grounds of what is believed to be traditionally correct. The questions of whether it is easier to perform or more aesthetically pleasing than a right-footed poussette do not seem to concern the Society. Which is where the discussion started a couple of years ago.



Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018

Branch Class eligibility is based on applications received by **Nov. 6, 2017**

You support the Branch classes you attend by becoming a member. Branch classes with a minimum of **8** members benefit from Branch Insurance & Music subsidies.

Please fill out the form below legibly (even if your information has not changed from the previous year)

| | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| Name(s) | (1) _____ | (2) _____ |
| Address(es) | _____ | _____ |
| City, State, Zip | _____ | _____ |
| Home Phone(s) | _____ | _____ |
| Cell Phone(s) | _____ | _____ |
| Work Phone(s) | _____ | _____ |
| Email(s) | _____ | _____ |
| | Age Under 25? Yes / No RSCDS Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | Age Under 25? Yes / No RSCDS Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |

Communications Preference (please check one): (If no preference is checked, the default will be electronic only)

All Branch mailings, including the Tartan Times, in electronic form

Branch mailings in electronic form, but the Tartan Times in hard copy \$10/ year

All Branch mailings in hard copy form

| Supporting Memberships | |
|--|--|
| <u>Benefactor</u> | <u>Sustaining</u> |
| ____ \$170 Couple (same mailing address) | ____ \$125 Couple (same mailing address) |
| ____ \$100 Single | ____ \$75 Single |

Memberships

____ \$92 Couple Membership (same mailing address)

____ \$55 Single Membership ____ \$35 Single Membership - Student / Limited Income

Boston Branch Class(es) you attend ***“Regularly”*** _____
(used to determine Class eligibility)

____ \$20 Associate Membership - Only for members of other Branches. Primary Branch _____

Check if you would like to volunteer for any of the events listed below:

____ Boston Highland Ball ____ Annual Concert ____ Pinewoods Benefit Ball

____ ESC@ Pinewoods ____ Pinewoods Scottish Session ____ New Hampshire Highlands

Application information received by November 6, 2017 will be listed in the Boston Branch directory.

Make your checks payable (in US funds) to the “RSCDS Boston Branch”

Mail your application to: MaryEllen and John Scannell/ Membership
97 Birch Street
Lynn, MA 01902

Membership Questions Email: membership@rscdsboston.org

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 NOV/DEC 2017 ISSUE IS OCTOBER 10TH.
PLEASE SEND MATERIAL OF YOUR FALL / WINTER EVENTS TO THE EDITOR.
DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR
Note: Class Events flyers are limited to a half page: 8 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" long**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following item is taken from the Branch Report printed in the October 1979, Bulletin No. 57, as published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Gill Charters was Branch Secretary at the time and presumably sent the report to HQ. – Ed.

Boston Branch Report

Annual Membership 152, Life 3. Classes per week 8 and 1 fortnightly. Demonstration team available.

Enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing in the Boston area continues to grow with the number of classes increasing as attendance has done also. This was due in part to a strenuous publicity drive and also increased visibility of the Branch through major activities.

The Branch has sponsored a successful Burns Night concert and has participated in several multiethnic folk festivals which included demonstrations of Scottish Country and Highland dancing and displays of Scottish crafts and foods. They were also invited to dance as featured performers at several important events including a Scottish Holiday Weekend held just before Christmas in Boston's busiest shopping area. The 26th annual weekend at Pinewoods Camp was held in July followed by a week on intensive Scottish Country Dance teaching, parties and ceilidhs, with swimming and boating for relaxation. A Gala Ball in May attracted a record attendance and was dedicated to the memory of Miss Jean Milligan with a section of special dances in her honor. Music was supplied by Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent, from Toronto.

Visitors are very welcome to the Boston Branch classes which run from the second week in September to the end of June.