

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXVII, Number 3
January/February 2019*



**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:* Sue Chari, Karen Gansz,
Sharon Gilmour, Jeffrey Hopper, Winifred McGowan, John Salyards
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Nominating Committee *Chair:* Rosemary Jackson
Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2018 MaryEllen Scannell
Highland Ball 2019: *Contact:* Susie Petrov & MaryEllen Scannell
Joint Ceilidh 2018: Robert McOwen, Linda McJanet, Cathy Crabtree
Pinewoods Scottish 2019 *Co-Chairs:* Kat Dutton, Ellen Scannell-Woods, Laurie Somario
Pinewoods ESC 2019 *Contact:* April Birnie, Daniel Potter • **NH Highlands** *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik
Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare
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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
Salem & Stow MA: Sharon Gilmour • *Burlington, Montpelier & Fairlee VT:* Karen Gansz
Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

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 address. 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

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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. 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

• At the SAGM, held on November 5th, the changes/updates for the By-laws were approved by the membership. These changes/updates include allowing the Executive Committee to adjust dues fees for subcategories of the Regular members of the Society, the finding and appointing members to the Teaching and Music Committee, defining who can run for office in the Society, describing the qualifications for being a teacher in the Society, outlining the continuum of tasks for the Teaching and Music Committee in their work at finding teachers and music staff for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, and stating the dates for the Branch's fiscal year. The changes to the By-Laws reflect current practices. • The Executive Committee is also updating the Policies and Procedures in an effort to provide guidelines for teachers, musicians, and event organizers and to protect members and participants at Branch events. When the updates are complete, they will be posted on the Branch web site. • As always, please check out the upcoming events listed in the Tartan Times and on the website calendar. Please also feel free to reach out to any member of the Executive Committee if you have any questions or concerns about the Boston Branch. We welcome your suggestions. — *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

Boston Highland Ball Weekend 2019

Music by Thistle House
Dave Wiesler, David Knight, Dan Emery

Melrose Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall
Saturday, May 11, 2019

Program

Boston Hospitality	32J Round the Room	Yankee Sampler
The Kissing Bridge	32R 3C	RSCDS Bk 47
The Quaich	32S 3C	Rondel Bk
Les Remparts de Séville	32J 3C	RSCDS Bk 50
The Glasgow Highlanders	32S 2C Longwise as many as will	RSCDS Bk 2
Caberfei	32R 3C	18th Century Dances
The Triumph	24R 4C set	RSCDS Bk 1
Flights of Fancy	32J 3C	Boston Branch 50 Years
My Friend Joe	32S 3C	RSCDS Bk 38
The Compleat Gardener	32J 3C	RSCDS Graded 3
Twirl of the Kilt	32S 2C	A Dozen More
Round Reel of Eight	88R 4C Sq.Set	RSCDS Bk 27
New Year Jig	32J 3C	RSCDS Bk 51
The Dancing Bees	32R 3C	24 Graded & Social Dances
Irongray	32S 3C	Galloway Album
Joie de Vivre	32J 3C	RSCDS Bk 39
The Lammermuir Hills	32S 2C	Wells House
Sleepy Maggie	32R 3C	RSCDS Bk 11

For ticket order forms, info on the Welcome Dance and Sunday Brunch, and all further information, contact the Ball Chairs – Susie Petrov and MaryEllen Scannell – or the Branch website



Scene from the Boston Ball, 2018

The Fairlee Class and RSCDS Boston Branch invites you to a



Scottish Country Dancing Workshop for Technique and Fun



Improve your Scottish country dancing
Increase your enjoyment!



Led by **Robert McOwen**
Music by Peter Macfarlane and Aaron Marcus

Workshop followed by a brief social dance to practice the skills learned in the workshop

Saturday, January 12, 2019
(snow date January 13)

Workshop: 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Social Dance: 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.
Potluck following the Dance



Fairlee Town Hall

75 Town Common Road, Fairlee (at the Fairlee Class location)

RSCDS Member \$8, Non-Member \$9, Students \$5
Bring a dish and refreshment

Robert McOwen began Scottish country and highland dancing in Berkeley, California in 1973. He received the Teaching Certificate of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) by examination in Scotland in 1980, and since then has taught at dance camps and workshops across the United States, and in Canada, Scotland, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Robert became a member of the Scottish Dance Teacher's Alliance in 1987, and has taught, competed in, and performed highland dancing at various events across the United States, including Bonnie Rideout's "Scottish Christmas" Tour 1999-2005. In 2002, he and Karen Mahoney formed Highland Dance Boston, which has choreographed and performed many dances at Scottish events in the Boston Area. In his "spare time", Robert is a Professor of Mathematics at Northeastern University



Directions: From Eastern Vermont: Take Interstate 91 north or south to Exit 15. Travel 200 yards on Lake Morey Road. Turn left on U.S. Route 5 north. Travel ½ mile to center of town. Town Hall is on the left, behind the bandstand.
From Southern N.H.: Take Interstate 93 north to Interstate 89. Take Interstate 89 north to Interstate 91. Follow directions from eastern Vermont.

For further information, contact: Gary Apfel (802) 439-3459 or fairlee@rscdsboston.com or Charles Liu (617) 216-5519 or charles.liu@alum.mit.edu

Brought to you by the Fairlee Class and RSCDS Boston Teaching and Music Committee

Brookline / Newton Fete

Instead of our Twelfth Night Party which we have done in the past, the Brookline Class is combining with the Newton Class and is planning a dance party :

Sunday, March 10th, 2019

Dancing starts at 3pm

Potluck Supper at Intermission

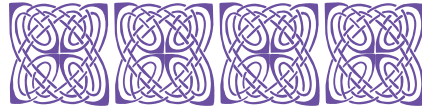
Location is the Parish Hall, Church of Our Saviour, Brookline, MA

MCs

Heather Day, Flo Hearn and Evelyn Murray.

Music and Program TBA

Note: The clocks spring forward the night before so there will be more daylight for driving!



The Flurry – February 15-17, 2019 – Saratoga Springs, NY

The Albany Class (of the Boston Branch RSCDS) usually participates in this event. Dances, workshops, singing, concerts, jamming, performances, family events, storytelling, vendors and more – 32nd year! Classes & dances at all levels. This is a weekend you don't want to miss! Info & tickets available from www.flurryfestival.org.

NEFFA – April 12-14, 2019 – Mansfield, Mass.

A music and dance festival put on by the New England Folk Festival Association; 75th year! Due to the date for Easter it will be the weekend before their usual dates. Performers familiar to Boston Branch members are the Boston Branch Demonstration Team, Howard Lasnik, The White Cockade, The Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H., Tom Pixton, Gunns & Thistles, Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. Info - neffa.org

Downeast Fling – June 15, 2019 (tentative date) - Kennebunk, Maine

The dance party will be preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30. This is necessarily tentative because I can't reserve the Town Hall until after January 1. I would like folks to have it on their calendars. I will confirm with more details for the next Tartan Times edition. Info from Merrill Henderson.

Cardigan Scottish Weekend – February 8-10, 2019 – Ski Lodge, White Mountains, N.H.

Members of the Boston Branch take over the AMC Lodge at Mt. Cardigan, near Bristol, N.H. There's fun 'n dancing 'n skiing 'n fiddling 'n more to be had (think easy walks & snowshoeing, games, jigsaw puzzles, the occasional igloo project). Heated comfortable bunkbed rooms. Three meals provided, including homemade Scotch eggs, by intrepid chef MaryEllen Scannell. Get on Lance Ramshaw's mailing list for next year – www.ramshaw.info/cardigan.

Have Shoes Will Travel – Coming Events Outside the Boston Branch Area

February 2, 2019 – ***San Francisco Branch Winter Ball***, at the Scottish Rite Center, Oakland, Calif. Music by The Reel of Seven. Info - rscds-sf.org

February 2, 2019 – ***Montreal Burns Social***, Pointe Claire, PQ, Canada. scdmontreal.org.

February 9-10, 2019 – ***Ottawa-Ardbrae Ball, Buffet & Brunch***. Music: Torridon Scottish Country Dance Band. Contact Bob Anglin (anglin7576@rogers.com) Hospitality available. www.ardbrae.org

February 17-22, 2019 – ***RSCDS Winter School***, Pitlochry, Scotland. Teachers are: Pat Houghton, Sue Porter, William Williamson and Graham Donald. Musicians are: Ian Robertson, Jim Lindsay, Muriel Johnstone and Marian Anderson. Info - <https://www.rscds.org/article/book-now-for-winter-school-2019>

March 2-3, 2019 – ***RSCDS New Haven Highland Ball and Brunch***, Hartford, Conn. Music by Jim Stevenson-Matthews (keyboard), Mara Shea (fiddle) and Rebecca McCallum (fiddle). Info: Sheila Toal, cstoal@sbcglobal.net or Barbara Austen, barbara_austen@att.net.

March 29-31, 2019 – ***Northern Italy Branch, RSCDS – Bologna Workshop & Grand Ball***. Teachers: Ramona Zahm & Samuele Graziani; Musicians: Matthias Rank & Silke Grosholz; MC Alessia Branchi. www.rscds.it

March 30, 2019 – ***New Jersey Branch Rerr Terr***, Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J. Info - rscds-nj.org

May 17-19, 2019 – ***RSCDS New York Branch Pawling Weekend***, Copake, NY. Teachers are Jimmie Hill (Edinburgh, Scotland), Rebecca Blackhall Peters (BC, Canada), and Terry Harvey, Pennsylvania, USA. Laura Risk, Music Director. Info & Registration - rscdsnewyork.org.

June 15, 2019 – ***Westchester Ball***, (date and location to be confirmed). Music by Tullochgorum. Info - rscdsnewyork.org

July 26-28, 2019 – ***TAC Teachers Conference Weekend***, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Music by Andy Imbrie and The Reel of Seven. tac-rscds.org

July 28 - Aug 4, 2019 – ***TAC Summer Dance Week***, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Music by Andy Imbrie and The Reel of Seven. tac-rscds.org

Fiddle Club News

♪ The Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire is hosting their next meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019 with Guest Leader Ian McDougall. Ian was born and raised in Cape Breton, and studied fiddle from ages 8-17 under the guidance of his uncle, John MacDougall. He has chosen four tunes for the session, *James F*, *Dickie's Delight*, *Waverley Ball* (a strathspey), *Picnic Reel* and *Burn of Forgue*. Ian now resides in Concord, N.H.

♪ The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club has a monthly session, on the 3rd Wednesdays of each month, September through June. It takes place at the Canadian American Club in Watertown, 7:30-10 pm. There is a modest admission charge, and attendees are encouraged to take advantage of the cash bar. It's an intermediate-to-advanced session; all are welcome, and it's actually a fun event for listeners - it's really a pub scene with music going on. Leaders are Katie McNally and Niel Pearlman.

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

January

- 9 * Elizabeth & Ben Anderson in Concert, p10, 11
12 ** Fairlee Workshop & Social Dance, p 4
17-20 * Boston Celtic Music Fest, p 10
26 * Friends of the NTS Burns Nicht, p 15
27 * Fiddle Workshop with Ian MacDougall, p 6

February

- 2 San Francisco Branch Winter Ball, p 6
2 Montreal Burns Social, p 6
2 * N.H. Pipes & Drums Burns Night, p 10
8-10 * Cardigan Scottish Weekend, p 5
9-10 Ottawa - Ardbrae Ball, p 6
14 * Pure Dead Brilliant Scottish Fiddle Concert, p 10
15-17 Pure Dead Brilliant Scottish Fiddle Weekend, p 10
15-17 ** Flurry Festival, p 5
17-22 RSCDS Winter School, p 6

March

- 2-3 New Haven Ball and Brunch, p 6
10 ** Brookline & Newton Class Party, p 5
20 * MAC in Concert, p 10
28 *** SDCEA Scholarship Dance, p 8
29-31 Northern Italy Workshop & Grand Ball, p 6

April

- 12-14 ** NEFFA Festival
13 * Indoor Scottish Festival, p 10
27 Kilts & Ghillies Tea Dance, p 15

May

- 3-5 Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas at Ashokan, p 10
10-12 *** Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, p 3
17-19 NY Branch Pawling Weekend, p 6
17-19 Pinewoods Work Weekend I, p 16
24-27 Pinewoods Work Weekend II, p 16
31-June 2 ** Cape Breton Music & Dance Weekend at Pinewoods, p 10

June

- 7-9 *** RSCDS Teacher Candidate Exams
15 ** Downeast Fling, p 5
15 Westchester Ball, p 6

July

- 1-5 *** ESCape Session at Pinewoods (English-Scottish-Contra)
5-8 *** Pinewoods Scottish Session 1
8-13 *** Pinewoods Scottish Session 2
26-28 TAC Teachers Conference Weekend, p 6
28-Aug 4 TAC Summer Dance Week, p 6

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 not only to 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 even 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.



SDCEA Scholarship Dance



7:30 pm, March 23, 2019
First Parish Church in Weston
349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA
Donation: \$20 (Students \$15)

MCs: Connie Kent and Lance Ramshaw
Musicians: Elizabeth Anderson, McKinley James, and Beth Murray

EH3 7AF	8 x 32J (3C)	RSCDS Book 40
Shiftin' Bobbins	8 x 32R (3C)	Ormskirk, Book 6
The Haar on Skye	8 x 32S (3C)	RSCDS Graded Book 3
The Bees of Maggieknockater	4 x 32J (4C)	Canadian Book
The Hamilton Rant	8 x 48R (3C)	RSCDS Book 22
Miss Eleanor	3 x 32S (3C)	RSCDS Book 49
The Duke of Atholl's Reel	8 x 32J (2C)	RSCDS Book 16
Bauldy Bain's Fiddle	8 x 32R (3C)	Lothian Collection

Intermission

Gay Gordons

Roaring Jelly	8 x 32J (3C)	Foss, Glendarroch
Asilomar Romantic	8 x 32S (3C)	San Francisco Coll 2
Sleepwalking	8 x 32R (3C)	K. Giacoletti
Ellie's Jig	8 x 32J (3C)	Slip Knot Collection
Adieu Mon Ami	8 x 32S (3C)	RSCDS Book 24
The Left-Handed Fiddler	8 x 32R (3C)	H. Lasnik, Scottish in Salem

Waltz

All proceeds benefit the RSCDS Boston Branch scholarship funds.



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, fairleeclub@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

Concerts and Events

- Evening of January 9, 2019 - **Elizabeth and Ben Anderson**, fiddle and cello duo, at the Burren Back Room for their CD release; don't miss it if you can - burren.com
- Weekend of January 17-20, 2019 - **BCMFest** - Boston Celtic Music Festival. Performances, workshops, dances, with Kevin Henderson, Scottish Fish, Katie McNally, Sean Smith, Elias Alexander, Leland Martin, Elizabeth & Ben Anderson, Neil Pearlman, many more greats - www.passim.org
- Evening of February 2, 2019 - **Burns Night** with N.H. Pipes & Drums, Celtic Beats, more, Contoocook, N.H., overnight and breakfast available - nescottishartscentre.com/events
- Weekend of February 8-10, 2019 - **Cardigan Scottish Weekend** - Fun 'n dancing 'n skiing 'n fiddling 'n more at the AMC Lodge at Mt. Cardigan, Bristol, N.H. - www.ramshaw.info/cardigan
- Thursday Evening February 14, 2019 - **PrePDB Concert**, Groton, Mass., with Hanneke Cassel, Ryan McKasson, Elias Alexander, Colin Cotter, Jeremy Kittel, Natalie Haas, Keith Murphy, Laura Risk, Katie McNally, Neil Pearlman, Eamon Sefton. Info - pdbfiddleweekend.com
- Weekend of February 15-18, 2019 - Hanneke Cassel's **Pure Dead Brilliant Fiddle Weekend**, new location in Groton, Mass., open to all fiddlers, all ages, all levels, but still first-come-first-served, so hurry hurry sign up for this wonderful event, at pdbfiddleweekend.com
- Weekend of February 15-18, 2019 - **San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers Winter Weekend** – wall-to-wall sessions, in a beautiful ranch location in the wine country near Healdsburg, Calif. - sfscottishfiddlers.org
- Wednesday Evening March 20, 2019 - **MAC** in the Burren Back Room - Celtic Trio MAC with Ryan McKasson, Elias Alexander & Colin Cotter
- Weekend of April 12-14, 2019 - **NEFFA, New England Folk Festival**, Mansfield, Mass. - a whole weekend packed with tons of music and dance events - a classic - www.neffa.org
- Saturday April 13, 2019 - **Indoor Scottish Festival**, the first of the season for pipers & highland dancers, Contoocook, N.H. - nescottishartscentre.com/events
- May 3-5, 2019 - **Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas at Ashokan** - A whole weekend retreat of Fiddle & Cello; register now at www.ashokan.org



Scottish Music Camps

June 15-23 – Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp, Nevada City, California

July 20-27 – Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, Isle of Skye, Scotland

July 28 - Aug 3 – Crisol de Cuerda with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, Arlanzon, Spain

Aug 23-31 – Valley of the Moon, Boulder Creek, California

Sept 29 - Oct 6 – Stringmania, East Warburton, Victoria, Australia

Go to alasdairfraser.com for links to all the above camps

May 31 - June 2 – Cape Breton Music & Dance Weekend, Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, Mass.

Aug 10-16 – Boston Harbor Scottish Fiddle School, Thompson Island, Boston

Go to facone.org for information

Jan 16-21 – Winter Jink, Valle Crucis, N.C.

July 22 - Aug 9 – John Turner's Jink & Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling (4 sessions), Valle Crucis, N.C.

Go to fiddletree-music.com for information on all the Jink camps

June - July - Aug – Many music programs, Gaelic College, Baddeck, Cape Breton Island, N.S., Canada

Go to gaeliccollege.edu for information

People News

A concert by Elizabeth & Ben Anderson to celebrate their first CD of Scottish fiddle & cello music is scheduled for January 9th as part of the Burren Backroom series. It will be hosted by WGBH's Brian O'Donovan. Their concert at the New Hampshire Highland Games 2018 was absolutely stunning. If you missed it, here is your opportunity to hear these talented and dynamic musicians. Elizabeth is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and is the 2018 New England Scottish Fiddle Champion as well as the 2016 winner of the Perth All Scotland Fiddle Championship. Ben currently studies computer science at WPI in Worcester, MA. Both Elizabeth and Ben studied abroad in Glasgow in the fall of 2016, taking lessons from renowned Scottish fiddler Douglas Lawrence. They have played for a number of Boston Branch events.

Irene Howard and the TT editor spent a most enjoyable afternoon at this year's Revels at Sanders Theater. This year's theme was Norway, Sweden and Finland, and then the usual items were woven into the program: Lord of the Dance, The Mummer's play, Abbott's Bromley dance and participatory singing of Silent Night, Dona Nobis Pacem and the Wassail Carol.

Flowers of the Forest — Ruth Wales

Ruth would have been 91 On Christmas Day. She passed away earlier in December in the care home where she had been living. The funeral was private and no obituary was posted. However, we know that both she and her husband Lang loved Scottish Dancing when they lived in Lincoln (and at the time, next door to Ed and Nancy Rawson). In later years she would be seen at early music concerts as she much enjoyed that music.



Born in New York City, Ruth Johnstone won a scholarship to the University of Chicago, and achieved a Masters in Education from Northeastern University. She met Lang Wales while she was working at the Christian Science Monitor. They married in 1951 and raised 4 children. They discovered Scottish country dancing and were active in the Concord Class and attended many Branch events. Ruth went back to work after the children were in school, first teaching grade school, then as a technical writer at Mitre, and eventually became the front-page editor of the Christian Science Monitor, her "dream job."

Lang died unexpectedly in 1989; Ruth retired in 2001, and she continued her involvement with dancing and her Christian Science faith, and added extensive travels and continued learning to her lifelong palette. She loved the out-of-doors, genealogy, early music, artistic projects and owls, and was active in the local historical preservation society, the Lincoln League of Women Voters, and served on the committee for the Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Donations may be made to Massachusetts Audubon: https://secure2.convio.net/mas/site/Donation2?3960.donation=form1&df_id=3960

A public memorial service will be held at Pierce House in Lincoln on January 26, 2019 at 1 pm.



Robert Burns – Poet and Ploughman

From an article by Norm McCallum in the Orange County Branch *Ceilidh*, Jan/Feb 2019.

Burns' poems "To a Mouse" (1785) and "To a Mountain Daisy" (1786) were written at a time when his life was not going well. That is why both poems end on a down note, bemoaning the harshness and uncertainty of life. Burns thought that the only way out of his troubles was to leave Scotland and take a job as an overseer on a plantation in Jamaica and become "a poor negro driver." This raises a number of questions. Was he really that desperate or just overreacting? Did he know what life was really like on a plantation? Did he know that his chance of dying in the West Indies of a disease like malaria or yellow fever was greater than 50%? And how could someone who wrote poems to a wee mouse and a mountain daisy be a slave driver?



The statue of Robert Burns in Winthrop Square, Boston

Why would he make such a drastic move? First of all, the "Auld Licht" Presbyterian Calvinistic church were out to get him for he had been an incessant critic of its beliefs such as predestination and its hypocrisy. And he was the unwed father of several children, one by Betsy Paton, a servant, then Jean Armour who gave birth to twins. Jean's father, an Auld Licht church adherent, was shocked that Burns had made his daughter pregnant. He wanted Jean's informal marriage to Burns annulled and also wanted the civil authorities to take action against Burns for child support. When his father died, Robert, the eldest son, became head of household and in charge of Mossgiel, the family farm, which was failing. Robert's financial prospects were drear and his health had been a problem since childhood. And then there was the death of "Highland Mary," the Gaelic speaking Mary Campbell and inspiration for Burns' songs "The Highland Lassie O" and "Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary." It is thought she died at Greenock of typhus, possibly in childbirth, in 1786. Today you can see a statue of Highland Mary looking longingly across the Firth of Clyde to "Burns Country" in Ayrshire.

Jamaica, like all plantation locations in the Caribbean and America, ran on slave labour. I believe that Burns, like most of the Scottish or British population, did not appreciate the cruelty and brutality of the slave trade and economy in the Caribbean or in America. The slave traders and owners fought to silence any reporting of the horrors of slavery. One Church of England minister preached that the negroes were better off as slaves on a plantation than being in an African forest where they could be eaten by lions. Scotland had been involved with the slave trade following the Union of the Parliaments in 1707. Ships from the Clyde sailed to the west coast of Africa with barter goods; from there they transported slaves by the thousands to the Caribbean and America. Then they would return to Scotland with tobacco, cotton, molasses rum and sugar. Glasgow developed a very rich class of merchants called the Tobacco Lords who built huge Georgian mansions with money from their plantations and trade.

Ironically, Burns was hoping to sell a book of his songs and poems which included long songs and "To a Mouse" and "To a Mountain Daisy" to pay for his passage to Jamaica. But when *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* by Robert Burns was published in 1786, it sold so well he cancelled plans to leave. He was able to pay off his debts, help his family financially and become famous. Interestingly, in 1792 Burns was to write "The Slaves Lament": "It was in sweet Senegal that my foes did me enthrall, For the lands of Virginia — ginia, O."

In 1787, the Society for the Abolition of Slavery was founded. The slave trade was abolished by Britain in 1807 and slavery itself in the colonies was outlawed in 1837. However, the British Navy was kept busy suppressing the transportation of slaves from Africa until the 1850s. William Dickson, Zachary Macaulay and James Ramsay were three Scots abolitionists who published and lectured about their experiences in the West Indies. Ramsay had so many enemies that when he died in 1789 an opponent in Parliament yelled out, "Ramsay is dead, I have killed him." – *On 25th January or dates thereabout Burns' birthday is celebrated worldwide. – Ed.*

“Preparations of Oatmeal” PORRIDGE

from *The Scots Kitchen, Its Traditions and Lore with Old-Time Recipes*, by F. Marian McNeill, Mayflower Books Ltd., 1974, p 262-264.)

‘The halesome parritch, chief o’ Scotia’s food.’ – Burns

“The One and Only Method” Oatmeal, salt water

It is advisable to keep a goblet* exclusively for porridge. Allow for each person one breakfast cup full of water, a handful of oatmeal (about an ounce and a quarter), and a small salt spoon of salt. Use fresh spring water and be particular about the quality of the oatmeal. Midlothian oats are reputed to be unsurpassed, but the small Highland oats are very sweet.

Bring the water to the boil and as soon as it reaches boiling-point add the oatmeal, letting it fall in a steady rain from the left hand and stirring it briskly with the right, sunwise, or the right-hand turn for luck – and convenience. A porridge-stick, called a spurtle, and in some parts a theevil or, as in Shetland, a gruel-tree, is used for this purpose. Be careful to avoid lumps, unless the children clamour for them. When the porridge is boiling steadily, draw the mixture to the side and put on the lid. Let it cook for from twenty to thirty minutes according to the quality of the oatmeal, and do not add the salt, which has a tendency to harden the meal and prevent its swelling, until it has cooked for at least ten minutes. On the other hand, never cook porridge without salt. Ladle straight into cold porringers or soup-plates and serve with individual bowls of cream, or milk, or buttermilk. Each spoonful of porridge, which should be very hot, is dipped in the cream or milk, which should be quite cold, before it is conveyed to the mouth.

* ‘The Carron goblets of Scotland and saucepans of England and Wales’ – Meg Dods. The goblets made at the great Carron foundry, in Falkirk, were of cast iron.

‘The whole principle of porridge-making is to continue to add pinches of fresh meal as the porridge boils so that when the dish is ready you will have a complete gamut of texture from fully boiled to almost raw meal. The moment the salt goes in is also important, for the first and bulkiest quantity of oatmeal should have burst before the happens. - Gastrologue in *The Scotsman*, 26 May, 1962

‘What meal does Johnnie want for his porridge? I will send it up from Abbotsford. I think it will agree with him better than the southern food of horses.’ – Sir Walter Scott in a letter to his son-in-law, J.G. Lockhart.

The traditional porridge bowl was made of hardwood – preferably birch, because of its sweetness and also because it was easily kept clean. Horn Spoons were commonly used with both porridge and broth, and were preferred to metal ones, which are apt to become unpleasantly hot.

Porter, skeachan, and brisk small beer used to be popular accompaniments to porridge. In his poem ‘Scotch Drink’ (which in his day was ale) Burns writes:

The poorman’s wine,
His wee dram parritch, or his breid
Thou kitchens fine.

Children often like a layer of sugar, honey, syrup, or treacle, or of raw oatmeal on top. A morsel of butter in the centre of the plate agrees with some digestions better than milk. In Scots, porridge, like broth, is spoken of as ‘they.’ ‘Why do ye no sup yer porritch?’ ‘I dinner like them; they’re unco wersh, give me a wee pickle saut.’ – Jamieson. The old custom is to stand while supping porridge.



Coltart's Candy

Robert Coltart (aka Coulter) made his celebrated candy in Melrose, Scotland, and sold it mainly there and Galashiels. It was flavored with aniseed. He composed a song in its honour. The sound of his 'signature tune' and his merry whistle caused every cottage door to open and the children to troop after him like the followers of the Pied Piper, lured no less by his gay garments, his songs, his jokes and antics, than by his wares.

The chorus is still sung as a lullaby:

Mither, gie's ma thrifty doon,
Coltart's comin' to the town,
Wi' a feather in his croon
To sell Coltart's Candy!

Allaballu, Allaballu bee
Sittin' on your mammies knee,
Greetin' for another bawbee
To buy Coltart's Candy.

Coltart died in 1890, greatly lamented.

Source: F. Marian McNeill, *The Scots Kitchen, Its Traditions and Lore with Old-Time Recipes*, Mayflower Books, Ltd., 1974, p. 305-306



Hogmanay (New Years Eve) in Scotland

In Scotland the week between Christmas and the New Year is known as the daft days, with the daftest being Hogmanay, New Years Eve. The celebration of the New Year belongs most truly to the Scot even though the origin of the word Hogmanay is lost. Some think it comes from the old French *agile' anneuf*, meaning 'to the New Year.' There are always dances, parties and ceilidhs on Hogmanay, and to some visitors it seems as if the average Scot feels a national obligation on that night to get 'roaring fu' (drunk).

The chief activity on Hogmanay is called first footing, which derives from the good fairy of Norse folklore. This is a custom of calling on your friends and neighbors, after midnight, to wish them a Guid New Year. The perfect first footer, or guest to cross over your threshold in the New Year, should be male, dark-haired, and laden with food and drink. Red haired people are considered unlucky, and all women, fair or dark haired, are equally unlucky, although if they carry a small piece of coal they are not so bad. As a first-footer, you should always carry something good to eat like shortbread, black bun, or thin oatcakes, as well as a bottle of whisky or wine. This will ensure food and drink at the host house during the following year. If you carry coal, the host house will always have fuel. No one must go out first-footing empty handed. After you have offered the host a wee dram for good luck, refreshments of more whisky, Atholl Brose*, shortbread or Scotch-bun are offered in return.

In the old days in the outer Hebrides, boys went from house to house on Hogmanay, with their leader wearing a sheepskin on his back. When invited into a house, the leader walked three times round the central fire, or in more recent times, clockwise around a chair, and invoked the Trinity. The merriment always includes the singing of Robert Burns' *Auld Lang Syne*, which is traditionally sung by a group in a circle with hands linked. The very words from *Auld Lang Syne* mean 'the days of long ago,' particularly of ones youth.

* a traditional drink made from a combination of oatmeal, whisky and cream.

Burns Nicht – 26th January, 2019 – Hilton Back Bay, Boston

The event is open to members of the Friends of the National Trust for Scotland, Foundation, USA,** and co-sponsored by the Ancient Universities' alumni organizations, for an evening of poetry, music and Highland dancing and dinner in honor of Scotland's bard. Guests will be treated to a bagpipe and drum demonstration, dance performance by Highland Dance Boston, and the Boston Scottish Country Dancers, Burns toasts and the immortal memory address, and a traditional Ceilidh led by the RSCDS Boston Branch demo team. The cost of the dinner is \$130 per person and includes the reception with cash bar, 3-course dinner with wines, and dancing. RSVP by January 18, 2019. Info - ntsusa.org/burns-nicht-2019

*** The Friends of the National Trust for Scotland, Foundation USA is a 501.c.3. organization, which raises funds in the USA. These are tax deductible for US tax purposes. The monies are used to support the upkeep of places in Scotland such as the Robert Burns house in Ayrshire, Culloden battlefield, and the many castles and houses owned by The National Trust for Scotland.*



The RSCDS New Haven Branch presents

Kilts and Ghillies Tea Dance



Saturday, April 27, 2019

Time: 3:00 to 7:00 PM

Place: South Britain Congregational Church
Parish House (693 S. Britain Rd.)
Route 172 (Exit 14 off I-84)
Southbury, CT 06488

Program attached. Devised by Peter Price & Sandra Bethray
Check Peter's Blog for cribs, diagrams and, where available, videos along with specific sources for instructions
kiltsandghillies.blogspot.com/p/up-coming-events.html

Workshops TBA by Feb.1

Music: Sharlene Penman (piano), visiting from New Zealand, is the band leader for the 2019 Tea Dance. Our fiddler is Jenny Evans, a local artist. (2nd fiddler TBA!)

Contact: Ingrid Davis (ingrid20@sbcglobal.net)

Bottoms Up	J32 3/3L	Harry Rhodes: 3 rd Snowdon Book
Sugar Candie	S32 3/4L	RSCDS 26/9
The Dancing Bees	R32 3/4L	Goldring: Social Dances 1-24
Beach Dancer	J32 3/4L	Eddy West: Whangarei Book of Scottish Country Dances
The Lea Rig	S32 2/4L	RSCDS 21/5
Farewell to Balfour Road	J32 5/5L	Andrew Buxton: RSCDS 52/7
Meg Merrilees	R24 2/4L	RSCDS 1/5
Miss Janet Laing's Strathspey	S32 4/4L	Isabel Cramb: RSCDS 22/11
Kamo Karousel	J32 3/4L	Eddy West: Whangarei Book of Scottish Country Dances
Shadow	J32 3/3L	Lucy Thompson: RSCDS 50/9
From Paper to Pearl	S32 3/4L	Gaye Collin: From Paper to Pearl
Lucy Campbell	R32 2/4L	RSCDS 17/7
Rendez-vous `a Vichy	J32 3/4L	Aliénor Latour: Paris Book of Scottish Country Dances, v.1
The Bon Viveur	M64 4S	Ian Brockbank: RSCDS 52/11
The Sailor	R32 3/4L	RSCDS 24/4
The Aviator	J32 3/4L	Carola Fischer: RSCDS 52/9
One Set Short of a Hundred	S32 3/3L	Aliénor Latour: Paris Book of Scottish Country Dances, v.1
Trip to Timber Ridge	R32 3/4L	Linda Henderson: RSCDS 52/12

From: RSCDS BOSTON BRANCH
The Folk Arts Center
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Stoneham, MA 02180-1862
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

**• COPY DUE DATE FOR THE MAR/APR 2019 ISSUE IS FEB 10TH •
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR WINTER & SPRING EVENTS,
AND 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**

2019 Dates for Pinewoods Camp

Work Weekends – Sign Up Early to Ensure a Place

These are much fun, their purpose is to help the Camp get ready for the dance sessions.

May 17-19 Spring Work Weekend I
May 24-27 Spring Work Weekend II, Memorial Day weekend
September 6-8 Fall Work Weekend, helping to put the Camp to bed for the winter

Scottish Sessions

July 1-5 English, Scottish, Contra (ESC) CDS Boston Centre and Boston Branch RSCDS
July 5-13 Scottish Country Dance Sessions Boston Branch RSCDS

Other Dance Sessions are:

May 31-June 2	Cape Breton Music & Dance Weekend	Folk Arts Center of New England
June 14-15	Swing into Summer	CDS Boston Centre
June 20-22	Folk Arts Center of NE weekend	FAC
June 22-27	Folk Days	FAC
June 27-July	July 4th Weekend	CDS Boston Centre
July 13-20	Family Week,	Country Dance and Song Society
July 20-27	Harmony of Song and Dance Week	Country Dance and Song Society
July 27-Aug 3	English Dance Week	Country Dance and Song Society
August 3-10	American Dance and Music Week	Country Dance and Song Society
August 10-17	Early Music Week	Country Dance and Song Society
August 17-24	Camper's Week	Country Dance and Song Society
August 24-30	Traditional Music and Dance Camp	Folk Music Society of New York and others
August 31-Sept 3	Labor Day Weekend	CDS Boston Centre and FAC