

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXVIII, Number 4
March/April 2020*



**A publication of the Boston Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**
rscdsboston.org

WHO'S WHO IN THE BOSTON BRANCH

Executive Committee

President: Jeremy Thorpe — president@rscdsboston.org

Vice President: Marsha Byrnes

Secretary: Susan Haines — secretary@rscdsboston.org

Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree — treasurer@rscdsboston.org

Members at Large: Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Winifred McGowan,
Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, John Salyards

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Charles Liu

Nominating Committee *Chair:* MaryEllen Scannell

Membership MaryEllen & John Scannell • **Directory** John Scannell

Highland Ball 2020 *Chair:* Marsha Byrnes — highlandball@rscdsboston.org

Pinewoods Scottish 2020 *Co-Chairs:* Kat Dutton, Ellen Scannell-Woods, Laurie Somario
SCDpinewoods2020@gmail.com

Pinewoods ESC 2020 *Contact:* April Birnie and Daniel Potter

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2020 MaryEllen Scannell

Scottish Ceilidh 2020 Robert McOwen (for Highland Dance Boston),
Linda McJannet and Cathy Crabtree (for the RSCDS Boston Branch)

NH Highlands 2020 *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Demonstration Team *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare

Bookstore Dawn & Mike Little • **Archives** Jeffrey Hopper

TAC Representative Patti Tillotson

Equipment Thomas Howe – equipment@rscdsboston.org

Mailing List & Database John Crabtree • **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 & Newton MA: Linda McJannet

Cambridge MA: Lance Ramshaw

Salem & Stow MA: Sharon Gilmour

Brunswick & Belfast ME, and Burlington, Montpelier & Fairlee VT: Karen Gansz

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

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

The Tartan Times — tartantimes@rscdsboston.org

Editor Evelyn Murray • *Layout Editor* Barbara McOwen • *Circulation* John Crabtree

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• Copy due date for the May/June 2020 issue is **April 10th** •
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR SPRING AND SUMMER 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



Save the date: May 9, 2020

RSCDS Boston's



Boston Highland Ball

Music by

Katie McNally - Shauncey Ali

Neil Pearlman - Campbell Webster

The Lady Wynd	8x32J	Goldring Graded 2
Adieu Mon Ami	8x32S	RSCDS Bk 24
Summer Wooing	8x32R	RSCDS Bk 38
The White Heather Jig	4x40J	Cosh 22 SCD
Slytherin House	8x32S	RSCDS 52
Mrs MacPherson of Inveran	8x32R	Bon Accord
The Wild Geese	8x32J	RSCDS Bk 24
The Robertson Rant	80S	RSCDS Bk 39
The Wind on the Heath	8x32R	Vive la Danse!
The Nurseryman	8x32J	RSCDS Bk 37
City of Belfast	3x32S	RSCDS Bk 48
The Fireside Reel	8x32R	18th Century
Northern Harmony	8x32J	Boston Celebrate 50
Lady Peak's Strathspey	8x32S	Greenburn 2
Arthur's Seat	8x32R	18th Century
Bill Clement MBE	8x32J	RSCDS Bk 47
The Minister on the Loch	3x32S	RSCDS 2008
The Reel of the 51st Division	8x32R	RSCDS Bk 13

Melrose Memorial Hall, 590 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176

Welcome Dance on May 8, and Brunch on May 10

More details about RSCDS Boston's Highland Ball weekend events to come

Dance instructions and other information available at <http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html> and <http://my.strathspey.org/dd/list/23493/>

Contact: Marsha Byrnes at 781-862-3223 or marsha.byrnes2@gmail.com



Save the date: May 8, 2020
8:00 pm



RSCDS Boston's

Highland Ball Friday Welcome Dance

Music by

Dirk Tiede - Emily Peterson - Beth Murray

MC: Cathy Fahey

The Isle	8x32J 3C	RSCDS Graded
Delvine Side	8x32S 3C	RSCDS Book 2
Shiftin' Bobbins	8x32R 3C	Clowes: Omskirk
Bill Clement MBE	8x32J 3C	RSCDS Book 47
The Golden Years	8x32S 3C	RSCDS Book 48
The Falls of Rogie	8x32R 3C	Attwood: Alexander
Burns Night	8x32J 2C	Boston Celebrate 50
Lady Peak's Strathspey	8x32S 3C	Drewry: Greenburn 2
The Fireside Reel	8x32R 3C	18th Century
Ellie's Jig	8x32J 3C	Briscoe: Slip Knot
Neidpath Castle	3x32S 3C	RSCDS Book 22
Mairi's Wedding	8x40R 3C	Cosh: 22 SCD

First Parish Church in Weston

349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02493

\$18 in advance or at the door - Contributions to the refreshment table welcome

Highland Ball on May 9 and Brunch on May 10

More details about RSCDS Boston's Highland Ball weekend events at

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

Contact: Marsha Byrnes at 781-862-3223 or marsha.byrnes2@gmail.com

Highland Ball Brunch Dance

Sunday May 10, 2020, 11am

MC for Dancing – Roberta Lasnik

Music for Dancing – Elizabeth and Ben Anderson

The weekend finishes with a family-friendly potluck brunch. Please bring a brunch item to share, as we recover from last night's festivities. Around noon, the party moves outside to do some dancing on the lawn. Bring your ghillies or any comfortable shoes for dancing outdoors, and musicians can bring instruments for a jam session!

Directions will be available in the ball booklet or by emailing the ball chairs at highlandball@rscdsboston.org



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2020
SPRING ON THE COAST OF MAINE!



David Knight, Fiddle, and Dave Wiesler, Piano

Presented by Belfast Flying Shoes!

English Country Dance - Friday May 22, Location etc. soon and at belfastflyingshoes.org

Presented by Belfast Scottish Country Dancers!

Scottish Country Dance - Saturday May 23,

American Legion Hall, 143 Church St., Belfast, Maine



Dance walk through
3:30

Pre-Dance Supper
5:45 \$1.00 plus a Pot

Dance from 7:00 until the Waltz
\$10 RSCDS members \$12 nonmembers



New Year Jig (J8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 The Wind Dragon (R8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 Melrose (S8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 The Scallywag (J8 x 40) 3C (4C set)
 The Black Mountain Reel (R5 x 32) (5C set)
 Miss Ogilvie's Fancy (S8 x 32) 2C (4C set)
 The Badgers' Set (J 4 x 32) (4C set)
 The Expert Dancer (S8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 Arthur's Seat (R8 x 32) 3C (4C set)

Mole's Frolic (J8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 Capelthwaite (R8 x 32) 2C (4C set)
 Slytherin House (S8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 The Aviator (J8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 Swiss Lassie (R8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 The Braes of Tuiliemet (S8 x 32) 3C (4C set)
 Spice it Up (J3 x 32) (3C set)
 Trip to Timber Ridge (R8 x 32) 3C (4C set)



Sunday May 24, 10:00 -2:00
Potluck Brunch and Dancing
Overlooking the water in Bayside!

At the home of Carlton Smith
 24 Broadway, Northport, ME 04849
 207-338-6567

and the Bayside Community Center (walking distance)



For Party Information:

Gayle Koyanagi
gkoyanagi20@gmail.com
 207-338-6085 (h) 207-322-7727 (c)

For Hospitality Information:

Kim Jacobs
zephyrhill@fairpoint.net
 207-722-3139

Briefs, Dance Diagrams, & Flyer will be posted to the Boston Branch Calendar

The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
19th Annual Spring Fling

MUSIC BY

VIVEKA FOX, , PETER MACFARLANE, & SUSIE PETROV

Saturday, May 16, 2020

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m., Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

**Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (RSCDS Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),
 Under 18 - \$5.00**

For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact
 Gary Apfel – (802) 439-3459 or FairleeClass@rscdsboston.org
 Dance instructions can also be found at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/event-calendar.html>

Have Shoes.....Will Travel.....

Weekend of March 7-8, 2020 ~ New Haven Highland Ball Weekend. West Hartford, Conn. Music provided by Hanneke Cassel & David Knight - fiddles and Dave Wiesler - keyboard

Weekend of April 11-13, 2020 ~ Easter Weekend Away in Chambéry, French Alps. This special workshop and dance for advanced dancers in the French Alps happens every 4 years. Teacher: Ron Wallace. Music: Sarah-Jane Summers, fiddle and James Grey, piano. Info: www.rscdsparis.fr

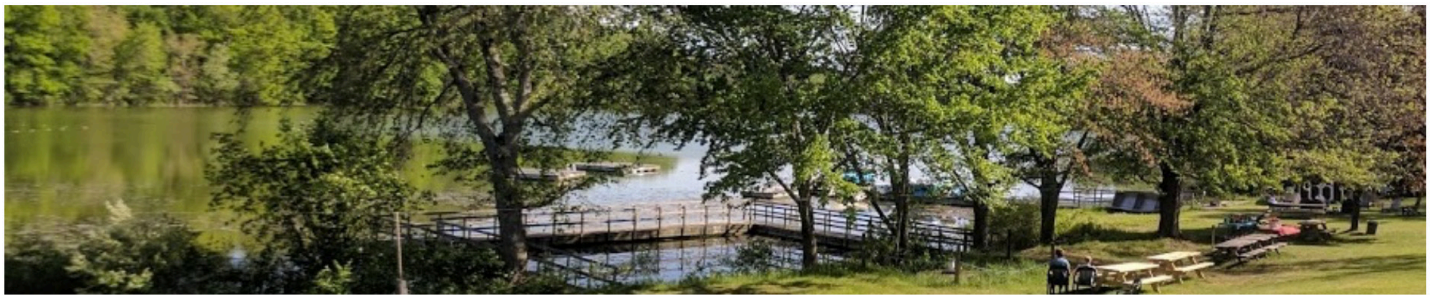
Saturday April 18, 2020 ~ Montreal Spring Dance. Music by the Torridon Scottish Dance Band.

Week of April 28 - May 3, 2020 ~ Spring Fling, Fringe & School. RSCDS Moscow Branch and the local organizing committee are happy to invite you to Spring Fling 2020 that will be held in Saint Petersburg, one of the most beautiful Russian cities. For teachers, musicians, accommodations, travel info: springfling.scottishdance.ru

Week of July 5-11, 2020 ~ Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School. 2020 is the debut year, on the campus of Appalachian State University in North Carolina. Daily classes, evening dances, and the Grandfather Mountain Gala to finish the week. Teachers: Linda Henderson & William Williamson. More info: www.blueridgesds.org

Week of July 26 - August 2, 2020 ~ TAC Summer School. Taking place this year in Calgary, Alberta, presented by the Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada). Daily classes with world-class teachers, dance parties, after-parties, formal ball and banquet. Music Director is Judy Nicolson. More info: tac-rscds.org.

Week of September 27 - October 4, 2020 ~ 45th Australian Winter School. RSCDS Western Australia Branch invites dancers to join us at Muresk Institute in the Avon Valley, 96km east of Perth. Please join us for a great week of dancing with terrific teachers and musicians. Info: winterschool2020.com



Pawling Weekend

May 22-24, 2020

Berkshire Hills Eisenberg Camp, 159 Empire Rd, Copake, NY

Teachers: Martin Mulligan (Newfoundland); Jen Schoonover (Massachusetts); David Hall (Vienna, Austria)
Musicians: Terpsichore with Elke Baker (fiddle), Liz Donaldson (piano), Ralph Gordon (bass & cello),
with Elizabeth Anderson (fiddle) & Jerome Fung (piano)

New York Branch 57th Annual Scottish Country Dance Weekend – rscdsnewyork.org/pawling

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

March

- 7 * Cape Breton Dance, p 10
7-8 New Haven Ball & Brunch, p 6
15 * Little Hooley Ceilidh & Dancing, p 15
21 *** SDCEA Scholarship Dance, p 13
28 * Highland Dance Boston Concert, p 10

April

- 1 * Andrea Beaton & Troy MacGillivray at The Burren, p 10
4 * Indoor Scottish Festival, p 10
11-13 Easter Weekend in the French Alps, p 6
17 * Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas concert, p 10
18 Montreal Spring Dance, p 6
24-26 * New England Folk Festival, p 7
28 - May 3 Moscow Spring Fling, Fringe & School, p 6

May

- 1-3 * Ashokan Fiddle Weekend, p 10
5 * Hanneke Cassel concert, p 10
8-10 *** Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, p 3-4
15 * Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Gala, p 10
16 *** Fairlee Spring Fling, p 5
22-23 *** Spring on the Coast of Maine Coast, p 5
22-24 NY Branch Pawling Weekend, p 6

June

- 13 *** Downeast Fling, Kennebunk, p 7

July

- 5-11 Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School, p 6
6-10 *** Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra, p7
10-18 *** Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, p7
26 - Aug 2 TAC Summer School, p 6, 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. 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.



NEFFA — Save the weekend of April 24-26 for the New England Folk Festival. NEW Location – the Acton-Boxborough High School. RSCDS Boston Demo team, the Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H. performing and many many other great events, Scottish and otherwise. For all the info – neffa.org

Downeast Fling — Our tentative date for the 2020 Downeast Fling is Saturday, June 13, 7:30 p.m., at the Kennebunk, Maine, Town Hall. This is necessarily tentative because I cannot reserve the hall until after Jan. 1, but I wanted to publish the date. More to follow when I have secured the date and a band. — Merrill Henderson

Pinewoods 2020 — Save these dates:

English-Scottish-Contra: July 6-10, 2020

Scottish Session 1: July 10-13, 2020

Scottish Session 2: July 13-18, 2020

FLASH!! Last we heard, there are a few spaces available for all sessions.

New Hampshire Highlands — Scottish Country Dance Weekend — Save the date: August 28-30, 2020

Notes from the Executive Committee

By the time you read this, Leap Day, February 29th, will have passed. I hope you made the most of this precious extra day in your year!

This is the start of probably the busiest time in our dancing year. The SDCEA Scholarship Dance is on March 21, the Highland Ball will be held on May 9, ESCape occurs from July 6 – 10, Pinewoods Scottish Sessions is July 10 – 18, and New Hampshire Highlands is the weekend of August 28 – 30. Information for these events can be found on the Branch website. Note: The New Hampshire Highlands flyer and application for 2020 will be updated soon. Thank you to all of the event organizers for their hard work!

As was previously reported, Dawn and Mike Little, the Bookstore managers, are giving up their roles as soon as a replacement is found. It seems that there is someone who is very interested in the job, so stay tuned for a future announcement. Thank you to Mike and Dawn for continuing to support this important role in the Branch.

Welcome to any new members to the Branch! The Executive Committee has been sending new member packets obtained from Headquarters to them. If you are a new member and haven't yet received your packet, it will be coming as soon as the order arrives from Scotland.

For the past couple of editions of the Tartan Times, Barbara McOwen has been doing the load of compiling the information and producing the copy. The good news is that Evelyn Murray is settled in her new home across the pond and will be resuming her editor role with Barbara. Welcome back, Evelyn!

As always, please consult the website and the Tartan Times to find information on Branch and related events. With so many upcoming activities, you wouldn't want to miss out on anything! Your support of the Branch and its events is greatly appreciated. – Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary



Note from the Tartan Times Editor

Evelyn Murray has a new British computer and internet service, and her email is now up and running, and her cat Solomon likes to walk across the keys. Get in touch with Evelyn any time at - athollbrose37@gmail.com

Note from the Teaching & Music Committee

The TMC organized two workshops during the winter months as part of TMC's outreach to Branch members outside the immediate Boston area.

The first workshop was held in Fairlee Town Hall and led by Jen Schoonover on January 11, 2020. Jen led the dancers in exploring body alignment and experiencing the evolution of dance steps and figures through a selection of both historical and modern dances. Aaron Marcus played the new grand piano in the Fairlee Town Hall with the music arranged by Peter Marfarlane, who played fiddle for the class.

The second workshop was held on February 29th in Topsham Grange, where the Brunswick Class meets. Charles Liu used simple dances to emphasize how eye contact and firm arms can help dancers, inexperienced and experienced alike, enjoy dancing more. Boston Hospitality's Ed Pearlman and Beth Murray provided great tunes for the class and the social hour afterwards.

The dancers had a great time in the workshops. The potluck supper in Fairlee, the refreshments in Brunswick, and the support of the Executive Committee, made these workshops possible. – Charles Liu, TMC Chair

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. There have been no changes since the last issue.

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

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. Contact 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 Flo Hearn or Mary Olszowka, brooklineclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **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, chelmsfordclass@rscdsboston.org or 508-574-1533
 - * **Great Barrington:** Year-round, Wednesdays 7:15-9:15 pm, Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park St., Housatonic, 3rd floor. Contact greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org, Ted 413-698-2944 or Maria 413-344-3023.
 - * **Newton:** Sept to mid-June, Wednesdays 10:30 am - noon. Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street, Newton (park in the back parking lot). July-Aug at American Legion Post 440, 295 California St, Newton. Contact Heather Day, 617-244-6914, newtonclass@rscdsboston.org
 - * **Northampton:** Sept-May, Thursdays 7:00-9:30 pm, Florence Congregational Church, 130 Pine Street, 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, 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: 7:30, social dancing 8:00-10:30. Old Stow Town Hall, 375 Great Road, Stow. Contact: Vickery Trinkaus-Randall, stowclass@rscdsboston.org

MAINE

- * **Belfast:** Beginner: Sept-June: Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm, Experienced: Year-round, Mondays 7:30-9:00 pm, American Legion Hall, 143 High St., Belfast. Contact belfastclass@rscdsboston.org; Kim Jacobs/Bob Klein, 207-722-3139; Gayle Koyanagi, 207-322-7727; Donna Griffith, 207-785-2216
- * **Blue Hill:** Year-round, Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 pm, Halcyon Grange #345, 1157 Pleasant St, Blue Hill. Contact Mike/Dawn Little, 207-702-9294 or 207-469-8747; bluehillclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-841-3232, brunswickclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Kennebunk:** Sept-June, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 pm; Community House, Temple St., Kennebunkport. Contact Merrill Henderson, 207-409-9050, kennebunkclass@rscdsboston.org

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, 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:** Call to inquire. Contact Connie Kent, burlingtonscd@rscdsboston.org, 802-355-5901
- * **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

NEW YORK

- * **Albany:** Sundays, 7:00 pm, Newbitz House, 85 Mann Blvd, Clifton Park. Contact Lois New, 518-852-5274, albanyclass@rscdsboston.org

* 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 Concerts and Events

Saturday Evening March 7, 2020 - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day early with Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman for a Cape Breton dance party. At the Canadian American Club, 8:00-11:30pm.

Sunday Evening March 15, 2020 - Fretless (3 fiddles & cello) at Passim

Saturday Evening March 28, 2020 - Highland Dance Boston & Hanneke Cassel in concert, "Dance Saturdays" series presented by the Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre [see page 15]

Wednesday Evening April 1, 2020 - Andrea Beaton & Troy MacGillivray at the Burren Back Room - just about the top Cape Breton duo

Saturday April 4, 2020 - Indoor Scottish Festival, the first of the season for pipers & highland dancers, Salem, N.H. - nhssa.org

Wednesday Evening April 8, 2020 - Mike Block Trio at the Burren

Saturday April 11, 2020 - Genticorum at Passim

Friday Evening April 17, 2020 - Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas in concert, Shalin Liu Performance Center, Rockport, Mass.

Weekend of May 1-3, 2020 - Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas at Ashokan - A whole weekend retreat of Fiddle & Cello; register now at www.ashokan.org

Tuesday Evening May 5, 2020 - Hanneke Cassel Trio at Passim

Wednesday Evening May 6, 2020 - hold on to your hat - The Tannahill Weavers at the Burren! Furthermore, opening for them is Fresh Haggis!

Saturday Evening May 9, 2020 - Hanneke Cassel Trio at the Shalin Liu Performance Center, Rockport, Mass.

Sunday Afternoon May 10, 2020 - Shannon Heaton, Katie McNally, more at The Burren

Wednesday Evening May 13, 2020 - Cantrip - "Scotland's unique power trio" - at the Burren

Saturday Evening May 15, 2020 - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Gala at the Canadian American Club

Scottish Fiddle Camps, Summer 2020 -

June 19-28 – 3 June Sessions, Maine Fiddle Camp, Montville, Me. – mainefiddlecamp.org

June 20-28 – Sierra Fiddle Camp, Nevada City, Calif. – alasdairfraser.com

July 6-24 – 3 Sessions, Gaelic College Summer Youth Sessions, Englishtown, N.S. – gaeliccollege.edu

July 12-18 – Swannanoa Gathering Celtic Week, Swannanoa, N.C. – swangathering.com

July 20 - August 7 – 4 Sessions, Jink & Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling, Valle Crucis, N.C. – fiddletree-music.com

July 25 - August 1 – Skye Trad Strings Week, Scotland – alasdairfraser.com

August 2-9 – Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp, Divide, Colo. – rmfiddle.com

August 2-9 – Crisol de Cuerda, Spain – alasdairfraser.com

August 3-14 – 2 Sessions, Gaelic College Summer Adult Sessions – gaeliccollege.edu

August 9-21 – 2 August Sessions, Maine Fiddle Camp, Montville, Me. – mainefiddlecamp.org

August 16-22 – Inaugural year, Boston States Scottish Fiddle Camp, directed by Katie McNally, in Groton, Mass. – www.bostonstatesfiddle.com

August 28 - September 5 – Valley of the Moon, Boulder Creek, Calif. – alasdairfraser.com

September 28 - October 4 – Stringmania!, Victoria, Australia – alasdairfraser.com

Flowers of the Forest

Colin Day

Son of Heather and Chris Day, at Mass General after a brief illness, aged 51. Letters and emails only, to Heather at 45 Shawsheen Road, No. 11, Bedford, MA 01730. Heather's email is hdshoes14@gmail.com

Ron McDougald

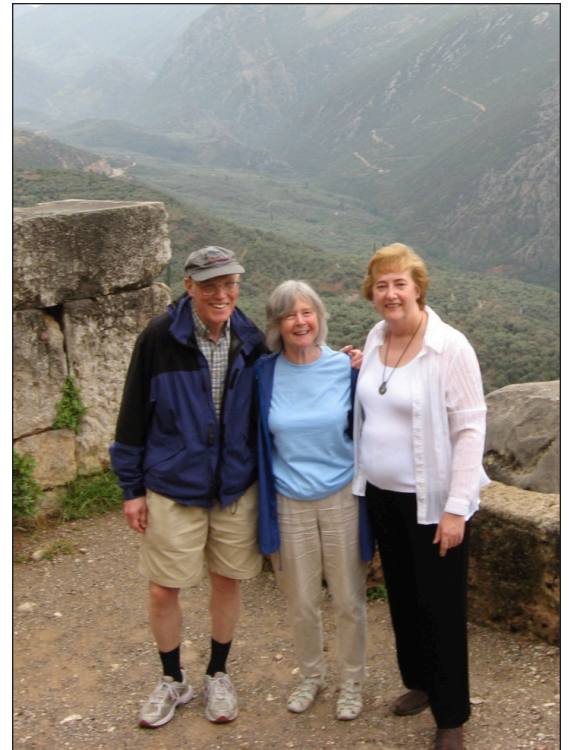
From the Editor: *John Salyards forwarded this to me, and I thought it might be of interest to those of you who knew Ron.*

Ronald Jean McDougald, born March 5, 1939, lived 80 athletic years until his death on January 16, 2020. A lover of family, trees, running, and Scottish Country Dancing, he was born in the town of Crockett, Houston County, Texas. Moving 14 times while growing up, he graduated from high school in Redondo Beach, California. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree, on a full scholarship, from Dartmouth College and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. After studying to become a CPA, Ron was a tax attorney until his gradual retirement. He raised a family in Lincoln, MA where he lived until his recent move to Cambridge, then Waltham for care.

Ron was an athlete who ran 27 marathons, including 17 Boston marathons, in addition to many road races and triathlons. He was an avid swimmer who regularly swam across nearby Walden Pond. He enjoyed tennis, kayaking, canoeing, cross country skiing, wilderness adventures, and other travel. Ron was highly inquisitive, playful, an avid reader, and a poet. He loved movies and he loved to laugh. He spent the last 29 years as an active member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston. He also attended the Church of The Covenant. Ron's zest for life was infectious, and he will be missed by a large community of family and friends.

Ron leaves behind his beloved companion of 29 years, Joan Hill, of Cambridge, MA; his daughter, Ruthie Kinch, of Brooklyn, NY; his son, Douglas McDougald and his son-in-law, David Glauner, of Stow, MA; and his grandchildren, Olivia, Bella, and Savannah Kinch, of Brooklyn, NY. He is also survived by the mother of his children, Kathleen McDougald-Lee, his nephew David Sutton, many cousins, and the children and grandchildren of his companion. Ron will be interred in his family plot at the Doulass Cemetery, in Houston County Texas later this spring.

From the Asst. Editor: *Ron contributed much to his Scottish country dance family. He was a wonderful dance partner; he served on several Branch committees, and some of the recent Boston Highland Ball Sunday Brunches were held at his home in Lincoln.*



Ron & Joan with Betty Allan, Delphi, Greece, 2007

People News

From the March newsletter of the Canadian American Club:

To help our new members get to know people who contribute their talents to the Club, Jen Schoonover has agreed to be in this month's member spotlight!

Jen first began coming to the club to take part in the very special cultural events being offered. She attended the Gaelic Club and dances which later inspired her to become a member. While she may not have Canadian roots per se, she shares the same Club sentiment with fellow Canadians in keeping dance and cultural traditions alive. Jen feels "We are so lucky that we have these musical, singing, and dancing traditions here – this environment has enriched my and my family's lives!" In case you missed it, you can read a wonderful article in the November 2019 edition of the Bridgewater Review. There is a copy available at the club.

English as she is Spoke

This poem came to light whilst unpacking papers in England brought from the US. Once I had settled in, one of my first jobs was to buy a new computer and arrange for wifi. So now I am typing on this new machine; it is very nice and all that but what I find amusing is that it copes with either or both English spelling and American (US) spelling. Whereas my old Apple computer in Boston would correct any “programmes,” the new one (also an Apple) is happy with that or alternately with “programs”! I really do find this amusing.

The poem was found in my Old Girls magazine and references a source from the Royal Society of St. George Magazine. – [Ed.]

I take it you already know
of tough and bough and cough and dough.
Others may stumble but not you
on hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish perhaps
To know, of less familiar traps.
Beware of heard, a dreadful word
that looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead, it's said like bed not bead,
For goodness sake's don't call it deed!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt)

A moth is not a moth in mother
nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear
And then there's rose and close and lose.
Just look them up – and goose and choose
And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and sword
And do and go and thwart and cart.
Come, Come, I've hardly made a start
A dreadful language? Man alive!
I'd mastered it when I was five.



The Edge of the World

This is another contribution from Norm McCallum and originally printed in the Bulletin of the Orange County Branch – Ed.

What do the year 1937, a four-couple poussette and the Shetland running step have in common? That was the year they appeared together with Shetland fiddlers in the 1937 film *The Edge of the World* by British director Michael Powell. This was Powell's first full length movie which he shot entirely on Foula, a remote island 35 miles west of the Shetland Islands. Powell used the 300 or so inhabitants of Foula in many of the scenes in which he tells viewers about the struggles of the islanders to survive in an increasingly hostile environment caused by the exhausted soil and over-fishing. Powell would go on to produce and direct such classics as *The Red Shoes* with Moira Shearer, *Dark Narcissus* with Deborah Kerr, and the Corryvreckan movie, *I know Where I'm Going*.

Operating on a limited budget, Powell used the islanders in many of the scenes. One in particular shows the islanders celebrating the birth of a baby, island fiddlers are seen playing, while a four-couple set perform a four-couple poussette and use the Shetland Running Step throughout the dance. I remember Bob Patterson teaching a Shetland dance a number of years ago. As I recall, Bob explained the running step as the travelling step of the Shetlands. I wonder whether they have their own setting step? Interestingly the dogs of Foula had really short legs, which made me think of other small animals, the Shetland pony and the Sheltie, which of course is a small sheep dog.

A number of years ago Martin Scorsese discovered the films of Michael Powell and, realising he was a great director, went to England to meet him. Scorsese was shocked to find Powell living in obscurity and poverty. And brought him back to live with him in America. There he has promoted Powell's movies. So, if you want to see a four-couple poussette and the Shetland running step then check out *The Edge of the World*. It was shown on the TCM channel, and can be purchased from TCM classic movies.



SDCEA Scholarship Dance



7:30 pm, March 21, 2020
First Parish Church in Weston
349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA
Donation: \$20 (Students \$15)

MCs: Cathy Fahey and Lois New
Musicians: Gunns and Thistles

Light & Airy	8 x 32J	RSCDS Book 4
Monymusk	8 x 32S	RSCDS Book 11
Fisherman's Reel	5 x 32R (5C Sq)	Dunblane Holiday
Laird of Milton's Daughter	8 x 32J	RSCDS Book 22
Floating on Air	8 x 32S	Bankhead Book 5
Starlight	8 x 32R	RSCDS Book 44
City of Belfast	3 x 32S	Belfast Diamond Jubilee
Flowers of Edinburgh	8 x 32R	RSCDS Book 1

Intermission

Gay Gordons

Pelorus Jack	8 x 32J	RSCDS Book 41
Sauchie Haugh	8 x 32S	RSCDS Leaflet Dances 29
The Dandelion Picker	8 x 32R	Ian Barbour
Whiteadder Jig	8 x 32J	Whiteadder Collection
Fernigan	8 x 32S	Road to Stow
The Falls of Rogie	8 x 32R	Alexander Book 1

Waltz

All proceeds benefit the RSCDS Boston Branch scholarship funds.
Donations to the refreshment table welcome!



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Teachers

Janet Johnston, Scotland
Ron Wallace, California
Alan Twigg, California
Barbara Johnston, Canada

Musicians

Judi Nicolson, Fred Collins,
Ian Muir, Kathy Fraser Collins
Not pictured
Terry Traub, Mary Ross



Teacher Candidates' Courses July 19 - August 2, 2020
For Units 2 & 3 and for Unit 5
For info: tcc@tac-rscds.org



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\$125 V.I.P. (\$60 tax deductible)
www.ballettheatre.org

An exciting presentation of Highland dance and music by our local dance performing group Highland Dance Boston, and Boston-area musicians Hanneke Cassel (fiddle), Mairi Chaimbeul (harp & Gaelic singing), and Campbell Webster (pipes), and featuring the current World Champion of Highland Dance.

A Little Hooley – Scottish Family Dance

You are invited to join in our Little Hooley, an event celebrating Scottish dancing and music. *Hooley* is a word we think of as a party, but in the Scottish Gaelic language *h-uile* means “all.” The Boston Gaelic Club, founded to support Cape Breton culture, invites dance and music enthusiasts of all ages to come be a part of our fun, family-friendly monthly gatherings. Instrumentalists and singers take turns sharing songs in an open-mic format, and dancers can share steps and dance together. Everyone is encouraged to bring refreshments to share; tea, coffee, and hot chocolate are on offer; and the bar will be open for other beverages. Jen Schoonover will lead Scottish dancing specifically for younger dancers, and dancers of all ages can join in the Mabou Set. No experience is necessary, and the Club welcomes anyone who wants to participate in the open-mic, to dance, or to just sit back and enjoy the atmosphere.

The Boston Gaelic Club meets every third Sunday at the Canadian American Club in Watertown, MA and starts at 3:30 pm. The festivities run until 6:30 pm and all are encouraged to drop in and head out at any time that is convenient. Cost is \$7 per adult; kids coming along with adults are welcome free of charge. We encourage you to come out and join us on March 15 as we kick off the first of our Hooleys and also celebrate St Patrick’s Day!

Question? Contact Jen at outrageoussocks@gmail.com

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What's in a Name – Wisp of Thistle

By Barry Pipes, and taken from *Set & Link*

“Wha Daur’s meddle wi me,” roughly translated, is the motto of The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. Actually on the Order’s badge it says in Latin *“Nemo me impune lacessit”* (No one provokes me with impunity). Most Ancient and Most Noble notwithstanding, I think we would all agree that the rough Scots version has the most ominous tone. It is said that the importance of the thistle to Scotland goes back to the Battle of Largs in 1263. A few longboats of Norsemen landed there in the dead of night, trying to take advantage of sleeping clansmen in the vicinity. They crept ashore barefoot to hide their presence, but unfortunately, for them, tried to cross a field of thistles in the process. Now, the thistle is known for its vicious porcupine like spines and as such does not have any natural enemies amongst the flora and fauna of Scotland. A Norseman yelped in pain as he stepped on one of the thistles. This awakened the locals and the battle was formed. Having been “meddled with,” so to speak, the Clansmen won the day, and the thistle became a symbol of Scotland’s (dare I say it) prickliness, from that day on. Or so it is said.

How to segue from prickly spines to wisps? Well, thistles have them both, the wisps, being the feathery puffs that can float in the air like, for example, dandelion seeds. I am told that the late Queen Mother, herself a Scot, on once seeing a Strathspey being performed referred to the dancers being like ‘a wisp of thistle.’ This comment may not have escaped the attention of Nova Scotian RSCDS teacher, Patricia Kent, who devised the strathspey *Wisp of Thistle* that appeared in Book 37 in 1992.