

The Tartan Times

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May/June 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

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Vice President: Marsha Byrnes

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Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree — treasurer@rscdsboston.org

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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
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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

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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

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• Copy due date for the July/August 2020 issue is **June 10th** •

CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR FALL AND WINTER 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

STREAMING CONCERT VERSION

**THE HIGHLAND BALL WEEKEND IS CANCELLED
THE PLANS FOR THE FRIDAY WELCOME DANCE,
THE SATURDAY BALL, AND THE SUNDAY BRUNCH
WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO MAY 2021**

**BUT WE CAN STILL SAVE THE MAY 9, 2020 DATE –
SEE THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BELOW:**

Hello Dancers!

All of us miss dancing together, but perhaps just as much we miss the music that powers our dancing. That's why I'm delighted to announce that our musicians for the Highland Ball weekend, including Katie McNally, Neil Pearlman, Beth Murray, Emily Peterson, Dirk Tiede, and others, will be performing a streaming concert of individual and group performances over the internet on the evening of the now-cancelled ball, May 9.

The concert will be free to view, but we will be inviting you to help the Boston Branch support our musicians through donations to an SDCEA fund for branch event musicians. This will enable us to support both our ball weekend performers and other SCD musicians in the area who have lost gigs and other income due to the pandemic.

More details, including the streaming link and the time, will follow in a few days. Even if we can't all dance together, we can all come together to listen and support our musicians. Thank you!

Yours,
Jeremy Thorpe, President, RSCDS Boston Branch
president@rscdsboston.org

Note from the Editor

I am housebound as are most people in the UK since the middle of March, and we are awaiting how rules will be lifted over time without raising the threat of a second rapid rise in the infection levels. The rates of infection vary across the country of course; London was first hit and has suffered the highest death rate, apparently it is the only mega city in Europe. The virus seems to thrive in densely populated cities such as London and New York. Also both cities have similar localities of poverty and wealth. It depends where you live. As a vulnerable person (age and health problems) I am being asked to sequester for 12 weeks. I see my cousin once a week when she brings me supplies of food and other items. The mail is sporadic, but TV is great, bringing back films, shows and plays from the archives. It's also a chance to catch up with reading and even doing some gardening.

Barbara and I are putting together this issue of the Tartan Times to spur all of you to greater things! Jeremy Thorpe (President), Charle Liu (Chair of the Teaching & Music Committee) and Susan Haines (Secretary) are all giving you information and encouragement to continue Scottish dancing in this new but hopefully temporary world. There is information from the RSCDS with Edinburgh's efforts to provide some dancing ideas, plus Boston Branch Class activities including Brunswick (Maine), Albany (New York) and Cambridge/Salem (Massachusetts) amongst other things.

I am going to add my own contribution. This is that you spend at least an half hour a day doing exercises and practicing your dance steps, then when you come back to regular classes you will be ready to go, your muscles will be prepared. Find a mirror in the house where you can see your feet, or put one down near the floor. Use it to practice both your pas de Basque and Strathspey setting steps. If you have the room try travelling steps in the house. For this wear your dance slippers, but if you decide to dance outside wear sneakers or the equivalent. Dancing on the grass is not as soft as it looks, and ruins ghillies. An added touch, if you have SCD CDs – use music for your exercises. That lifts the whole effort to a much nicer level. Otherwise sing or hum a cheerful tune with a good beat to it.

Keep on dancing and Keep Safe.

Evelyn Murray

Note: My email is athollbrose37@gmail.com - the one in the directory is incorrect.



Letter from Major Edward Topham, in Letters from Edinburgh 1775, p.265

“Besides minuets and country dances they in general dance reels in separate parts of the room, which is a dance that everyone its acquainted with, but none but a native of Scotland can execute to perfection. Their great agility, vivacity, and variety of hornpipe steps render it to them a most entertaining dance; but to a stranger the sameness of the figure makes it trifling and insipid, though you are employed during the whole time of its operation; which is why it is so peculiarly adapted to the Scotch, who are little acquainted with the attitude of standing still.”

[The Scotch reels differ in a number of ways from other dances of the same period. Perhaps the most striking is that though they are social dances in some senses of the word – they are dances by the general public, not solely by experts; they are dances for recreation, not for display or as ritual – they are not as sociable as the country dance or the minuet. As Topsham says they are danced for the sake of dancing, not for the sake of the social intercourse they provide. Another difference between reels and other dances is that reels were not the prerogative of one class of society: ladies and gentlemen in the Edinburgh ballrooms; herd-boys and young girls in remote parts of the country; everyone, in fact, except the ministers of religion, danced them. An example of a Scotch Reel is The Foursome Reel which is still danced today. – Ed.]

Online Scottish Country Dance Classes!

Cambridge and Salem:

The Cambridge and Salem Classes of the Boston Branch are excited to co-host a program of online Scottish Dance Classes. Events will take place every other Monday evening from May through the end of August, excluding June 1. The classes will cover a variety of topics related to Scottish Dancing.

Classes will be conducted via Zoom. A zoomlink to join each online class will be provided in a separate email to Boston Branch members and to the Cambridge and Salem Class mailing lists. (Information for each class will be sent by Sunday evening at the latest).

Everybody is welcome! We hope dancers and friends from all parts of the Boston Branch and beyond will join us. Non-members can join the email list for classes by contacting cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org.

“Dance to the Music (with Furniture)”

Teacher: Robert McOwen

Date: Monday May 4

Time: “doors” open 7.45 pm • class starts 8.00 pm

The class will be about 45 minutes plus 15 minutes for questions

This short class will be of interest to all levels of dancers. We will quickly review basic steps (for beginners) and we will dance to a variety of recorded Scottish dance music (for all) to see how the music affects our dancing. And if you will be alone, make sure you have two chairs (or stools) available to dance figures with. Fun for all!

“Music for Scottish Country Dance”

Teacher: Susie Petrov

Date: Monday May 18th

Time: “doors” open 7.45 pm • class starts 8.00 pm

Future classes: June 13, 29 • July 13, 27 • August 10, 24

Brunswick, Maine Online Class

This takes place at their regular time, Thursdays, 6:30-7:15 pm, with their regular teacher, Patti Tillotson. The Zoom invitation is sent out to the class members but the class is open to all. To be included in the distribution, contact Patti at pstillotson@gmail.com or phone 207 841-3232.

Albany, New York Online Class

Dancing via zoom at 7:00 pm on Sundays, taught by Lois New. The class includes warmups, a mini-technique session, and a short program of 6 dances. Contact Barb Bemis at math.maniac.1@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. Contact Lois New at Loisscd@gmail.com for more information about the class.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Online Class

This is a weekly class offered every Wednesday at 2 pm Boston time, taught by a variety of teachers from a variety of locations. The previous class was April 29th, taught by Dave Hall from Vienna. The classes are recorded and can be viewed later or downloaded. The next class will be May 6th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members but anyone is welcome to tune in.

Have Shoes.....Might Travel.....

Posted April 9, 2020 ~ Toronto Branch ~ All events are cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Saturday May 2, 2020 October 31, 2020 ~ Kilts & Ghillies Tea Dance, presented by the New Haven Branch. — Postponed to October 31. For up-to-date info, go to <http://www.nhrscds.com/kilts-and-ghillies-tea-dance>

Saturday June 13, 2020 ~ Westchester Ball ~ in Scarsdale, N.Y. — cancelled

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). "Effective April 5, 2020, TAC Summer Events registration has been suspended pending discussions with Mt. Royal University about our contract. We will update you on the situation as soon as possible." For late-breaking info: tac-rscds.org.

Week of September 20-28, 2020 ~ Scottish Country Dancing Meets Tango, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, presented by the International Branch. It's a week of touring, followed by a weekend of Scottish country dancing. For info, click on <https://scdmontrealorg.weebly.com>

Week of September 27 - October 4, 2020 ~ 45th Australian Winter School, hosted by the Western Australia Branch. — "The feasibility of the winter school is rather doubtful but we have decided to defer any final decision til 30 June." For latest info, check <https://winterschool2020.com>

Saturday October 24, 2020 ~ Jeannie Carmichael Ball, presented by the New York Branch. Planning has been suspended til further notice. See <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org>.

Saturday October 5, 2020 ~ Fall Workshop and Dance, presented by the Montreal Branch. For info, click on <https://scdmontrealorg.weebly.com>

Weekend of October 30 - November 1, 2020 ~ Asilomar Weekend, presented by the San Francisco Branch. Applications accepted beginning July 1. "We are going ahead with planning for the 2020 Asilomar Weekend, but the COVID-19 Pandemic may affect it. Please keep this in mind when you make travel plans and consider travel insurance." For all the latest info, go to <https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend>



Dance Scottish at Home

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society quickly turned around and began issuing a weekly newsletter to the worldwide membership called "Dance Scottish At Home." If you're a member of any RSCDS Branch, and if the RSCDS has your email address, you should be receiving the newsletter each Friday. It is very attractive and well-put-together, and worth checking out the articles, news and links. There will be information on each upcoming weekly online class, which is offered every Wednesday at 2 pm Boston time, taught by a variety of teachers from a variety of locations. The previous class was April 29th, taught by Dave Hall from Vienna. The classes are recorded and can be viewed later or downloaded. The next class will be May 6th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members but anyone is welcome to tune in. You can view all the issues and sign up to subscribe and get notifications at rscds.org/get-involved/dance-scottish-home

The newsletter presents historical articles, a "Thursday Challenge" (e.g. "What is the most unusual place you've danced in?"), background information on the dances and dance titles, a weekly podcast by Music Director Ian Muir, puzzles, photos, news about the upcoming class, links to exciting music channels, and more.

[Note from the Asst. Ed.: While the online classes will never replace the in-person experience, it's a feature and not so much of a bug that we can easily "attend" some far-flung classes and meet classmates and teachers that we otherwise might not. And the RSCDS getting up to speed so quickly reminds us that we are members of a pretty wonderful and large family.]

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

<i>May</i>		
1-3	*	Ashokan Fiddle Weekend, p 10 — online; all welcome
5	*	Hanneke Cassel concert, p 10 — streaming live
8-10	***	Boston Branch Highland Ball Weekend, p 3 — Saturday online concert in place of weekend
15	*	Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Gala, p 10 — cancelled
16	***	Fairlee Spring Fling — cancelled
22-23	***	Spring on the Coast of Maine — cancelled
22-24		NY Branch Pawling Weekend, p 6 — cancelled
<i>June</i>		
1	***	Boston Branch RSCDS Annual General Meeting — online
13	***	Downeast Fling, Kennebunk — cancelled
<i>July</i>		
5-11		Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School — postponed to 2021
6-10	***	Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra, p11 — cancelled
10-18	***	Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, p11 — postponed to 2021
26 - Aug 2		TAC Summer School, p 6 — in abeyance
<i>August</i>		
16-22	*	Boston States Scottish Fiddle Camp, p 10 — in abeyance
28-30	***	New Hampshire Highlands — in abeyance

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.*

Save the Date, Just In Case:

New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain — September 18-20, 2020
Asilomar, San Francisco Branch — October 30 - November 1, 2020
Brunswick, Maine Dance Party — October 17, 2020
Fairlee Autumn Social — October 24, 2020
Jeannie Carmichael Ball — October 24, 2020
Scottish Ceilidh — November 14, 2020
Pinewoods Benefit Ball — December, 2020



Cabar Feidh

As told by Aonghas Grant, Glengarry Collection Vol. 1 p. 46

“Cabar Feidh,” or the “deer’s antlers,” are on the coat of arms of the MacKenzie of Kintail. This came about when Alexander III was hunting in the Mar Forest. This was in 1265. A stag was chased by the hounds and charged the king, when MacKenzie shot the stag in the head with an arrow. He was granted the stag’s antlers as the armorial bearing for saving the king’s life. The Mar Forest is over Deeside, and the king would often have people with him from the various clans. The Cabar Feidh emblem is also used by the Seaforth Highlanders, the Highland regiment of the British Army.

Notes from the Executive Committee

Greetings from the Executive Committee! We sincerely hope that you are all safe and well and that you find a reason to smile every day! Spring is finally here, and even though dancing at the Ball, at the end-of-season class parties, and at Pinewoods have all been cancelled, there are still events to enjoy.

Headquarters offers an online class every Wednesday at 1900 their time [2 pm Boston Branch time] (not necessarily a good time for people in our area who are still able to go to work), but the past classes are available for viewing at your leisure. It is called “Dance Scottish At Home.” The HQ website describes the class by stating, “Each week a different RSCDS Teacher will be there to guide you through a mixture of basic movements, warm-ups, technique, steps and dances, giving variety across the classes.”

Check out the Boston Branch website for information on the Cambridge Class online dance class starting on Monday May 4th. Also, please check out the Highland Ball streaming concert to be held on Saturday May 9th. You will have an opportunity to hear fantastic music from the musicians who would have been entertaining you during the Ball weekend.

Quarantine or not, the business of the Branch still needs to take place. Elections to fill the two open at-large seats on the Executive Committee will be occurring, followed by the Annual General Meeting on June 1, 2020 via an online format such as ZOOM. Look for more information as the date approaches.

As always, please consult the website and the Tartan Times to find information on Branch and current events. Your support of the Branch is greatly appreciated. – *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

Report from the Teaching & Music Committee

This year, Boston Branch had to cancel two of our major events -- Boston Highland Ball and Pinewoods Scottish Sessions -- due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We were very sorry to disappoint all of our dancers and miss out on the great fun of dancing and the opportunities to gather with our friends. However, we are sure you understand that the health and safety of our dance community comes first.

I would like to thank personally the co-chairs of both the Boston Highland Ball and Pinewoods Scottish Sessions in 2020. They have agreed to return in 2021 to bring those parties back next year. We have been working with the co-chairs to bring back the same teachers and musicians in 2021. So far, we are happy to report that the entire teaching staff and the music director have agreed to return for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions in 2021.

In the meantime, we will continue to help different groups in the Branch to bring classes, workshops, concerts and parties to you over the Internet. We will keep the community spirit going and the dancing and music alive.

Until we are back to seeing everyone in person, please stay safe and be well. Look forward to more happy dancing to come. – *Charles Liu, TMC Chair*

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. I believe all Boston Branch classes and events are presently in abeyance, til further notice. If you wish to check on the status of a class or class event, feel free to get in touch with the class contact. – *Barbara McOwen*

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

Online Music Concerts and Workshops

There are more and more music things happening online, to wit:

Hanneke Cassel and Mike Block will be live-streaming her upcoming concert on Tuesday May 5th. Sign up for notification at hannekecassel.com

The Boston Ball Concert will stream live on Saturday May 9th, in lieu of the Ball. All the Ball Weekend musicians will take part - see page 3.

The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club is really stepping up to the plate. The club is presenting all its regular activities online and then some. You have to be a member for some of these, but they are offering discounted memberships. Go to bsfc.org

- The First-Sunday workshops are going on as scheduled, online, 2:00-4:15. The next one is with Anne Hooper on June 7th. After that there will be the usual summer break.
- There are now 2 Wednesday sessions per month, on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, led by Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman. The May sessions are May 6th and 20th, 7-9 pm. These are on FB, they are recorded, and you will have an opportunity to tip the musicians.
- There's a new workshop series, led by far-awa fiddlers. These are taking place on most Mondays usually 2:00-3:30 Boston time; the next one is Monday May 11 with Bruce MacGregor of Aberdeen.

There is a VERY special fundraiser for out-of-work musicians going on. A brand-new handmade violin (made by Jake Brillhart) and a bow (made by Eben Bodach-Turner and Evan Orman) are being raffled; their combined value is estimated at \$14,000. You can watch the violin being made, live. \$46,000 has been raised so far; the drawing will be May 16. Donate or purchase tickets at - sevenstarsarts.rallyup.com/musicianaid

Katie McNally's new Boston States Fiddle Camp, scheduled for August 16-22, 2020, is on track for the moment. It's possible some of the staff will have to change. You can keep track of updates at bostonstatesfiddle.com.

Fiddle Hell Jam Hour presented by Dave Reiner and Family, every Wednesday afternoon at 5:00, in a variety of styles. Go to fiddlehell.org for the info.

Passim is starting the PEAR Fund - Passim Emergency Artist Relief Fund. Go to passim.org for various ways to contribute to the fund or apply for funding.

Canadian American Club - Friday Night Social Hour, May 8th, and approximately every other week - canadianamericanclub.com. If you're a member of the Canadian American Club - you can join at canadianamericanclub.com - you'll be getting notices, but again anyone can join in. The regulars like to visit with each other, and if musicians come in, they'll be asked if they'd like to play some tunes.

RSCDS Music Director Ian Muir is presenting a live weekly podcast. Ian's first podcast included a rendition of Woodland Polka, played live by Ian and his wife Judith, a recording of the music for Scottish country dance EH3 7AF, an interview from the archives featuring Roy Goldring, and Luke Brady reviewing his "Albums of the Week" and more. Go to rscds.org/get-involved/dance-scottish-home to get onboard.

Paul Anderson & Shona Donaldson - Live in the Lounge - look for "fngal cromar" on facebook.com - this is great for tunes and conversation in very broad Doric, with lots of history and background to the music.

Feis Rois - Several hundred videos of solo performances and lessons at youtube.com/user/FeisRois/videos

Bruce MacGregor, proprietor of MacGregor's Bar in Inverness and founder of Blazin in Beuly and Blazin Fiddles, is livestreaming every day at 5 pm Scotland Time (currently that's 12 noon Boston time) - it's "Live at 5." Go to his Facebook page (it's Bruce MacGregor of Bogbain Farm). You can Replay if you've missed the latest one.

Tunes in the Hoose - facebook.com/pg/TunesInTheHoose/videos - features videos of many socially-distant ensembles in Scotland.

Hanneke Cassel's online lessons - this is a great time to learn and polish some tunes. They are excellent, and a great choice of tunes. Go to her website at hannekecassel.com, then click on Instruction - you can get some discounts that way. Or go directly to fiddlevideo.com/category/scottish-celtic-fiddle-lessons

From the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

With deep regret the RSCDS has cancelled this year's Summer School. This will be disappointing news for many dancers and musicians, but in face of the global health crisis and the uncertainty as to when normal social interaction can resume, the Board decided to act now in the interest of our members' welfare and to give clarity to those who had planned to attend.

The coming months are going to be difficult for everyone. The RSCDS intends to publish a regular eNewsletter aimed at giving members some entertainment and helping them to stay in touch with the dancing community. There will also be posts on our website and social media. We are looking at what we can do to stay connected with members who do not have a computer. Branches, too, are encouraged to maintain their social networks during the crisis.

From Carl Mastandrea, Executive Director, Pinewoods Inc.

It is with sadness that Pinewoods Camp, along with our five program providers – Country Dance & Song Society, Country Dance Society-Boston Centre, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Folk Arts Center of New England, and the Folk Music Society of New York – announce the cancellation of the 2020 summer season. Your health and well-being are of the utmost concern to us, and it is with that in mind that we all feel that it is safer to wait until next year to resume dancing and singing under the pines.

After careful deliberations by our entire board, and looking at various scenarios including postponing the opening date, we have decided that the safest scenario is to close Camp for the season. Camp takes at least two weeks to open, and so any date we thought might be safe to open would need to be preceded by getting crew here two weeks earlier - when it wouldn't be safe. In addition, the fact that our pastime is social dancing, which involves touching hands with everyone in the room, is a recipe for disaster. There are also economic considerations to consider, as even the partial opening of Camp requires a significant investment, with the looming possibility that we would have to close a short time later if we experienced any outbreak.

It is therefore time, dear Campers, to sit this dance out and come back stronger than ever in 2021. Be safe, my friends.



Jeremy Thorpe's favorite cabin, Boatman, served as the inspiration for this drawing that he made, working from a photo that he took from Round Pond in 2019. Jeremy writes, "Round Pond is a point of serenity for



The Boatman, by Jeremy Thorpe

me, somewhere I feel at peace whether I'm there or just thinking about being there, and I tried to capture that in my drawing. Often there's nobody else there, and I can be alone with the big bass brooding under the surface, the painted turtles sunning themselves on half-submerged logs, the catbirds and red squirrels scolding me from overhead. When I wake up in Boatman, the stairs down to the water are right outside my door, so I can refresh myself with a dip without worrying about being late to lunch. (I'm told they serve breakfast at Pinewoods, but as far as I can tell that's just a myth.) At night the bullfrogs' croaks and the green frogs' banjo plucks sing me to sleep. For this drawing I used Pigma Micron pens on Bristol board; I tried to emulate the hand-painted Pinewoods cabin font for the label (and squinted at a lot of reference photos to that end!). Most of my time was spent drawing foliage, which I tried to make accurate enough for species identification, but it was a lot of fun really looking at all the little parts of Boatman and how they fit together."

SCOTTISH DANCE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON, INC.
DONATION FORM

The SDCEA is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are fully deductible for income tax purposes.

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I am willing to receive my donation receipt via email

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Fund Descriptions

The Scottish Dance and Cultural Education Association of Boston, Inc. (SDCEA) administers scholarships and loans, which are awarded on the basis of financial need and demonstrated interest in Scottish Country, Highland Dancing and/or Scottish music. The application form is available on the Web, at the following address:

<http://rscdsboston.org/pdf/SDCEAApplcForm.pdf>

Scholarship and loan recipients are expected to submit a report of their activities (e.g. classes, workshops or events attended) to the SDCEA after the event. For further information, contact Vickery Trinkaus-Randall (vickery@bu.edu) or Julie Mullen (julia.mullen@gmail.com).

NOTE: Membership in the Boston Branch of the RSCDS is a condition of eligibility for support from the Boston Branch and Marianne Taylor Funds. Both Boston Branch and non-Boston Branch members are eligible for support from the Ed Rawson Fund.

BOSTON BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Boston Branch Scholarship provides assistance to Boston Branch members to attend Branch events or other Scottish Dance related educational activities, including (but not limited to) Pinewoods, the Highland Ball, and teacher training workshops.

MARIANNE TAYLOR PINEWOODS FUND

Marianne Taylor was a long-time Boston Branch teacher who encouraged dancers of all abilities throughout New England and beyond. She was an important presence at Pinewoods Camp for decades, as a teacher, dancer, and musician. The scholarship is awarded yearly to a dancer who wishes to attend Pinewoods Camp.

LOANS

Interest-free loans of up to \$500 are available to Boston Branch members for a period of six months to a year to support Scottish dance/music related projects. Please complete the application and attach a preliminary budget.

ED RAWSON FUND

One of Ed Rawson's trademarks as a Boston Branch teacher was how he enjoyed teaching the Beginners Class, encouraging and assisting newer dancers of any age. The goal of the scholarship is to reward technique and encourage the attitude and accomplishment of dancers who embody the spirit and love of dancing that Ed shared. This fund is available for attendance at Boston Branch events.

Flowers of the Forest

Nancy B. Rawson, a long-time member of the Boston Branch, died peacefully in her sleep at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA on Sunday, April 19. She was 93. Nancy was born in New York City and grew up on Central Park West, graduating from Ethical Culture Fieldston School. She attended Swarthmore College where she earned a Bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1948. It was at Swarthmore that she met her future husband, Ed Rawson, when he was assigned to tutor her in physics. Nancy and Ed married shortly after graduation, and settled eventually in Lincoln, MA.

Nancy lived in Lincoln for almost 50 years before moving to Waltham, and then to Cambridge. She worked as a computer programmer for Lincoln Labs until the late 1960s, when her love of books led her to pursue a library science degree at Simmons College. After graduating with her masters degree in 1968, she spent the majority of her career at the Wellesley Free Library in Wellesley, MA, where she worked as a reference librarian until her retirement in 1996. Nancy's lifelong passion for reading and books followed her into retirement, when, after participating in a program that enabled senior citizens to audit courses at Brandeis University, she helped to found the Brandeis Osher Lifelong Learning institute (BOLLI). In addition to serving as a member and Chair of the BOLLI Council, she taught courses at BOLLI well into her 80s.

Nancy and Ed began Scottish dancing with the Concord, MA branch in 1967, after their son and daughter started going to the children's class offered by the group. Scottish dancing became a center of their social life. Ed went on to become a certificated teacher, and he and Nancy served in several volunteer positions for the Boston, Weston, and Stow dance groups. After Ed died in 1986, Nancy continued dancing for many years and through the end of her life she maintained the treasured friendships she had made through Scottish dancing. She also was an enthusiastic supporter of Scottish music around the region.

Nancy is survived by her three children: Tom Rawson (Elena Stone) of Cambridge, MA, Dan Rawson (Joan) of Newtown, CT, and Peg Shealy (Malcolm) of Beaverdam, VA (both members of the Carolinas Branch); her eight beloved grandchildren: Isabel and Maribel Rawson-Stone; Sean, Megan, and Diana Rawson; Rebecca Shealy Houghton, Anna Shealy and Jacob Shealy; her sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Barry Galton of Wayne, NJ; and five nieces and nephews.

To receive information about a memorial to be held at a later date, please email rawson.6348@gmail.com. Charitable donations in Nancy's memory may be sent to the Heifer Project (1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202, www.heifer.org), Rosie's Place (889 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118, www.rosiesplace.org), or to the SDCEA Ed Rawson Fund (<http://rscdsboston.org/member-financial-aid.html>) [see page 14]. – *Peg Shealy*



[From the Editor: *As spring is coming soon, where I am, daffs and tulips are already gone. From the bedroom window I can see lilac in bloom. So time for the Scottish ~ May Day celebration of ...*]

Beltaine Scottish

[Source unknown - Ed.]

The festival of Beltaine, which literally means “Bel’s fire” (Bel-teinne), marks the beginning of summer and the light half of the Celtic year. Traditionally, all fires were extinguished on the eve of Beltaine, to be re-lit from the sacred ‘needfire’ kindled at dawn. The Celts were predominantly pastoral people, Beltaine was the time when the cattle were put out to their summer grazing on the higher slopes. The cattle were driven through the sacred Beltaine fires for purification. The sacred fire would also, it was believed, bring protection, good fortune and fertility to the people.

It was also the time when young Celtic warriors put their fighting skills to the test in the challenges of the Beltaine Games. With the hard work of planting accomplished, it was a time when the clans came together in celebration of the sun and to hope that the crops would grow and flourish in the months ahead.

There are numerous folk customs that have until recently taken place at this time of year throughout Britain, and which clearly show surviving traits of this ancient pagan festival. As far as I know, the last public Beltaine festival to be held on Arran was as late as 1895. The men of a certain town made a need-fire (tein-eigen) and kept it burning with sacred faggots on Beltaine eve. Local people drove their cattle through the fire. The Beltaine fires and festivals went on all over the Highlands until the mid-nineteenth century. Also, in the Shetlands dancing went on around the bonfires and it was considered lucky to jump over the fires without injury. The Shetland fires were kept going for three days.

Beltaine rites still take place at the famous Cloutie Well in Inverness-shire. This well is situated on Culloden Moor and is known by various names, such as Tobar Gorm (the Blue Well) and Tobar a’Oige (Well of Youth). Cloutie means a cloth or a rag. These clouties are tied on the surrounding trees by pilgrims to make a wish. Wells were seen by the Celts as bringers of good health. The well is visited by Highlanders on the first Sunday in May, that being dedicated to the sun. People arrive long before dawn (and originally should have been away from the well before sunrise, however, this is no longer observed). Before drinking from the well you must first walk three times ‘sunrise’ around it, and offer a silver coin. Finally you must tie a rag to an overhanging tree.

Arthur’s Seat, Edinburgh, is a traditional site of Beltaine fires, which were lit at sunrise. Many people still climb to the top of this summit to watch the sunrise on May 1st.

Growth requires not just the fire of the sun, but also moisture. The dew of Beltaine gathered before dawn was considered particularly beneficial. People who were sprinkled with May dew were assured of good health, happiness, and in the case of young women, beauty. All over Scotland young girls go out on May morn to bathe their faces in the dew. To ensure a good milk supply, dairymaids would draw a rope made from the tails of Highland cattle through the May dew grass saying “Bainne an the so shios, / bainne an te so shuas / ’nam ghogan mhor fhein” (Milk of this one down, milk of that one up, into my big pail.)

[It was said that Miss Milligan was a member of the Beltaine Society. She was keen all her life in continuing the customs and folk history of the people of Scotland. – Ed.]





Pictured: Jim and Robin Orr, Nancy and Ed Rawson
Fredericton Weekend, October, ca. 1981

Flowers of the Forest

From Peg Shealy and Tom Rawson

Dr. Robin Orr of Halifax, NS, who with her husband Jim danced for many years with the Concord group, died March 22, 2020 shortly after a tragic fall. She was 86. Robin was born in Sydney, Australia, and left at the age of 23 to pursue a master's degree in Public Health and Nutrition at Iowa State University. It was there that she met Jim, the love of her life and a post-doctoral fellow in chemistry from Scotland; together they embarked upon a life-long journey of academics and travel.

The Orrs lived first in Mexico City, then in Boston where Robin received masters and doctoral degrees from the Harvard School

of Public Health. She spent the bulk of her professional life in St. John's, Newfoundland, where she was an Associate Professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In addition, Robin was a Registered Dietician, a Fulbright Scholar, and a Recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2004. For many years she was the President of the Canadian Institute of Child Health and, in addition to numerous other awards, she was honored by the Canadian Public Health Association for her lifetime of outstanding service to the promotion of public health in Canada.

In Newfoundland, Robin and Jim danced with the St. John's Branch of the RSCDS. After retirement, they moved to Ottawa and then eventually to Halifax, NS to be closer to family. Robin is survived by her beloved husband of 62 years, Dr. James C. Orr, and her children, Andrew (Bianca Lang) and Fiona, and her grandchildren, Ian, Cameron, and Kellis Malcolm, and Benno and Sophie Orr.

Donations may be made in Robin's memory to the children's charity of your choice. Online condolences may be made at: www.Jasnowfuneralhome.com

Scottish Evening at Brooksby Village

From John Crabtree

On March 7th, a group of Scottish country dancers and musicians from the Boston Branch visited the Brooksby Village senior living community in Peabody, MA. Organized by MaryEllen Scannell and hosted by Brooksby's Scottish Heritage Club, the gathering featured informal dance performances, addresses to (and by!) the haggis, musical performances by Susie Petrov and Dirk Teide, and sharing of songs and stories about our tartans and family histories. The event was very well attended; old friendships were rekindled, and new friendships and family connections were discovered.



Pictured: (seated) Dirk Teide, Susie Petrov
(standing) Cathy Crabtree, John Crabtree, Sharon Gilmour, Leonard Webster, Emily Peterson. Laura Billmers, MaryEllen Scannell, Meyer Billmers, Alex Hall

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From the RSCDS Weekly Newsletter “Dance Scottish At Home” Issue 4

By Peter Knapman, Convenor of the Membership Services Committee

What’s behind the name: Up in the Air – RSCDS Book 20 – W. Boag. Original Tune: Sir George Clerk of Pennycuik, by Nathaniel Gow.

For this dance there is an interesting story to be found through the tune rather than the dance. Sir George Clerk of Pennycuik, composed by Nathaniel Gow, is a fine strathspey that should be familiar to most of you. But who was Sir George Clerk and where does the tune lead us? Sir George was the 6th Baronet of Pennycuik and interestingly his nephew was James Clerk Maxwell. Many of you are probably now asking, who was James Clerk Maxwell and why is he significant?

Born in 1831, James Clerk Maxwell was the single most important physicist of the 19th century. As Albert Einstein said about Maxwell, “One scientific epoch ended and another began with James Clerk Maxwell.” When asked if he stood on the shoulders of Isaac Newton, Einstein replied, “No, I stand on the shoulders of James Clerk Maxwell.”

So, what did James Clerk Maxwell do and why is he so important? ...

[This is a space filler, but we ran out of space, so go to “Dance Scottish At Home,” Issue 4, for the answer. – Asst. Ed.]