

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXVIII, Number 6
July/August 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, Winifred McGowan,
Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, plus two TBD

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Charles Liu

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Gary Apfel

Membership TBD • **Directory** TBD

Highland Ball 2021 *Chair:* Marsha Byrnes — highlandball@rscdsboston.org

Pinewoods Scottish 2021 *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

Joint 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: TBD

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

Greenland & Nashua NH, Kennebunk ME, and Chelmsford MA: TBD

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Winifred McGowan

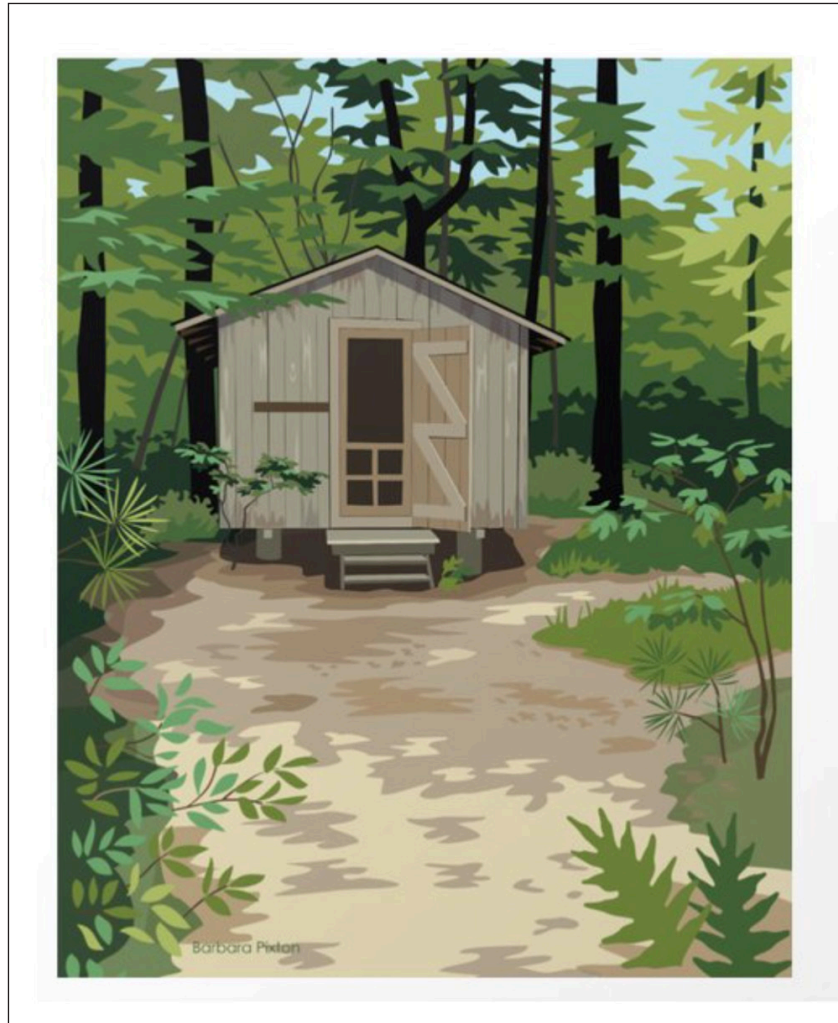
The Tartan Times — tartantimes@rscdsboston.org

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

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• Copy due date for the September/October 2020 issue is **August 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

PINEWOODS SCOTTISH SESSIONS 2020



Please Join Us!

We will be hosting an online Musicians' Concert and an online Ceilidh on the Boston Branch Scottish Pinewoods Facebook Page!
Concert is live on Saturday July 11, 8 pm
Ceilidh is live on Saturday July 18, 7 pm

ALL WELCOME!

The Pinewoods Scottish Facebook page is – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/64258751419>
(You don't need a Facebook account to enjoy the concerts.)
It is a fundraiser, so there will be info on how to donate, if you wish.

The videos will be available afterward at www.rscdsboston.org/movie-gallery.html
[Artwork by Barbara Pixton, available in many formats at society6.com/bpixton]

PINEWOODS SCOTTISH SESSIONS 2021

The teachers and musicians who were booked for 2020 will be present for 2021.
Please look for the applications to be available February 1st, 2021.

Online Scottish Dance Classes Hosted by the Cambridge and Salem Classes

Alex Bowers and Karen Sollins, On behalf of Cambridge and Salem Classes

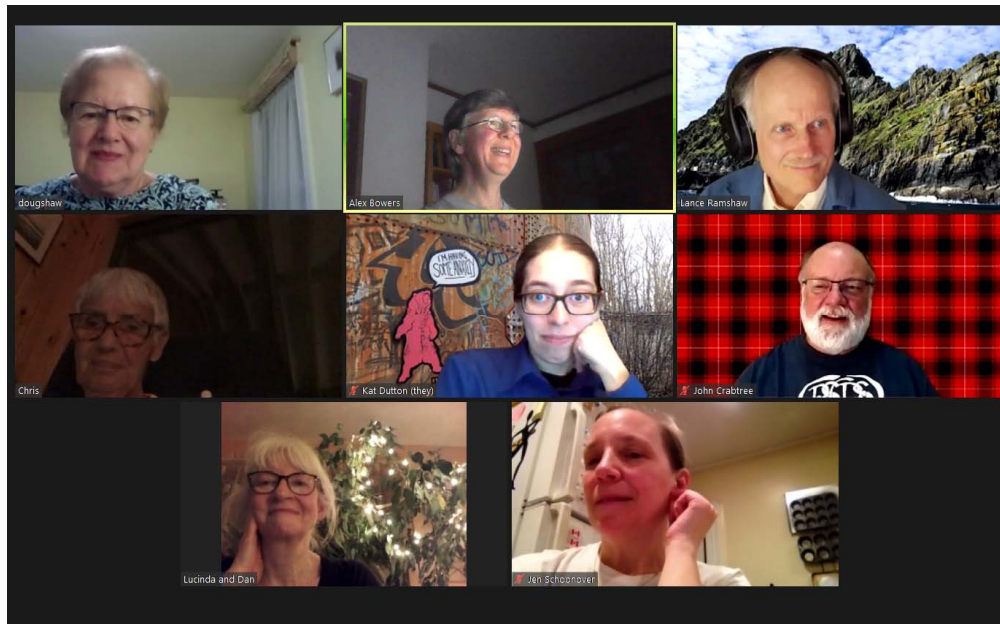
In May the Cambridge and Salem classes initiated a series of online dance classes on Monday evenings. The classes have brought together dancers from not only the Boston area but also far beyond, including dancers from across the US, Europe and even New Zealand. We're very pleased to have had such a great response to the classes and that they have provided an opportunity for dancers to share their love of dance and music, and to connect in this time of social distancing.

Robert McOwen taught our first class on May 4th when he debuted his new dance "Stay at home". Susie Petrov led our second class on May 15th when she took us on a fascinating journey through early 20th century recordings of music for Scottish Country Dancing. On June 15th, Jen Schoonover led a wonderful class at which she presented a new step dance choreographed to the Martlett Set from the Katie McNally Trio's recent album Boston States. If you missed the classes, the videos have been posted on the Boston Branch Movie page. <http://rscdsboston.org/movie-gallery.html>

A big thank you to everybody who has made the classes possible and to everybody who has participated! We do hope you will join us for some of our upcoming classes! Details are posted on the Boston Branch Calendar and email notifications are sent to the Boston Branch members' list:

- Monday June 29th: Cambridge Class Virtual End of Season Party and Ice Cream Social
- Monday 13th July: An evening of social dancing led by the Albany class and next of kin
- Monday 27th July: An evening of reminiscences led by Jeanetta McColl who share personal memories of connections to things Scottish, including Scottish Dancing, from the end of WWII to the end of 1959.
- Monday 10th August: Online Scottish Dance Class led by Patti Tillotson
- Monday 24th August: Online Scottish Dance Class led by Howard Lasnik

Please stay safe and healthy, and we look forward to "seeing" you online soon!



Cambridge Class Committee Meeting 26th May 2020

Judy, Alex, Lance, Chris, Kat, John, Lucinda, Jen

Online Scottish Country Dance Classes!

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 July 1st, and the next class will be July 8th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members but anyone is welcome to tune in, so if you don't get the notification, find a buddy who will send it to you.

Late-breaking news: We have received word that Robert McOwen will be teaching the RSCDS "Dance Scottish At Home" class on Wednesday, July 22nd at 2 pm EDT. The link will be emailed to all RSCDS members on that morning.

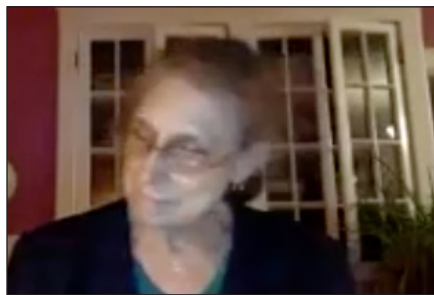
Dance Scottish at Home

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society continues to send a weekly newsletter to all members worldwide each Friday. There are lots of fun features, and information on each upcoming weekly online class, and it's a great way of connecting with our international family.

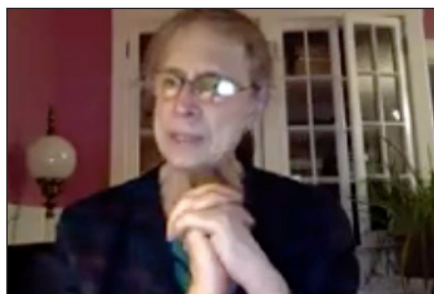
Cambridge/Salem Online Classes, May & June



Robert



Susie



Jen

The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our

Fall Dance Party

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Topsham Grange Hall - Topsham, Maine



Potluck Supper 5:45 PM

\$1 & a Pot

Dance 7:00 PM

Admission

\$10 for RSCDS members

\$12 for non-RSCDS members

Music by Boston Hospitality

With Beth Murray, Piano
& Ed Pearlman, Fiddle

Opening Waltz

New Year Jig	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 51
The Ambassadors' Reel	32R 3C	Mayr: Vienna Book
Midsummer Common	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 49
The Grumpy Gentleman	32J 3C	Diamond Jubilee Book
Back to the Fireside	32R 3C	RSCDS Book 38
Linnea's Strathspey	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 47
Farewell to Balfour Road	96J 5C set	RSCDS Book 52
J.B. Milne	32R 3C	Foss: Angus Fitchet

Intermission



Gay Gordons



Mole's Frolic	32J 3C	Dunsmuir Dances
Irish Rover	32R 3C	Cosh: 22 Scottish Country Dances
Invercauld's Reel	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 11
The Hazel Tree	32J 3C	Drewry: Brodie Book
Slytherin House	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 52
Mary Erskine	32H 3C	Goldring: Second Book Graded SCD
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	32S 3C	RSCDS Leaflet
Mairi's Wedding	40R 3C	Cosh: 22 Scottish Country Dances

Final Waltz

For further information contact:

Patti Tillotson

Cell (207) 841-3232 pstillotson@gmail.com



Directions: From the South: At Portland take I-295N to Exit 31. Take Rte 196 E to Rte 201S. Turn Right.

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

July

- 5-11 Blue Ridge Scottish Dance School — postponed to 2021
6-10 *** Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra — cancelled
11 & 18 *** Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, p3 — online concert & ceilidh
26 - Aug 2 TAC Summer School, p11 — postponed to 2021
27-31 RSCDS - A Summer Celebration, p11

August

- 17-21 * Boston States Scottish Fiddle Camp, p10 — full online schedule
28-30 *** New Hampshire Highlands — cancelled

September

- 18-20 * New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain — cancelled

October

- 17 ** Brunswick, Maine Dance Party, p6
24 ** Fairlee Autumn Social
24 New York Branch Jeannie Carmichael Ball, p11
30-1 San Francisco Branch Weekend at Asilomar, p11

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:

Scottish Ceilidh — November 14, 2020
Pinewoods Benefit Ball — December, 2020



Atholl Brose

Put a pound of oatmeal into a bowl, and cover generously with water, and let it steep overnight. Next day strain the liquid (bree) through a sieve, getting the maximum of the bree by pressing with a wooden spoon. Mix four sherry-glasses of the bree with four dessert-spoonfuls of raw honey. Put this mixture into a quart bottle and fill up to the top with whisky. Serve and enjoy.

[I suspect that the above is Bill Clement's own recipe! – Ed.]



Notes from the Executive Committee

Greetings from the Executive Committee! We hope that you are safe and well and that you are staying positive!

We all seem to have adjusted well to Zoom meetings, even holding the Annual General Meeting utilizing this platform. Thank you to everyone who logged on and attended!

Yes, it is summer, and we are all missing Pinewoods, so we hope you tune into the Pinewoods Concert on July 11 and the Pinewoods Ceilidh on July 18. They promise to be great events!

Headquarters is still offering an online class every Wednesday at 1900 their time, plus the Cambridge, Salem, and Brunswick classes are using Zoom. Please check the Branch website for information for participating and videos of past classes.

The Executive Committee held its meeting on June 24, but we still have two open at-large positions to fill, plus a position on the Nominating Committee and new membership chairs. Hopefully, these vacancies will be filled by the August meeting.

The Executive Committee would like to express its sincere gratitude to Sharon Gilmour and John Salyards for serving on the committee for the last three years. Your insight and contributions were greatly appreciated. Thank you so very much! – *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary*

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, except the online classes offered by the Brunswick, Albany, and Cambridge/Salem Classes. 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*

Boston Branch Website Movie Gallery

The webmasters have added an exciting new unit to the website. Videos of various Branch and class events are being posted here - www.rscdsboston.org/movie-gallery.html. Alternatively, go to rscdsboston.org, pull down the “About the Branch” menu, and click on “Movie Gallery,” just below the “Photo Gallery.” As of today, here are the offerings, with more to come very soon:

Index of Cambridge/Salem Class videos

June 15, 2020 Class -- “Take a step with Jen”

May 18, 2020 Class -- Susie Petrov, “Scottish Dance Music in early 20th Century Recordings”

May 4, 2020 Class -- Robert McOwen, “Dance to the music (with furniture)”

Index of other Boston Branch videos

June 29, 2020 -- Scottish Suite, featuring musicians who perform at various

May 9, 2020 -- Boston Branch RSCDS Musician Benefit Concert

If you'd like to sign up for the website mailing list, to be notified as news and events appear on the website, go to rscdsboston.org/subscribe.html

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 Lavalley-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:

The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club is sort of taking its usual summer break for July & August, except for the following; go to bsfc.org for up-to-date info on a changing calendar.

- There will be one more Wednesday session this summer led by Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman, date TBA. Go to bsfc.org for info. Open to all.
- There are three more Monday afternoon fiddle workshops in the series led by far-awa fiddlers this summer. All Boston Scottish Fiddle Club members will get the Zoom invitation the evening before. The next one will be July 20th with Troy MacGillivray; thereafter the dates are August 3rd and 31st, teachers TBA.

Katie McNally's new Boston States Fiddle Camp has become an Online Festival. The slightly-revised dates are August 17-21. Fiddle classes each morning, other instruments in the afternoon, serendipity events, cocktails with Hanneke Cassel, and sessions each evening, capped by a student ceilidh and a gala concert. Info: 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.

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 "fingal cromar" on [facebook.com](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/pg/TunesInTheHoose/videos) - features videos of many socially-distant ensembles in Scotland.

Summer BCMFest - Boston Celtic Music Festival - Live Streaming 4 ensembles on Sunday July 5: Leland Martin Trio with Rachel Reeds and Eamon Sefton at 7:00, Laura Federson & Friends at 7:30, Jenna Moynihan & Màiri Chaimbeul at 8:00, and Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman at 8:30. Info at www.passim.org/live-music/festivals_summer_series/summer-bcmfest/

Mike Block String Camp Faculty Concert - Wednesday July 8, 8 pm (EDT) LIVESTREAM! with Mike Block, Natalie MacMaster, Natalie Haas, Rushad Eggleston, Casey Driessen, and more - www.facebook.com/MikeBlockStringCamp

Hanneke Cassel's online lessons - this is a great time to learn and polish some tunes. These fiddle lessons 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](https://www.fiddlevideo.com/category/scottish-celtic-fiddle-lessons)

Alasdair Fraser's Sierra Fiddle Camp - became reconceived as the all-online streaming "Heart of Sierra," a new and exciting online camp which took place from June 20-27. The groundbreaking socially-distanced finale concert can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Alasdair-Frasers-Sierra-Fiddle-Camp-104284154655745/videos/3894344000637624. The 37th annual **Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School** has been cancelled due to the current pandemic. We hope to see you in 2021. Registration for VOM 2021 (Aug. 27-Sept. 4) will open in mid-December 2020.

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

Posted April 9, 2020 ~ Toronto Branch ~ All Toronto Branch events and classes 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 ~ in Calgary, Alberta, presented by the Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada) – postponed to 2021. Info: tac-rscds.org.

Week of September 27 - October 4, 2020 ~ 45th Australian Winter School, hosted by the Western Australia Branch. — Postponed to 2022 (I think 2021 will be running, but in a location in eastern Australia). For latest info, check <https://winterschool2020.com>

Saturday October 24, 2020 ~ Jeannie Carmichael Ball, presented by the New York Branch. We have a reservation for October 24th at the Poppenhusen Institute in Queens, N.Y.; we will update the status during the third week in August, and we will make an announcement about then. See 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>



Note from the RSCDS

We hope *Dance Scottish At Home* is keeping our members and fellow dancers and musicians entertained as we cope with the cancellation of so many Scottish dance events over the summer, not just Summer School at St. Andrews, but local dances and international schools all over the world. Even Summer School in New Zealand in December and January has been postponed.

We cannot re-create the magic of a Summer School online, but we are hosting a virtual celebration of Scottish dance from 27 – 31 July. Each evening there will be classes, music, talks, pictures and the chance to ‘chat’ with friends as we share some of the enjoyment of Scottish dancing. The finale to the week, on Saturday 1 August, will be a dance playlist chosen by our members.

Just like our weekly online classes, this Celebration will feature internationally renowned teachers. There will also be special contributions from Teachers' Association (Canada), New Zealand Branch and other countries where RSCDS schools should have been happening. In addition, a series of music workshops will be running throughout the week and there will be activities for children on our website.

More information will be released in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on the event listing and your Dance Scottish At Home eNewsletters for updates. You can prepare for the event by purchasing a limited-edition Dance Scottish – A Summer Celebration t-shirt or tote bag (available next week). We would love to see pictures of you sporting these items wherever you are in the world! Arrange a virtual or ‘bubble’ get together with your dancing friends that week and make *A Summer Celebration* a real social occasion.

[Late-breaking news: We have received word that the Boston Branch / Pinewoods Scottish Sessions will be included in A Summer Celebration. Look for specific information on this front (and start going through your old Pinewoods photos!). – Asst. Ed.]

From: Tartan Times Circulation
c/o John Crabtree
9 Birchwood Lane
Lincoln, MA 01773-4907

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The Flowers of Edinburgh – Phew!

by Norm McCallum

“Gawd what a smell!” “Quick light the fires, close the door and windows.”

The Flowers of Edinburgh, a 32 bar reel for 3 couples, has the distinction of being published in Book 1, and I believe dates to the 1700s. I have heard several different explanations for the title: “The Flowers being the ladies of Edinburgh, or just flowers.” However the real meaning was revealed to me while reading W.H. Murray’s *Rob Roy* in which he describes a visit Rob made to Edinburgh with his father in 1700.

Rob found that the floors of their lodging house had wooden floors caked with dirt, unlike their home in Balquidder which was swept out daily. The whole house stank. The bedrooms and kitchen had a close-stool, which is a chamber pot in a wooden box; this made it necessary to keep windows and doors open as much as possible.

But what happens to all these full chamber pots? Throughout Edinburgh at 10 o’clock in the evening a drumbeat with cries of “Gardyloo!” would signal that all the chamber pots were about to be emptied out the windows onto the streets below. Shortly thereafter, from the streets, a stench called “The Flowers of Edinburgh” rose up. Doors were hurriedly closed, paper was burned and scattered on the floors to mask the smell. (Gardyloo is from the French “gardez l’eau which means “watch the water.”)