

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXVIII, Number 5
September/October 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:* Debbie Jarvis

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Gary Apfel

Membership & Directory Peter & Mary Olszowka

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

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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

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• Copy due date for the November/December 2020 issue is **October 10th** •
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR WINTER AND SPRING EVENTS
(including cancellation / postponement / online / wait-and-see information),
AND DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR.

The Brunswick Maine Dance Class

Cordially invites you to join us for our



ZOOM Fall Dance Party

Saturday, October 17, 2020 7:00 PM



With Beth Murray, Piano & Ed Pearlman, Fiddle

New Year Jig	32J 3C	RSCDS Book 5 1
Midsummer Common	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 49
The Ambassadors' Reel	32R 3C	Mayr: Vienna Book
Invercauld's Reel	32S 3C	RSCDS Book 1 1
J.B. Milne	32R 3C	Foss: Angus Fitchet
Mole's Frolic	32J 3C	Dunsmuir Dances
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



ZOOM Link Available Soon on the Boston Branch Website <http://www.rscdsboston.org/>

For further information contact Patti Tillotson Cell (207) 841-3232 pstillotson@gmail.com

Note from the Assistant Editor: All are welcome! The Brunswick party will feature live music by Ed and Beth. Each dance will be talked/walked through, then danced 2x through. There will be an opportunity to donate to the event if you wish.



The New Hampshire Highland Games

The "Loon Mountain" Games will have a virtual presence this year, September 19-20, 2020. EUSPBA-sanctioned piping and drumming competitions will be held. An interesting new event called "Rocks, Hammers and Trees" will take place outside the Governor Adams Lodge on site - bring your own chairs. And the Games is starting its own online shopping site featuring the New Hampshire Tartan. For all the info, go to nhscot.org.

Scottish Ceilidh

The Scottish Ceilidh that the Boston Branch held jointly for two years with Highland Dance Boston and last year also with the Scots' Charitable Society will not be held this coming November due to the dangers of CoVid-19. We hope to return again in 2021. (The Scots' Charitable Society may decide to hold its annual meeting remotely in November.)

Online Scottish Country Dancing!

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 and guest teachers. 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 international locations. The previous class was July 1st, and the next class will be July 8th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members (if you're a member of the Branch, you're a member of the RSCDS) but anyone is welcome to tune in, so if you don't get the notification, find a buddy who will send it to you.

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.

Boston Branch and Cambridge/Salem Videos

Most of the Boston Branch and Cambridge Class online activities are being recorded and are available on the Boston Branch website - rscdsboston.org —> About the Branch —> Movie Gallery. Here's what's available at the moment:

Cambridge/Salem Class videos

August 10, 2020 Class – Patti Tillotson, “A tribute to Mary Brandon”

July 27, 2020 Class – Jeanetta McColl and Jen Schoonover, “Reflections on Scottish Connections”

July 13, 2020 Class – “Dancing with the Albany Class”

June 29, 2020 Class – “Cambridge Class End of Season Party and Ice Cream Social”

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

May 18, 2020 Class – Susie Petrov, “Scottish Dance Music - A journey through early 20th century recordings”

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

Boston Branch videos

July 30, 2020 – Pinewoods narrated slide show

July 30, 2020 – Call of the Pipes lesson (Jen Schoonover)

July 18, 2020 – Pinewoods Virtual Ceilidh

July 11, 2020 – Pinewoods Staff concert

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

May 9, 2020 – Boston Branch RSCDS Musician Benefit Concert

Cambridge Class Online SCD Classes Every Monday in September and October!

From Alex Bowers, on behalf of Cambridge Class Committee

Cambridge Class Committee invites you to a series of online Scottish Country Dance classes that we will be hosting every Monday starting on Labor Day Monday 7th September.

On the first Monday of the month we will have a “Focus on Form” class that encourages gentle strengthening and stretching of our feet, legs, core, and arms as a basis for practicing energized, healthy dancing. On the second and third Mondays we will have classes that focus on teaching of Scottish Country Dances. And, on the final Monday of the month, we will feature our traditional Cambridge Class end-of-the-month social hour of dancing (without teaching) with live music.

Everybody is welcome!

- Class starts at 8pm prompt.
- Zoom link for class: will be provided in an email sent to the Cambridge Class and Boston Branch email lists.
- Any questions: please email cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org

Schedule for September and October:

- 9/7: Focus on Form class led by Jen Schoonover
9/14: Scottish Country Dance class led by Beth Birdsall
9/21: Scottish Country Dance class led by Beth Birdsall
9/28: Social Hour Scottish Country Dancing led by Beth Birdsall with live music by Elizabeth Anderson
10/5: Focus on Form class led by Andy Taylor Blenis
10/12: Scottish Country Dance class led by Kat Dutton
10/19: Scottish Country Dance class led by Kat Dutton
10/26: Social Hour Scottish Country Dancing led by Kat Dutton with live music



Capital District (Albany, N.Y.) Online Fall Frolic

SAVE THE DATE! Please join the Capital District (Albany) class of the Boston Branch for its annual Fall Frolic weekend. Saturday evening will feature an online dance party. More details will be posted soon on the Branch website, or phone Lois New at 518-852-5274. Go to:

rscdsboston.org → *Events* → *Calendar* → *scroll down to Saturday October 31st and Sunday November 1st*

Saturday October 31 at 2:00 pm — Dance Workshops

Saturday October 31 at 7:30 pm — Dance Party

Sunday November 1 at 11:00 am — Brunch with Dancing

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

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

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 winterschool2020.com

Saturday October 24, 2020 ~ Jeannie Carmichael Ball, presented by the New York Branch, has been postponed to October 23, 2021, at the Poppenhusen Institute in Queens. The band will be Tullochgorum. In lieu of this year's ball, there will be a concert performed by members of Tullochgorum. See www.rscdsnewyork.org, and the announcement below.

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>



R S C D S N E W Y O R K

**Announces the JEANNIE CARMICHAEL
Non-Dancing Ball**

On Saturday, October 24th, 2020 at 3:00 pm

**A virtual gala music event
featuring the members of
Tullochgorum
celebrating the dancing life of
JEANNIE CARMICHAEL
who played a key part in founding the
RSCDS Branches in Boston and New York**

**For personal notice please send your email address to
contact@rscdsnewyork.org**

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

September

- 19 * Solo Piano Concert, Jacqueline Schwab, p10
19-20 * New Hampshire Virtual Highland Games at Loon Mountain, p3
20 *** Boston Branch Online Dance & Music Workshop, p8
30 *** Boston Branch 2019-20 memberships expire

October

- 1 *** Boston Branch RSCDS New/Renewing Memberships Due, p15
17 ** Brunswick, Maine Zoom Dance Party, p6
18 *** Boston Branch Online Dance Workshop, p8
24 ** Fairlee Autumn Social — cancelled
24 New York Branch Jeannie Carmichael Non-Dancing Ball, p6
30-1 *** Capital District (Albany) Fall Frolic - Workshop, Dance Party & Brunch with Dancing, p5
30-1 San Francisco Branch Weekend at Asilomar, p6

November

- 5-8 * Fiddle Hell, p10
9 *** Boston Branch RSCDS Annual General Meeting, see below
14 ** Scottish Ceilidh — cancelled, p3
15 *** Boston Branch Online Dance & Music Workshop, p8

December

- 13 ** Boston Branch Online Dance & Music Workshop, p8
— *** Pinewoods Benefit Ball

Save the Date

Weekend of May 7-9, 2021: Boston Highland Ball Weekend

Code Breaker: *** an event sponsored by the Boston Branch, ** other SD events within the Branch area, and * of possible interest (perhaps a concert) within the Branch geographic area. The purpose of this Calendar is 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.



Boston Branch Memberships

The Boston Branch of the RSCDS Membership Year begins **October 1st** each year. Therefore, our memberships are expiring as of September 30, less than 30 days from now. The Branch email listing will be revised on October 1st based on New & Renewing memberships received by that date, and the Membership Directory will be revised based on memberships received by November 9th. See the form on page 15, or download it from the Branch website. Go to -

rscdsboston.org —> *Member Resources* —> *Membership* —> *Join Now*

Boston Branch RSCDS Semi-Annual General Meeting (SAGM)

The semi-annual general meeting of the membership of the Boston Branch will take place online, via Zoom. Zoom meeting information will be emailed/mailed to all current members as of November 9th.

Monday November 9, 2020 • 7:45pm – 9:15pm • Online via Zoom

Boston Branch Musician & Band Roster

The Teaching & Music Committee of the Boston Branch RSCDS maintains a roster of class and event musicians and bands, for the convenience of producers of Branch and Class events. Elizabeth Anderson is in the process of refining the list for 2020-21. Please contact the TMC if you would like more information about the listing.

Notes from the Executive Committee

Greetings from the Executive Committee and welcome to September! Normally, we would be starting a new dancing year with lots of events taking place. As things are changing on a daily basis, we are just amazed at how creative and resilient you have been. Keep up the good work!

The Executive Committee would like to thank MaryEllen and John Scannell for the wonderful job they have done as Membership chairs for so many years. You were amazing! At the same time, we would like to welcome Peter and Mary Olszowka as the new Membership co-chairs! Thank you for stepping forward to fill such a vital role!

Please note that the Executive Committee still has two open at-large positions to fill, plus a position on the Nominating Committee. Several suggestions have been made, so please consider one of these roles if you get a call!

That's all for now! Let's hope we can get back to some semblance of normal in the near future. –
Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. There have been no recent changes to the Class Listing, though I believe all Boston Branch classes and events are presently in abeyance, til further notice, except for 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*

Note from the Teaching & Music Committee

Boston Monthly Online Workshops

The Teaching and Music Committee is organizing a series of monthly virtual Scottish Country Dancing workshops and activities to promote Scottish Country dancing and music during this time of social distancing. These events will be held in the afternoon of the third Sunday of the month at 3 PM. On September 20, Jen Schoonover will lead an online Little Hooley, a Family Party with Scottish dancing and singing for everyone big and small. On October 18, Susie Petrov will lead a workshop for dancers, teachers and musicians on the topic of “Parties with musicians are way more fun.”

More details will be made available on the Branch Calendar and through email announcements to the Branch Members email list. Stay tuned. – *Charles Liu*



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

From New England:

The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club sends a note: time to renew your membership! Go to bsfc.org.

- Sunday September 13, 2020, 2 pm: Annual General Meeting via Zoom. Afterward, session to be led by Barbara McOwen.
- Mostly 1st Sunday of the month, 2 pm: Workshops with mostly-local people, via Zoom. October 4th - Wendy MacIsaac. November 1 - Ed Pearlman. December 6 - Laura Risk.
- Mostly 3rd Mondays: workshops led by mostly-out-of-town fiddlers, via Zoom. September 21 - Rua MacMillan. October 19 - Anita MacDonald. November 16 - Anna Wendy Stevenson.
- 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30: sessions, mostly led by Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman, via Facebook.

The Strathspey & Reel Society of New Hampshire: Currently in abeyance; go to srsnh.org for information on upcoming activities.

Fiddle Hell, presented by Dave Reiner and Family, will roar into an online version on the weekend of November 5-8, 2020, with 160 workshops, 35 concerts and 34 sessions. Fiddle, cello, mandolin, banjo, guitar & singing; other instruments, listeners and dancers also welcome; Bluegrass, Cajun, Cape Breton, Electric, French Canadian (Québécois), Gypsy Jazz, Irish, Jazz, Klezmer, New Acoustic, New England, Old-Time Southern, Scandinavian, Scottish, Swing, Western Swing, and other styles; online access to all events available for 3 months. Go to fiddlehell.org for the info.

Jacqueline Schwab presents live from Cape Cod - "Building Bridges - vintage music from Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela and Mexico – beautiful classical and folk dance music I've long loved. Spurred on by "the wall" and by the shimmering bridge in Disney/Pixar's touching movie Coco." Saturday September 19, 3 pm. Free Zoom admission, tip jar available. Info: kmacdonald@clamsnet.org

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

From Scotland:

RSCDS Music Director Ian Muir is presenting a live weekly podcast - 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](https://www.facebook.com) and scroll down.

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 - "Live at 5" (which is 12 noon in Boston) - go to his Facebook page (it's Bruce MacGregor of Bogbain Farm) and scroll down.

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.



Flowers of the Forest — Sally Dee

by Evelyn Murray

Here are a few thoughts and remembrances of a long-time Scottish dancing friend. I shall no doubt have left out some very important items. The solution for that is for anyone who would like to add their memories to write them in an email and send your memories or comments to Barbara and me, for inclusion in the next issue. We would love to have them.



Peter Tandy and Sally at Cardigan, February 2005

formation of the Salem class, member of the demonstration team, recipient of the prestigious RSCDS Scroll Award, centre of fun and highjinks at Pinewoods, encourager of newer dancers to join in and participate, member of several committees, member of the Executive Committee, providing hospitably for dancers from afar for the Highland Ball Weekend, etc.

Sally learned how to make kilts and a number of her kilts will be on the dance floor at any Branch event. She also designed the Wee Bluets tartan for the Salem class. She and Peter travelled to Scotland several times. She encouraged MaryEllen Scannell to teach and take her preliminary certificate so that she could help with the class.

My first recollection of Sally is the time that the Ball Brunch was held in her home before she split with her husband. After she split with him she moved to Exeter Street in Salem which is where most of us will remember her. She loved her garden and also her dogs. After her first one died she thereafter took on giving older rescued dogs of the breed a safe home for their retirement. At class the dog would often lie on the stage watching the activities. The dogs seemed to enjoy the dancing and music and were an inclusive part of Sally's life.

The photos that Barbara has put together are much better than my words. When she retired from the Scottish dancing she left a hole in the Branch's activities, Sally was a person who gave more than she took from life.

Sally passed away this summer. For a number of years she had been living in a Care Home in Vermont, so newer members to the Branch would not necessarily know her. The best way I can describe Sally is by repeating from the musical, that she was the "Hostess with the Mostest." Once she arrived on the scene she got involved with whatever was going on. If a dance party or a dance weekend was on the calendar, she would pack people into her bus (later car) and off she and her passengers would go to join in the fun and dancing. Or she was offering hospitality for dancers from other places to join in the events in Boston or Salem. This would be followed by an after party, of course.

Her many contributions include the



**Peter & Sally with MaryEllen Scannell
with the Wee Bluet Tartan at the Branch November
Concert, Lexington, 2006**

Blair Castle Eightsome Reel

by Margaret G. Brander

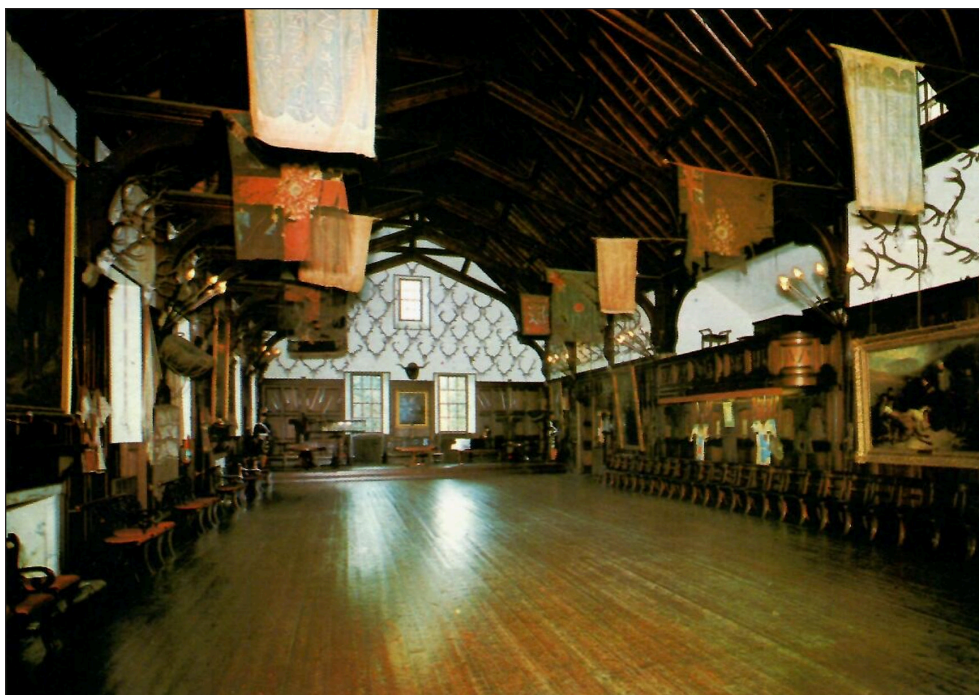
Research into many subjects and particularly Scottish dancing has been a long-time pursuit, and the discovery of the printed copy the Blair Atholl Eightsome Reel in an Aberdeen library was one of the exciting highlights.

The Eightsome Reel was already known to have evolved at Blair Castle during an Atholl Gathering in the 1870's and danced there for the first time, but the knowledge that it had been entitled the Blair Atholl Eightsome Reel and dedicated to the Atholl Highlanders provided some new special information.

The name of Helen, Lady Forbes, on the title page engendered further research, and great interest was aroused when it was discovered that she was the second daughter of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe of that Ilk (7th Bart.) and married to Sir Charles Forbes of Newe. Lord Frederic Hamilton's memoirs state that "she was the most perfect example of classical beauty I have ever seen."

The eight daughters of Sir Thomas were regarded as celebrated Victorian beauties, Helen's elder sister, Louisa, becoming the wife of the 7th Duke of Atholl (the parents of Lord James Stewart Murray, 9th Duke of Atholl, who was an early President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society). Another sister, Blanche, married Charles Murray of Taymount, a grandson of the 3rd Earl of Mansfield (whose descendant was also a past President of the RSCDS).

One may deduce that this young gathering at Blair Castle when the afore-mentioned were all in their twenties or early thirties, was a happy one, enjoying the music and fun of the dances. With Lord Dunmore, this house party selected some of the figures of the Eightsome Reel from the popular round reels of the time, and with adaptations gave us this worldwide best-known Scottish dance.



The piper is Pipe Sergeant William Clement, and the other photo is of the ballroom at Blair Castle. In 1986 Bill organised a ball in this ballroom to celebrate where the Eightsome Reel was first performed back in 1870. – Evelyn Murray

[The following is a copy of the directions as published in the original copy. So the variety of capitals etc is copying what was in the original. - Ed.]

The Eightsome Reel is Danced Thus,

Four Couples form a Square as in a Quadrille

Part 1st

All join hands, round to left (4 bars) back to the right (4 bars)
Ladies cross right hands in centre keeping hold of their partner
with the left hand, and dance around to left (4 bars)
Each couple swing round, and gentlemen cross left hands in
centre still keeping hold of their partner with right hand,
and dance back to places (4 bars)
All "Set to Partners" (4 bars) turn partners (4 bars)
Grand Chain all round (16 bars)

Part 2nd

First Lady in centre - The rest join hands round to the left (4 bars)
back to right (4 bars)
First Lady "Set to Partner" (2 bars) and turn partner (2 bars)
Set to opposite gentleman (2 bars) and turn (2 bars)
First Lady and both gentlemen dance a reel of three and Gentle-
men return to places - (8 bars)
First Lady remain in the centre and the others join hands round to
the left (4 bars) back to the right (4 bars)
"Set" to side gentleman (2 bars) and turn (2 bar)
"Set" to opposite (side) gentleman (2 bars) and turn (2 bars)
Reel of three, as before, and all return to places (8 bars)

The same Figure is repeated by the other 3 ladies in turn.

Part 3rd

First gentleman in centre and th others join hands and dance
around etc and the same Figure as the Ladies danced
in Part 2nd is repeated by the 4 gentlemen in turn.

4th & Last Part

Is danced the same as 1st Part.

Note: In "Setting to Partners" the ordinary reel steps are danced

The following item was found in a copy of 1958 New Zealand *Scottish Country Dancer*. This is the annual publication of the RSCDS Branch for New Zealand. It is so appropriate to today's situation of lockdowns and social distancing that we are also dancing with the furniture. — *Ed.*

The Kitchen Chair

A Song by Dr. Thompson of Cambridge, NZ

My wife and I live in the back country
And it is seldom any folk we see
We both like to have a reel and a dance
And we do it when we get the chance.

You Folks can learn a thing or two
Watching what the chairs can do
They stand up straight, they keep in line
They never skliff, man, they're just fine.

Ha Ha Ha, He he he
Two can't do a reel of three
We make do with what is there
And dance around with the kitchen chair.

Ha ha ha, He he he
You canna' take a rest on a lasses knee
If you're pecking awa', the answer's there
You can aye tak a breather on a kitchen chair.

Now whiles we feel we'd like a set
And other six we canna get
We're no fussy so wha cares
We have a set with the kitchen chairs.

In Dunedin and Wellington you will find
They like to dance with the parlour kind
In Christchurch they're superior there
They'll only dance with the drawing room chair.

Ha ha ha, Ho ho ho
Up and down the floor we go
Looking through the window folk might stare
To see us dance with the kitchen chair.

Ha ha ha, the wife and me
Are plain old folk as you can see
We're no fussy, we don't care
And we'll cry "Hurrah for the kitchen chair".



An Alternative View

Excerpt from A Complete Guide to Scottish Country Dancing by Allie Anderson and John M. Duthie, originally published in 1930

Scottish Country Dances, like all true Folk Dances, are a rhythmic expression of the spirit of the people. They are symbolic of ancient customs and traditions. They are wedded to genuine old folk-tunes having the true Scottish lilt. To preserve them, to master them in every detail, and to dance them joyfully is not only giving a lasting source of pleasure to ourselves but helping to rebuild Scottish National life by restoring to popularity our splendid native heritage of folk-dance and music.

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch

Membership year: **October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021**

Branch class status and directory listing are based on applications received by **Nov. 15, 2020**.
Please fill out the form below legibly (even if your information has not changed from the previous year)!

	Member #1	Member #2
Name
Primary phone
Secondary phone
Email
Pronoun (he, she, they, etc.)
Are you:	<input type="checkbox"/> an RSCDS teacher? <input type="checkbox"/> under 25?	<input type="checkbox"/> an RSCDS teacher? <input type="checkbox"/> under 25?
Street address	
City, state, ZIP	

	single	couple (same address)	
BASIC	<input type="checkbox"/> \$41	<input type="checkbox"/> \$69	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$</div> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">TOTAL</div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 10px;"><i>(NOTE: Rates are temporarily reduced for 2020-21 due to the pandemic.)</i></p>
SUSTAINING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	
BENEFACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$170	
Student/limited income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$26	<input type="checkbox"/> \$52	
Youth (0-17)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$38	
Associate*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	
Additional Boston Branch donation: \$			

* Associate members must be full members of another branch:

Which branch class(es) do you attend regularly?

You support the branch classes you attend by becoming a member. Branch classes with at least 4 members are eligible for branch insurance coverage; branch classes with at least 8 members are eligible for music subsidies for events.

Check if you would like hard copies of branch communications (electronic only is the default):

- Branch business (ballots, etc.) Tartan Times (add \$10 to total above for postage)

Check if you would like to volunteer to help out with any of these events:

- Boston Highland Ball annual ceilidh / concert Pinewoods Benefit Ball
 Pinewoods ESCape Pinewoods Scottish Sessions New Hampshire Highlands

Mail your application and a check made out to **RSCDS Boston Branch**, payable in US funds, to:

RSCDS Boston Membership
 c/o Peter and Mary Olszowka
 15 Sartwell Ave.
 Somerville, MA 02144

Email questions to membership@rscdsboston.org
 You can also apply online at <http://rscdsboston.org/member-membership.html>

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

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Dancing During “These Times”

by Robert McOwen

The advent of CoVid-19 has had an existential impact on music, song, and dance events. In early July, I attended an online Web Chat that was organized by the Country Dance and Song Society on the topics “How can we keep our communities safe in a pandemic? When can we dance and sing in the same place again? What does it mean to be a dance/music/song organizer when we can’t be together?”

There were over 400 participants, mostly from North America, and the moderators included a family physician, an epidemiologist/contact tracer, a dance organizer, several musicians, and a singer. There was lots of information about how the virus is transmitted (most of which is familiar by now) and many different perspectives; but all reach the same conclusion: It is not going to be safe to resume our traditional dance and music events for quite a while!

However, it was interesting how many of them also stressed it is important to keep engaging with our community, reinventing our activities, and preparing for an eventual, joyful reunion. So, even if our music and dance activities are not as satisfying as they are in person, it is important to keep doing as much as we can to keep the flame alive!