

# The Tartan Times

*Volume LXVIII, Number 6  
November/December 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:* Bill Card, Karen Gansz, Winifred McGowan,  
Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, plus one TBD

**Teaching & Music Committee** *Chair:* Debbie Jarvis

**Nominating Committee** *Chair:* Gary Apfel

**Membership & Directory** Peter & Mary Olszowka — membership@rscdsboston.org

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

**Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 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** (cancelled) MaryEllen Scannell

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

**NH Highlands** *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](http://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](mailto:tartantimes@rscdsboston.org)**

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• Copy due date for the January/February 2021 issue is **December 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.

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CANADIAN AMERICAN  
CLUB OF WATERTOWN, MA  
PRESENTS

# 2020 FUND- RAISER GALA



NOVEMBER 15 at 2:00 pm  
Online and featuring

**WENDY MACISAAC  
ED PEARLMAN  
KATIE MCNALLY  
LAURA RISK  
ADRIENNE HOWARD  
AND MANY MORE**

[www.facebook.com/canadianamericanclub](https://www.facebook.com/canadianamericanclub)  
[https://youtu.be/\\_EGmsjw08kl](https://youtu.be/_EGmsjw08kl)

# *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](mailto: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](mailto:math.maniac.1@gmail.com) to be added to the distribution list. Contact Lois New at [Loisscd@gmail.com](mailto:Loisscd@gmail.com) for more information about the class.

## ***“Third Sundays” Presented by the Teaching & Music Committee***

The Teaching & Music Committee of the Boston Branch is hosting a series of events in the afternoon of the “Third Sunday” of each month. These events feature a variety of topics of interest to Scottish country dancers.

There will be no event on November 15 as that is reserved for the The Canadian American Club Gala. The December 3rd Sunday will be the 20th, at 3:00 p.m., featuring Jeanetta McColl in conversation with Jen Schoonover, with more history and reminiscences of the early days of the Branch.

## ***Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Online Class***

This is a weekly class offered every Wednesday at 19:00 pm GMT (which is 2 pm Boston time), taught by a variety of teachers from a variety of international locations. The previous class was October 28th, and the next class will be November 4th. The notification is sent out to all RSCDS members (if you’re a member of a 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 & Cambridge Videos***

Most of the Boston Branch and Cambridge Class online activities are being recorded and are available on the Boston Branch website - [rscdsboston.org](http://rscdsboston.org) —> About the Branch —> Movie Gallery. Currently, there are videos covering our activities from early May to early October. Keep checking for the latest!



## ***News from the New Hampshire Highlands Committee***

Watch for announcements regarding upcoming workshops and concerts by the 2020 teaching and musical staff.

We have reserved August 27-29, 2021 for next year’s New Hampshire Highlands. We hope to see you then! In the meantime, stay safe!

## **Cambridge Class Online SCD Classes!**

*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 have been hosting every Monday since early 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. (Doors open at 7:45, Class is 8:00-9:00)
- Zoom link for class: will be provided in an email sent to the Cambridge Class and Boston Branch email lists.
- Any questions, or to get added to the mailing list: please email [cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org](mailto:cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org)

### **Schedule for November and December:**

- 11/2 Focus on Form class led by Andy Taylor, who says: “I love dancing and I need to stay strong to dance! Isolation makes it tough to keep strength in our joints and muscles, but we’ll need them when we get back to dancing together! Come join me as we explore explore physicality through an SCD lens, practicing things like turnout and strong arms. We’ll experience the mechanisms behind these movements and find our personal best alignment to dance. I’ll show you exercises that you can do in your own home to keep yourself strong through this time of distancing, so when it’s time to come back together and dance, we’ll all be ready!”
- 11/16 Scottish Country Dance class led by Charles Liu
- 11/23 Scottish Country Dance class led by Charles Liu
- 11/30 Social Hour Scottish Country Dancing, led by Charles Liu; live music by Terry Traub and Malka Pomerantz
- 12/7 Scottish Country Dance class led by Karen Sollins
- 12/14 Scottish Country Dance class led by Karen Sollins
- 12/21 Cambridge Class Holiday Party led by Karen Sollins; live music
- 12/28 No class

**Please support the Canadian American Club Fundraiser Gala on Sunday Nov 15th @ 2pm.** The Canadian American Club has been “home” to the Cambridge Class now for over six years! We’ve enjoyed many wonderful evenings of Scottish dancing and music at the Club. Currently the Club does not have any income. It’s going to be a really great event featuring many, many wonderful musicians from the Cape Breton and Scottish music traditions. We strongly encourage you to support the Club by attending their online Fundraiser Gala and/or by making a donation any time, or even consider making a monthly donation.

For more Gala details: [canadianamericanclub.com](http://canadianamericanclub.com). Also note the flier on p.3 and the information on p.13.





## **The Capital District (Albany, NY) Class of the Boston Branch RSCDS**

**Fall Frolic ~ Dance by ZOOM ~ November 7, 2020**

**Workshops 2:00 to 4:30 PM**

**Party 7:30 – 9:30 PM ~ Music by Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson**

Zoom links from [math.maniac.1@gmail.com](mailto:math.maniac.1@gmail.com) - Sessions open 15 minutes ahead of time

### **WORKSHOP SESSION #1 FROM 2:00 – 3:00 PM – Choose from the following:**

- *Party Review Session 1– Enhance your confidence as you test drive the dances for the evening dance party. Led by Charles Liu and Ellen Ternes.*
- *Introduction to Dancing on Zoom – Increase your zoom dancing comfort with this suite of fun dances. Led by Karen Sollins and Vickery Trinkaus-Randall.*
- *La Barratte De-Mystified and A Holiday Special – Discover an accessible version of La Barratte and celebrate Thanksgiving. Led by Holly Sherman.*
- *Schiehallion Reels: Explore the wonders of Schiehallion reels when dancing with ghosts. Led by Yvonne Yang.*

### **WORKSHOP SESSION #2 FROM 3:30 – 4:30 PM -- Choose from the following:**

- *Party Review Session 2 (Repeat) – Test drive the dances for the evening dance party. Led by Charles Liu and Ellen Ternes.*
- *Dancing with the Birdsalls – Enjoy our Fall Frolic tradition of dances authored by the Birdsalls. Led by Dale and Beth Birdsall.*
- *REDAction -- Add some color to your day, wear something Red, and meet a variety of social dances titled with RED. Led by Ted Randolph.*
- *A “Couple” of Jigs and A Strathspey – Dance with your “shadow” and go “diagonal” with Drewry. Led by David Wasson and Lois New.*

### **EVENING DANCE PROGRAM 7:30 – 9:30 PM – ROOM OPENS AT 7:00 PM**

*Warmup March to the Pipes with Kippy Brezner ~ Waltz ~ Pelorus Jack (J) ~ Autumn Wind (S) ~ One More Time (H) ~ Breakout*

*Waltz ~ Links with St Petersburg ~ Lammermuir Hills (S) ~ The Valley Over the Hill (R) ~ Breakout*

*The Cranberry Tart (J) ~ The Rose of the North (S) ~ The Falls of Rogie (R) ~ Waltz ~  
Extra: Flowers of Edinburgh*

**We invite contributions to cover the cost of our musicians and support the Boston Branch musicians fund. <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8tOVrrgnhX>**

For more information, technical assistance or to be added to mailing list: [math.maniac.1@gmail.com](mailto:math.maniac.1@gmail.com).  
Weekly dancing and this event brought to you by Barb and Sam Bemis, Ilse Gilbert, Alex Bowers and the Workshop Leaders listed above.



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

### November

1	***	Fiddle Club Workshop, p10
5-8	*	Fiddle Hell, p10
7	**	Capital District (Albany) Fall Frolic, p6
9	***	Boston Branch RSCDS Annual General Meeting, see below
14	**	Scottish Ceilidh – cancelled, p3
15	***	Canadian American Club Gala, p3, p13
30	**	Cambridge Class Social Hour, p5

### December

6	***	Fiddle Club Workshop, p10
—	***	Pinewoods Benefit Ball – cancelled
20	**	Third Sunday with Jeanetta McColl & Jen Schoonover, p4
21	**	Cambridge Class End-of-Season Party, p5

### January

1	**	Nashua Class New Year's Day Dance & Potluck Dinner – cancelled, p12
17	**	Third Sunday, p4

### February

	**	Cardigan Scottish Weekend – cancelled, p12
13	**	Boston Branch Online Dance & Music Workshop, p8
21	**	Third Sunday, p4

### Save the Date

Weekend of May 7-9, 2021: Boston Highland Ball Weekend, p3

July 5-9, 2021: Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra

July 9-17, 2021: Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, p8

August 27-29, 2021: New Hampshire Highlands, p4

*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 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 November! With so many activities being cancelled, there is not a lot to report from the Executive Committee.

Please note that the SAGM will be held on Monday November 9 starting at 7:45 PM. This is a virtual meeting on Zoom hosted by John Crabtree. Your attendance is greatly appreciated, because a quorum is needed in order to conduct any Branch business. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussions to occur at the end of the agenda, and there will be breakout rooms for socializing after the meeting.

The Executive Committee would like to welcome Peter and Mary Olszowka as the new Membership co-chairs!

The Executive Committee also welcomes Bill Card who has filled one of the vacant at-large positions on Exec. There is still one open position, so, if you would like to be a part of the Branch's governing body, please consider stepping forward.

That's all for now! Have a great Fall! – *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 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*

## ***News from the Teaching & Music Committee***

*From Debbie Jarvis, TMC Chair*

The Teaching and Music Committee continues to meet monthly to plan events for our local (and now also international!) Scottish dance community. We are still hoping to dance at Scottish Pinewoods from Friday, July 9th to Saturday, July 17th, 2021 and will continue planning once PCI determines if and how they will run camp.

We are proud to offer our new “Third Sundays” series which allows us to offer such varied themes as a Hooley (family party) and a workshop on finding and developing musicians to play for dancing, hosted by Jen Schoonover and Susie Petrov, respectively, and to great reception, as well as upcoming gems such as another presentation on the early days of dancing from Jeanetta McColl with plenty more to come.

Please note that there is no Third Sunday event in November, as we encourage everyone to attend the Canadian American Club's virtual fundraising gala at 2pm on November 15th.





# 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.rscdsboston.org/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf). For updates, please email [classes@rscdsboston.org](mailto:classes@rscdsboston.org)

## Mostly Online Music Concerts, Sessions and Workshops

**The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club** sends a note: time to renew your membership! Go to [bsfc.org](http://bsfc.org).

- Mostly 1st Sunday of the month, 2 pm: Workshops with mostly-local people, via Zoom. November 1 - Ed Pearlman; December 6 - Laura Risk; January 3 - Natalie Haas. Members will receive the link the day before.

- Mostly 3rd Mondays, 2 pm: workshops led by mostly-out-of-town fiddlers, via Zoom. November 16 - Anna Wendy Stevenson; December 21 - Adam Sutherland; January 18 - Charlie Mckerron. Members will receive the link the day before.

- Mostly 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30: sessions, via [www.facebook.com/groups/www.bsfc.org](http://www.facebook.com/groups/www.bsfc.org). All welcome! In fact, non-players can just as well enjoy these mini-concerts, with Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman playing requests from the audience. Next dates are November 4 & 18, December 2, 16.



*Neil Pearlman & Katie McNally*

**The Strathspey & Reel Society of New Hampshire:** Currently in abeyance; go to [srsnh.org](http://srsnh.org) for information on possible upcoming activities.

**Fiddle Hell**, November 5-8, 2020, presented by Dave Reiner and Family, will roar into an online version, 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 for registrants. Go to [fiddlehell.org](http://fiddlehell.org) for the info.

**Concert - Hanneke Cassel & Jann Falquet** - Friday evening, November 6, 2020, 7 pm, at The Opera House at Boothbay Harbor, 86 Townsend Ave, Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Call 207-633-5159 for tickets. No online purchases. [The Asst. Ed. doesn't know what kind of concert this is - indoor? outdoor? in-person? virtual? So call the number if you'd like more info.]

**Concert - Alasdair Fraser** - Saturday evening, November 14, 2020, 7:30 pm. Solo Livestream Concert out of the McGonible Theater in Pittsburgh, Penn., as part of the Balmoral Classic. Info at [balmoralschooloffpipin.org/balmoral-classic-2020](http://balmoralschooloffpipin.org/balmoral-classic-2020), or phone 412-323-2707

**Fundraiser Gala - Canadian American Club** - Sunday afternoon, November 15, 2 pm. Don't give this a miss! See the flier on p.3 and more info on p.14 of this issue, and go to [canadianamericanclub.com](http://canadianamericanclub.com) for ongoing info.

**CD Release - Katie McNally Trio** - November 20-22, 2020 Scots Fiddle Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland. The in-person Festival has been cancelled but go to the website for online news - [www.scotsfiddlefestival.com](http://www.scotsfiddlefestival.com)



## **A Country Dance**

*Originally from the Journal of the Law Society of Scotland. The article was reproduced with the kind permission of the editor of the Journal in the 1959 issue of The New Zealand Country Dancer. [Who would have imagined that our learned friends of the legal profession would fall victims to the charms of Scottish Country Dancing? Nell MacKinnon, well known to dancers in Christchurch, N.Z. and, with her husband and daughter, are regular attendees at summer schools, has unearthed the following gem. – Ed.]*

Those of us who have friends in country dance clubs may have been rather intrigued to find how seriously the hobby is taken by its adherents, but on further reflection it becomes apparent that this is no more than the due of an art steeped in history, local custom, and colour.

Recently I had the good fortune myself to come across one such collector's piece on a tattered sheet of paper, which gives a glimpse of the gayer, brighter life in a Scottish county town in the good old days. While it may not be of sufficient interest to merit the attention of the general body of country dancers, it might be that the local authority branch of the profession in one of the more cultured county towns, could arrange to have the dance performed at the crownings of the town queen, or some other gala occasion. I leave that decision to their wise discretion, but hope the dance may prove of interest to the legal profession generally, and stimulate their efforts to preserve such items of historic interest from oblivion.

The following is a transcript of the manuscript as far as decipherable, viz:

### THE FOUR MEN UNDER THE STEEPLE, or, WHAE'S FOR AWA' TAE THE JUG?

Note: This dance is to be performed with gay abandon and considerable choreographic licence by a sheriff and his clerk, along with a fiscal and his depute, accompanied by a chorus of law agents.

**Tunes:** *Lord Advocate's Fancy, or, The County Vigilantes*

#### **Description:**

The sheriff leads the fiscal down the middle, holding hands, and then leads him back again.

The fiscal faces up to the sheriff, then passes him right by the cold shoulder.

The clerk dances three hands round with the depute, then they set to each other.

The sheriff casts up one place, double-crosses the fiscal, and casts out.

The fiscal repeats the movement and is cast down.

The clerk and depute face in opposite directions, and the chorus shuffles, and looks sideways.

The sheriff and fiscal skip alternate bars while the clerk and depute turn into the others, all finishing ready for "double triangles."

Repeat, having passed a couple, till all are cast down, and pass out, and the chorus ends up in grand chains."



## ***Have Shoes.....Might Travel Again Some Day.....***

***Summer 2021 ~ TAC Summer Events for 2020*** (TCW, Summer School, and Candidate Courses) have now been cancelled and all who had registered have been issued refunds. The Summer Events Committee has been in regular communication with Mt. Royal University in Calgary and we are pleased to announce that we will return to that venue in Summer 2021. Info: [tac-rscds.org](http://tac-rscds.org)

***Weekend of October 29-31, 2021 ~ Asilomar Weekend***, presented by the San Francisco Branch. The 2020 weekend has been postponed to 2021, at [sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend](http://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend)

***Week of September 5-13, 2021 ~ Scottish Country Dance Meets Tango***, presented by the RSCDS International Branch. The 2020 week has been postponed and is again planned to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Keep up with the IB news at [rscds-ib.org](http://rscds-ib.org).

***Week of September 25 - October 2, 2022 ~ Australian Winter School***, hosted by the Western Australia Branch. The 2020 school has been postponed to 2022; once again, 2022. For latest info, check [winterschool2020.com](http://winterschool2020.com) or [rscds.org.au](http://rscds.org.au)



## ***A Little Closer to Home***

### ***Boston Highland Ball Weekend 2021***

The 2021 Boston Highland Ball Weekend is planned for Friday, May 7 to Sunday, May 9, 2021. Welcome Dance on Friday, and Brunch on Sunday. Memorial Hall in Melrose, Massachusetts has been reserved for Saturday, May 8, 2021, for the Highland Ball, with music by Katie McNally and her band. Please save the date, just in case.

### ***Pinewoods 2021***

*Session dates for 2021 have not been posted yet. Estimated dates for the Scottish sessions are:*

English-Scottish-Contra: July 5-9, 2021

Scottish Session 1: July 9-12, 2021

Scottish Session 2: July 12-17, 2021

The applications are usually available on the Boston Branch website by around February 1st. The priority deadline for 2019 was on or about March 1st, and notices of acceptance or waitlist went out in late March. To check for updates for 2021, go to: [www.rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html](http://www.rscdsboston.org/pinewoods-scottish-sessions.html). For more information on Pinewoods Camp, Pinewoods Inc., and other dance weeks, go to [www.pinewoods.org](http://www.pinewoods.org)

### ***Cardigan Scottish Weekend 2021***

*From Lance Ramshaw:* Our 45th annual Cardigan Scottish Weekend at AMC Cardigan Lodge in 2020 ran from Jan 31 to Feb 2, 2020, with winter hiking, Scottish Country dancing, puzzles, games, music, and great food and community. Unfortunately, given the pandemic, we will not be able to host our traditional Cardigan weekend in early 2021, though the AMC tells me that some individual rooms in the lodge will be available for winter weekends through their website. The schedule for 2022 will be announced when plans firm up. For updated info, and to get on the mailing list, go to [ramshaw.info/cardigan](http://ramshaw.info/cardigan)

### ***Nashua Class Dance Party***

*From Loren Wright:* Nashua Class has decided to cancel its New Year's Day Dance and Potluck Dinner (January 1, 2021). It is unlikely that we would be able to get enough people to attend, keep them safe, and still have fun.





***This Time Last Year — Can Am Club Gala Fundraiser, November 2019***

L: Jen Schoonover calls a dance with Wendy MacIsaac on the fiddle and Mac Morin at the piano

R: Malka Pomerantz plays a mini-concert, accompanied by her dad, Terry Traub, at the piano

*From Lucinda Brandt:* You may have heard that the Canadian American Club, like so many other organizations, is having some financial difficulties these days - not surprising when most of the income that pays for on-going expenses (real estate taxes, building insurance, basic utilities, etc.) comes from rentals for music, sessions and social gatherings of one kind or another which are not advisable/allowable under the pandemic. This venerable 83-year-old organization has been home every Monday night for the past seven years to the Cambridge Class of the Boston Branch RSCDS. The Branch has also used the Club for hosting the AGM and SAGM. November would have been the time when the Club would have conducted its annual fundraising gala, with tons of live music, dancing, food, raffles, and general good camaraderie (now wouldn't THAT be more of something we could all use...). Well, thanks to the generosity of a host of traditional musicians, dancers and Club members we're able to hold the gala virtually!! We encourage any and all to tune in and consider becoming a member and making an additional donation.

***DATE / TIME: Sunday, November 15th, 2020 @ 2pm***

***WHERE: Two streaming options:***

***<https://www.facebook.com/canadianamericanclub> — or — [https://youtu.be/\\_EGmsjw08kl](https://youtu.be/_EGmsjw08kl)***

**TALENT INCLUDES:** Troy MacGillivray, Andrea Beaton, Hanneke Cassel, Doug Lamey, Ken Perlman – Stay tuned! More to be added!!! Surprise guests, too!

If you wish to sign up for membership or to make a donation visit the CanAm Club's page :  
<https://www.canadianamericanclub.com/Membership-and-Donations.html>

## **Boston Branch Memberships**

The Boston Branch of the RSCDS Membership Year begins *October 1st* each year. Therefore, our previous memberships have expired as of September 30, and we are now in the grace period.

The new Membership Chairs are Peter and Mary Olszowka. If you have any questions about your membership details, they can be reached by email at [membership@rscdsboston.org](mailto:membership@rscdsboston.org)

To join the Boston Branch, see the form on page 15, or download it from the Branch website. Go to - [rscdsboston.org](http://rscdsboston.org) —> *Member Resources* —> *Membership* —> *Join Now*

*From Meyer Billmers:* For various reasons, Exec is allowing the membership submission date to slip past mid-November. That means that, for now, no one will be cut off from receiving Boston Branch emails. When we do the rollover, I will send out an email in advance to warn warn everyone. Then I will empty the list (causing all to see that they've been unsubscribed) and then re-populate the list with the new members.

## **Boston Branch Scholarships**

Thanks to generous donors and the Annual Scholarship Dance, the Scottish Dance and Cultural Education Association (SDCEA) of Boston is able to provide financial assistance for dance- and music-related activities. There are several funds:

**Boston Branch Scholarship Fund:** assistance for Boston Branch members to attend music/dance events

**Marianne Taylor Pinewoods Fund:** assistance for Boston Branch members attending Pinewoods

**Ed Rawson Fund:** assistance for new dancers attending dance workshops and Pinewoods

**COVID-19 Musician Relief Fund:** assistance for musicians who have lost income due to COVID-19 crisis

The SDCEA relies on generous donors and is grateful for those who support these funds. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. Go to [rscdsboston.org/member-financial-aid.html](http://rscdsboston.org/member-financial-aid.html) for more descriptions, application forms, donation forms, and information on some of the Branch musicians.

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## **Time for a Song**

*I dug this out of my collection of rescued items. It was very popular when I was a student, so many people will not know about it. It was often sung at parties held in Barbara and Murray Nicolson's home. We need something to sing whilst we keep our social distancing. – Ed.*

### WOAD

(sung to the tune for *Men of Harlech*)

What's the use of wearing braces,  
Vests and pants and boots with laces,  
Spats or hats you buy in places  
Down in Brompton Road?  
What's the use of shirts of cotton,  
Studs that always get forgotten?  
These affairs are simply rotten:  
Better far is Woad.  
Woad's the stuff to show, men.  
Woad's to scare your foemen,  
Boil it to a brilliant hue  
And rub it on your back and your abdomen,  
Ancient Briton never hit on  
Anything as good as Woad to fit on  
Back or knees, or where you sit on,  
Tailors, you be blowed.

Romans came across the Channel  
All wrapped up in tin and flannel;  
Half a pint of Woad per man'll  
Dress us more than these.  
Saxon, you can waste your stitches  
Building beds for bugs with breeches,  
We have WOAD to clothe us which is  
Not a nest for fleas.  
Romans keep your armours,  
Saxons your pyjammers;  
Hairy coats Were meant for goats,  
Gorillas, yaks, retriever dogs and llamas,  
Tramp up Snowdon, With your Woad on:  
Never mind if we get rained or blowed on,  
Never want a button sewed on,  
Go it, Ancient B's.



# 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	
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	<b>\$</b>
Youth (0-17)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$38	<b>TOTAL</b>
Associate*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	
Additional Boston Branch donation: \$ .....			<p><i>(NOTE: Rates are temporarily reduced for 2020-21 due to the pandemic.)</i></p>

\* 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](mailto: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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



### ***A Bit of History***

*From Hugh Thurston's book Scotland's Dances. N.B. Hugh was a cryptographer, a mathematician, an astronomer, and an early member of the Boston Branch and the inaugural Editor of the Tartan Times. Go to [socalfolkdance.org/master\\_teachers/thurston\\_h.htm](http://socalfolkdance.org/master_teachers/thurston_h.htm) for an informative bio of this remarkable man. – Asst. Ed.*

Country dancing does not seem to have done more than infiltrate across the border. Even in 1775 it was struggling hard against the native reels. Edward Topham writes in *Letters from Edinburgh*, “The perseverance which the Scotch ladies discover in these reels is not less surprising than their attachment to them in preference to all others. They will sit totally unmoved at the most sprightly airs of an English country dance, but the moment one of these tunes is played ... up they start, animated with new life, and you would imagine they had been bit by a tarantula.”