

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIX, Number 1
January/February 2021*



**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 2021 *Contact:* April Birnie and Daniel Potter

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2021 (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

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 March/April 2021 issue is **February 10th** •
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS
(including cancellation / postponement / online / wait-and-see information),
AND DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR.

This event is pending

Boston Highland Ball Weekend

Saturday, May 8, 2021

From Marsha Byrnes, Boston Ball Chair:

The venues have been reserved but we don't know yet whether we can safely hold a major indoor social event in May. We have been discussing alternate outdoor and/or internet events, possibly Saturday afternoon, so save the date and check the website and your emails for further exciting news.

Music by the Katie McNally Trio



*Shauncey Ali - viola & Katie McNally - fiddle
Neil Pearlman - piano
with guest piper Campbell Webster*

Online Scottish Country Dancing!

Brunswick, Maine Online Class

From Patti Tillotson

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

From Lois New

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.

“Third Sundays” Presented by the Teaching & Music Committee

From Karen Sollins, TMC Secretary and Online Coordinator

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. Time is generally 3:00-4:00 Eastern Time. The Zoom link will be sent out to the membership the night before.

January 17: “A Burns Celebration with Paul Anderson: Spoken word and music”

February 21: Tom Pixton, accordionist and band leader, Arlington, Mass.

March 21: dance topics, TBA

April 18: Barbara McOwen, fiddler and band leader, Arlington, Mass., will talk about SCD tunes

May 16: dance topics, TBA

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.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society continues to email the weekly newsletter *Dance Scottish At Home* 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 —> About the Branch —> Movie Gallery. Currently, there are videos covering all our online activities from early May to early November. Keep checking for the latest!



Online, cont.

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

Schedule for January and February:

- Jan 4 Focus on Form class led by Andy Taylor
- Jan 11 Scottish Country Dance class led by Robert McOwen
- Jan 18 Scottish Country Dance class led by Robert McOwen
- Jan 25 Burns Night Social Hour Dancing, led by Robert McOwen; live music by Barbara McOwen, Malka Pomerantz, Terry Traub and Robert McOwen, with Stephen Thomforde (pipes)
- Feb 1 Focus on Form class led by Jen Schoonover
- Feb 8 Scottish Country Dance class led by Dale Birdsall
- Feb 15 Scottish Country Dance class led by Dale Birdsall
- Feb 22 Social Hour Dancing led by Dale Birdsall with live music by Dan Wheatley and Lucinda Brandt



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!

This event is pending

Belfast Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday May 29, 2021, 7 - 10 pm
American Legion, 143 Church Street, Belfast, Maine

David Knight, Fiddle & Dave Wiesler, Piano

Friday, May 22 - English Country Dance
Sponsored by Belfast Flying Shoes
More info soon!

Saturday, May 23 - Scottish Country Dance Party
3:30 - 4:45 Dance Review
5:45 - 7:00 Potluck Supper (\$1 + Pot)
7:00 - Dance
\$10 RSCDS members, \$12 nonmembers

Sunday May 24 - Potluck Brunch & Dancing
10:00 - 2:00 pm
At the home of Carlton Smith, 24 Broadway, Northport, ME 04849
and the Bayside Community Hall (walking distance)

Party Information: Gayle Koyanagi 207-322-7727, gkoyanagi20@gmail.com
Hospitality: Kim Jacobs 207-722-3139, zephyrhill@fairpoint.net

Maine Highland Games

The St Andrews Society of Maine has announced the return of the Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival to Thomas Point Beach for the 2021 games. We are looking forward to the return to this venue. Put August 21 on your calendar.

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

January

- 1 ** Nashua Class New Year's Day Dance & Potluck Dinner – cancelled
17 *** TMC Third Sunday with Paul Anderson, p 8
25 ** Cambridge Class Online Burns Social Hour, p 5

February

- ** Cardigan Scottish Weekend – cancelled
21 *** TMC Third Sunday with Tom Pixton, p
22 ** Cambridge Class Online Dance Party, p 5

March

- New Haven Ball & Sunday Brunch – cancelled
21 *** TMC Third Sunday, p 8

April

- 18 *** TMC Third Sunday with Barbara McOwen, p 8

May

- 1 Kilts & Ghillies Ball, New Haven Branch, p 11
8 *** Boston Branch Highland Ball - event pending, p 3
15 ** Fairlee Spring Fling - cancelled
21 *** TMC Third Sunday, p 8
29-30 ** Belfast Memorial Weekend - event pending, p 6

Save the Date, Just In Case

- July 5-9, 2021: Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra - event pending
July 9-17, 2021: Pinewoods Scottish Sessions - event pending, p 11
August 21, 2021: Maine Highland Games, p 6
August 27-29, 2021: New Hampshire Highlands, p 5
October 23, 2021: Fairlee Autumn Social
October 23, 2021: Jeannie Carmichael Ball, New York, p 14

Code Breaker: *** an event sponsored by the Boston Branch, ** other SD events within the Branch area, and * of possible interest (perhaps a concert) within the Branch geographic area. The purpose of this Calendar is not only to provide a listing of current events, but also to note future events. This helps in planning an event to avoid clashes and conflicts. So it would be great if future planners of Branch and Class events would send to Evelyn and Barbara even just the date, name of event and if possible a contact name. When all the pieces are together then it would of course be put on the website. – Ed.



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. Please contact Debbie Jarvis (deborah.j.jarvis@gmail.com) if you would like more information about the listing.

Notes from the Executive Committee

Happy New Year from the Executive Committee! There are still so many unanswered questions concerning Covid-19, but let us hope that the vaccine and the new year will help to bring us back to some sense of normalcy (or the new normal)!

All seats on the Executive Committee are now filled. As was previously reported, Bill Card filled one of the vacancies, and now, Alena Taylor has filled the second. Thank you to both Bill and Alena!

On Monday November 9th, the Semi-Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom. Thank you to everyone for your participation.

As for future in-person dancing opportunities, it is still too soon to speculate on whether or not they will occur. If any events do take place, there will most likely be changes in the number of allowed participants, changes in participant requirements (will proof of vaccine be required?), and changes in liability. A lot of these decisions rest in the hands of individual state governments and the precautions and guidelines they choose to put into place. Please keep thinking good thoughts and be flexible. We will let you know as soon as we have more concrete information to share.

That is all for now! Stay safe! – *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*



Paul Anderson

News from the Teaching & Music Committee

The Teaching and Music Committee continues to meet monthly to plan events for our 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.

Our new “Third Sundays” series continues into the New Year with talks and demonstrations on dancing, music, and Boston Branch memories. We were regaled with stories from Jeanetta McColl on her early dancing days, her move to the States, and her beginnings with the Branch in the 1950s.

Next up, on January 17, will be Paul Anderson, master fiddler from Aberdeen, with stories and tunes relating to Robert Burns. In speaking, Paul has a strong Dorian accent which will definitely be part of the entertainment, and give us a good flavor of Burns’ poetry.

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

Mostly Online Scottish Fiddle Clubs

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

- Mostly 1st Sunday of the month, 2 pm: Workshops with mostly-local people, via Zoom. January 3 - Natalie Haas; February 7 - Barbara McOwen; March 7 - Katie McNally; April 4 - Mari Black. Members will receive the link the day before.
- Mostly 3rd Mondays, 2 pm: workshops led by mostly-out-of-town fiddlers, via Zoom. January 18 - Charlie Mckerron (Scotland); February 22 - Douglas Montgomery (Orkney); March 15 - Patsy Reid (Perthshire). Members will receive the link the day before.
- Mostly 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:30: sessions, via 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 January 6 & 20, February 3 & 17.

The Strathspey & Reel Society of New Hampshire: "Gatherings" have resumed, and changed to the 2nd Sunday of each month. These are currently open to the public, via Zoom. Next dates are January 10, February 14, March 14, and April 11. Go to srsnh.org for more info.

The Gaelic Club and all Canadian American Club activities: Cancelled til further notice. Go to www.canadianamericanclub.com for updates.

Note from the Asst. Ed.: For the non-tune-playing population, these sessions and workshops are a best-kept secret. Try logging onto FB for the Wednesday sessions with Katie and Neil. All the other musicians are muted, so what you get is a spontaneous rush of tunes by two world-class musicians. There's a little bit of commentary in between, including the names of the tunes, and you can even request tunes. It's like your own personal concert. If you can't make the specific time, the whole thing can be viewed later. The workshops have a lot more stop-and-go, but listening in for even a part of it gives you a lot of insight into the personalities and accomplishments of individual musicians you might not otherwise meet.

**Canadian American Club Gala - Music Program**

November 15, 2020 • Hosted by Katie McNally & Gordon Aucoin

Entire concert may be viewed at - canadianamericanclub.com

00:00	Comhaltas Ceilí	1:52:00	Roger Treat
9:13	Troy MacGillivray, Màiri Rankin & Wendy MacIsaac	1:56:52	Canned Ham
17:05	Hanneke Cassel & Mike Block	1:59:55	Frank Ferrel
23:10	Eric Boodman & Leland Martin	2:06:25	Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki
28:25	Joe Deleaut	2:11:00	Will Woodson & Caitlin Finley
32:10	Teddy Aucoin	2:15:33	Chris Debarge
35:30	Rachel Reeds	2:18:03	Adrienne Howard
40:10	Luger & Pauline Lefort	2:23:10	Steve Zambarano
43:03	Ed, Lilly, & Neil Pearlman	2:26:06	Footworks
48:19	Jackie O'Riley & Joey Abarta	2:34:05	Richard Wood, Brad Fremlin & Gordon Belsher
51:42	Jon Gersh & Kathy Fletcher	2:39:25	Emerald Rae
56:34	Ken Perlman	2:41:50	Barbara & Robert McOwen
1:01:30	Maggie MacPhail	2:46:50	Laura Risk
1:07:40	Terry Traub & Malka Traub Pomerantz	2:50:03	Dancers Mary MacGillivray, Christine Morrison, Laura Scott Pearlman, Abbie MacQuarrie, Eden Pool, Jen Schoonover, Malka Traub Pomerantz, accompanied by Katie McNally & Janine Randall
1:18:00	Gordon Aucoin		
1:22:30	Patrick Kennedy		
1:28:05	Doug Lamey & Cliff McGann		
1:33:10	Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Orchestra		
1:42:15	Andrea Beaton	2:55:45	Natalie MacMaster & Mary Frances Leahy
1:48:15	Troy MacGillivray & Neil Pearlman		

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

Saturday May 1, 2021 ~ Kilts & Ghillies Ball, presented by the New Haven Branch, usually an October event, now tentatively postponed to May, with music by Peter Macfarlane and Susie Petrov. Please save the date and check the website for confirmation - www.nhrscds.com/kilts-and-ghillies-tea-dance

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. See the flier on p 14, and check the website 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

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 or rscds.org.au



A Little Closer to Home

Pinewoods 2021

Session dates for 2021 have not been posted yet. Estimated dates for the Scottish sessions would normally be:

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. For more information on Pinewoods Camp, Pinewoods Inc., and other dance weeks, go to www.pinewoods.org

Note: The Pinewoods Chairs and the Teaching and Music Committee cannot make decisions about the viability and format for Boston Branch programs at Pinewoods Camp until Pinewoods Inc. can announce plans and contingencies, which in turn cannot be formulated until there are guidelines from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. If any of the programs are allowed to run, dates, admissions, and daily schedules may well be significantly affected.

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

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.

Flowers of the Forest – Lydia Smith

From Duncan Smith

Lydia Hurd Smith, long time Boston area teacher and co-founder, with her husband Alan, of the Concord SCD group, passed away November 1st at her home in Lexington, Massachusetts, aged 90.

Lydia was born in Cambridge, MA, in 1929, and was raised in Belmont, MA. She attended Buckingham School in Cambridge and Belmont public schools before entering Radcliffe College. After graduating from Radcliffe in 1951 with a degree in English she held several writing jobs, skied, swam, canoed, climbed, and hiked in the Grand Tetons.



Lydia & Alan, ca. 1958



Miss Milligan with Lydia, 1958

She taught English, psychology, history, and drama at St. Mary's White Mountains School in Bethlehem, NH for two years before enrolling in Harvard University's School of Education where she focused on progressive, child-centered education, as well as the philosophy and the history of education, earning her Masters, and in 1960 her EdD. She then taught at Simmons College, established the Master of Arts in Teaching program, became a college marshal, published two books, and retired in 1989 after 28 years, at age 60.

In Cambridge in the 1950's she met her future husband, Alan Smith, who was calling square dances. Together, they discovered Scottish Country dancing and were among the first certificated teachers in North America. Lydia and Alan married in 1958, the same year that Lydia received her RSCDS teaching certificate from Miss Milligan. Lydia and Alan moved to Concord, MA, in 1960, where they started a SCD group, and quickly became known for their love of entertaining and music. The Concord group danced first at St Anne's in the Fields in Lincoln and then for many years in Weston, and was where a number of subsequent teachers, including Ed Rawson, got their start. Lydia and Alan also taught in a purpose-built dance room in their home, Lydia teaching Ladies Step dances and Alan teaching Highland.

Lydia is survived by her three brothers, one of whom, Alfred Hurd, was active in Philadelphia area SCD, and by two sons, two daughters, two step-children (her son Ken and daughter-in-law Anne-Marie, and stepson Duncan have been active in the Boston Branch for many years), three grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. She leaves behind numerous friendships with students, colleagues, classmates, Scottish dancers, neighbors, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Photo Gallery

[The Assistant Editor found two more photos of Sally Dee in her archives, and several people contributed additional thoughts on Sally and two of her favorite companions. And below are two more photos with Lydia from Duncan that might be of interest to Boston Branch dancers.]



**Marianne Taylor & Sally Dee
Salem, June 2007**

Marianne (d. August 2008):
Dancer, Teacher, Pianist, Singer,
Baker, Co-Founder of the Folk
Arts Center, World Traveler,
Reader & Writer, Artistic
Director, Tour Leader, RSCDS
Scroll Recipient, Choreographer



**Peter Tandy & Sally Dee at the Kendall Tavern
Burns Supper, January 2008**

Peter (alive and well and living in
Beverly, Mass.): Unsung Hero: he
has served the Boston Branch in
every conceivable way, held every
office, joined every committee,
transported and set up every piece
of equipment, and, best of all,
danced at every event. – H. Lasnik

Sally (d. July 2020): Dancer,
Poet, Artist, Teacher, Hostess,
Mountaineer, Singer, Beekeeper,
Bungee Jumper, World Traveler,
Historian, Founder of Salem
Class, RSCDS Scroll Recipient,
Chief Prankster, Choreographer



**Back row: Emilie, Andrew, Lydia
Front row: Ken, Bonnie, Alan
N.H. Highland Games, 1975**



Lydia & Alan, 1989

Despite uncertain times, TAC continues to plan 2021 summer events in Calgary Canada



July 25 - August 1, 2021

For dancers of all levels

Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet | evening after parties | accommodations and dancing at Mount Royal University

Teacher Candidates' Courses for Units 2 & 3 and for Unit 5
July 18 - August 1, 2021. For info: tcc@tac-rscds.org

Teachers

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

Musicians

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



Check our website for updates and event status
tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)

Canadian American Club Gala 2020

From Katie McNally & Gordon Aucoin, Gala Hosts, and Dan Wheatley, President:

The annual Gala and Fund-Raiser became an online event and was held on Sunday November 15, 2020. It was a great success! Many attendees enjoyed performances and tributes from numerous great artists and friends of the Club. The community rose to the occasion and donated funds to reflect 230% of our goal and we expect this will go a long way to keeping the basic bills paid until we can gather again in person to socialize and share our appreciation of traditional music, song and dance. We are humbled in gratitude for the support!

Go to www.canadianamericanclub.com to watch the entire 3-hour program. *[Go to page 10 to see the program order – Asst. Ed.]*

Jeannie Carmichael Ball 2020

From Isabelle Smith, Ball Chair

Our Non-Dancing Ball was a great success. It featured appearances by the wonderful musicians from Tullochgorum, who had been scheduled to play for the Ball – Anne Hooper & Beth Murray on fiddle and piano; Barbara & Robert McOwen on fiddle and guitar; Elizabeth & Ben Anderson on fiddle and cello; and Marielle & Campbell Webster & Terry Traub on fiddle, pipes, drums and piano. There are several dance arrangements with talk-throughs by MC Robert McOwen, some singalongs, some listening sets, and a some words about Jeannie Carmichael. The program was recorded and can be viewed any time, at www.rscdsnewyork.org/jc-ball

We are optimistic for the JC Ball in 2021, it will be on October 23rd with music by Tullochgorum. Our venue for the ball will be the Grand Auditorium of the Poppenhusen Institute in College Point, Queens, NY.

Notes on Violin Maker Matthew Hardie

By Calum MacKinnon. This article comes from the Scottish Fiddle Revival Newsletter (FIRE) dated 1989. – Ed.

A couple of months ago I discovered that there was a Matthew Hardie violin for sale in Seattle. Matthew was a violin maker in Edinburgh who lived from 1755 to 1826 and is known as the “Scottish Stradivarius” for his very fine work. He and his descendants form the longest and most distinguished line of makers and players in Scotland and is represented today by *[the late]* Bill Hardie, his son Alastair Hardie and Alastair’s son Matthew Hardie – all fine fiddlers in Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

The original Matthew Hardie copied the Stradivarius style. His early instruments – around 1796 – had imitation purfling and poor quality varnish. The one in Seattle is from this period, which is why it is for sale for a mere \$6,000. However, the instruments produced a very fine tone and are prized today for just that.

It is generally thought that Matthew went out of his way to find old seasoned wood to make his violins, sometimes hundreds of years old. In many cases he was not able to work out the scars and nail holes which would have never been found in a block of wood taken directly from a tree or log. There is a story in this tradition about one of his instruments known as “The Hidden Violin”:

Hardie was one day, in the year 1821, walking past a field on the Crammond Road when he noticed a weather-beaten paling slab lying on the ground, and, picking it up noticing its lightness, he balanced it on his finger and struck it with a stone to set the tone. “What a splendid fiddle breast this will make,” he remarked to his companion. Carrying the slab under his arm, he presently stopped at a farm for a glass of milk and, being invited into the kitchen to drink it, soon noticed a very old baking-board of maple propped on the dresser, which he examined with the most eager interest. “See, mistress, ye have a fine fiddle here,” he remarked to the woman of the house. “A fiddle!” She replied in astonishment. “There never was sic a thing in the house.” “Oh yes, there is, but it is well hidden, yet I want to buy it,” answered Hardie. “If you can find a fiddle in this house you’re welcome to it for nothing,” answered the woman, when Hardie at once seized upon the old baking-board and said – “Thank ye, mem, it’s inside this baking-board and wearying to get out, so I’ll take ye at your word. The breast o’ her is here,” and he showed the old paling slab. Next day he sent out a brand new baking-board to the good wife, which highly delighted her, and in due time the hidden fiddle was out from its covering, and proved to be one of the finest instruments.

Matthew was also known as a humorist, as the following story suggests:

When the foundation of Regent Bridge was being cut, a part of the Calton Burying-Ground had to be removed and, as a good deal of rock had to be blasted, the navvies were warned off before each shot by the blowing of a trumpet. On one of these occasions Hardie said to a customer – “Do ye no ken, sir, that this maun be the last day – the Great Day o’ Judgement?” “How so” came the startled reply. “Oh, because it’s written that on that day, the trumpet shall sound, the rocks shall be rent, and the dead shall be raised from their graves. Look out of the window and ye’ll see’t a’ gain on.”

[Ian Powrie played a Hardie violin. Unfortunately he lost it when it was smashed to smithereens when rear-ended by a lorrie in the 1990s. Alastair Hardie and his family live outside Edinburgh and he is the founder of The Hardie Press, which publishes many sought-after Scottish music books. – Asst. Ed.]



**Matthew Hardie Violin
Edinburgh, 1813**

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

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Burns in Kirkcudbright

From Evelyn Murray

Kirkcudbright is a fascinating town located in Galloway on the south coast of Ayr. One of its points of interest to the traveller is Broughton House, located in the town. Now owned by the National Trust, its more recent claim to fame is its association with the ‘Glasgow Boys.’ This refers to the school of Scottish Design at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries when the house was bought by E.A. Hornel, who was one of the Glasgow Boys.

However, the most unexpected feature of Broughton House is its library. In it is included its collection about Robert Burns. 2,500 works by or about the Bard make this one of the greatest private collections in the world, including some of his rarest editions – specifically the notable ‘Kilmarnock’ edition of 1786. Material about Burns was also collected, and over 150 ‘Immortal Memories,’ presented at Burns Suppers throughout the world. Burns is a son of Ayr who lived and farmed in that county during his short life. He died in the town of Dumfries before reaching his fortieth birthday.