

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIX, Number 5
September / October 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

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Vice President: Marsha Byrnes

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Treasurer: Cathy Crabtree — treasurer@rscdsboston.org

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Lance Ramshaw, Ted Randolph, Alena Taylor

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Debbie Jarvis

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Ilene Goldstein

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Highland Ball 2022 Marsha Byrnes & Elizabeth Anderson — highlandball@rscdsboston.org

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2021 MaryEllen Scannell

Pinewoods Scottish 2022 *Co-Chairs:* Catherine Scannell, Theresa Conn, Debbie Jarvis
SCDpinewoods2022@gmail.com

Pinewoods ESC 2022 *Contact:* April Birnie & Daniel Potter — esc@cds-boston.org

Fall 2021 Ceilidh Robert McOwen (for Highland Dance Boston)

NH Highlands 2022 *Contact:* Roberta Lasnik

Boston Scottish Country Dancers *Teacher:* Andy Taylor-Blenis; *Administrator:* Laura DeCesare

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Mailing List & Database John Crabtree • **Keeper of the Class Listing** Barbara McOwen

The Boston Branch Website is www.rscdsboston.org

Webmasters Laura and Meyer Billmers • **Back-up Webmaster** Matt Billmers

Exec Committee Class Liaisons:

Brookline, Bedford & Newton MA: Linda McJannet

Cambridge MA: Lance Ramshaw

Salem & Stow MA: TBD

Brunswick, Bucksport & Belfast ME; Burlington & Fairlee VT; Lancaster NH: David Grubb

Greenland & Nashua NH; Kennebunk ME: Bill Card

Chelmsford, Salem & Stow MA: Alena Taylor

Great Barrington & Northampton MA and Albany NY: Ted Randolph

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Copy due date for the November / December 2021 issue is **October 10th**
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR FALL & WINTER 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 Invites You To Join Us For Our
Annual Fall Dance Party

Saturday Evening, October 16, 2021

5:45 - 6:45 pm — Potluck Supper
7:00-10:00 pm — Dance Program

MUSIC BY: ED and NEIL PEARLMAN on fiddle and piano

Topsham Grange Hall
47 Pleasant St, Topsham, Maine

Info: Patti Tillotson • ptillotson@gmail.com • 207-841-3232
Watch the Branch website for the dance program

***The Reel & Strathspey Society of Fairlee, Vermont
15th Annual Autumn Social***

TERRY TRAUB AND FRIENDS

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Walk Through at 12:00 p.m., Dance at 2:30 p.m.

Potluck Following the Dance

Fairlee Town Hall – 75 Town Common Road – Fairlee, Vermont

***Admission: Adults - \$11.00 (RSCDS Members) \$13.00 (Non-members),
Students/Under 18 - \$5.00***

*For more information, dance instructions, or to arrange hospitality, contact
Gary Apfel – (802) 439-3459 or GaryApfel@gmail.com
Dance instructions can also be found at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/event-calendar.html>*

Online Scottish Country Dancing!

Brunswick, Maine Online Class

from Patti Tillotson

We will start up in-person again the first Thursday in September. For any updates, contact Patti at pstillotson@gmail.com or phone 207-841-3232. ~

Albany, New York Online Class

from Lois New

Sunday night “Albany” class will continue this fall as hybrid. Fully-vaccinated dancers have been gathering at my house but we continue the zoom link with the wonderful team of teachers from the Boston Branch and others. I could not have continued without this generous team! We have done such interesting dances. And had so much fun together. Contact me at Loisscd@gmail.com for more information about the class. ~

Great Barrington, Massachusetts Online Class

from Ted Rancolph

The Great Barrington class plans to meet via ZOOM at the current time. Dancers can contact me at 413-822-0539 (mobile) or tedfr4@gmail.com ~

Cambridge Class In-Person and Online SCD Classes!

from Alex Bowers, on behalf of Cambridge Class Committee: Lucinda Brandt, Alex Bowers, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Chris Gallagher, Alex Hall, Lance Ramshaw, Judy Reynolds Shaw, and Jen Schoonover

Cambridge Class indoor in-person dancing - preliminary announcement: Thanks to everybody who came to the outdoor gathering on 8/21! We had great fun and it was wonderful to be able to dance together. We plan to resume indoor in-person dancing on Monday 13th September! Please see the end for our protocol for indoor dancing. We plan to broadcast classes and social hour dancing by Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Dancers from the Boston area and beyond are welcome to join by Zoom. Zoomlinks will be provided in email announcements before each class. Looking forward to seeing many of you on the dance floor!

Cambridge Class Format

7:45 - 8:00 warm ups
8:00 - 8:45 class for all levels of dancers (social dancing for all on the last Monday of the month)
8:45 - 9:00 break
9:00 - 10:00 social dancing for all

Admission

At the door: Regular \$9.00; Full-time students \$5.00
12-month season pass (Sept 2021 – Aug 2022): \$335
4-month season pass (Sept 2021 – Dec 2021): \$115
Zoom participants, suggested donation: \$4 per class or \$15 per month

COVID protocol for in-person participants (as of 8/24/2021)

All in-person participants must be fully vaccinated (proof of vaccination required). Masks must be worn when indoors. Please bring your own water bottle or container (refreshments not provided). Please do not attend if you have been in contact with anybody who has experienced COVID symptoms or tested positive for COVID. Please do not attend if you are experiencing any symptoms that might be related to COVID or some other communicable disease. All in-person dance participants will be required to complete an attestation of adherence to the COVID protocol.

Details of how to do this will be provided in a future email. Questions: cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org ~

Capital District Online Fall Frolic

Please join the Capital District (Albany, N.Y.) class of the Boston Branch for its annual Fall Frolic weekend. Saturday evening will feature an online dance party with dancing in-person at Lois New's home. Can't travel to Albany? Then invite some dance friends round to your house and set up your own "in-person" dance pod.

Info: contact Lois New at loisscd@gmail.com or 518-852-5274, or go to the Branch website

Saturday October 30 at 2:00 pm — Dance Workshops

Saturday October 30 at 7:00 pm — Dance Party

Sunday October 31 at 11:00 am — Brunch with Dancing

Music by Elke Baker & Liz Donaldson



News from the Teaching & Music Committee



In the wake of Pinewoods, it is easy to reflect on a few things for which we are especially grateful, particularly that many of us were able to feel "somewhat normal" for the first time in 18 months; to see, hug, dance with friends; to make it to camp before PCI was forced to close early amid concerns of the new delta strain. Pinewoods Scottish Sessions carried on nearly as usual despite a shorter (only by one day) Session II and of course missing all friends from abroad and many from the US who refrained from attending camp for a variety of reasons. Classes and evening dances were well attended, and some changes made for this particular year, such as allowing dancers to walk through dances during the evening programs, were so well received that they may very well be kept for future years. Camper evaluations revealed well-deserved and prodigious commendations for the efforts of co-chairs Laurie Somario, Ellen Scannell-Woods, and Kat Dutton. Campers also wrote highly of the entire music staff, led by Music Director Elke Baker. We hope and expect that Pinewoods 2022 will run as it has in pre-pandemic years. We have confirmed interest from Sharon Barker and Fiona Grant to teach at camp in 2022, as they were unable to do so in 2021. The new year, however, brings new co-chairs Catherine Scannell and Debbie Jarvis as well as Music Director Tom Pixton, and Tom has already secured several headlining musicians not to be missed.



Dancing at Pinewoods Scottish Session 2021
Photo from Debbie Jarvis

In non-Pinewoods news, TMC is looking forward to an exciting Boston Branch Highland Ball in May 2022 and is working to secure an excellent new band; announcements will be made as soon as possible. The Branch saw a very successful outdoor dance in August, and TMC is still considering what events and workshops may continue indoors, outdoors, and online. We have a few workshops in the planning stages in line with our Third Sunday series; watch for emails as details come about. — *Respectfully submitted, Debbie Jarvis, TMC Chair* 🍷

Hold the Date

 Workshop on Facilitating
Classically-Trained
Musicians in the Music of
Scottish Country Dancing 
Led by Susie Petrov

Almost every community in the world has classically-trained musicians. Enticing them to play for Scottish Country Dance parties and classes benefits everyone, but everyone needs to join in the effort to give them the skills to play for our dancing. Dancers have more fun with more live music. Teachers and MCs, once they learn to work with musicians, have much more flexibility utilizing music that fits their needs. Musicians want to play. Playing for Scottish Country Dancing gives them more opportunities and new challenges. This workshop will explore the strengths that classically-trained musicians bring to Scottish Country Dancing.

Date: Sunday, October 24, 2021

Time: 3-4pm EDT

Location: Zoom (information to be distributed later)

Intended audience: All of the RSCDS community and any interested classically-trained musicians who would like such a challenge.

Contact: Karen Sollins, music-wkshp@sollins.schlepp.org



Susie Petrov



Kate Barnes, Pinewoods
Scottish Session, 2016
photo by B.McOwen

Kate Barnes, a fabulously talented Scottish, English and contra dance musician is receiving a Lifetime Contribution Award from CDSS at an online ceremony on Sunday September 26, 4-6 pm. We'd like to make sure that we're getting the word out to all the various music and dance groups Kate has worked with, not just to CDSS members.

Information about the celebration, including registration for the Zoom event, is on our website at cdss.org/lca20

You'll find the CDSS Facebook event here: facebook.com/events/94410011306856

Please let me know if you have any questions! We hope to see you there, and would be very grateful if you could help us spread the word. — *Crispin Youngberg, CDSS*

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

September

- 5 * Scottish Fish Concert, Massachusetts, p 10
9 * Jeremy Kittel Concert, Massachusetts, p 10
17-19 * New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, p 8, 14
24-26 Scottish Weekend, Maryland, p 16 — CANCELLED
26 * Ceremony for Kate Barnes, Virtual, p 6
30 *** Boston Branch membership year ends, p 8, 13

October

- 1 *** Boston Branch new membership year, p 8, 15
3 * Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman, music & dance workshops & concert, Maine, p 10
5 * Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas in concert, p 10
16 *** Brunswick Annual Fall Dance Party, Maine, p 3
21-24 * Boston States Fiddle Camp, Massachusetts, p 10
23 *** Fairlee Autumn Social, Vermont, p 3
23 Jeannie Carmichael Ball, New York, p 12
24 *** Musicians Workshop, Virtual, p 6
29-31 SF Branch Asilomar Weekend, California, p 12 — CANCELLED
31 Halloween, p 12
30-31 *** Albany Fall Frolic, New York, p 5

November

- 4-7 * Fiddle Hell Online, p 10
5-14 * Hanneke Cassel concerts, New England, p 10
20 * Scottish Ceilidh, West Roxbury, p 8

Save the Date

- Pinewoods Scottish Session I & II: July 8-16, 2022, Massachusetts, p 14
TAC Summer School: July 24-31, 2022, Calgary, p 5

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 Branch website. – Ed.



Flowers of the Forest

from Evelyn Murray

Phyllis LaMarre (nee MacConnell) passed away 27th August 2021, aged 93, in Boston, Massachusetts. She is survived by her son Joel LaMarre and Phyllis's one brother, still alive, Warren MacConnell. They were a family of nine, born in New Brunswick and Westborough MA. Our sympathy to Joel, who has been an attentive son looking after his mother in their house in Winthrop. Joel is known for his love of SCDancing and playing the bagpipes. Although Joel is no longer dancing, there are people in the Salem class and other groups who will remember him.

Notes from the Executive Committee

Welcome to a new dancing year! Yes, in-person dancing is happening! Several classes are still discussing if they will meet in-person while several others have already decided and have created their list of guidelines. Please consult the Branch website for the most up-to-date class information.

Pinewoods Camp did open this summer, and the attendees of both ESCape and Scottish Sessions reported to have had a great time! A renewed sense of normalcy.....

Exec would like to announce that Laurie Somario is the new keeper of the Bookstore. She is busy getting organized and taking inventory of the products. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Laurie at laurie.somario@gmail.com if you're looking for an item.

Thanks to Merrill Henderson for making sure the Branch would be "visible" at the Loon Mountain Games. Merrill would still appreciate people volunteering to man the Branch information table. Please contact her at crone4702@gmail.com to offer assistance.

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, which has one change (Bedford class). For late-breaking news on summer activities by the classes, get in touch with each class contact, or check the Branch website.

Note to class contacts: please check over your info in the Class Listing and let the Keeper know of any changes. And, if there's anything you'd like to say about fall activities (re-starting; in-person; special events etc), the Assistant Editor would be happy to print your info in the Tartan Times. – *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* ~

Membership Renewals

The Boston Branch membership year runs from October 1st through September 30th. The updated renewal form is available on the website, and on page 15. The rates have changed back to the ones we had for the 2019-2020 season because we expect most Branch activities to be restarted by the beginning of the membership year. You can contact Peter and Mary Olszowka, the Membership Chairs, any time, at membership@rscdsboston.org – *Peter and Mary Olszowka* ~



News from the Scottish Ceilidh Committee

from Robert McOwen

Save the Date! — The Scottish Ceilidh hosted by Highland Dance Boston and the Scots' Charitable Society is being planned for Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury. Music by **Parcel of Rogues**. Current COVID protocols will be in place. Watch for more details in the November issue of the Tartan Times. ~

SCOTTISH DANCE CLASS LOCATIONS

MASSACHUSETTS

- Bedford:** Year-round 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:** Year-round, 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, pandemics 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

Some Music Events

- Sunday Evening September 5, 2021
Scottish Fish perform an outdoor house concert and fundraiser in Arlington, 7:30-8:30 – scottishfishfiddle.com
- Sunday Afternoon September 12, 2021
Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Annual Kickoff Cookout, In-Person (in Arlington) and Zoom, for members: Annual Report, Cookout, Session – bsfc.org
- Weekend of September 17-19, 2021
New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain, N.H. (unfortunately no fiddle or Scottish country dance events, but the sheepdogs will be there) – nhscot.org
- Thursday Evening September 9, 2021
Jeremy Kittel & Co. at Passim in Harvard Square, Cambridge – clubpassim.org
- Sunday Afternoon October 3, 2021 – Sundays in the Park (Steamboat Landing in Belfast, Maine) ~ Cape Breton music & dance with **Katie McNally and Neil Pearlman** ~ 2:30 pm music workshop; 3:30 pm dance workshop; 5:00 pm concert & showcase; 6:00 pm open jam hosted by the Belfast Bay Fiddlers – belfastflyingshoes.org
- Tuesday Evening October 5, 2021 – **Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas** at Passim – clubpassim.org
- Weekend of October 21-24, 2021 – Katie McNally's **Boston States Fiddle Camp**, in-person, Groton, Mass. – bostonstatesfiddle.com
- Weekend of November 4-7, 2021 – **Fiddle Hell Online** (in 2022 it'll be in-person!) – fiddlehell.org
- November 5, 6, 13, 14, 2021 – **Hanneke Cassel** concerts in Mass, Maine & R.I. — hannekecassel.com
- Saturday November 20, 2021 – **Scottish Ceilidh**, sponsored by Highland Dance Boston and the Scots Charitable Society; ceilidh dancing for all, and performances, with music by Parcel of Rogues – highlanddanceboston.org



The Scottish Fish

Recurring Events - Weekly & Monthly

- **Lance Ramshaw's Slow Jam** - once a month on Fridays in Concord, Mass., currently a monthly mailing, and in safer times a combination in-person and online session – ramshaw.info
- **The Canadian American Club** - Open mike every Friday night, and the Gaelic Club on the 3rd Sunday of the month starting in September, and occasional Saturday night dances in Watertown Mass., canadianamericanclub.com
- **The Boston Scottish Fiddle Club** - Workshops taught by a local teacher on the 1st Sunday of the month in Belmont Mass; online workshops with distant teachers on the 3rd Mondays; and session 3rd Wednesdays at the CanAm Club, Watertown, bsfc.us
- **The Strathspey & Reel Society of N.H.** - 2nd Sunday of the month in Concord, N.H., srnsnh.org



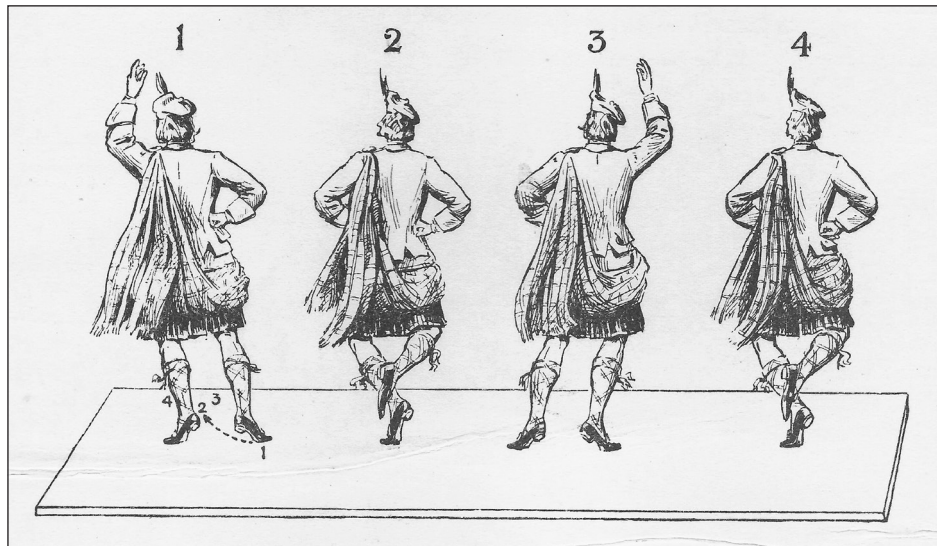
Dance Legacies of Scotland: The True Glen Orchy Kick

by Jen Schoonover

Although Scottish dance is seen as a soft-shoe form today, observations and depictions of dancing in Scotland from earlier times repeatedly refer to snapping, tapping, heel and toe beating, kicking, and clapping. *Dance Legacies of Scotland: The True Glen Orchy Kick* (Routledge, 2021), written by Mats Melin and Jen Schoonover, compiles these references depicting sound-generating steps. Research findings draw together fieldwork, references from historical sources in English, Scots, and Scottish Gaelic, and insights drawn from the authors' practical knowledge of dances to portray the complex network of dance dialects that existed in parallel across Scotland, and share how remnants of this vibrant tradition have endured in Scotland and the Scottish diaspora to the present day.

The soft-soled Scottish-style dancing pump, colloquially known as a 'ghillie,' is a modern invention. It was developed in the late 19th century by Highland dancers who were adding ballet moves to the form at the time. Most dancing masters in Scotland in the 19th century required pupils to wear shoes with leather soles and heels. In fact, one of the last dancing masters, D.G. MacLennan, complained that soft-soled dancing pumps should never be worn in a ballroom, as this would result in fallen arches.

Not widely understood today is the source for the term 'ghillie': *gille casfliuch* or *cas-fhliuch*, literally 'wet-footed boy,' a designation for a servant who got wet feet from carrying a chieftain or landowner over a stream or into a boat. The term is off-color, depicting Gaelic-speaking Highlanders as servants, and is akin to calling a waiter *garçon*. The way it is spelled does not reflect Gaelic orthography but rather seems to make the word look Gaelic to English speakers. The rise of the use of the term 'ghillie' or 'ghillie brogue' for a shoe with criss-cross lacing overtop the forefoot without a tongue does coincide with the burgeoning of Scottish Country Dancing in the 30s. The Scottish Gaelic word for shoe is *bròg*.



This illustration of a dancer shows bodily shapes performed on the first beats of each of the first four bars of the Backstep step of the Highland Fling. It was included in Donald R. MacKenzie's *Illustrated Guide to the National Dances of Scotland*, originally published in 1910. D.R. MacKenzie was a Scottish dancing master and kept to an older style of wearing hard shoes in the ballroom. He also described the classic pousette as 'four waltz turns.' A facsimile of his description of the pousette can be found in the RSCDS's 1988 *An Album for Mrs. Stewart*.

Our book includes information on factors that removed hard shoes from competitive boards and social dance floors, such as the decimation of significant numbers of pipers and dancers in World War 1. It also helps explain how Highland and Scottish Country Dancing forms changed in the early 20th Century. We hope this information will be of interest to today's dancers as well as folks interested in the history of Scottish dance and music. [For information on obtaining this book, contact Jen at outrageoussocks@gmail.com — Asst. Ed.]

Halloween, 31st October

from Evelyn Murray; "People ask about the origins of Halloween so I thought this version might be of interest; Source and author unknown; found in a local magazine."

New year's Eve is always a great excuse for a party and every year October 31 – or Halloween, the traditional end of the Celtic year – it is celebrated as enthusiastically as ever in the Western world.

Wait a minute – dressing up as witches, spooks and skeletons, transforming plant vegetables into lanterns, knocking on doors demanding small rewards, bobbing for fruits on strings – what on earth is that all about?

Let's start at the beginning – of time, almost! Halloween is one of the oldest festivals celebrated in the world today. It goes back thousands of years and has been influenced by many cultures.

Halloween's origins date back to the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts, who lived 2,000 year ago, celebrated their new year on November 1. It marked the end of summer, the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time often associated with human death.

Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. "... on the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In commemoration, Druids built sacred bonfires, where people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the gods. During celebrations, the Celts wore costumes, often made from animal heads and skins. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming year.

When the Romans invaded Britain, they brought with them their own customs and festivals. Pomona day was celebrated at the same time as the Celtic New Year. Pomona was the Roman goddess of fruits and gardens. The two festivals eventually became one and began to share customs. We can thank the Roman festival of Pomona for the tradition of apple-bobbing.

In recent years, some churches have criticised Halloween, believing the celebrations to be evil, satanic, even. This is interesting when you consider that today's Halloween was created by the church in the first place! The first Christian missionaries traveling across pagan Europe, Britain included, avoided changing the ancient ways, but incorporated the beliefs into Christian ideology. In the ninth century, the Roman Catholic Church declared November 1, the start of the Celtic New Year, a holiday in tribute to all the saints.

Celtic New Year's Day became All Saints Day, Hallowmas, or All Hallows, to honour the dead; the day after All Saints became All Souls Day to honour the dead. On that day people would light bonfires and dressed as ghosts or skeletons, saints, angels and devils. October 31 then became known as 'All Hallow Eve' which evolved to 'All Hallow's Eve,' then to Hallowe'en and finally to the spelling we use today – Halloween.

In the 19th century, immigrants from Ireland and Scotland took the tradition to America and from there evolved many of the activities associated with Halloween today. Trick or treating is believed to have originated with an ages-old custom called 'sousing.' On All Souls Day, Christians toured villages begging for 'soul cakes' made from pieces of bread with currants. In return, they promised prayers on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors to hasten their souls' passage to heaven. The candle in the pumpkin or turnip derives from the Halloween tale of Jack o' Lantern, an Irish trickster who conned the Devil, yet was denied access to Heaven because of his evil ways. The Devil also cast him out of Hell, but provided him with a single ember to light his way as he endlessly roams the spirit world.

In times gone by, Halloween was a time for fortune-telling as people watched for the spirits of next year's dead walking through the churchyard at midnight. Hard to believe, perhaps, but apple-bobbing can predict your fortune. In this game, apples are floated in water or hung by a string and grabbed by players using only their teeth. Once caught, the apple must be peeled in one unbroken strip and the peel thrown over the left shoulder. It is said, the peel will form the initial of the player's true love.

Whatever your stance, October 31 is a time for many to dress up, party and have some scary fun – or fright. If you dare, to watch the Halloween films, a series of influential horror movies. Ghosts, ghouls, witches, and things that go bump in the night. Halloween's on the horizon, so prepare for a fright. Pass me that broomstick, I'm out of here. ☹

CTI: A New Program for Instructors of Scottish Country Dancing

by Robert McOwen

The RSCDS has created a new program, Core Training for Instructors, to support the teaching of Scottish country dancing around the world. This program is for individuals who are interested in leading SCD groups, but who may not have the time, interest, or ability to pass the full 5 unit teacher training course that is offered by the RSCDS.

The CTI is conducted in a one-on-one mentorship between a “trainer” and the “trainee.” The trainer will observe the teaching of the trainee in their home environment and offer suggestions for improvement; note that the CTI can be conducted in person or remotely, but does not involve any evaluation of the instructor’s own dancing technique. When the trainer feels the trainee is ready, there will be a final observation that will also be videotaped. The trainer’s recommendation and the videotape will be sent to the RSCDS and the trainee will receive a Statement of Proficiency recognizing them as an “Instructor” of the RSCDS. The whole process must be completed within 2 years.

The trainers who provide the mentorship are all fully certificated teachers of the RSCDS who have also participated in a course to prepare them to be CTI trainers. During the application process, the trainee has the opportunity to request a specific trainer from a list of qualified trainers that the RSCDS will provide. (Several months ago, I was one of several teachers who participated in this qualification under the online tutelage of Sue Porter.)

For more information and links to application materials, see:
www.rscds.org/learn/teacher-training/core-training-instructors-cti



RSCDS New York Branch presents the

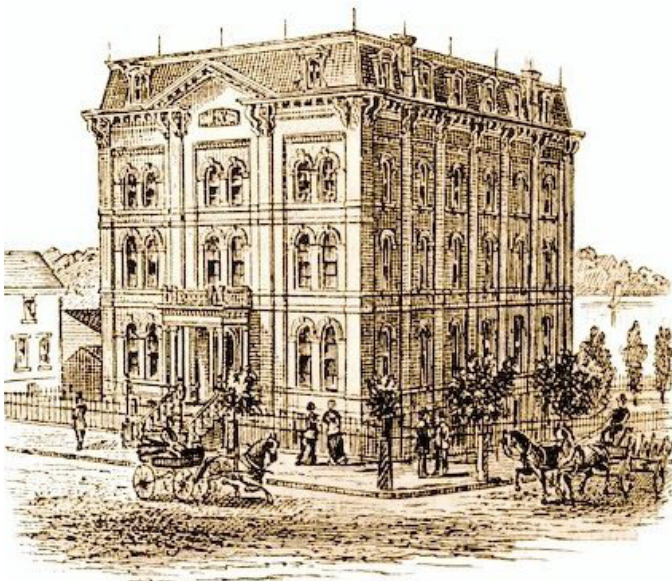
Jeannie Carmichael Ball

Saturday, October 23rd, 2021

Music by Tullochgorum

The Grand Auditorium of the historic Poppenhusen Institute
114-04 14th Road, College Point, Queens, NY.
Easy access by public transportation – NYC or MTA
Free on-site and on-street parking

Programme & registration information available soon.
Meanwhile visit us on the web: rscdsnewyork.org
and on Facebook: RSCDS New York
or email: dscher@icloud.com



POPPENHUSEN INSTITUTE.

TAC Virtual Summer School 2021

by Kathryn Simonsen

TAC ran its first (and we hope only!) virtual summer school from July 28 to July 31. There were dance classes, dance parties, a concert, and a ceilidh as well as opportunities to be social. The Virtual Summer School brought together over 370 dancers from fifteen countries on four different continents. The teachers were Lara Friedman-Shedlov, Marjorie McLaughlin, Geoffrey Selling, Alan Twhigg and Ron Wallace. The music for the musicians' concert and the Saturday night ball was provided by Tartan Ties. All sessions were recorded and are now available on TAC's new YouTube channel (here is the link: <https://tac-rscds.org/~tacscds/index.php/tac-summer-school/links-to-daily-event-recordings>). If you are able to bring a group of dancers together – or just a partner – or even just yourself, you can literally have yourself a ball. If you were one of those who joined us, thank you for making the Virtual Summer School such a success.



*Geoffrey Selling leading the warmup for TAC 2021
photo from Alison Booz*

Save the date for the 2022 TAC Summer School - July 24-31, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada



*Ceilidh performed by the Bailey Boys of Santa Rosa Calif. for TAC 2021
photo from Alison Booz*

The New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain

Dates: September 17-19, 2021

Location: Loon Mountain Resort, Lincoln, N.H.

Hours: Access to the grounds is 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily

Parking and Tickets: This year we will include onsite parking only for all ticket holders. All attendees must purchase a ticket in advance. No tickets will be sold onsite.

Featuring: Pipes & Ddrums, Athletics, Celtic Bands, Sheep Dogs, Highland Dancing, Whisky Tastings, Try It Classes, Clan Village, Vendors

Info: nhscot.org

Membership Application for the RSCDS Boston Branch October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

Branch Class eligibility and the membership directory are based on applications received by Nov. 8, 2021

Please fill out the form below legibly (even if your information has not changed from the previous year)

Name(s) (1) _____ (2) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Primary Phone _____

Secondary Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Pronouns (optional) _____

Age Under 25 RSCDS Teacher Age Under 25 RSCDS Teacher

Communications Preference (please check one): (If none checked, you will receive electronic only.)

- ___ All Branch mailings, including the Tartan Times, in electronic form
- ___ Branch mailings in electronic form, but the Tartan Times in hard copy (\$10/year)
- ___ All Branch mailings in hard copy form (\$10/year)

Membership Type (please check one): (Couple memberships must have a single mailing address.)

- | <u>Regular</u> | <u>Sustaining</u> | <u>Benefactor</u> |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| ___ \$92 Couple | ___ \$125 Couple | ___ \$170 Couple |
| ___ \$55 Single | ___ \$75 Single | ___ \$100 Single |
| ___ \$35 Single - Student / Limited Income | | |
| ___ \$25 Youth (17 & under) | | |
| ___ \$20 <u>Associate</u> (only for members of other Branches). Primary Branch: _____ | | |

Please list Boston Branch Class(es) you attend **“regularly”** : _____
(used to determine class eligibility for branch funds)

Check if you would like to volunteer for any of the events listed below:

- ___ Boston Highland Ball ___ Annual Concert ___ Pinewoods Benefit Ball
- ___ ESC @ Pinewoods ___ Pinewoods Scottish Sessions ___ New Hampshire Highlands

Make your checks payable (in US funds) to the “RSCDS Boston Branch” and mail to:

Peter and Mary Olszowka / Membership
15 Sartwell Ave
Somerville MA 02144

Email questions to: membership@rscdsboston.org

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Have Shoes Will Travel

- Fall events, Toronto Branch - info at: dancescottish.ca — *STILL CANCELLED*
- Scottish Weekend, September 24-26, 2021, at Camp Louise in Maryland. For info & registration: scottishweekend.org — *CANCELLED*
- Jeannie Carmichael Ball, Saturday October 23, 2021, at the historic Poppenhusen Institute in College Point, Queens, NY. At this time, the Branch is planning a magnificent in-person Ball, with music by Tullochgorum. Info: rscdsnewyork.org
- San Francisco Branch Scottish Dance Weekend at Asilomar, October 29-31, 2021 at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California. Info: rscds-sf.org — *CANCELLED* ~

