

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXIX, Number 6
November / December 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, David Grubb, Linda McJannet,
Lance Ramshaw, Ted Randolph, Alena Taylor

Teaching & Music Committee *Chair:* Debbie Jarvis

Nominating Committee *Chair:* Ilene Goldstein

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

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

TAC Representative Patti Tillotson

Equipment Thomas Howe — equipment@rscdsboston.org

Bookstore Laurie Somario • **Archives** Jeffrey Hopper

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
webmaster@rscdsboston.org

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

The Tartan Times — tartantimes@rscdsboston.org

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

THE TARTAN TIMES is published electronically six times a year by the Boston Branch as a service to its members. At the time of their annual enrollment, members may elect to receive printed copies by US mail for an additional \$10. Affiliated organizations may subscribe for free by sending their email address.

Copy due date for the January / February 2022 issue is **December 10th**
CAMERA-READY MATERIAL FOR YOUR WINTER & SPRING EVENTS
(including cancellation / postponement / online / wait-and-see information),
AND DATES OF FUTURE EVENTS, SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR

Canadian American Club



— CELEBRATING —

**Our Heritage through
Music, Song & Dance**



November 14, 2021

1:00-8:00pm

Canadian-American Club Gala Entertainment Schedule	
Time Slot	Performers
1:00 - 1:30 PM	Michael Kerr & Elizabeth Kozachek
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Orchestra
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Jackie O'Riley's Dancers, Joey Abarta
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Scottish Fish
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Terry & Malka Traub
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Leland Martin
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Barbara McOwen & Tullochgorum
4:30 - 5:00 PM	Jen Schoonover & Gaelic Singers
5:00 - 5:30 PM	Adrienne Howard & Friends
5:30 - 6:00 PM	Planet Banjo
6:00 - 6:30 PM	Rachel Reeds & Friends
6:30 - 7:00 PM	Scottish Country Dancers
7:00 - 7:30 PM	Steve Zambarano
7:30 - 8:00 PM	Raffle

Can't make it? Go to canadianamericanclub.com to join the club or donate!

Class News

News from the Brunswick Class

from Patti Tillotson

We have started in person classes on Thursdays. For any updates, contact Patti at pstillotson@gmail.com or phone 207 841-3232.

The Brunswick class hosted their Annual Fall Dance Party virtually on October 16. Music was by Ed and Neil Pearlman who played together live for the party and provided exciting and beautiful music. The evening was enjoyed by several groups getting together in pods, which worked out well for those who were able. The rest danced with their ghosts. It should be noted that the ghosts remained unseen in the gallery view. The dance was fun and enjoyed by all. We look forward to (hopefully) in person next year in October on the Saturday after the Holiday weekend. 🏹

News from the Great Barrington Class

from Ted Randolph

The Great Barrington Class is happy to announce that we're dancing in person again. We have a new night and time: Thursdays from 7-9 pm. We dance at Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park Street (3rd floor), Housatonic, Massachusetts. Dancers must be fully vaccinated. Call or email Ted with any questions: (413) 822-0539; tedfr4@gmail.com 🏹



Screen shots from the Zoom version of the Cambridge Class, held at the Canadian American Club in Watertown, Mass. There was also a cam on the musicians, Elizabeth Anderson and Terry Traub. News and photos of classes are welcome any time!

Cambridge Class Holiday Party

Monday Evening December 20th, 2021
Canadian American Club
202 Arlington St, Watertown, Mass.

MC & Program
Susie Long

Start Time is 8 pm
In-Person & Streaming Live Online
Covid Protocols Required

Music by
Terry Traub & Friends

More Info Soon
Web - rscdsboston.org
Email - cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org

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

At the beginning of September, the Cambridge Class started in-person dancing again at the Canadian American Club in Watertown. It's great to be dancing again with "real" people again rather than "ghosts," and great to feel the energy and enthusiasm of the "real" dancers around you. We've all been perfecting our "smizing" i.e., smiling with our eyes while wearing a mask. In addition to our in-person dancers we've had people from the Boston area and beyond joining us on Zoom each week. We had a few teething problems with the quality of the Zoom video which were mostly solved by installing a 100 foot Ethernet cable from the router in the downstairs hall to the stage in the upstairs hall. A big thank you to John Crabtree, Charles Liu, Sue Chari, Thom Howe and Karen Sollins who have helped us with sound setup and Zoom broadcasts over the last two months.

In September we had fine teaching from Jen Schoonover and wonderful music from Tom Pixton on accordion. We finished the month with a lively double social hour to music from two accordions (Tom Pixton and Gawain Thomas). In October we have enjoyed excellent teaching from Robert McOwen and awesome music from Elizabeth Anderson on fiddle, with Susie Petrov, Beth Murray and Terry Traub on piano (not all on the same evening!).

In November we are looking forward to having Laura DeCesare as our teacher and Susie Petrov as our band leader. In December, Susie Long will be our teacher and Terry Traub will be our band leader. We would like to invite everybody to our Holiday Party on Monday 20th December with a fun program of dances by MC Susie Long and awesome live music by Terry Traub and friends. The party will be in-person and broadcast on Zoom. More details will be available soon.

We hope to see many of you in-person or on Zoom in the near future.

Any questions, please contact Alex Bowers, cambridgeclass@rscdsboston.org

News from the Belfast Class

from Gayle Koyanagi

The Belfast Class is returning to in-person dancing, beginning October 6. Experienced Social Class, Year-round on Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm, at Waterfall Arts, 256 High Street, Belfast ME 04915. Vaccinated dancers only. Contact: Gayle Koyanagi at 207-322-7727 (cell) or Donna Griffith at 207-785-2216. ~

News from the Albany Class

from Lois New

We had rave reviews of the Fall Frolic. Everything meshed perfectly. But we were so busy that we didn't take any photos! So sorry.

Here is what one participant wrote: "The Frolic was joyous excellence from the very beginning to the end – from dance selection, to advertising, MCing, sound, and musicians. Wow, it was a diamond, and is one we will carry in our hearts."

We had more than forty logins. At least six in-person pods participated from New Zealand to Maine, Northern VA, Binghamton, Boston, Albany.

We built the event with the intention of best serving our hybrid audience, working to ensure a quality experience for those dancing over zoom as a "pod" or individuals as well as the two sets dancing at Newbitz House (Albany class location). For example, we had the band play from a studio in Maryland so the music was equally accessible to everyone (instead of playing in Albany with pods and zoomers looking in). We danced 4x each dance (or 3 for set dances) to accommodate pods with sets without wearing out individual zoomers. And 4x through provided variety for the musical arrangements. Party dance review sessions were held in person at each pod and over zoom for others. We ended the evening with almost an hour-long concert, as we all kept asking for more!

We hope that people will continue to join our class on Sundays at 7:00 in person, in pods and in zoom. We will continue to hone the hybrid experience. And, stay tuned for our next big event – Hogmanay will be hybrid again this year. Contact math.maniac.1@gmail.com to be on the notification list. ~

New Class in Maine

from Dawn Little

The Downeast Scottish Country Dancers announce a new class, associated with the Boston Branch RSCDS. It is the Bucksport Beginners Class. Fully vaccinated singles, beginners and seniors are all welcome. It will take place year-round on Mondays, 5-7 pm, in Brown Hall, 31 Elm Street Bucksport, Maine (look for the OPEN flag!). For more information, contact Dawn Little at 803-319-8374, sugarmaple111@hotmail.com ~



Boston Highland Ball 2022

from Marsha Byrnes and Elizabeth Anderson

Save the dates:

May 13, 2022 - Friday Night Welcome Dance at First Parish Church in Weston - Cathy Fahey, MC

May 14, 2022 - Saturday Night Highland Ball at Memorial Hall in Melrose with the great band ***Frost and Fire***, Grand March, and catered refreshments

May 15, 2022 - Sunday Morning Brunch at a member's home in the Boston area ~

Calendar — Events Near and Afar

November

- 8 *** Boston Branch RSCDS SAGM Online, p 8
14 ** Canadian American Club Gala, p 3
20 ** Scottish Ceilidh, p 10 — POSTPONED
20 * Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, p 10

December

- 17-19 * Christmas Celtic Sojourn, p 10
20 ** Cambridge Class Holiday Party, p 5
31 ** Hogmanay Party, Albany, p 4

January

- 1 ** Nashua New Year Party (tentative)
2 ** Hogmanay Celebration, N.H., p 16

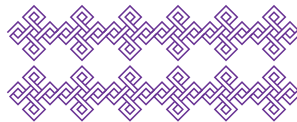
February

- 18-20 ** Flurry Festival, p 13

Save the Date

- Boston Highland Ball, May 13-15, Massachusetts, 2022, p 6, p 8
Pinewoods Scottish Session I & II: July 8-16, 2022, Massachusetts, see below
TAC Summer School: July 24-31, 2022, Alberta, 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.*




Report from the Pinewoods Committee

Catherine Scannell and Debbie Jarvis, Co-Chairs

We are beyond excited for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions this coming July. Scottish Session 1 is slated to run July 8-11 and Session 2 July 11-16. We expect to be mostly back to camp as usual, though we are planning to keep a few changes from last year to help us continue to ease into dancing, as many of us are still dancing quite a bit less than in “the Before Times.” Class grids are filling in nicely as staffing is coming into place.

We are thrilled to welcome Sharon Barker and Fiona Grant to our teaching staff, as they were originally hired to teach in 2020 and were unable to travel to the US due to the pandemic. We expect to have some more familiar teachers on the roster as well, some Pinewoods veterans and others brand-new. Tom Pixton, our prestigious Music Director, has also assembled a band of not-to-be-missed talent from our own local pool, both US coasts, and Scotland.

As we know more regarding fees, deadlines, and other logistics, we will update. Stay tuned for more news as it comes! 

Notes from the Executive Committee

Fall has arrived! What does that mean? It means that the SAGM [Semi-Annual General Meeting] will be occurring on November 8, 2021, via Zoom. Watch your e-mail for the link.

Some classes have started to meet in-person, while others are still hanging back to watch the incidence of COVID-19 in their area before making any decisions.

As a reminder, Laurie Somario is the new keeper of the Bookstore. If you are looking for an item, please do not hesitate to reach out to Laurie at laurie.somario@gmail.com.

With a strong sense of optimism, plans are being made for future dancing events, including Highland Ball 2022, Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2022, and the Fall Concert 2022. Let us hope that optimism brings us back to a sense of normalcy.

That is all for now! Stay safe! – *Respectfully submitted, Susan Haines, Branch Secretary* ~

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the revised Class Listing, which has changes to two classes (Belfast and Great Barrington) and one brand-new class (Bucksport). For late-breaking news on re-opening of classes or ongoing activities, 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 upcoming 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* ~

Report from the Teaching & Music Committee

The Teaching and Music Committee is excited to be planning for events that are, seemingly, more likely to be in person and, for better-or-worse, as planned. NEFFA, this year, is expected to be in person, but it will be at a hotel in Marlborough and will not feature performances, though we are hoping to have our own Jen Schoonover, Charles Liu, and Karen Sollins leading workshops with White Cockade playing for participatory dancing.

We are seeing progress as well in our plans for the Boston Highland Ball in May. Please keep the weekend of May 13-15 free to join us for a weekend of lively music and great cheer with your Boston Branch hosts. Programs are looking excellent; expect a band announcement shortly!

Of course Pinewoods Scottish Sessions is always on our agenda, and we are making excellent progress as we finalize staffing, class grids, evening programs, and more. We are hoping for a mostly “business as usual” experience while honoring our distance from more rigorous, in-person dance in the form of conditioning classes and allowance of evening walk-throughs, among a few other things. Expect to see friends from abroad once again on both teaching and music staff.

Workshops continue, and we were thrilled to have had Susie Petrov lead a thoughtful and engaging workshop on musicianship with the goal of bringing more musicians to the Scottish Country Dance genre in October.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions and concerns. – *On behalf of the TMC, respectfully, Debbie Jarvis* ~

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, new night and time: Thursdays 7-9 pm at Berkshire Pulse, 420 Park Street (3rd floor), Housatonic. Dancers must be fully vaccinated. Contact Ted Randolph: (413) 822-0539; greatbarringtonclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **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:** Year-round Experienced Social Class, Wednesdays 7-9 pm at Waterfall Arts, 256 High Street, Belfast. Vaccinated dancers only. Contact Gayle Koyanagi, 207-322-7727 (cell), Donna Griffith at 207-785-2216 or belfastclass@rscdsboston.org
- * **Brunswick:** Sept-June, Thursdays 6:30 pm, Topsham Grange Hall, Pleasant St, Topsham. Contact Patti Tillotson, 207-841-3232, brunswickclass@rscdsboston.org
- Bucksport - NEW:** Year-round Beginners Class for fully-vaccinated singles, beginners and seniors, Mondays 5-7 pm, Brown Hall, 31 Elm Street, Bucksport. Contact Dawn Little, 803-319-8374, bucksportclass@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, pandemic and hall variabilities, etc, it's always advisable to get in touch in advance before attending, if you're not on a class contact list. To download this flier as a pdf, go to www.rscdsboston.org/pdf/FullFlyer.pdf. Class Contacts: when changes occur, please notify classes@rscdsboston.org

Music Page

Some Music Events

- **Weekend of November 4-7, 2021** – Fiddle Hell Online – many extraordinary concerts, sessions & classes – fiddlehell.org
- **November 5, 6, 13, 14, 2021** – Hanneke Cassel concerts in Mass, Maine & R.I. — hannekecassel.com
- **Sunday November 14, 2021** – 1-8 pm - Canadian American Club Gala - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club Orchestra, Gordon Aucoin, Tullochgorum, Scottish Fish, Malka Pomerantz, Rachel Reeds, Boston Scottish Country Dancers, More— canadianamericanclub.com
- **Saturday Evening November 19, 20, 21, 2021** – Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas in concert, in Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Massachusetts — alasdairfraser.com
- **Wednesday December 15, 2021** – The Fretless - a string quartet (2 violins, viola, cello) out of Toronto play Celtic music with verve — passim.org
- **Weekend of December 17-19, 2021** – Brian O'Donovan's Celtic Christmas Sojourn, in-person and streaming; on the Scottish side will be Maeve Gilchrist, Jenna Moynihan, and Katie McNally & Neil Pearlman — christmasceltic.com
- **Thursday Evening, December 23, 2021** – Celtic harper Aine Minogue in concert at Passim — passim.org
- **Weekend of January 13-16, 2022** – Boston Celtic Music Festival, aka the BCMFest. The 2022 festival will showcase Greater Boston's deep tradition of music, song and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton and other Celtic communities. — passim.org 🍀



The Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra with Neil Pearlman



News from the Scottish Ceilidh Committee

from Robert McOwen


The Scottish Ceilidh, which was to be hosted by Highland Dance Boston and the Scots' Charitable Society, has been postponed til approximately the same time next year, November 2022. It will take place at the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury, with music by *Parcel of Rogues*. 🍀

Dance Legacies of Scotland: The True Glen Orchy Kick

by Margaret Lepley, a longtime Branch member and reader of the above book, written by Mats Melin and Jen Schoonover. For information on obtaining this book, contact Jen at outrageoussocks@gmail.com — Asst. Ed.

Knowing both Mats and Jen, and enjoying Cape Breton dancing myself, it was a no-brainer: I needed to get hold of this book. But a first dip into its pages lead to more reasons to continue reading, to absorb and savor. Not only does it look at evidence of percussive dance in Scotland, but also relates it to the history of other dancing styles (country, highland, ladies step, and more) in ballrooms, inns, and kitchens, on stage, and at crossroads.


Writings from as far back as the 1700s through to present day recollections touch on multiple places, times, social strata, and individual influencers. (Many of the names appearing in the last chapter will be familiar to you!) From clues suggesting the old rough percussive side of Scottish dancing, to the shift away from it, and then reintroduction in the 1980's to what is now a living percussive tradition in Scotland as well as Cape Breton.

It's a fascinating braided journey, where dance like any living tradition evolves. But like language, we see that dance forms can be lost if not passed on. Never feel inferior or hide away the dancing you enjoy. Or it might disappear ... unless luck nurtures it elsewhere ... and eventually braids it back. 



Robert Burns, Scottish Country Dancer

by Kirsteen McCue, Professor of Scottish Literature and Song Culture at the University of Glasgow, and Co-Editor of a multi-volume collection of the entire works of Robert Burns

Burns biographers have already established that Burns had an interest in the fiddle early in his life. Anecdotal evidence from his little sister, Isabella, later in her life, suggests that Burns tried hard to learn to play the fiddle, even if he never acquired enough skill to keep a dance tune going. ... Burns's letters are a fine source of evidence about his knowledge of existing and contemporary fiddle tunes. In his 'seventeenth year,' he recounts to Dr. John Moore in August 1787, he attended 'a country dance school' (Letters, I, 139), where he would have learnt common country dances accompanied by a solo fiddler. And this education in dancing and the fiddle tunes for dances continued for Burns and his brother Gilbert at the Bachelor's Club in Tarbolton, which they established and ran between 1781 and 1783. Indeed, the fiddle belonging to William Gregg, their dancing master, is still in existence. It can be seen at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway and it is still played at special events at the Bachelor's Club today. 



The Bachelor's Club, Tarbolton, Ayrshire

Flowers of the Forest

from Dawn Little

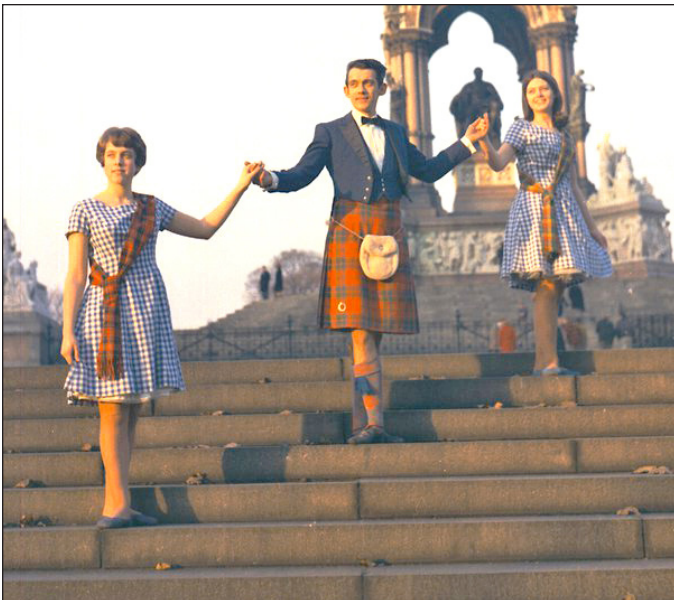
Michael Justin Little (just Mike to us) was born May 19, 1948 in Caribou, Maine. He died Friday, October 1, 2021 in Bucksport, Maine, surrounded by many of the people he loved, on the farm that he loved. Mike was the epitome of the Renaissance Man – a scholar and a farmer; a dancer (Scottish, Contra, Morris, Irish Set, and English, and ...) and a carpenter; a musician and a beekeeper; a book collector and an environmentalist; a fierce cribbage player and a top-notch birder, and so much more. He was a man of many interests and passions who lived and loved life to the fullest. Prior to his retirement, he spent more than 10 years as the Executive Director at Island Heritage Trust in Deer Isle, Maine where he strove to help the community understand the importance of protecting nature, and the island, for future generations. Before that he made significant environmental and land conservation contributions through his work at the Belgrade Lakes Association, Belgrade, Maine, and Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center in Brattleboro, Vermont. He contributed to Herpetological Atlases in both Maine and Vermont. He celebrated every May Day with bells on as a Morris Dancer in both Vermont and Maine. He caught the SCD bug over 20 years ago in Vermont, and we all remember hearing his joyous “Hoot!” at parties and in classes. He and Dawn brought Scottish Country Dancing to life in the Blue Hill Peninsula area and annually at the Highland Games. Mike died too soon, at 73 years young. His loss will be felt profoundly by us all. 🐾



Mike & Dawn, Maine Highland Games at Topsham

from Jen Schoonover & Mats Melin

Colin Robertson passed away peacefully in his sleep in the evening of June 28, 2021 in McMinnville, Oregon. Along with Lewis Innes, Colin had been proprietor of the Scottish National Dance Company which organized competitions and workshops in Highland and Scottish Country dancing, and sold dancing resources including ‘Slip Stop,’ which he invented. Colin was a professional dancer and teacher. When he lived in Reading, England, he participated in the Reading Traditional and Step Dance group, a.k.a. the Reading Cloggies. Well-known dances Colin choreographed include Cockney Jocks and the Black Bear Medley. He also published booklets relating to the history of hard-shoe dancing practices of Scotland.



Colin Robertson posing in front of the Scott Monument in Edinburgh with dance partners Joan and Linda

Colin worked as a scientific glass blower at Imperial College, London. He also, for many years, ran a weekly Highland Dance class at Imperial College which he accompanied on his tin whistle. His group gave performances at various events around England. He taught Highland Dancing for the Royal Ballet School. While he was known to brag that he was a student of the University of Life, he studied at the Imperial College and apprenticed at UKAEA Harwell. Colin’s formative teachers of Highland Dancing were Pipe Major Peter Quinn, Sandy Blyth, Georgina Kirk, and Gabriella Nixon. Colin was predeceased by his wife, Terie. 🐾

If the Kilt Jacket Fits ...

Lydia Doherty is a resident of Weston and member of the First Parish Church in Weston where the Branch holds regular events. She has a men's size 46 Argyle Scottish jacket for sale for \$250. The jacket, purchased new for \$600, belonged to her father who wore it only twice. She'd like to sell to someone who would appreciate and use it. She can be reached at lydiadoherthy@verizon.net. ~

The Scottish Dance and Cultural Education Association

The SDCEA Committee has decided there will be no Scholarship Dance this year. ~

Two Big Folk Festivals

February 18-20, 2022 – One of the largest folk dance and music festivals in North America, the Flurry Festival draws roughly 4,500 attendees and 400 performers every year. The Albany SCD Class is a regular contributor to the events. For more info - www.flurryfestival.org

April 22-24, 2022 – The New England Folk Festival, widely known by the name NEFFA, is an annual folk festival that blends dance, music, crafts, and more from many places and cultures. We hope that you will join us! The Boston Branch usually has a presence there. For more info - www.neffa.org/festivalM



Saint Andrew

from Evelyn Murray

One of the twelve Apostles, and brother to Saint Peter. His feast day is November 30th in Scotland where he is the country's patron saint. He never set foot in Scotland during his lifetime although he did travel to Scythia and Russia as the first missionary to the Muscovites. He returned to Jerusalem, then went to Greece. Among his converts was the wife of the Roman governor of Patrae. Angered by his wife's conversion the Governor ordered Andrew to be crucified. Professing himself unworthy to die on the same cross as that on which Christ suffered, he chose the cross which we know as the 'St. Andrew's Cross' (i.e. diagonal, like an X). His body was buried by the Governor's wife, but the bones were later transferred to Constantinople's Church of the Apostles. In 1208, a Cardinal Capuano removed the relics to Amalfi where they now rest in a gold reliquary in Amalfi cathedral.

According to the Aberdeen Breviary, Cardinal Capuano brought only the remainder of the Saint's bones to Amalfi. Scottish monks stated that when the body was still at Patrae, the custodian of the relics was visited by an angel who ordered him to take three finger bones, an arm bone and the knee-cap of St. Andrew and journey to the western limits of the world and there establish a city in honour of the Apostle. In the Reign of Angus, successor of King Nechtan of the Picts (A.D. 10), a stranger appeared bearing the bones which he said were those of St. Andrew. The King, impressed, allowed him to build a Church at Kilrymont on the Fifeshire coast.

By tradition, St. Andrew was chosen as Scotland's patron saint at the time of the battle of Athelstanford in the 10th century. A Scottish and Pictish army under King Angus clashed with the Saxons under King Athelstan at the ford over Cogtail Burn in East Lothian. Inspiration came to the Scots at the sight of the white cross of the Saint which appeared in the sky and they fought and won. ~



The official Flag of Scotland, called The Saltire or Saint Andrew's Cross

Get ready ... get set ... and plan to join the fun at



2022 TAC Summer School
Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada
July 24-31, 2022



Welcoming, supportive classes
For dancers of all levels
Basic | Intermediate | Advanced

Daily classes | evening social dances | formal ball and banquet |
evening after parties | ceilidh | silent auction

Teachers

Raphaëlle Orgeret (France)
Robert McOwen (USA)
Jeanne Moody (USA)
Barbara Johnston (Canada)

Musicians

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



tac-rscds.org

Sponsored by Scottish Country Dance Teachers' Association (Canada)

Dance Scottish At Home – DSAH

from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, the RSCDS turned on a dime and began the DSAH program. A weekly issue was emailed out to all members worldwide and it included news, announcements, music podcasts, historical notes, quizzes and puzzles, stories from the membership, and the RSCDS Online Class. The 40th and last issue came out at the end of September, and all 40 issues are available at www.rscds.org/get-involved/dance-scottish-home.

The catalogue of the Online Classes is a particularly valuable asset - the classes were recorded on Zoom and each class is a half-hour, providing online guidance through a mixture of basic movements, warm ups, technique, steps and dances, with a great variety across the classes. Each class is a peek into the teaching style and persona of many of the top teachers from around the RSCDS world. ~



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



Hogmanay Celebration

Ring in the New Year Scottish style at NHSCOT's Hogmanay Celebration, Sunday, January 2, 2022, 3 - 7 pm at the Derryfield Country Club in Manchester, N.H. Revelers of all ages will enjoy lively activities and spirited competitions indoors and out including:

Live Music by The Rebel Collective • Warming Fires and a S'mores Station
Scottish Country Dancing • Haggis Toss
Curling and Highland Dance Try-Its • Sledding and Sleigh Rides
A Torchlit Parade • Cash Bar
Indoor Board Games and Puzzles • ... and more!

Info and tickets available at nhscot.org 