

The Tartan Times

*Volume LXX, Number 1
January / February 2022*



**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

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

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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 March / April 2022 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



RSCDS Boston Branch
invites you to the

Boston Highland Ball 2022

Zoom Walkthrough – Sunday, May 1st

Welcome Party – Friday, May 13th

Family Brunch – Sunday, May 15th

Highland Ball – Saturday, May 14th

Melrose Memorial Hall

590 Main St, Melrose, MA 02176

Music by Frost and Fire

Peter Macfarlane, Viveka Fox, and Aaron Marcus

EH3 7AF

8x32 J 3C – Book 40

Dashing White Sergeant

6x32 R Trios – Book 3

Light and Airy

8x32 J 3C – Book 4

Monymusk

8x32 S 3C – Book 11

Trip to Gatlinburg

8x32 J 3C – Leaflets

Asilomar Romantic

8x32 S 3C – 30 Popular vol. 2

Flowers of Edinburgh

8x32 R 3C – Book 1

The Robertson Rant

1x80 S Sq – Book 39

Mrs. Macleod

8x32 R 3C – Book 6

Pelorus Jack

8x32 J 3C – Book 41

The Express

8x40 J 3C – Book 20

Chased Lovers

8x32 J 3C – World Wide Weaving

Earl of Northampton

6x32 S 2C – Boston 50th

Bob Campbell

8x32 S 3C – Canadian Book

Braes of Mellinish

6x32 S 2C – Book 25

Da Rain Dancin'

8x32 R 3C – 30 Popular vol. 2

Australian Ladies

8x32 R 3C – Glasgow Assembly

Reel of the 51st Division

8x32 R 3C – Book 13

For more information, contact the ball chairs at

highlandball@rscdsboston.org or visit

<http://rscdsboston.org/event-highland-ball.html>



Save the date: May 13, 2022
8:00 pm



RSCDS Boston's

Highland Ball Friday Welcome Dance

Music by

Dirk Tiede - Emily Peterson - Beth Murray

MC: Cathy Fahey

First Parish Church in Weston
349 Boston Post Road, Weston, MA 02493

Contributions to the refreshment table welcome



A hybrid event optimized for small groups! Dance with us by Zoom solo or in a local group, or (if fully vaccinated) join us in person in Albany! If you want to organize a local group, please RSVP to Barb Bemis and Lois New so we can coordinate technology and other logistics.

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

Hogmanay Dance

Friday, December 31, 2021

Dancing to start at 7:30 PM

(Recorded Music)

**Contact Barb Bemis math.maniac.1@gmail.com or Lois New loisscd@gmail.com
for the zoom link, or with any questions!**

In-person dancers must be fully vaccinated and must wear masks.

RSVP if you want to dance in Albany, so we can coordinate groups & locations

Most dances will be walked through twice then danced 4x through, but there will be exceptions with additional walk throughs and extra rounds!



A hybrid event optimized for small groups! Dance with us by Zoom solo or in a local group, or (if fully vaccinated) join us in person in Albany! If you want to organize a local group, please RSVP to Barb Bemis and Lois New so we can coordinate technology and other logistics.

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

New Year's Day Dance

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Dancing to start at 7:30 PM

Music by Terpsichore (Elke Baker and Liz Donaldson)

~ * ~ * ~

Pint O' Ale is Fain	32 J	3c	<i>The Devil's Quandary</i>
Linnea's Strathspey	32 S	3c	<i>RSCDS Book 47</i>
Trip to Timber Ridge	32 R	3c	<i>RSCDS Book 52</i>
Aberdeen Hunt	32 S	3c	<i>The San Andreas Collection</i>
Ellie's Jig	32 J	3c	<i>The Slip Knot Collection</i>
Gypsy Dreams	32 S	2c	<i>An Itch to Dance</i>
Sleepwalking	32 R	3c	<i>Katherine Giacoletti</i>

Intermission

New Year Jig	32 J	3c	<i>RSCDS Book 51</i>
Bob Campbell	32 S	3c	<i>The Canadian Book of SCDs</i>
A Hornpipe for Lois	32 R	3c	<i>Dale Birdsall</i>
Fair to Middlin'	32 S	3c	<i>Polly Birdsall</i>
Albany on Cloud Nine	32 J	3c	<i>Charles Liu</i>
Something in the Air	32 S	3c	<i>Pam Stephens</i>
The Falls of Rogie	32 R	3c	<i>Alexander Dances 1</i>

~ * ~ * ~

Contributions to help support Scottish musicians welcomed: Online via [paypal.me/fallfrolic](https://www.paypal.me/fallfrolic) or send checks to Lois New. Contact Barb Bemis math.maniac.1@gmail.com for the zoom link or Lois New loisscd@gmail.com with any questions!

In-person dancers must be fully vaccinated and must wear masks.

RSVP if you want to dance in Albany, so we can coordinate groups & locations

All dances will be walked through twice and then danced 4x through.

Class News

News from the Brunswick Class

from Patti Tillotson

The Brunswick, Maine class is now meeting in person. ~

News from the Great Barrington Class

from Ted Randolph

We are trying to decide whether to have a break from the in-person class this month. No decision just yet, but I'll update the website if we take a break. We will continue with the Zoom class on Tuesdays. If we go back to in-person classes, they will continue on Thursdays, 7-9 pm, at the 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 ~

News from the Cambridge Class

by Alex Bowers, on behalf of the Cambridge Class Committee

During November and December, Cambridge Class continued to enjoy in-person dancing with each class broadcast on Zoom for dancers unable to attend in person. In November, Laura DeCesare took us on a worldwide tour with social hours featuring favourite dances from countries across the globe. (It was surprising how many of the dances are also favourites in the Boston area). Susie Petrov was band leader for November. She invited musicians to play along at home on Zoom (while muted of course) to gain experience in playing for Scottish Dancing. Susie provided music in advance to people who wanted to play along. This was a great way to make use of Zoom!

In December, we welcomed Susie Long as our teacher with Terry Traub as band leader. December culminated in our Holiday Party. Great fun was had by all, both in-person dancers and Zoomers. Susie devised a program with interesting seasonal twists on the names of familiar dances. Terry on accordion was joined by Malka on fiddle and Beth Murray on piano, providing lively, fun music to complement the dances. We're so glad we were able to have the Holiday Party in-person!

Tech and sound set up for our hybrid classes has been time consuming and challenging at times. We've been trying to optimize the sound for dancers in the hall as well as for the direct feed for people out there in "Zoom land." The Cambridge Class Committee would like to give a big thank you to John Crabtree, Charles Liu, Sue Chari and Thom Howe, who have worked hard on tech and sound set up!

As I write this update, Cambridge Class Committee has regretfully come to the decision to suspend in-person classes for at least the month of January. We hope this will be only a temporary suspension. We will continue to provide Zoom classes each Monday evening @ 8pm. Everyone is welcome to join us! We kick off on January 3rd with a fun evening of social dancing led by Roberta and Howard Lasnik with live music by Dirk Tiede. For the rest of January, Susie Petrov will be teaching with live music by Dirk and friends. On the last Monday in January we will have an evening of social dancing in honour of Robert Burns. Zoomlinks from cambridgeclass@rsedsboston.org

Information about future classes will be sent out in emails to the Branch members list as well as the Cambridge Class email list. ~

News from the Bucksport Class

from Dawn Little

My beginner class continues to meet in person each week, for now. We had a Christmas mixer with the Belfast (Maine) Advanced Social Class in mid-December. It was such fun we will try to do it every once in a while, safety permitting... The class is really doing well - I am enjoying the opportunity to teach SCD to this group of wonderful folks. I think I learn more about teaching each week than they learn about dancing. ~

News from the Albany Class

from Lois New

We are continuing as usual... hybrid with full vaccination, boosters, masks, lots of air flow... checking in each week. The zoom is such a wonderful opportunity to keep us all connected. Hugs to all!! ~

Calendar – Events Near and Afar

December

- 31 ** Hogmanay Party, Albany, N.Y. – p 4
31 * Jacqueline Schwab live in concert from Boston, via Zoom – p 10

January

- 1 ** Nashua New Year Party, N.H. – p 15 – *cancelled*
1 ** Albany New Year’s Day Dance, N.Y. – p 5
2 * Hogmanay Event, Manchester, N.H. – see below – *cancelled*
13-16 * Boston Celtic Music Festival, Cambridge, Mass. – p 10
22 * Celebration of Robert Burns, Windham, N.H. - p 16 – *tentative*

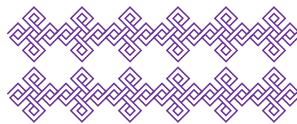
February

- 4-6 ** Cardigan Scottish Weekend, Bristol, N.H. – see below
10 *** Tartan Times deadline for March issue – p 2
18-20 ** Flurry Festival, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. – p 10 – *postponed*

Save the Date

- Boston Highland Ball Weekend, May 13-15, Massachusetts, 2022 – p 4-5
Pinewoods Scottish Session I & II: July 8-16, 2022, Massachusetts – see below
TAC Summer School: July 24-31, 2022, Alberta – p 14
Boston Branch Concert with Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas: November 12, 2022 – see website

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. Planners of future Branch and Class events can send to Evelyn and Barbara 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

From Debbie Jarvis, Co-Chair

We’re not sure about the application dates yet, because PCI hasn’t confirmed that camp is going to be open. That said, we expect to have applications out in January; watch for updates. As we know more regarding fees, deadlines, and other logistics, we will update. Stay tuned for more news as it comes! ~

Cardigan Scottish Weekend

Plans are taking shape for the 2022 edition of the Cardigan Scottish Weekend. It will be the weekend of February 4-6, 2022. Members of the Boston Branch will take over the AMC Lodge at Mt. Cardigan, near Bristol, N.H. There’s fun ‘n dancing ‘n skiing ‘n fiddling ‘n more to be had (think easy-to-challenging walks & snowshoeing, games, jigsaw puzzles, the occasional igloo project). Heated comfortable bunkbed rooms. Three meals provided, including homemade Scotch eggs, by intrepid chef MaryEllen Scannell. To get on Lance Ramshaw’s mailing list, go to – www.ramshaw.info/cardigan ~

Hogmanay Event

From NHScot

After much discussion between leadership, staff and event staff we have made the difficult decision to cancel the upcoming Hogmanay event on January 2, 2022. We feel that this is in the best interests and safety for all concerned. – nhscot.org ~

Notes from the Executive Committee

[See the next issue of the Tartan Times for the latest news from Exec. – ed.] ~

Note from the Keeper of the Class Listing

Opposite is the Class Listing. There are no changes since the last issue. 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* ~

Report from the Teaching & Music Committee

I am writing on behalf of the Teaching and Music Committee with some notes about what we have been up to as of late. TMC exists to help plan and run area events, large and small, from the May Highland Ball and Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods Camp to local workshops.

One year ago, this letter was focused on the disruption of the pandemic and the ways we were adjusting as we scrambled to move things online and struggled to staff events amid much uncertainty. This year, we are better equipped to maintain our community and plan our events, whether online, in person, or some combination of both. We are planning with optimism and more awareness, though we all hope that things remain steady and only continue to improve.

I'd like to introduce and whole-heartedly thank the members of TMC: Robert McOwen (Vice-chair); Karen Sollins (Secretary); Katarina Dutton and Jennifer Schoonover (Teachers); Elizabeth Anderson (Musician); Laurie Somario (Member-at-Large); Tom Pixton (Pinewoods Music Director); Catherine Scannell (Pinewoods Co-chair); and Marsha Byrnes (Exec Liaison).

The committee meets on Zoom once a month (or more, depending on the urgency of the pandemic and any changes it brings). TMC members are volunteers whose hard work is crucial to the functioning of our branch. I am merely the face of the committee, and these kind souls work hard to make sure our events happen and run smoothly.

This year, we are particularly excited to be hosting an in-person Highland Ball weekend. Save the dates for May 13-15 with lively music from Frost & Fire! See more details on the fliers *[see pp 3-4]!*

Our Pinewoods plans continue as always. This year we will continue to support dancers' easing-into-dancing needs with some conditioning classes and evening walk-throughs. We are excited to welcome two teachers from abroad who were unable to travel to us last year. We're also thrilled to have a seasoned favorite as well as a Pinewoods friend joining our teaching staff for the first time. Our Music Director, Tom Pixton, has assembled a phenomenal team of musicians to ensure music worth dancing to, welcoming accomplished, talented, and fun players from some local favorites as well as guests from both coasts and a special guest fiddler from Scotland.

We continue to not only plan social events but also discuss important topics. We take our positions seriously and frequently debate how and when to implicate changes that best serve our local community alongside the greater RSCDS, with gender and inclusivity an increasingly prevalent and important topic.

Our priority is to make our dance and music community a fun, safe, and welcoming space for all dancers, musicians, and friends. We want to respect all while also honoring the tradition and history of this social art form. If you ever feel that you are not being seen or heard, please let us know. Send any emails to tmc@rscds.org or reach out to me personally.

We look forward to the coming year and hope to see your smiling eyes or Zoom screen in an event to come. — *Respectfully, on behalf of TMC, Debbie Jarvis, TMC Chair* ~

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

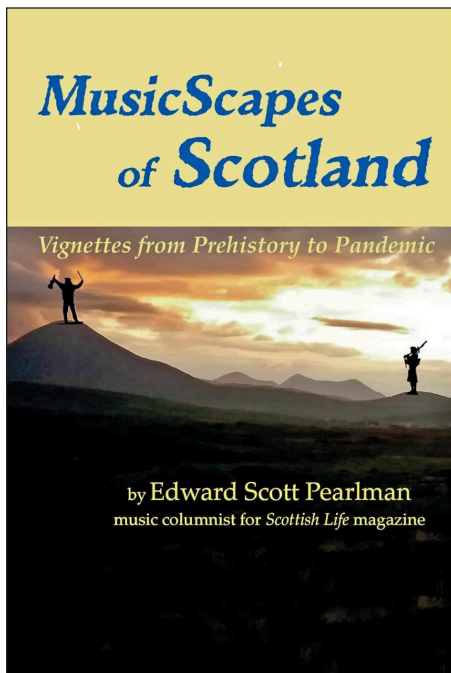
* *Indicates classes sponsored by the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, www.rscdsboston.org.*

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

- **Friday Evening December 31, 2022** - Jacqueline Schwab playing Scottish, Irish and American airs and dance tunes, free concert live via zoom, 8 pm — www.facebook.com/firstchurchboston
- **Sunday Afternoon January 2, 2022** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club workshop with Katie McNally — bsfc.org
- **Weekend of January 13-16, 2022** – Boston Celtic Music Festival, aka the BCMFest. Thursday night - concert & Scottish session; Friday night - concert (the Boston Urban Ceilidh is cancelled); Saturday 11-5 - concerts; Saturday evening - concert & Irish session; Sunday 11-5 - concerts — passim.org/live-music/bcmfest-2022
- **Monday Afternoon January 17, 2022** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club workshop with Anna Wendy Stevenson, direct from Scotland — bsfc.org
- **Saturday Evening January 22, 2022** - Celebration of Robert Burns, with haggis, dinner, entertainment, in Castleton N.H., presented by The N.H. Pipes & Drums — scottisharts.org
- **Friday Evening January 28, 2022** - Aine Minogue, Celtic harper at Passim — passim.org
- **Tuesday Evening February 1, 2022** - Maeve Gilchrist, Celtic harper at Passim — passim.org
- **Wednesday Evening February 2, 2022** - Rakish, a Celtic duo with Glenfiddich fiddle champion Maura Shawn Scanlin and guitarist Conor Hearn, at Passim — passim.org
- **Thursday Evening February 3, 2022** - Fellswater, a dynamic 8-piece Celtic music ensemble based out of Boston, at Passim — passim.org
- **Weekend of February 4-6, 2022** - Cardigan Scottish Weekend - Fun ‘n dancing ‘n skiing ‘n fiddling ‘n more at the AMC Lodge at Mt. Cardigan, Bristol, N.H. - www.ramshaw.info/cardigan
- **Sunday Afternoon February 6, 2022** - Boston Scottish Fiddle Club workshop with Mari Black — bsfc.org
- **Weekend of February 14-17, 2022** - Hanneke Cassel’s Pure Dead Brilliant Scottish Fiddle Weekend - check for updates for 2022 — pdbfiddleweekend.com
- **Weekend of February 14-17, 2022** - SFSF Winter Weekend - San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers’ Winter Weekend, wall-to-wall sessions, in a beautiful ranch location in the wine country near Healdsburg, Calif. - sfscottishfiddlers.org/activities.html
- **Weekend of February 18-20, 2022** - Flurry Festival — flurryfestival.org — POSTPONED (to a possible outdoor event in the spring) ~



From Ed Pearlman

I’m excited to announce my new book, “MusicScapes of Scotland: Vignettes from Prehistory to Pandemic.” Drawn from my 24 years as music columnist for *Scottish Life* magazine, the essays in this book usher you through a panorama of musical styles and history, helping you appreciate songs in Gaelic, Scots, and English, music of the pipes, fiddle, harp, and more.

Journey through a music and culture that is rich and varied, influential in western folk and classical music, and yet relatively little examined in its own right. Let this book be your tour guide to the nooks and crannies of an amazing musical landscape. Enjoy cover to cover, or read any chapter on its own. Travel via the music of Scots abroad, pay tribute to those who make it all happen, and catch a glimpse of the future.

Now available on Amazon in print and Kindle, and from my author’s website (<https://edward-pearlman.com>) - or order it from any bookshop. ~

Julie Smith, Julie Smith, Where Have You Been? I've Been To Scotland To Dance With The Queen!

By Julie E. Smith, August 1973, typed and edited by Duncan Smith

It was all the Queen's fault... My plans were complete: a week at Pinewoods to celebrate our 20th year there, followed by a charter flight to Scotland with the Clan Sutherland Pipe Band and two weeks at the RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews University where there would be festivities marking the Society's 50th birthday. Then Her Majesty graciously consented to attend a Jubilee Ball to be given by the Edinburgh Branch on July 12. Realizing this was a once in a lifetime chance, I dropped my carefully laid plans and started over. Sadly, Pinewoods was out, the first summer missed in 20 years. A quick note to Duncan MacLeod brought the reply that, indeed an escort was needed and, as no man from Boston was going, the search was on. Unexpectedly came an overseas call from Naomi Dunkin, former Montreal dancer, now in Exeter, England. Not only did she have an escort for me, but I knew him, and moments later I was speaking with Tim Holland whom I had met at Pawling two years earlier when he came over to visit his Washington-based parents (also dancers and just returned to England). Several letters later all was arranged and I would meet the Exeter group at the hotel Tim had booked in Edinburgh. Then came the problem of switching my time at St. Andrews from the second to the first fortnight, not an easy request to fulfill, with dancers from all over the world eager to be in "mecca" during this celebration year. Although Miss Milligan wrote that she would do her best, I still didn't know when I would return as I boarded an Aer Lingus 747 on the 94 degree evening of July 9 [editor's note – 1973].

Edinburgh was its beautiful, grey self, brightened by thousands of roses in the Princes Street gardens. After settling into the brand new King James Hotel at the head of Leith St, the first order of business was to visit Society Headquarters in Coates Crescent. The new Secretary, Mrs. Burt, was most pleasant and I was relieved to learn that I would be able to attend Summer School at the earlier date. By the time the Exeter contingent arrived on the afternoon of the Ball, I felt I would be in excellent condition for the 27-dance program, having had two strenuous days of walking and sightseeing. The moment finally arrived, and Naomi, her partner Layton Morris, Tim and I left for the Assembly Rooms and Music Hall in George Street where 600 people were gathering to dance in the two ballrooms, upstairs. After a word with Miss Milligan, who was joyously greeting friends from everywhere, Mina Corson pulled me away to be interviewed with other overseas visitors for a program being filmed by Grampian TV for a series of programs on the RSCDS. The Hunns from the Delaware group were there; also, Jack Rennie from Los Angeles, Bob Millar and Valerie Harris from Toronto and dancers from as far away as South Africa and New Zealand. Jack and I were on camera together and were asked a number of questions by a knowledgeable gentleman. I believe I managed to get in the fact that Boston was proud to be the first Branch on this continent.

Upstairs, the Ball was going gaily on, the same program in both rooms, with one closed down during each of the two supper breaks. There were a few familiar faces – the Courages from St Catherines, the Eastons from Cleveland, and Charlie Robertson from N.Y., who had come at the last minute, but mostly a sea of strange faces, a rather unusual situation for me. I felt the bands were not too inspiring and wished our two fine Canadian bands had been there to liven things up. Finally we were told that the Queen was on her way. Duncan MacLeod, an MC for the latter part of the evening, had told me just where to stand. I was rewarded by being quite close as the Royal Party entered the Ballroom, the Queen looking very tiny but regal in a simple white gown and Royal Stewart sash. As Miss Milligan said at St Andrews, she felt the Queen paid the society a great compliment by not wearing a tiara. "It meant," said Miss Milligan, "that she was one of us." And indeed she seemed to be, as she danced several times and obviously enjoyed it. Prince Philip and Princess Anne also danced and looked genuinely happy. Fashion note for the men: Prince Philip had scarlet lapels on his Prince Charlie jacket and one member of the Royal Party wore a tartan doublet cut on the bias! And although there was no air conditioning not a single doublet or jacket was removed during the six-hour program.

We knew which dances the Queen would do – Petronella, Monymusk, the Duke of Perth, and the Eightsome Reel, and Charlie Robertson asked me for Petronella, if and when it was requested. Only a few moments later, the Queen and her set came out of the anteroom and Petronella was announced. Charlie and I

happened to be standing near the spot where that set would form and we managed to get into the set just below as third couple. This meant that by the time the Queen and her partner finished being active and were in 4th place, Charlie and I were waiting out at the top of our set and therefore, I was standing next to her! Since I felt it impolite to turn to look directly at her, I used my peripheral vision, sharpened by years of Monday night [ed. - the Boston Branch class] training. That moment of itself made my whole trip worthwhile and will be my claim to fame forever!

Her Majesty danced rather tentatively at first and, titled though he was, her partner, Sir Iain Moncrieff of that Ilk, wasn't much help; however, having gone successfully through the dance, she relaxed and requested it once more – this time all smiles, as she danced. The Royal Party enjoyed themselves enough to remain for two hours and at one point the Queen was heard to say to Princess Anne before a dance, “Wish me luck, dearie!” As they left, I managed to take a picture of the Queen as security was unnecessary and almost non-existent. At 2 AM, four exhausted dancers limped back to the King James for a few hours' rest before starting the journey to Exeter. Next morning we rushed out for the papers and found a picture with a good shot of Charlie. I didn't know until I reached St Andrews ten days later that the Glasgow Sunday Record had a color photo showing the Queen and her partner coming up the middle on Petronella, with Charlie and me right behind her!



Dancing up the middle: Queen Elizabeth II & Sir Iain Moncrieff of that Ilk, followed by Julie Smith & Charlie Robertson

Once in Exeter, between Devon cream teas (bowls of thick clotted cream to spread on your freshly-baked scones) it was time to think of the demonstration the Exeter team was giving on the final day of a week-long fair in the village of Winkleigh, on the Moor. I had been invited to participate so a white dress was duly found and altered. Unfortunately, it rained, and instead of the village square, we were inside along with the children's costume parade and the local band. It was rather unnerving to do an unknown dance, the Inverness Reel, without a rehearsal, but it went well and we were rewarded with yet another cream tea! On another occasion, those dancers still around Exeter in the summer gathered at the school where Naomi teaches for pleasant evening during which I taught them Boston Hospitality and Pinewoods Reel.

After an all too short five-day visit, Tim and Naomi insisted on driving me to Birmingham where I was to spend some time with Anna Holden who visited the Boston Branch last Fall. No Scottish activities there, but some delightful days in the Cotswolds, plus visits to Warwick and Kenilworth Castles, and Coventry and Worcester Cathedrals. Then it was time to leave for St Andrews where Anna would teach the Certificate class. Her daughter Diane was with us for her first Summer School visit and we made the trip in a leisurely two days, going via Castle Douglas to pick up Margaret Rae, one of the regular pianists. There were 300 at the school, many more than usual, and it was rather like Pinewoods or any regular annual gathering as people greeted each other. There were Swedes, Dutch, French, South Africans and Canadians as well as a number of Americans. I was especially happy to see Dinah Stix [sp? ed.] from Middlebury, Vermont and Ron Krug, now in Toronto, previously in Montreal and Winnipeg. A number of his Winnipeg friends were there and they warmly included Dinah and me in their group.

Two weeks at St. Andrews could be a book in itself. It is truly an inspiring experience, as well as a lot of hard work, and one which I wish each dancer could have at least once. The trouble is, once makes you want to

go back because you've made so many friends you'll never see any place else. Highlights of this year's school were a formal dinner given to us by the University complete with wine and a magnificent speech by the Vice Principal. The after-dinner entertainment, billed as a "conversazione" included a showing of the three newly-composed Jubilee Dances. To me, the outstanding thing was meeting the fabled Irene Grant Caithness, one of the dancers in Miss Milligan's most famous International Team of 25 years ago, and still referred to constantly by Miss Milligan as one of the most beautiful dancers she ever taught. Now the wife of a St. Andrews physician,



*Duncan Smith, Julie Smith and Bob Smith -
Three Past Presidents of the Boston Branch,
Boston Ball, May 2000*

and wearing high heeled slippers as she danced the Eightsome Reel, it was still possible to see what Miss Milligan means. There is so much to remember – Miss Milligan's classes of 90-100 at Younger Hall with the remarkable Kitty at the piano; the delicious food, unlike any institution cooking I've ever experienced (but bring your own napkin!); sitting in the first row at the Byre Theatre for \$1.50; buying a quart of fresh raspberries for 50 cents; singing for two hours straight on the bus coming back from a demonstration at Pitlochry; the ceilidh with Miss McLaren impersonating Miss Milligan leading a ladies' (really men in long black skirts and hair nets) wand exercise class circa 1923; and a Highland dance done to native music by two Hawaiian beach boys who had supposedly received one lesson from a Highland teacher just passing through.

Suddenly, I was leaving as a new group including Peggy O'Connor, Freddy Sverdlove, and the Lapiners arrived. My Aer Lingus plane took me to Dublin where Pat, Peg, and Anne Hodgson, more former Montreal dancers, gave me a real taste of Irish hospitality for my last few days. Pat is in pretty good shape following his auto accident of last year which necessitated a bone graft in one leg. Eventually he'll dance a little, though sadly never in his former exuberant style. A day at the Royal Dublin Horse Show and bumping into a college classmate of twenty-five years ago outside the Trinity College Library. Then it was time to leave for Boston, arriving in the same 94 degree heat I had left to find a brand new kitchen floor which Bob had put down in my absence. So it pays to go away, but it was pretty nice to be home and share a memorable summer with my family and friends. ☺



RSCDS Winter School & Summer School 2022

from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Taking place over five days in the Scottish town of Pitlochry, Winter School attracts around 150 dancers from the UK, continental Europe, North America and Australasia. Attendees enjoy a 4-star stay in the Atholl Palace Hotel, with a range of classes, social dances, tours and of course, the famous ball at Blair Castle. The dates for the Winter School are 20-25 February, 2022

Our flagship Scottish country dance event, Summer School traditionally takes place in St Andrews each year and attracts dancers from all over the world. Provisional dates for Summer School 2022 are 24th July - 14th August. More information will follow in due course.

For more information on these and other RSCDS events, go to www.rscds.org ☺

RSCDS Book 53 for 2023

from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

In 2023, the RSCDS will be marking its Centenary and we will be publishing a celebration book of dances – Book 53 in 2023. As with previous books we would like Branches to be involved in the submission and selection process.

Dances have different reasons for being popular – the ease or complexity of the formations, the music, the story behind the dance or a combination of all. These are things to bear in mind when selecting your Branch dances to put forward for Book 53 in 2023.

Branches may submit a maximum of 3 dances. You may wish to submit a dance that was previously published locally – it could be a dance that has become popular in your area and you are keen to share it with the global dance community. Alternatively, the submissions can be new dances but we would prefer those that have been produced in your Branch and danced locally. Dances can be submitted with or without named / suggested tunes. The music should not be associated with another dance.

The Membership Services Committee look forward to receiving your submissions by Friday 25th February 2022.

For more information, go to www.rscds.org/blog/book-53-2023 



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

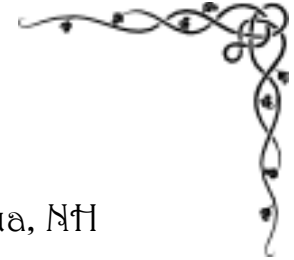


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CANCELLED



New Year's Day Dance

2:30 pm, January 1, 2022

Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St., Nashua, NH

\$12 (\$10 members)

Music by "North Country Tour":

Vivēka Fox, fiddle

Peter Macfarlane, fiddle

Susie Petrov, piano

◆◆◆ Programme ◆◆◆

Light and Airy	32J-3C	Book 4
The Braes of Tullizmet	32S-3C	Book 7
The Orpington Caledonians	32R-3C	Book 49
The Chequered Court	32J-3C	Book 42
The Lammermuir Hills	32S-2C	Goldring
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	32R-5C set	Goldring: 14 Social
The Edinburgh Toy Shop	32J-3C	Book 51
Jean Martin of Aberdeen	32S-3C set	RSCDS 3 for 2006
J. B. Milne	32R-3C	Foss
New Year Jig	32 J-3C	Book 51
The Silver Tassie	32S-3C	RSCDS Lflt.
Da Rain Dancin'	32R-3C	Wallace: Whitgadder

IMPORTANT!

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we've had to make several changes to be able to have the event in 2022. Watch for announcements closer to the date.

- Shorter program
- No potluck dinner
- Proof of vaccination required
- Masks to be worn at all times, except when drinking from your personal water supply.
- After the dance, we expect to serve dessert in a separate room for those comfortable with it.

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