

Reel Time

Newsletter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Haven Branch

Fall 2014

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, 311 Broad St.,
Windsor CT. Tuesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Barbara
Austen 203-630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860-298-8311.

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers First Church of
Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown
CT. Wednesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Lucile
Blanchard 860-347-0278 or Barbara Link 860-345-
8925. Dancing resumes on Wednesday, September 3 at
7:00 PM.

Wilton Country Dancers Millennium School of Irish
Dance, Top Floor, 9 Ethan Allen Highway [Route 7]
Wilton, Connecticut. Between Keogh's Hardware and
Dunkin' Donuts North of Routes 57 and 107, South of
Route 1102. \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for dancers 21
and under. Contact Sandra Bethray 203-322-8341 or
Angela Montague 203-762-9892.

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church, 310 Fort Hill Road, Groton CT.
Friday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Beginners, 7-8 pm;
Intermediates, 8:15-9:30 pm. No charge for classes.
Contact Ruth Walsh 860-536-6265 or Linda Scent 860-
464-9081. Classes resume September 5, 2014.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
Whitney Arts Center, 591 Whitney Ave., New Haven
CT. Tuesday 7:45 to 10:00 pm. Contact Leslie Kearney
203-281-6591 or newhavenscottish@gmail.com.
New Haven Class begins Sept 9, 2014.

Peter Price's Class Fourth Monday of the month class,
New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand
Ave., New Haven. From 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Note: This
class will only take place if there are 8 dancers who have
confirmed with Peter that they are coming. Contact
Peter Price 203-675-9587 or
Peter.price1672@gmail.com

Summer Dancing in New Haven
Late June – last August. New Haven Friends Meeting
House, 225 East Grand Ave., New Haven. From 7:30 to
9:30 pm
Contact Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591 or
newhavenscottish@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Drewry Night – Brooklyn, New York. Saturday,
December 6, 2014. More information is available at
http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/images/Blue_flyer_2014-2015.pdf.

Holiday Dance - The Middletown class is holding a
Holiday Party Dance on Saturday, Dec. 27th. We are
inviting everyone in other classes to join us. We will be
having Norb Spencer and his musician friends playing.
The dance starts at 7:30 and costs \$10.00. Programs wo;;
be sent to class teachers.

Delaware Valley Hogmanay – Philadelphia, PA.
Wednesday, December 31, 2014. Sponsored by the
Delaware Valley Branch.
<http://www.delvalscottishdance.org/>

Burns Night Party – Elmsford, New York. Sponsored
by the Westchester Scottish Country Dancer Society.
January 22, 2015.
<http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/westchester.html>

Burns Night Party – Tenafly, NJ. Sponsored by the
RSCDS NJ Branch – Tenafly. January 22, 2015
<http://www.rscds-nj.org/classes/tenafly.html>

Mystic Scottish Dancers Burns Supper – February 7,
2015... more information to follow at
<http://www.mysticscottishdancers.com>

New Haven Highland Ball Workshop – Sunday,
January 18, 2015 1 – 4 PM. Your Community Yoga
Center, 39 Putnam Avenue, Hamden CT 06517.
Teacher - Brian Haeckler

New Haven Highland Ball Workshop – Saturday,
February 21 2015 2-5 PM. First Church of Christ
Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown, CT
06457. Teacher – Ken Way.

New Haven Branch Highland Ball Weekend –
March 7-8, 2015. West Hartford CT (ball) and North
Hartford CT (brunch). <http://www.nhrscds.com/>

Kilts & Ghillies Tea Dance – Saturday, April 11, 2015
from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at the South Britain
Congregational Church in Southbury, CT 06488. Check
kiltsandghillies@blogspot.com, for updates along with
dance instructions and video links.

Check <http://www.intercityscot.org> for similar events

RSCDS New Haven Has a New Website

The New Haven branch of the RSCDS has a new website located at <http://www.rscdsnewhaven.org/>. The website has (hopefully) all the information that you need to keep up to date on what is going on.

The website is very easy to use and contains links to just about anything that you need to know and expect to see on a website (Pictures, Forms, Event schedules, Newsletters, Contacts...). This website is an excellent tool for keeping track of what is going on and you can subscribe to BLOGs via email. If you don't know how everything works on the website just grab the nearest Computer Geek and you are in business.

I urge you to send information/photos in a form ready to post to Cate Mahoney hapr dancer@gmail.com. Cate is happy to post items but she does not want to have to edit the content.

Dave Lees

Nutmeg Workshop

The 9th RSCDS New Haven Nutmeg Workshop was held on Saturday, October 18th, 2014. The location was The South Britain Congregational Church Parish House in Southbury, CT. A fabulous time was had by all.



Our teachers, Sue Ronald and Ellen Sears instructed an energetic group of dancers while our musicians, Terry Traub and Anne Hooper provided wonderful music for our classes and dance.



The Nutmeg committee would like to thank all who helped put this year's Nutmeg workshop together — Susan Leff and Ed Davis for organizing the hall and supplying hospitality, Barbara Austen and Karen Pestana for briefing the dances, Steve Rice our 'coffee/tea king', Elizabeth Muir for slave labor, and so many others for helping in organizing and planning.

Thank you Kent Way for the delightful program for the evening dance and for the briefing the dances. Thank you, Nutmeg Committee Catriona MacAuslan, Lee Perri, Nina Stein, Alice Hencir

Cate Mahoney

26th Annual Highland Games at Scotland CT

What a cold start, 35 degrees at 8 a.m. at the Historic Waldo Homestead in Scotland CT where the games are held. Will it warm up? Sure did. Sun came out; people who came with layered clothing started shedding garments. A little after noon time, when the opening ceremonies had ended, long lines formed at the food booths and vendors were busy ringing up sales. Everyone was in a festive mood, being revved up by the sounds of the pipe bands on the parade field.



Karen Pestana, who selected the dances and briefed them, gathered the twelve Scottish Country Dancers to walk through the dances for the 1:30p.m. demonstration. The group of dancers represented four different classes from the New Haven Class: 7 from Mystic (Bill Cournoyer; Jane & Peter Leibert; Catriona MacAuslan; Ev Munro; Chris Stuetzel; Ruth Walsh), 3 from Middletown Class (Barbra Link; Elizabeth Muir; Ken Way) 1 from New Haven Branch (Paula Yu Pan) and 1 from Windsor Class (Steve Rice).



After a relaxing time to eat, shop, socialize and partake of a "wee dram" at The Clan Munro Tent, the

dancers again gathered for an Audience Participation event which was enthusiastically attended by many in the crowd.



Everett freaked out when he found this faceless piper behind lurking behind him. He managed to recover fairly well and then merrily hopped around the area spreading cheer and fliers (after he dealt with the faceless piper).

About 25 fliers listing all the CT classes were handed out in hopes that a few of those people will be thinking of joining a local class.

Ev Munro & Karen Pestana

For Mischief Done

Jan Grosskopf, a former member of the Mystic Class until duty called at home for the care of her elderly parents, recently authored and published a novel (258 pages) titled, "For Mischief Done". The story begins on the morning of July 21, 1786 in Quaker Hill, CT.

A recent comment by Dru Pagliassotti (www.goodreads.com) states the following:

"This is an end-noted novelization of an actual child-killing-child case that occurred in 1786 in the Connecticut Town of New London, leaving the small town to struggle with what to do in a case where age, gender, race, upbringing, religious understanding, and overall intelligence are all potential factors in deciding whether a child should be hanged. The author, who stumbled on the case while working on her doctorate in history, does a nice job of laying out the social and moral disputes over the matter for the reader without becoming sentimental or ascribing anachronistically progressive views to historical personages. Although the novel by necessity doesn't have the twists and turns of unfettered fiction, it's an interesting slice-of-life look at very early American life and law with

plenty of commentary, notes, and references at the end for anybody who wants to learn more about the case or the period."

The book is available at your local bookstore; Amazon.com; Studio 33 in New London. It can also be downloaded for your Kindle.

I would recommend the book to anyone interested in local history. It is a very good read! Thanks Jan for a job well done!

Ev Munro

Memories

Ingrid Davis and Brian Phillips (he served a term as president of the Branch when he lived in CT) were in Scotland in September. Here are a couple of our favorite photos, a nay and a yay, from the Scottish Independence referendum. It certainly was an interesting time to be visiting!



Ingrid Davis

Celebrating Way/Link Link

In celebration of their marriage in June, Ken Way and Barbra Link threw a wonderful party for their Scottish dance friends Sunday afternoon, September 14, in Middletown. All were invited.



Ken devised and led a program thematic for the event, including such dances as The Kissing Bridge, Haste to the Wedding, It's About Time, and, of course, Mairi's Wedding. Norb Spencer, Debby Tyler, Patric Cohen, and Rebecca McCallum played lively live music. Barbra, a masterful baker, baked and baked and baked. Since others also brought goodies, the dessert table was endless.



Barbra herself, Angela Hill, Barbra's mom, Barbara Austen and many others worked setting up, washing up, and putting away.



It was a wonderful party – in celebration of a union that cheers us all.

Susan Leff

A Great Night For A Barn Dance

It is a tradition for the Mystic Scottish Dancers (and anyone else who likes to dance) to have a dance session in the barn of Peter and Jane Leibert. It was a cold evening but it only takes a few dances to get you warmed up and comfortable. The barn was pretty much filled up and you can feel the enthusiasm in the air (all but the dogs, that is...).



No evening of dancing is complete without a nice spread of snacks and stimulating beverages.



Anyone and everyone is welcome to join the fun as you can see.



Dave Lees

Host Dancers For Our Ball

I love the tradition among dance groups of providing hospitality for balls to people you may not know. Many of us have been doing this – and enjoying it - for years. We have volunteered to host people we did not know at all. Out of this practice, some solid permanent friendships have arisen. And we have often been welcomed in the homes of our guests for their dance events.

Some among us regularly host large numbers of guests – others host the smaller number they have room for. This makes dances more affordable – and nurtures friendships in the dance community.

So I was horrified to learn that our ball committee was considering not offering hospitality this year because it has been hard to find hosts in recent years. The board decided that we need to try harder.

I have volunteered to be chairman of hospitality this year. I would like to make a list of everyone who might ever offer hospitality for a dance event – even if you cannot do so this year. I would also like to make a list of everyone who now offers hospitality for our ball.

I will send out an email to the branch soon. But you can also email me as soon as you read this.

etdavis4@netzero.net

Susan Leff

Kilts & Ghillies Tea Dance

The dance will be on Saturday, April 11, 2015 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at the South Britain Congregational Church in Southbury, CT 06488. The church's Parish House has been the setting for past K&G dances and was also the venue for this year's Nutmeg workshop.

Music is by Terry Traub and Alice Backer. The program is devised by Peter Price and Sandra Bethray. At Reel Time's deadline the program they've devised is as listed below. An additional two dances likely will be added. Check Peter's blog in the near future, kiltsandghillies.blogspot.com, for updates along with dance instructions and video links. The official flyer will be distributed in the next issue of Reel Time.

I have attached an addition document with the Kilts & Ghillies dances listed.... The dance list does not work well in this two-column format.

Minutes of the New Haven Branch Board meetings are available to all Branch members. If you want a copy, let Susan Leff know (etdavis4@netzero.net).

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The internet address for the New Haven Branch web site is: <http://www.rscdsnewhaven.org>

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

	Peter Leibert 860-887-9184
	Judy Locker (860) 688-8037
	Elizabeth Muir 860-345-8403
	Karen Pestana 860-298-8311
	Nina Stein 203-757-2539
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	Alice Hencir 203-245-7051
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Branch Class	Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591
Intergroup	Everett Munro 860-501-0649
Secretary, rec	Susan Leff 203-264-0870
Secretary, cor.	Karen Pestana 860-298-8311
Vice President	Stephen Rice 203-630-9749
President	Catherine Mahoney 203-879-6000

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **Feb15** for Publication of the document by the end of the month. The editor will welcome all of your reports, and particularly all calendar listings. David Lees' email is david.g.lees@pfizer.com or dglees@comcast.net

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