

Reel Time

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

Winter 2003

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class
Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT.
Tuesday 7 to 9:45 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 to 9:30 PM.
Contact Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard (860) 347-0278.

New Canaan Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers
Millennium School of Irish Dance, 12 Old Mill Road, Georgetown, CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Contact Angela Montague (203) 762-9892.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10 PM. Contact Dick Platt (203) 878-6094.

Newtown Scottish Country Dancers
St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury, CT. Monday 7:30 to 9:30 PM. Contact Ernie Harrington (203) 938-2881 or ech105@snet.net.

Bethany-Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers
First Church of Christ, Congregational Parish House, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge CT. Friday 7 to 9 PM. Contact Jack & Doreen Johnstone (203) 393-3189.

Upcoming Events

New Jersey Branch Rerr Terr. Saturday, March 29, 2003. Christ Church of Ridgewood, Franklin Ave. and Cottage Place. 5:30-11pm. Wine and cheese, 5:30; Dinner, 6; Grand March, 7:15. Music by Highland Whisky. Cost \$25. Please note that the times and location of the Rerr Terr have changed this year. Contact Cindy Carlone 908-876-1330 or <mailto:cindycarlone@msn.com>.

Washington (DC) Capital Weekend 2003 Friday-Sunday, April 4-6, 2003. National Cathedral School, Wisconsin Ave. and Woodley Road. Welcome

Dance Friday 8-11, Classes Saturday 9-12, Ball 8-12:30. Sponsored by Washington DC Branch RSCDS. Teachers are Linda Gaul, Keith Bark. Welcome Dance music by Millbrae (Dave Wiesler, Hanneke Cassel, and Terry Traub). Ball music by Terpsichore: Elke Baker, Liz Donaldson and Ralph Gordon. Welcome Dance: semiformal. Saturday Ball: formal. Finger buffet. US\$55. Contact Jenise Williamson <mailto:jenisec@earthlink.net> or Jim Mielke 301-589-3045
<mailto:jim.mielke@geologist.com>
<http://www.capitalweekend.org>

***New Haven Class Celebrates Spring** with an afternoon of Scottish Country, Ceilidh and couple dances. All dances will be taught. Sunday, March 30, 2003. 2:00-5:00 pm. New Haven Medical Association Building, 362 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT. Cost \$5.00. Contact Dick at 203-878-6094.

***New Haven Branch Advanced Class.** Thursday, April 10, 2003. 7:00 pm. First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT. The first of this year's advanced classes taught by our own Ken Way. Cost \$6.00.

The Pearl Homberg Workshop for Teachers and Musicians. Friday April 11-Sunday, April 13, 2003. Scottish Cultural Center, Vancouver, British Columbia. Dance instructor Ian Hall from Scotland. Music instructors Calum MacKinnon, Andy Imbrie and Ralph Gordon. Full weekend cost is \$80.00US, excluding hotel. Contact Cathrine Conings 604-299-2337 or guiding@intergate.ca.

RSCDS Montreal Branch Spring Ball. Saturday, April 12, 2003. Victoria Hall, Westmount, Quebec, Canada. Music by Sylvia Miskoe, R.P. Hale, and Ralph Thompson. Sunday Brunch. Contact Sara Lawson, 514-457-3924 or <mailto:skgl@aol.com>.

***Greater Hartford SCD Spring Party.** Tuesday, April 15, 2003. 7:30 pm. Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Cost \$5.00. Contact Karen Pestana 860-298-8311.

***Kilts & Ghillies Ball.** Saturday, April 26, 2003. First Congregational Church, South Britain, CT. Dinner followed by dancing. Music by the Central

Connecticut Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Pub Band. Watch for flyers!

Island Fling. Saturday, April 26, 2003. Sherry at 7:00, dancing at 7:30 pm. Irish-American Hall, 297 Willis Ave., Mineola, NY. Music by Liz Donaldson, David Knight and Terry Traub. Cost \$30.00 per person. Contact Ann Smith, 631-271-5740.

Boston Branch Highland Ball and Weekend.

Welcome Party, Friday, May 9, 2003, 8:00 pm. First parish Church on the Green, Weston, MA. Music by Hanneke Cassel, Dave Weisler and David Knight. Dinner and Ball, Saturday, May 10, 5:30 pm. Nevins Hall, Framingham, MA. Music by Alasdair Fraser and Muriel Johnstone. Brunch, Sunday, May 11, 11:00 am. Weekend tickets \$65.00 per person. Contact Bruce Mabbott, 617-287-0520

NY Branch Pawling Weekend at Circle Lodge.

Friday-Sunday, May 16-18, 2003. Teachers, Mary Murray, Ron Wallace and Graham Donald. Music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent. Contact Sheila Wilson, 212-744-1470 or check out the web site at www.rscdsnewyork.org.

***Greater Hartford SCD Summer Party.** Tuesday, June 3, 2003. 7:30 pm. Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. Music by Norb Spencer and Friends. Cost \$5.00. Contact Karen Pestana 860-298-8311.

English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods. July 7-11, 2003. Includes classes in English and Scottish Country, Longsword, Rapper, Highland, Cape Breton, and Colonial. Cost \$280.00. Contact Howard Brezner 518-456-1732.

Scottish Session at Pinewoods. Session I, Friday, July 11-Monday July 14, 2003. Session II, Monday, July 14-Saturday, July 19, 2003. Teaching staff includes Linda Gaul, Ron Wallace, Marianne Taylor, Howard Lasnick, Robert McOwen and Lance Ramshaw. Music instructors are Elke Baker and Barbara McOwen. Music director is Terry Traub. Session I costs \$230 for RSCDS members; Session II costs \$300. A deposit of \$50 is required to reserve a place. Contact Betty Allen 781-849-3512 or <mailto:eallenscd@beld.net>.

Waterloo (ON) TAC Summer School Sun-Sun,
July 27-August 3. St. Jerome's University. Sponsored by Teachers' Association (Canada). Teachers are Helen Frame, Gail Michener, Sandy Bain. Contact Marie Ziccarelli Zmrezz@aol.com.

Darlington (MD) Scottish Weekend at
Ramblewood. Friday-Sunday, September 26-28.

Friday Night Welcome Dance, Saturday classes, Saturday Night Ball, Sunday Morning Classes. Sponsored by Scottish Weekend, Inc. Dance Teachers are: Fred de Marse, Ruth Jappy, and Marjorie McLaughlin. Music by Scottish Weekend Band plus Muriel Johnstone as Guest Musician. Contact Fred Eustis (Registrar) 410-922-6369 <mailto:feustis@starpower.net> or Betty Evans (Chair) 410-296-5537 <mailto:bettyevans@att.net>. [<http://www.ScottishWeekend.org>]

***Mystic Scottish Country Dancers Fall Frolic.**

7:30 pm. Saturday, November 8, 2003. Christ Church Parish Hall, Westerly, RI. Watch for flyers! Heat is included this time!

On a Personal Note

Congratulations to Chip Chase, Joyce and Skip's younger son, for completing his Navy basic training.

Several members have had a rough winter due to health problems. And Skip Chase keeps breaking parts. He needs another rotator cuff repair (how many can he have?). Speedy recovery, please. We miss all of you on the dance floor!

Dick Morrison Scholarship Month

March 2003 is Dick Morrison Scholarship Month. For those who were not lucky enough to know Dick Morrison, he was a very active member of the branch, serving as branch president and ball chair (several times) among other things.

The scholarship, named in his memory, allows newer dancers to attend Pinewoods Camp. Pinewoods is a camp in Plymouth, Mass., that hosts a variety of music and dance weeks and weekends. Every year there is an English/Scottish week, a Scottish weekend, and a Scottish week.

During the month of March, all classes are asked to place an additional donation into a box provided by the Board. If every dancer gives an extra dollar each week, the Scholarship fund will be well on its way back to health.

Please note that any donation you make to the Branch is deductible from your taxes to the extent allowed by law. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, contact Treasurer Brian Haeckler.

Advanced Classes Planned

The Branch is planning on three advanced classes for the "spring" season, although dates have not yet been firmed up for the second and third. Ken Way will conduct the first class on Thursday, April 10th. We are negotiating with Howard Lasnik to do the second on either the 22nd or 29th of May, and Kent Smith will do one in June, date as yet to be determined. All three will be on Thursday evenings in Middletown, at our usual 190 Court Street venue. Look for flyers soon. It is anticipated the charge will be \$6.00 for each evening.

NOMAD

The RSCDS food booth at NOMAD proved to be another successful weekend for the Branch. Several hundred dollars were realized in profit and the money earned helps considerably in covering several of the Branch expenses.

Many members of the Branch contribute to the success of the event—the volunteers who give their time at the booth, those who bake to supply all the assorted cakes, cookies, and scones, the personal donations of cash, and the help in cleaning and preparation.

The overall success we enjoy is truly because of the time, effort and expertise that Stephen Rice contributes. He handles the health certificates, works on the volunteer list and time schedules, bakes many scones (always sold out), makes colcannon, buys and provides all the grocery needs for sale, and helps train new volunteers. He also sets up the booth on Saturday mornings and is there on Sunday evenings for closing and cleanup.

The success of the NOMAD food booth truly hinges on Stephen's dedication and efforts and we should all acknowledge what he does for the Branch.

Thank you, Stephen.

*Dick Baxter
Branch President*

An Idea for a Fund Raiser

The profits from the New Year's Eve party, \$170.00, will be added to the Dick Morrison Scholarship Fund. If you missed this year, you can always join us again on December 31, 2003.

In addition to increasing the balance for the scholarship, the Branch is always looking for new fund raising ideas. Barbara Austen has suggested and is willing to coordinate a new round of ghillie bags. She has two patterns—one of a thistle, the other of Scottish Country Dancers—that can be cross stitched onto counted thread fabric which is then attached to a hand-made ghillie bag. What we need are volunteers who are familiar with and capable of doing counted cross stitch and volunteers to cut and sew ghillie bags. Barbara has enough materials on hand to make about 10-12. These bags are quite unique and usually create a great deal of interest.

If you possess any of the skills mentioned above and would be willing to volunteer, please contact Barbara Austen, or Ena Baxter.

Visitors from China

Monday evening, 27 January, we got a call from a young woman at Yale who said that she had a group of visiting students from Hong Kong and that she would like to have them experience various aspects of our culture. Could she bring them to the New Haven class the following evening? They were suffering from jet lag, so it was not certain that they would come, but it was likely. Jane, who took the call, immediately called Brian Haeckler, the teacher for this term, and warned him to be ready.

The group did appear the following evening, and a more enthusiastic and capable group we have never seen. What jet lag? Brian had prepared a series of simple dances, and the students took to them like veterans. Fortunately, a large group of "regulars" turned out for the evening, so each of the students had an experienced dancer for a partner. The group consisted of students at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and were visiting for two weeks as guests of Yale-In-China. A group of Yale students will return the visit in March. While the students conversed with each other in their own language, they were articulate in English. In fact, they acted like any group of American students of the same age. Brian told us afterwards that he was grateful that he had been called. He had a "Plan B" all prepared, and he was happy that he had forewarned.

Dick Platt

Burns Night in Mystic

These past months have been a challenge in the "weather department," as residents of New England have dodged snow, frigid temperatures and ice. We

have all been provided a true Winter Wonderland courtesy of Mother Nature. Oh, that the roads and skies would be clear early in February, for the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers were to be hosting a Burns Night celebration on Saturday, the 8th, at the Mystic Marriott Hotel, just a snowball's throw from I- 95.

Robbie penned, "If there's another world he lives in bliss. If there be none, he made the best of this." And though we were hopeful that our night would be filled with bliss, we were prepared "to make the best of this..." Fortunately it was under a starlit sky, albeit colder than the windswept coast of Scotland, that our 487 guests arrived for an evening of good humor and All Things Scottish. The Mystic Highland Pipe Band, Stirling Highland Dance Company and our Country Dancers provided stirring and toe-tapping demonstrations – while several of Robbie's more familiar poems were recited and his Immortal Memory was honored by Dave Lees, who is a member of the pipe band as well as the country dance group. We were reminded that in our increasingly complex world that it is important to find pride and joy in the simple things – in the things we do for ourselves and in being part of a caring family. We were an extended family that night – and what a simply outstanding night we shared!

A highlight of the evening was the address "To a Haggis" presented by Andrew Fraser of Sparta, NJ. Andrew held the audience spellbound as he most eloquently described the ceremony of the haggis – and then one and all were asked to react as a haggis would upon the occasion of its "demise" as the dirk "cut you up wi' ready slight, Trenching your gushing entrails bright...and Then, O what a glorious sight, Warm-reeking', rich!" What ensued from the enthusiastic audience was a concert of anguished sounds that fairly lifted the ceiling!! How happy the haggis would have been!

Following a delicious buffet which included haggis and neeps, toasts were offered to the President, the Queen, the lassies, the laddies, the performers and then Master of Ceremonies Neil Sharpe paid the Piper utilizing a handsome quaigh...and some fine Scotch!! We danced until midnight with Scottish social dances and the DJ's choice and a grand time was had by all. All too soon it was time to join hands for the singing of Robbie's own Auld Lang Syne. What a bonnie evening!!!

A recent article about Astronaut physician Laurel Clark, whose life was so tragically ended by the Columbia disaster in January, touched us deeply. She loved nature and had a special fondness for the mountains and for Scotland where her husband proposed to her. Laurel named her two cats Haggis

and Neeps and what joy they have provided to the Clark family. We like to think that Laurel's spirit was with us on the 8th – as we paid tribute to Robert Burns – the Plowman's Poet and the National Bard of Scotland. We know she would have had a great evening with us – and pray that she will sleep well as she now "lives in bliss."

Plans are afoot for Burns Night 2004 – tentatively set for the 24th of January at the Marriott in Mystic. Mark your calendars now, and keep tuned for more information!

*Ruth H. Walsh, President
Mystic Scottish Country Dancers*

New Haven Branch Highland Ball

The Ball was a tremendous success!!! We had one of the best attended Balls despite the inclement weather, which thankfully was not as bad as it might have been. Approximately 169 people attended the Ball and 118 attended the Brunch. It made for a glorious spectacle of beautifully gowned women and handsome kilted men. A true Scottish Ball. The "peanut gallery" in the balcony saw some wonderful dancing and heard some truly inspiring music played by Highland Whisky with Lissa Schneckeburger as the featured fiddler. Gillian Charters on bass, Howard Lasnik on drums, David Arnold on keyboard, and Christine Anderson on fiddle, provided rousing, stimulating, danceable music. Many thanks to them all!!

No little thanks go to everyone who participated in preparations before, during and after the event. Beginning with our fabulous Master of Ceremonies, Don Wills, without whom we would not know where we were going, what we were doing, who we were listening to, when to eat, how to park etc etc. Another Ball and Brunch under his competent direction!!

The list of thank yous is long. Thanks to

- our teaching committee for a great Ball program.
- Joyce Chase for a fun Brunch program
- our marvelous briefers who are also dedicated teachers and dancers--Kent Smith, Barbara Austen, and Brian Haeckler at the Ball, Leslie Kearney and Christopher Anagnostakis at the Brunch.
- our co-chairs Karen Pestana and George Thomson for their help in organizing and managing the Ball this year. In particular,

we want to thank Karen for her hospitality chores, poster-making, Ball booklet participation, and general all round support and George for his "lone piping", Grand March (with Brian Haeckler), and other various tasks.

- "can't dance" Jim Pestana (husband of Karen) and Steve Rice for Ball Booklet preparation.
- Barbara Link for her hostess and badge activities, as well as her thread, ribbon, and pin supplies, all of which came in handy.
- Elizabeth and Hugh Muir for a delicious punch and also great assistance in setting up before and tearing down after the Ball.
- Sue Hardin for her beautiful work on the appetizer table tablecloths. What a bonus not to have to wash and iron after the Ball! She also is responsible for last minute floral designs to supplement our centerpieces.
- Ken Way for his always unique buttons. "Nessie" has never meant so much to so many! [Did anyone notice Nessie was facing the opposite direction from her first appearance on a ball button?]
- Bob Scent for his Grand March piping. I wish we all had that lung capacity.
- Gayle Guild for keep us hydrated during the Ball, filling and re-filling our water pitchers.
- forever and always to Bob Byrnie for his "backdrop". It adds so much to our ambience!!
- Theresa McLaren (a new dancer) for her St Andrew's cross flags for each table.
- Dick Baxter for his Selkirk grace--all of it. It was interesting to hear the part that is not so familiar to us all.
- Krause Caterers for yet another year of delicious food and efficient service, a great combination.
- Spence Sound, in the person of Brian Applegate, for allowing the music to be heard in the best way possible.
- Steve Rice, Barbara Austen, Karen Pestana and their minions for helping to organize, setup, feed and clean up the Brunch under the capable direction of Mary Byrnie. The "Brunch Bunch" included George Thomson (who saved us from disaster by finding how to turn on the gas for the stove!), Kate Mahoney, Christopher Anagnostakis, Liz Visone, Anand Hingorani, Cathy Hull, Alice Marsh, and Dick and Ena Baxter.

Gayle (Ball), Liz and Cathy (Brunch) are new dancers who really pitched in to help for their first Ball! We are always happy to have new dancers participate. Brunch was by all accounts

FANTASTIC! We are reputed to have one of the best brunches around.

Personal thanks to all the past "chairs" who gave unstinting help with all our questions!! Special thanks to my "partner in crime" Mary Byrnie for all her help in pulling the Ball together in ways too numerous to mention. We look forward to another year together for the 2004 Ball!

I think our fondest wish came true this year--that we all enjoyed ourselves and that many of the new dancers and even those with more experience left with "stars in their eyes!"

Catriona MacAuslan

To a Plooman (Who Ruined Ma Nest in 1795)

by Robert Burns

It's you again you careless plooman,
And typical of thoughtless human.
Its nae wonder that I'm fumin',
You've ruined ma hoose.
And weary winter noo is loomin'
For man and moose.

But thou are blessed compared wi me,
A plooman Ah wid rither be.
As darkness falls, you cross the lea
Tae cottage warm,
And safe within at close of day
You're free frae herm.

But oot here Ah am all alane
And pressed against a sheltrin stane.
The wind that blaws wi micht and main
Wid freeze ma hert,
And frae this life o' joy and pain
Ah fain wid pairt.

Ah ken you say you didna mean it.
Ma wee bit hoose you hidna seen it.
Yir een wir oan a bonny linnet,
But gone ma hame,
And aw the wee anes there within it
Tae your great shame.

Ah ken you didna lack compassion,
Humanity you didna ration,
And you had gaed against the fashion
Tae think o' us.
Tae spare a nest's a funny notion
So why the fuss.

And when the fields got cauld and bare,
Ah saw you with the wounded hare.
You tended it wi lovin' care
Till its last breath.
Ah'll mind you took the time tae spare
Tae ease its death.

And humble daisy neath yir heel,
Some sympathy you'd time tae feel.
Jist ane fause step its fate did seal,
Its beauty spent.
And I at least did ken fu' weel
It wisnae meant.

So fare thee weel thou honest man,
And Ah'll forgive you if Ah can.
Tho' fearfae o' ye Ah hae ran
In mindless fricht.
Whatever else o' you is wrang,
Yer hert is richt.

Submitted by Doreen Johnstone

Talented Musician in our Midst

Joanne Garton, 23, daughter of Windsor dancer and demo team member Barbara Garton, has recently been heard playing fiddle with Norb Spencer's Central Connecticut Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Pub Band, most recently at the Middletown Scottish Country Dance Christmas Party. Joanne is a competitive Highland dancer and fiddler, and a beginner Scottish small pipes player and Cape Breton step dancer. She has been playing violin and dancing since she was six years old.

As a Highland dancer, she has been a representative for the North East Region at several National Highland Dance competitions in the U.S. and has also represented Quebec Province in the Canadian Interprovincial Championships. She has also competed in Scotland and England.

After graduating from high school, Joanne gradually switched from classical violin to fiddle music. Her first exposure to American fiddle music was in middle school, but her focus now is mainly on Celtic music.

She attended McGill University and graduated with a degree in Earth and Planetary Science. While there, she and some friends, including her boyfriend, David, formed a group called "Garton's Crimson Avengers" (don't ask me where the name came from). They have played for many different events, including Contra dancing, and have two demo CD's plus a full length CD recorded live at a concert in

Gould, Quebec in the summer of 2002. She and David were also members of the band "McFinn" that hosted regular sessions in Irish pubs in Montreal and also played for weddings in the area.

In September, 2001, Joanne won the New England Scottish Fiddle competition at the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain. This qualified her for the National Competition held in Mount Vernon, Washington State, just north of Seattle, which she attended with David. Just last September, she competed in the New England Fiddlefest in Hartford, where she was reunited with her former middle school teacher, who accompanied her on the guitar for one piece. She won first place in the Intermediate Category, ages 19-59.

Joanne is currently enjoying some "time off" traveling in Africa, Europe and India. Hopefully, she will be back to play for the dancers before too long.

Barbara Garton

Step We Gaily on We Go, Heel for Heel and Toe for Toe.....

Food, Food, glorious Food. Oops!! We are about dancing, right?? It was hard to ignore the enormous spread of home baking that graced the table at the Helensburgh RSCDS Branch Christmas dance in Scotland that I was lucky enough to attend on December 13, 2002.

I grew up in the Helensburgh area and have know from childhood two twin sisters, one of whom teaches Scottish Country dancing. I remember well my pre-dance experience of going to one of her "demos" and being dragged out on the floor as a guinea pig, with not a clue what to do or where to turn!!

It was such a pleasure to go to this dance of 200 people and be swept up in the fun and frolic with some notion of how to do the dances. My friend, Helen, has been dancing for 33 years and does demos for tourists coming to the Helensburgh area. Some of the dances were familiar, i.e. Pelorus Jack, Duchess Tree, Ian Powrie's Farewell, Silver Tassie, and Irish Rover. Others were totally new but fun to do, for example Midnight Oil, Mrs. Milne of Kinneff, Friday the 13th (appropriate), and Cuckoo Clock.

It was interesting to see how the Scottish dancers did certain things, grasping elbow and lower arm when turning versus turning by right or left hand, and a great deal of "birling" went on--round and round to

the bottom of each set instead of dancing or skip changing down. They did talk through each dance and on occasion did a walk through, and even the seasoned dancers hugged their "cheat sheets" and chose certain "bathroom" dances. The one thing that I heard most often was, "We are here to have FUN!!"

We danced a total of 18 dances with the break for gingerbread, shortbread, cakes of every description, scones, and sandwiches all accompanied by enormous kettles (not pots) of tea!!

I was singled out as the dancer who came the farthest and many dancers made a point of coming up say hello. When one dancer said it was nice to see a Yank, my friend Helen piped up with "she is not a Yank, she is a Scot with an American accent!!"

Anyway, it was such fun and I will try to dance again with my friends when I am next over.

The weather was glorious (really). I enjoyed blue sky and clear crisp days for the entire stay. I was sorry to leave and so very glad of my first experience of Country dancing in Scotland since I was a child.

Catriona MacAuslan

Another New Haven RSCDS Adventure in Scotland

About this time last year, Richard [Ives]'s mother, who has relative in the Orkney Island, decided she'd like to go "just one more time," and we quickly decided to join her, as did Richard's brother. Mom, who has made the trip several times, had the expertise to make all the arrangements and asked me, the only one who had never been to Scotland, what one thing I would like to do or see.

It didn't take long for me to reply I'd like to dance with Scottish Country Dancers, so I was given the task of finding out if there would be a dance during the time we would be there. Doreen Johnstone put me in touch by e-mail with Raymond Green of the Glen Orrin Dancers, whom we hosted in Seymour a few years ago. It turns out there was to be a dance in the little tourist town of Pitlochry on Saturday, July 20, and we planned our trip around it. Raymond sent us the dance programme and with the help of *Minicrib* we did our best to learn most of the dances.

The four of us flew into Manchester, England, with Donald and Mom making a connection directly to the Orkneys. Richard and I flew to Edinburgh for 1½ days—not nearly enough time of course. Then we

took the train to Inverness, stopping off at Pitlochry for 24 hours.

Raymond and his wife picked us up at our charming B&B and we joined three other couples from the Glen Orrin Dancers for a drink and visit before the dance. They were wonderful about explaining local customs to us, and made sure we always had partners at the dance.

There was live music and about 100 dancers, some coming from far enough away to spend the night. However, this dance program consisted of 22 dances, and only about four had talk-throughs! When the other dancers found out we were from the States, they seemed flattered that we would have made the effort to join them, and were very patient and helpful. We managed a couple of "bathroom dances," but otherwise danced the whole program. It was indeed the highlight of the trip for me, and even now it seems like a fantasy.

After this we continued on to Inverness, rented a car and traveled around Loch Ness, then up the coast to catch a ferry to the Orkneys. The second half of the week was exciting, too, visiting several of the "ruinances," standing stones, and Mom's relatives and friends. Richard has three second cousins about our age, so although their life styles are much different than ours (one is a lobsterman) we had things in common, too. I am ready to go back any time!

Donna Ives

RSCDS Vancouver Branch presents Youth Weekend West

RSCDS Vancouver Branch hosts a long weekend of Scottish Country Dancing fun for dancers aged 16-30 May 16-18, 2003. Check it out at

<http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/default.htm> and spread the word to your friends, students, or grandchildren as appropriate!

You won't want to miss this exciting weekend! We'll have a variety of high-energy classes with Bruce Herbold (San Francisco CA) and Rebecca Blackhall-Peters (Langley BC), and social dances with live music by young local talents, plus some time to see the sights of Vancouver and hang out with other dancing youth! The Friday Ceilidh, May 16th, and Sunday Tea Dance, May 18th, will be open to dancers of all ages.

Application forms are available now, in Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, and .PDF formats.

To receive one by email, please contact our registrar,

Noam Sturmwind, at <mailto:ns@canada.com>
The .PDF version will also be available on the website in January. If you would prefer a paper copy, just send Noam your postal address, or give him a call at 604-738-3037. If you're a Branch Secretary in North America, your copy is on its way!

Happy dancing,

*Sarah Kell
Youth Weekend West*

Anilori Scottish, Irish Products and Art

Buy a touch of Scotland or Ireland today, we are Scottish Owned and Operated, We offer the best in Scottish, Irish Products and Art. Free shipping within the US with a min \$20 order.

<http://www.anilori.com>

(Note, this is not an endorsement. The editor has not visited the web site.)

In response to all the questions about the “fantastic” spread that appeared on the appetizer table at the Ball, here is the recipe I used for **“Green Olive and Artichoke Tapenade”** from the latest Moosewood cookbook.

5 artichoke hearts (14-oz can, drained)
1 cup toasted walnuts, chopped
1 cup pitted green or Spanish olives
1 garlic clove, pressed or minced
2-3 Tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon peel
3-4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
pepper to taste

In bowl of food processor, whirl artichokes, walnuts, olives, garlic, parsley and lemon peel for a few seconds until uniformly minced. Scrape down sides, add lemon juice and olive oil and process a few more seconds until mixture forms a rough paste. Season with pepper. Best served at room temperature. Can be stored, covered and refrigerated, up to a week.

Barbara Austen

Parliament to set standard colour for Saltire

The Scotsman, Wednesday, 19 February 2003

The Scottish Parliament made a historic intervention yesterday, stepping in to settle a dispute over the Saltire which has raged, quietly, for hundreds of years.

Scotland's national flag is thought to be the oldest in the world. It is certainly one of the most recognisable, the diagonal white stripes on the blue background having been flown for generations above public buildings, at sporting events and even at the head of armies.

But purists and some flag manufacturers have complained for many years that the colour of the flag has varied wildly, from deep navy to a light shade verging on turquoise, because there is no standard, definable shade for the blue.

Now the Scottish Parliament's education, culture and sport committee has made a decision and has set the optimum shade of blue for the flag.

It is to be Pantone 300 - which may not mean very much to the public at large - but which to flag aficionados is vital. Pantone 300 is azure, or sky-blue.

HAMISH MACDONELL SCOTTISH POLITICAL EDITOR

Scotland at the Smithsonian

2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival
June 25 - 29, July 2 - 6, 2003
on the National Mall, Washington, DC.

Through dynamic performances, demonstrations, and educational programs, more than one hundred of Scotland's finest musicians, storytellers, cooks, craftspeople, and scholars will demonstrate and celebrate the living traditions that make and sustain Scotland's distinctive culture. From the Highlands and Islands to the Borders, inner-city Glasgow to Edinburgh's Royal Mile, the shop floors and mills of Dundee to the oil fields of Aberdeen, Scotland's heritage, regional cultures, and occupations will be highlighted and honored.

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Dick Baxter (203) 735-5079
Secretary	Ena Baxter (203) 735-5079
Treasurer	Brian Haeckler (203) 732-1017
Branch Class	George Thomson (203) 230-8551
Teacher Comm.	Ken Way (860) 653-5258
Intergroup	Don Wills (860) 434-0415
At Large	Mary Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060 Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694
Membership	Ed Davis (203) 264-0870
Newsletter	Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749 mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net or bausten@cslib.org

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is May 15 for publication toward the end of the month. Please get your stories (class and personal tidbits), and calendar listings to me by then. My home address is 70 Pearl St., Meriden, CT 06540, and my email address is <mailto:beausten@worldnet.att.net> .

