

Reel Time

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

Spring 2005

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class

Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT.
Tuesday 7:00 to 9:45 pm. Contact Barbara Austen 203-630-9749 or Karen Pestana 860-298-8311. **Last class will be June 14** with an end-of-the-year party. (See Upcoming Events.)

Middletown Scottish Country Dancers

First Church of Christ Congregational, 190 Court Street, Middletown CT. Wednesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Joyce Chase 203-238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278. **Last class will be June 22.**

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 310 Fort Hill Road, Groton, CT. Friday 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact Linda Scent 860-464-9081 or Everett Munro 860-442-7283. **Last class either June 3 or June 10.**

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 or Peter Price 203-675-9587.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class

New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Dick Platt 203-878-6094 or George Thomson 203-230-8553. **Last class will be June 14.** (See below for special summer classes.)

Newtown Scottish Country Dancers

St. James Episcopal Church, 25 West St., Danbury, CT. Monday 7:30 to 9:00 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 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Contact Donna Ives 203-393-3713. **Last class will be May 27.**

In addition, be sure to check out special classes such as *Peter Price's class*, held on the second Thursday of the month, 8:00 PM, the New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Avenue, New Haven. (Call 203-675-9587 for more information.)

New Haven Summer Class Schedule

New Haven Medical Society, 364 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT. Sunday, June 19, 2:00-5:00 pm. This is a newcomer-friendly dance program on this day only.
Institute of Sacred Music (in the air-conditioned Great Hall), Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. Tuesday, June 21 through August 23, 7:15-10:00 pm. Contact George Thomson 203-230-8553. [Directions to Institute: From Medical Association, go north to next left, Canner Street. Up Canner St, cross St. Ronan Street; at top of hill, take driveway on left. At Yale Divinity School, go right on road running parallel to school; park in Lot 11; entrance to Institute is directly across Lot 11; inside, go down west hallway to end; Great Hall N100 is on left.]

Upcoming Events

Pawling Spring Weekend, RSCDS New York Branch May 20-22, 2005. Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake, Hopewell Junction, NY. Muriel Johnstone, Elaine Brunken, John Wilkinson, teachers. Music by Bobby Brown and the *Scottish Accent* and Jim Stevenson. Contact Sheila Wilson, 212-849-8282 or <mailto:info@rscdsnewyork.org>.

Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival Washington County Fair Grounds, Richmond, RI. Saturday, May 21, 9 am - 5 pm. The Mystic Highland Pipe Band is the host band this year. See <http://www.riscot.org>

Westchester Ball Westchester Scottish Country Dance Society. Saturday, June 4, 2005. St. John's Episcopal Church, Fountain Square, Larchmont, NY. 5:30 pm. Music by Terry Traub, Jim Stevenson, Alice Backer. Contact Jacquie Doolittle, 914-723-4360 or <http://www.rscdsnewyork.org>.

End of Year Party Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class, Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, Windsor CT. Tuesday, June 14, 2005. 7:30 pm. Live music, refreshments. \$10 donation. Contact Karen Pestana, 860-298-8311. (See program below.)

Summerdance XVI Fundraising Dance for UNICEF Saturday, June 25, 2005. Sponsored by RSCDS New York Branch. United Nations General Assembly Lobby, 47th Street and First Avenue, 1:00-4:00 pm. Nancy Scott Pryce, teacher. Recorded music & music by Piper Callum Pasqua. Attire: Men, kilts; Women, white. Contribution \$15.00. Contact <mailto:info@rscdsnewyork.org>.

Round Hill Scottish Games Cranbury Park, Norwalk, CT. Saturday, July 2, 2005. For more information and directions, see: <http://www.RoundHill.org>.

English-Scottish Session at Pinewoods

Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth, Mass. Monday-Friday, July 4-8, 2005. Terry Harvey, Joanna Reiner, Andreas Hayden, Emerald Forman, Emily Thompson, teachers. Music by Dave Wiesler, Hanneke Cassel, Anne Hooper, Ken Allen, Doug Dreighton and more. Contact Jill Emery, 215-591-0750.

Hillsboro Highlands Hillsboro Camp, Hillsboro, NH. Friday-Sunday, August 26-28, 2005. Norah Link, Dale Birdsall, teachers. Music director, Christine Anderson. For more information, contact Susan Haines 603-435-8643 or <mailto:sdhaines@earthlink.net>.

Scottish Weekend at Camp Ramblewood

Camp Ramblewood, Darlington, MD. Friday-Sunday, Sept. 23-25, 2005. Mel Briscoe, Fiona Grant, Helen Russell, teachers. Music by *Scottish Weekend Band* with Elke Baker. \$215. For more information, see <http://www.ScottishWeekend.org>.

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers Fall Ceilidh

Friday, Oct. 21, 2005. 7:00-11:00 pm. Groton Motor Inn, & Suites, Groton, CT.

For information on similar events, check <http://www.intercityscot.org>.

Special Event

We will have a Drumkilbo Reunion & Dance Party for the group who traveled to Scotland in 2004 and the whole dance community on Saturday, May 28, 2005 at Camp Laurelwood, Madison, CT. 2:00 pm, \$8 donation. Potluck supper follows at Catriona MacAuslan's house on Old Toll Road. John Wilkinson, who taught us the dances from Book 44 in Scotland last September, will be here with his wife Ruby after teaching at Pawling. For more information, call Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278.

Windsor End of Season Party Program

Miss Hadden's Reel	32J3	Book 23: 5
The Punch Bowl	32R3	Book 5: 5
The Duke of Hamilton's Reel	32S3	Book 5:8
The Purple Heather Jig	32J3	New Haven 12
Up in the Air	32S3	Book 20: 2
Rambling Pitchfork	32R3	
The Rock & the Wee Pickle Tow	32J2	Book 3: 7
The Black Haired Lassie	32R3	Let's All Dance, Too
Pretty Polly	32S3	Book 28: 2
Berwick Johnnie	32J3	Graded Book:14
Peggy's Love	32S3	Book 8: 2
The Highland Rambler	40R3	Leeds 25th Anniv.

Coming Attraction

Mel Briscoe, a well-known teacher and deviser of dances from Virginia will be here to give a workshop from 3:00-5:00 pm on Saturday, October 22nd, followed by a dance from 7:30-10:00 pm with live music. We will keep you posted on plans and date, so stay tuned. This will be a very exciting experience for all Scottish country dancers.

On a Personal Note

Doreen and Jack Johnstone moved to Fort Myers, Florida the middle of April. The Woodbridge class held a special farewell night on Friday April 1st. Dick Baxter, president of the New Haven Branch, presented them with a memory book full of photos and letters from all their dancing friends. Ken Way also made up special name pins for them to wear. Barbara Austen devised an evening of their favorite dances and everyone was able to wish them well in their new location.

Jane Leibert happened to trip and fall on her knee the morning of the after-ball Brunch in New Haven. Although she came and ate and danced, her knee suddenly gave her extreme pain. A trip to the Emergency Room produced the diagnosis that she'd broken her knee cap. As a result she was in a hip-to-heel cast for six weeks. Luckily she is healing well and hopes to be dancing again before too long.

Dick and Ena Baxter's son-in-law is home from service in Iraq for a month, far too short a time.

Skip Chase's job with Hewlett-Packard has been outsourced – to his house. He now works from his computer at home and to break his solitude he has an assistant, Sadie with soulful eyes, silky brown hair and devoted attention. She's the ideal companion, except when she barks.

Highland Ball and Brunch 2005

It was a wonderful weekend, thanks to so many people. The 140 guests who came to the West Hartford Community Center were greeted warmly by Susan Wall as they searched for their beautiful thistle name pins designed by Ken Way. The treats provided by the Windsor and Middletown classes drew everyone inside for a cheery time of fellowship before dinner. Catriona MacAuslan provided the beautiful heather for the tables. After the usual excellent dinner by Krause Caterers, the tables and chairs were cleared rapidly. And then . . .

It started with a skirl of the pipes from Piper George Martin as we stepped off in the Grand March devised by Barbara Austen and Steve Rice. Local Hero was in top form with a spontaneity and wit that shone through their fabulous music. What a treat to have Norb Spencer, Susie Petrov and Paul Woodiel playing together again! Don Wills (Emcee Extraordinaire) did a seamless job of hosting Saturday evening, and our briefers, Mardene Hof, Peter Price and Brian Haeckler, did a great job. Joyce Chase and Christopher Anagnoskatis produced very enjoyable Ball and Brunch programs. Everywhere I looked I saw big

smiles and lots of happy feet. The balconies at both West Hartford and the Medical Association building were less occupied than usual as everyone was having too much fun to notice sore ankles and feet. Barbara Austen and Steve Rice worked very hard to produce the delicious brunch at the Medical Center in New Haven. And Christopher briefed Brunch dances that everyone enjoyed. Catriona's annual sale of barely used dance clothes was so successful, some dresses never even got to hang on the rack before they were purchased.

A special thank you to George Thompson, my co-chair, and to Barbra Link and Jane Leibert, assistant chairs, for their hard work, support and clear heads. Keep March 4 and 5, 2006 clear on your calendars for next year's Ball and Brunch.

Karen Pestana

Did you know?

We were all so pleased to have *Local Hero* play for the New Haven Ball this year. Norb Spencer and Susie Petrov are familiar to us from providing music for many of our smaller parties. But did you know that Paul Woodiel took time out from his career in Broadway musical circles to play for us? A classically trained violinist, he grew up in Hartford, taking violin lessons at Hartt School. He has been named New England Fiddle Champion three times. Since 1993, he has played for such major Broadway musicals as *Camelot*, *Ragtime*, *The Music Man* and *La Cage aux Folies*. We all know how important the music is to our dancing, and Paul Woodiel's contribution, along with Norb and Susie, makes beautiful music.

Lucile Blanchard

March Challenge Class

Kent Smith conducted a great if under-attended Challenge Class in Middletown on the 31st of March, with just nine dancers. For warm-up, in honor of fugue-master Bach's recent birthday, Kent led off with Hugh Foss' *Fugal Fergus*, which went without a hitch and built some reserve confidence for rest of the evening. The second dance, *Hamish Henderson's Refusal*, was a well-integrated five couple Strathspey of Kent's own devising. Next in line was *The Mathematicians*, by Alex Gray, an eighty bar round for four couples with a new couple starting every forty bars. The dance has a very smooth flow with an interesting entry into the Allemande.

After a review of reels of four stressing the timing of the full left shoulder pass every two bars, *Covalence* by Timothy Conrow was undertaken. This dance included two reels of four on the side in which the dancers changed sides. In the first, the changeover occurred from the bottom. In lieu of the left shoulder pass, on the second bar the upward-bound couple would cross up to second place as the down-coming couple finished bar two in third place, at least in theory. In practice, the dancers too often didn't pass, turning the dance into a mixer or revising the progression. The second reel was a bit easier to visualize, the top ladies' side person and bottom man's

side person turning with right hand on bar two to change reels and directions. In any case, this dance was done several times, and I believe we even got it right, once. The evening ended with John Drewry's *Inverneil House*, a reel with a hint of *Autumn in Appin*, which was well received and has already shown up on subsequent dance programs. Thanks, Kent, for a well-rounded and challenging program.

Ken Way

April Challenge Class

The final Challenge Class of the year, held April 21st in Middletown, got off to a slow start when the teacher, Jim Ferguson of the New York Branch, called on his cell phone to say the Merritt Parkway had turned into a mile-long parking lot. Several of us had seen the TV report where the ambulance carrying victims of the first accident to the hospital was struck by another car and turned over. With 24 dancers pacing around the Parish Hall, Ken Way raised our spirits with a fast run-through of *Jubilee Jig*. He then had us work on the *Flying Spur*, a John Drewry dance full of meanwhile figures. At 7:30 Fergie walked in with Louis Perez and his class began.

Among his dances, we spent time on the *Medley for MacIsaacs* which Fergie devised to music by David MacIsaacs. Starting with a 32-bar strathspey, it goes on to a 32-bar reel and then a final 32-bar reel, using combinations of standard figures like having a Mens' Chain and then a Ladies Chain, or Set and Rotate, then Set and Link. While each part of the Medley was fairly straightforward, we found that remembering the differences from one part to the next made it tricky. We were lucky enough to have the exact number of dancers for four 3-couple sets. After the break, we danced *Fifeness* by Mary Brandon, *The Renaissance Man*, a 40-bar strathspey for 3 couples by Ann Hankins, and ended with Fergie's dance *Pipe Doon*. He praised us for being so full of energy that late at night, and we praised him for giving us such a great class.

Lucile Blanchard

Kilts and Ghillies Ball

On Saturday, April 30, 56 dancers gathered at the South Britain Congregational Church for the seventeenth annual Kilts and Ghillies Ball. Doreen and Jack Johnstone did the major groundwork and then left for Florida, passing the torch to Donna and Richard Ives. After a delicious dinner catered by Michael Reiss, with appetizers donated by the Woodbridge class, we were piped in by John Carr for the Grand March, directed by Kate Mahoney and George Thompson. With music by Terry Traub, Alice Backer and Beth Murray, and briefings by Leslie Kearney and Peter Price, the dancing was very enjoyable. At break, the table full of special desserts, provided by members of Kilts and Ghillies, the Byrnies and the McRanors, topped off the evening. Also helping with the many essential details were Mollie and David Keller, Cheri Hamilton, Tony Kalbfus, Catriona

MacAuslan, Bob and Mary Byrnie, Dick and Ena Baxter, Ed Davis and Ed Potter. We only wish the Johnstones were there to share the pleasure.

Donna Ives, Lucile Blanchard

Scottish Weather

- 40 degrees: Californians shiver uncontrollably.
People in Scotland sunbathe.
- 35 degrees: Italian cars won't start.
People in Scotland drive with the windows down.
- 20 degrees: Floridians wear coats, gloves, wool hats.
People in Scotland throw on a T-shirt.
- 15 degrees: Californians begin to evacuate the state.
People in Scotland go swimming.
- Zero degrees: New York landlords turn on the heat.
People in Scotland have the last bbq before it gets cold.
- 10 degrees below zero: People in Miami cease to exist.
People in Scotland lick flagpoles.
- 20 degrees below zero: Californians fly to Mexico.
People in Scotland throw on a light jacket.
- 80 degrees below zero: Polar bears evacuate the Arctic.
Scottish Boy Scouts postpone "Winter Survival" classes until it gets cold enough.
- 100 degrees below zero: Santa Claus abandons the North Pole.
People in Scotland pull down their ear flaps.
- 173 degrees below zero: Ethyl alcohol freezes.
People in Scotland get mad when they can't thaw their kegs.
- 297 degrees below zero: Microbial life disappears.
Scottish cows complain of farmers with cold hands.
- 460 degrees below zero: ALL atomic motion stops.
People in Scotland say, "Chilly, you cald an aw?"
- 500 degrees below zero: Hell freezes over.
Scottish people support England in World Cup!!!!
Thanks to Dick Platt and the Clan Gunn Society

Scottish Tea Party

The Middletown class held its fourth annual tea party on Wednesday, April 27th, thanks to the hard work of Joyce Chase and Elizabeth Muir with Catriona MacAuslan's help. Class members produced a great quantity of finger foods, and talk during the tea break was definitely muted with everyone busy munching the goodies. Ken Way helped us work off the calories with a fine program of social dances. It's a grand tradition and we hope it never ends.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2005 was held on Saturday, May 14 at the Medical Center in New Haven. Reports were submitted by various Board members to be incorporated in our annual report to the RSCDS in Edinburgh. The only change in Board members for 2005-2006: George Thomson finished his stint as New Haven Branch Class representative. *Thank you, George.* Leslie Kearney started her term as Branch Class rep. *Welcome, Leslie.*

Then everyone put on their ghillies to dance to a cheerful program devised by Ken Way. *Burn's Hornpipe*, a 4-couple dance where the men turn their backs, cross their arms and tap their heels while the first lady weaves her way among them, was such a pleasure, everyone asked to do it again. When the first man weaves through the women, they just stand and smile sweetly. So the dancers chose to switch sides for the second time through and let the ladies tap their heels. Fair enough?

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President	Dick Baxter (860) 314-0363
Secretary	Ena Baxter (860) 314-0363
Treasurer	Richard Ives (203) 393-3713
Branch Class	Leslie Kearney (203) 281-6591
Teacher Comm.	Ken Way (860) 653-5258
Intergroup	Don Wills (860) 536-1981
At Large	Mary Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Bob Byrnie (860) 635-4056 Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694 Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060 Nina Stein (203) 757-2539
Membership	Ed Davis (203) 264-087
Newsletter	Lucile Blanchard (860) 347-0278 lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **August 15** for publication by the end of the month. I will welcome all of your stories or reports, and particularly all calendar listings. My home address is 1061 Millbrook Road, Middletown, CT 06457 and my e-mail is lblanchard@wesleyan.edu.

Note to Readers: If you would rather receive Reel Time by e-mail, please send an e-mail message to me at lblanchard@wesleyan.edu so that I will have your preferred address.

Some candid shots from spring events



Local Hero at work



Our bouncers - Louis and Bob



Brunch in New Haven after the Ball



Dick presenting Jack and Doreen with memory book



Middletown class all dressed for tea – note all the hats!