

Reel Time

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

Winter 2010

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 Joyce Chase
203-238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278.

Kilts & Ghillies Scottish Country Dancers Millennium
School of Irish Dance, 12 Old Mill Road, Georgetown
CT. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Peter Price
203-675-9587.

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers St. Andrew Presby-
terian 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 www.mysticsscottishdancers.com.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
591 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Tuesday 7:30 to
10:00 pm. Contact Dick Platt 203-878-6094 or Leslie
Kearney 203-281-6591.

Woodbridge Scottish Country Dancers First Church of
Christ Congregational, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Wood-
bridge CT. Friday 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Contact Donna Ives
203-393-3713 or Mollie Keller 203-375-2840.

Peter Price's Class Second Monday of the month,
8:00 pm, New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East
Grand Ave., New Haven. Winter dates: Mar. 8, Apr. 12,
May 10

Upcoming Events

New Haven Branch Highland Ball Saturday, Mar. 6,
2010, 5:00 pm to midnight. West Hartford Town Hall, 50
South Main St, West Hartford, CT. \$60 or \$65. Music by
Music Makars: Etienne Ozorak, Fred Mamula, Jack
Lindberg, Nicholas Ozorak, Elizabeth Weiss Ozorak.

Sunday Brunch: March 7, High Lane Club, North
Haven, CT. 11:00 am, dancing at 12:30 pm.

Ball Workshop: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2010. 2:30-5:00 pm.
\$10. First Church of Christ Congregational, Middletown
Teacher: Ken Way

For more, contact Ellie Toy, eltoy@sbcglobal.net or
Lucile Blanchard, lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Ninth Annual Tea Party Middletown Class
Wednesday, March 31, 2010. First Church of Christ, 190
Court St., Middletown. 7:00-9:30 pm, no fee. Social
dance night with Scottish tea.

Tartan Day in New York City, Saturday, April 10, 2010
Bus to city and back. Take part in Tartan Day parade up
6th Avenue. Dinner optional. Bus is \$38.50, dinner
reservation, \$30. A fundraiser for the New Haven
Branch. Registration form attached, also on Branch
website. For more information, contact Ev Munroe,
Bonnieladdie63@ct.metrocast.net

Rerr Terr Saturday, April 10, 2010 Church of the
Atonement, Tenafly, NJ. 5:30-11:00 pm. \$40. Music by
Highland Whisky. See www.rscds-nj.org.

Kilts and Ghillies Spring Dance Saturday, April 17,
2010. South Britain Congregational Church, Southbury,
CT 3:00-7:30 pm with a break for tea, punch, refresh-
ments. Music by Jim Stevenson-Mathews and Rebecca
McCallum. See program below. For more information,
Mollie Keller, unclemollie@hotmail.com.

Boston Highland Ball Weekend Friday, April 30 -
Sunday May 2, 2010. Ball held at Nevins Hall,
Framingham, MA. 5:30 pm. Music by *Tullochgorum*.
Also Friday Welcome Dance and Sunday Brunch/Dance.
See www.rscdsboston.org.

Pawling Weekend May 21-23, 2010. Circle Lodge,
Hopewell Junction, NY. Teachers: Alex Gray, Ellie
Briscoe, Rebecca Roman. Music by Bobby Brown and
The Scottish Accent plus Jim Stevenson-Mathews. For
more information, see www.rscdsnewyork.org.

Westchester Ball Saturday, June 5, 2010

Northampton 20th Anniversary Party Sunday, June 6,
2010. Earl Gaddis will be playing with Karen Axelrod.
Save the date!

Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival Saturday,
June 12, 2010, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Washington County
Fairgrounds, Richmond, RI. For more information, see
www.riscot.org.

Scottish Pinewoods Sessions, July 9-17, 2010.
See rscdsboston.org.

Check www.intercityscot.org for similar events.

Kilts and Ghillies Ball

This year the Kilts and Ghillies Ball will be held earlier in the day, from 3:00 to 7:30. There will be snacks and dessert served, but no meal. With music by two fine musicians, it should be a great event.

Program for Kilts & Ghillies Ball:

Moles Frolic	32J3	Dunsmuir Book
Anna Holden's Strathspey	32S2	Book 42/2
The White Cockade	32R3	Book 5/11
Holden My Own	32J3	Betw the Rivers
Sage and Salsa	16S/16R	medley
		Still Enough to Dance
Montgomery's Rant	32R3	Book 10/1
The Nurseryman	32J3	Book 37/7
Maurice	32S2	Dunsmuir Book
Blooms of Bon Accord	32R4	Drewry
Glen Falloch	32J3	Attwood-Alex 2
Rakes of Auld Reekie	32S2	Golden Oriole Bk
On Hudson Creek	32H3	Betw the Rivers
Back to Back	32J3	Itch to Dance
The Dundee Whaler	32S4	Ormskirk
The Westminster Reel	32R2	Book 45/1
Major Ian Stewart	32J3	Book 35/4
The Duchess Tree	32S3	J.Drewry
Reel of the 51st Division	32R4/5	set Book 13/10

Tartan Day Bus to New York

After last year's participation in the New York City celebration of Tartan Day, the Branch is arranging a bus load to take part again this year on Saturday, April 10. The bus will pick up passengers in Stonington, Waterford, Madison and West Haven. Arriving in the city at 10 am, you will have the whole day to follow your interests – shopping, museums, food of all kinds. We are signed up to take part in the official parade up Sixth Avenue which begins at 2 pm. This year Joyce Chase is working on a very simple dance that we can perform when the parade pauses at various intersections. And for supper, we have reserved space in the restaurant, St. Andrews Pub. If you want to be part of that supper crowd, you must pay the \$30 reservation fee ahead of time because the seating is extremely limited. You can't decide to join us at the last minute. The bus back to Connecticut will leave at 7 pm. It's a great way to celebrate Scotland's culture. And help the fund-raising for the New Haven Branch.

Reservation form is attached to Reel Time.

Mystic Burns Night

A VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATION

My luve is like a red, red rose

That's newly sprung in June

My luve is like a melody

That's sweetly played in tune (1794)

Some 27 years ago, Margaret and George Fraser started hosting Burns Night dinners in their home in Norwich very shortly after their arrival from County Fife

in Scotland. Each year for the night of the dinner, the family made sure that the neeps and haggis were properly prepared and that the tributes to Robbie included Burns' poetry, the *Immortal Memory* and the *Ode To The Haggis*. One year their young son Andrew said with all the singing and dancing, their house would fall down if any more guests came. So they shifted to larger venues, allowing for more attendees who delighted in the eloquence of George, the great poems of Robbie, the excellent food and the camaraderie of so many celebrating the life and talents of Robbie Burns.

The planning team for the Burns Night Dinners wanted to honor the Bard of Scotland while displaying the unique arts of Scottish Country Dancing and Scottish Highland Dancing, and to have a great time as well. That was when the Mystic Highland Pipe Band and the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers were founded. The Mystic Scottish Country Dancers have hosted the Burns Night dinners now for 26 years. In the early years they featured George Fraser delivering his recitation, complete with sound effects, of the *Address to a Haggis*. Since his death in 1996, his son Andrew has continued in this role each year.

Burns Night Dinners traditionally include speeches honoring his Immortal Memory, songs including *Auld Lang Syne*, poems such as *To A Mouse*, verbal portraits of life and times including many touching love poems (for Robbie did love the lasses!) as well as *Cotter's Saturday Night*, bringing the past vividly to life. A special part of the evening continues to be the *Address to A Haggis* complete with the ceremonial cutting of the haggis with a sharp dirk. And on the 13th of February, the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers hosted a gala 251st anniversary celebration of Robbie's birth.

We were delighted to feature Bob Byrnie's painting of the Eilean Donan Castle against a background of the St. Andrew's Cross. Bob and Mary visited the castle in 2000 and were so charmed, Bob painted the picture, dedicated it to his grandfather, James J. Byrnie, to whom he attributes his artistic talent and Scottish roots. The mural made an elegant backdrop for Fintan Stanley and his International Ceilidh Band who provided superb music for the evening. The program began with Mystic Highland Pipe Band, and included Dave Lees' toast to *The Immortal Memory*, then the recitation of Burns' love poems by JoAnne Hardin Gauss, a descendent of Bonnie Jean Armour. After a beautiful sword dance by four men accompanied by Colleen Cournoyer on bagpipes, the Stirling Highland Dance Company performed. Then the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers danced *Seann Truibhas* and *De'il Amang the Sailors* under the direction of our teacher Joyce Chase. Andrew Fraser's *Address To A Haggis* was superb as he invited the audience to provide the sound effects which were show-stopping!

This year's celebration on the eve of St. Valentine's Day was extra-special and what a challenge to keep a secret! When I wrote to Andrew about the Valentine's Day theme, he came up with a special plan. He

has been dating a lovely attorney in his firm for some four years and inasmuch as this would be Lauren's fourth Burns Dinner, it was also Valentine's Day, AND Lauren was indeed the love of his life, he asked if we would grant him a special moment to ask Lauren to marry him! I knew all in attendance would be touched to have this love story unfold before our very eyes.

So at the conclusion of the *Toast to the Haggis*, Andrew introduced Lauren who was mystified as he



walked her out to the middle of the ballroom floor. He tenderly recited one verse from *Red, Red Rose* and asked her to be his bride, with everyone ohing and aching. After a radiant Lauren said *Yes*, their song *Brighter than Sunshine* played softly through the speaker system. Then Lauren and Andrew stood in the middle of the ballroom for the recitation of *A Red Red Rose* and we handed her a red rose. Such a moment to remember and savor!

With-out a dry eye in the house, Piper Stuart Douglass piped the happy couple and the Haggis procession from the ballroom to the strains of *Red, Red Rose*. Dinner follow-ed along with the rest of the festivities. We pray that Lauren and Andrew's lives will be bonnie and joy filled.



After The Toasts, everyone headed for the dance floor to join in Scottish Social Dancing as well as round dancing. An evening of good cheer and great fellowship.

"A' blessings on the cheery gang.

Wha dearly like a jig or sang."

Ruth Holland Walsh

Northampton's New Year's Day Party

Several of us Connecticut dancers made our way this year to Northampton for their annual New Year's Day party. When we rang the doorbell of First Churches, *Auld Lang Syne* sounded inside, a welcome touch. They had cider and snacks laid out for early birds while they set up the potluck supper which was the usual combination of many interesting dishes. Desserts were basically variations on chocolate and nobody objected.

The musicians tuned up – Ed Pearlman on fiddle, his son Neil on piano. Their family were also there to dance. The dancing started off with *The Isle*. Kent Smith planned the program that included *The Craven Reel*, a lovely new dance he'd come across which was flowing and lyrical, a pleasure to dance. More dances followed, including *The Cranberry Tart* with its fugue figure, and *Wisp of Thistle*. This party is easy to enjoy because it's casual, friendly and fun. During break, the Northampton group handed out gifts for their teacher and helpers. Then we gathered for *Light and Airy* and *The Sailor*. The musicians played so well, many people bought their CDs. The evening ended with *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, all reels and corner-partner and circles for a fine finish. And so we welcomed in the year of 2010.

Reminders on Ball Etiquette

New dancers may not be aware of a few points of ball etiquette and even longtime dancers might forget some of them.

1. Local dancers should think about asking out-of-town folk to dance to show that they are welcome and their support of the event is much appreciated.
2. Experienced dancers should ask new dancers to dance, especially first timers who will have a heart on their name badge to indicate this.
3. When forming a set, do not cut in at the top or middle, but join at the bottom.
4. Remember to change your location in the ballroom rather than dance in the same set with the same people.
5. It's considered poor etiquette to "book ahead" except for the occasional favorite dance.
6. When a dance ends, thank your partner, thank your set and leave the floor.
7. Find a new partner as soon as the next dance is announced, and then join a set quickly so the dance can proceed.
8. The top couple should remember to count their set to let the briefer know if it is complete or not.
9. And please keep the lines straight.

Minutes of the New Haven Branch Board meetings are available to all Branch members. If you want a copy, let Barbara Garton know (barbaragarton@earthlink.com).

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

President Catriona MacAuslan (203) 421-4060
Vice President Peter Leibert (860) 887-9184
Secretary Barbara Garton (860) 871-0321
Treasurer Richard Ives (203) 393-3713
Branch Class Leslie Kearney (203) 281-6591
Teacher Comm. Barbara Austen (203) 630-9749
Intergroup Don Wills (860) 536-1981
At Large Joyce Chase (203) 238-0694
 Steve Rice (203) 630-9749
 Catherine Mahoney (203) 879-6000

Sarah-Jane Ripa (646) 523-0868
Nina Stein (203) 757-2539
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Membership Ed Davis (203) 264-087
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 david.keller@janussystems.com
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 lblanchard@wesleyan.edu

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **May 15** for publication by the end of the month. I will welcome all of your stories or reports, and particularly all calendar listings.

The internet address for the New Haven Branch web site is: www.rscdsnewhaven

RESERVATION INFORMATION – TARTAN DAY BUS TO NYC
Saturday, April 10, 2010

Please print all information:

Name(s) _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Home Phone Number _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Pickup Point (circle one):

7:30 a.m. Stonington I-95 Exit 91 commuter lot (Route 234)

8:00 a.m. Waterford Wal-Mart Crossroads Plaza I-95 Exit 81

8:45 a.m. Madison Park & Ride Commuter Lot I-95 Exit 62 (Route 79)

9:00 a.m. West Haven Park & Ride I-95 Exit 42 (Route 162) Saw Mill Road

Send check or Money Order payable to: RSCDS New Haven Branch,
C/O Everett Munro – 189 Glenwood Avenue – New London, CT 06320

_____ seats @ \$38.50 each = \$_____ enclosed

_____ dinner deposits @ \$30.00 each = \$_____ enclosed

Sightseeing and Dinner Options are available.

Download reservation forms at
www.rscdsnewhaven.org or
www.mysticscottishdancers.com

Thank you for supporting
The New Haven Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society