

Reel Time

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

Summer 2012

Class Schedules

Greater Hartford Scottish Country Dance Class

Grace Episcopal Church on the Green, 311 Broad St., Windsor CT. Classes will resume on September 11, 2012. 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. Classes will resume on September 5, 2012. Wednesday 7:00 to 9:30 pm. Contact Joyce Chase 203-238-0694 or Lucile Blanchard 860-347-0278.

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. Classes will resume on September 11, 2012. \$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. Classes will resume on September 7, 2012. 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.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class

Whitney Arts Center, 591 Whitney Ave., New Haven CT. Classes will resume on September 11, 2012. Tuesday 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Contact Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591.

Waterbury Scottish Country Dancers

Bunker Hill Congregational Church, 274 Bunker Hill Ave, Waterbury CT. Classes resume on September 9, 2102. Friday 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Parking is on the street and the hall is on the lower level. Contact Kate Mahoney 203-879-6000.

Peter Price's Class

Fourth Monday of the month class, 8:00 pm, New Haven Friends Meeting House, 225 East Grand Ave., New Haven. From 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Contact Peter Price 203-675-9587 .

Upcoming Events

New Hampshire Highlands

– August 24 -26, 2012. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, Contoocook, NH. More information at

<http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-NHHighlands.html>

RSCDS Calgary 'Return to Banff' Workshop and Ball

– October 6 – 8, 2012. More information at:

<http://www.rscdscalgary.org/>

Mystic Fall Ceilidh

– October 12, 2012 7:00 PM. Stoneridge Auditorium at 186 Jerry Browne Road Mystic, CT 06355. Tickets are \$15. For more information contact Rush Walsh (860) 536-6265.

Brunswick Fall Party

– October 13, 2012. Topsham Grange Hall, Topsham, Maine. For more information contact Patti Tillotson 207-833-2329. More information at: <http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-calendar.html>

Seventh Annual Nutmeg Workshop

October 20th, 2012. New London (CT) - Mohican Hotel/Apartments, 281 State St. Classes 1-4:45pm, potluck dinner 5:15p-6:45, evening dance 7-9pm. Sponsored by New Haven Branch RSCDS.

Teachers are Dale Birdsall and Robert McOwen. Music by Barbara McOwen and Tom Pixton. Casual attire. Potluck dinner and intermission snacks and beverages. US \$38. Evening dance only US \$25. Contact Alice Hencir 203-245-7051 aHencir@snet.net or Catriona MacAuslan 203-215-5343 cMacFisher@comcast.net.

Annual Scottish Concert

– November 10, 2012. National Heritage Museum, Lexington, MA 02421. Contact by email at concert@rscdsboston.org or check the website at <http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-calendar.html>.

40th Jeannie Carmichael Ball

– November 10 and 11, 2012. US Military Academy at West Point, New York. Music by Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Ball tickets \$75/person. For more information:

<http://www.rscdsnewyork.org/>

Pinewoods Benefit Ball

– December 1, 2012. Old Town Hall, Salem, MA. For more information contact : Betty Allen 781-849-3512 and Gillian Charters 978-927-5306

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

On A Sad Note

The RSCDS New Haven Branch dance community wishes to extend their condolences to Barbara Austen on the death of her father. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Pawling Weekend

The 49th Pawling Annual Weekend was held at the Circle Lodge, Sylvan Lake in Hopewell Junction, New York. The Connecticut dancers were well represented in the event.



In this picture I can find Lucille Blanchard, Angela Hill, Joyce Chase, Everett Munro, Catriona MacAuslan, Dawn Niederwerfer, Alice Hencir, Ellie Toy, and Paula Yu Pan.



It is a very relaxing atmosphere at Pawling. It is a great opportunity for dancing and having fun and learning dance technique and the weather is nice this time of year.

Dave Lees

Rhode Island Highland Festival

The 14th Annual Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival was held on Saturday, June 9th, 2012 at the Washington Country Fairgrounds in Richmond, Rhode Island. The festival runs all day rain or shine. We were lucky this year and the weather cooperated with us and we didn't get soaked with rain.

The festival includes amateur and professional athletics, highland dance, highland piping, pipe bands, drumming and drum majors. To round out the performance several dancers volunteered to include Scottish Country Dancing to the entertainment.

Joyce took the microphone when the games were

opened and explained country dancing technique to the audience and led us in two dances on the field. We were lucky this year in that someone had actually cut the grass.

After our demonstration dances we invited any and all that would like to try Country Dancing.



We had a very enthusiastic audience and managed to get a lot of people interesting in taking a shot at dancing.

Dave Lees

A Trip To Scotland

We were led on another successful trip to Scotland by Catriona MacAuslan. Thirteen of us flew to Edinburgh on June 28th. After renting three cars, we drove to Cambo Estate, a mansion in Fife near St. Andrews. We had private rooms on the third floor and breakfasted every day in their elegant dining room. Lord Peter Erskine and Lady Catherine were in residence, checking with us now and then. Lady Catherine managed the extensive formal gardens on the estate which visitors paid to see. The garden paths led down to the North Sea where George Thompson took a quick swim, then draped himself in seaweed.



Breakfast at Cambo



George the merman

St. Andrews was a major place for sightseeing, especially the extensive dramatic remains of the Cathedral which was "cleansed" in 1559 during the Reformation and allowed to fall into ruins. Being this close to the border, we spent an afternoon exploring Hadrian's Wall. First we stopped at Vindolana where the ruins of a large Roman fort are still being excavated. They held a reenactment of Roman soldiers which was interesting to watch. Then we drove along a road and stopped at the remnants of the Wall which have been picked apart over the centuries for much of its original length.



On Hadrians Wall



Meeting at the Fountain

In Edinburgh we visited the Castle to see the Crown Jewels and the Stone of Scone, both of which were hidden when Cromwell took over the country and then returned when royalty was restored. Also on view were some ancient royal apartments and chapels. After exploring a primeval forest, we went to a dance given by a group in Dunfermline. Eighty dancers filled the hall as we danced to a very interesting program.

The next day we hosted John Wilkinson and his wife Ruby. John has taught at the RSCDS summer school in St. Andrews. In the Cambo ballroom, he gave a class that afternoon which included *The Khandahar Reel*, devised by Scottish troops in Afghanistan. In the evening we held a dance there which was attended by quite a few local dancers from Dunfermline and friends of Lord and Lady Erskine who are dancers themselves. Music was played by David Cunningham's band and Joyce Chase devised the program. When it ended, we had an afterparty up in our lounge, attended by the Lord and Lady, John and Ruby, and David and his family. An

hour into the party, Lord Peter took up his guitar to play for us. Expecting some Celtic tunes, we were stunned when he belted out songs by Lead Belly and Fats Waller. The evening then devolved into a ceilidh with funny tales by John, Joyce and Peter Leibert. It ended when Peter with his squeeze box joined Lord Peter in some tunes.

Our final day was taken up by a boat trip to the Isle of May, a bird sanctuary that specialized in puffins. The day started well for Scotland – sunny and mild. But by the time we were on the boat heading out to sea, the wind had risen and the waves were growing higher. When we reached the island, it was too rough to land so we had to be satisfied with going up and down along the cliffs on the calm side of the island, viewing the hundreds of birds from a distance.

In spite of that, the trip as a whole went very well and we enjoyed it.

Lucile Blanchard

The Hidden Power of Scottish Country Dancing

One item not mentioned in the Trip To Scotland article was a demonstration of the hidden power of Scottish Country Dancing. When the travelers were boarding the airline for the flight to Scotland Lucille has a small accident with the luggage and banged her head. The airline attendants were concerned and recommended that she wait until the next flight so that they could have her examined to make sure that she was all right. Waiting for the next flight would really mess up a well planned schedule. It was Catriona that came up with a brilliant idea. She and Catriona demonstrated a Right Round Pousette. The airline attendants were amazed and not only let everyone board the plane, they promised free booze and movies for the entire flight if they would teach them to dance. *I kind of exaggerated that last sentence – they really were impressed though.*

Dave Lees

Hidden Talents

You never know what your fellow Scottish Country Dancers are up to in their spare time. I chase ferrets and Lucille Blanchard writes. She has written a book and it has been published. The title is *Turning Seventy*.



The book is available on Amazon.com. The following is a review of the book that I found when I purchased it:

"Turning Seventy" is a profound meditation on the nature of grief. Blanchard writes with a refined and insightful

eye, providing a fascinating glimpse into what happens when certainties are shaken. Passionate, absorbing and sharply drawn, the author raises questions about how we celebrate life in the face of loss. This book inspired me.

Well Done Lucille!

Dave Lees

Pinewoods

Four of the members in the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers attended the weekend session of Scottish Dancing at Pinewoods on July 6-9 this year.



The attendees were Doug Clough, Everett Munro, and William Douglass. Minna DeGaetano also attended but was not in this interesting photograph. I asked what the 'three musketeers' were doing with a giant bug but not one of them could recall. Apparently there was some sort of 'jello shot' party at the Cottey House the night before and all they could remember was that there was lot of slurping and smiling going on.

Pinewoods continues to be a great place to relax in the wilderness and learn dancing technique. Money donated has been used to refurbish the dining hall in the camp and the sessions are always well attended. With the hot weather this summer it was a bit rough keeping up the dancing but with Long Pond and Round Pond close by there is always a way to cool off.

Dave Lees

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is **Nov 15** for publication by the end of the month. The new 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

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).

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

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers (CURRENT (2011-2012):

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| President | Catriona MacAuslan | 203-421-4060 |
| Vice President | Catherine Mahoney | 203-879-6000 |
| Secretary | Barbara Garton | 860-871-0321 |
| Treasurer | Stephen Rice | 203-630-9749 |
| Branch Class | Leslie Kearney | 203-281-6591 |
| Intergroup | Don Wills | 960-536-1981 |
| At Large | Joyce Chase | 203-238-0694 |
| | Angela Hill | 860-921-5399 |
| | Peter Leibert | 860-887-9184 |
| | Marque Lethenstrom | 203-500-2144 |
| | Lucile Blanchard | 860-347-0278 |
| | Nina Stein | 203-757-2539 |
| | Marge Wills | 860-536-1981 |
| | Barbara Austen | 203-630-9749 |
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| Web Master | David Keller | david.keller@janussystems.com |
| Newsletter | David Lees | 860 715-3261 |
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|-------------------------|--|--|
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| Vice President | Catherine Mahoney | 203-879-6000 |
| Secretary - Recording | Susan Leff | 203-264-0870 |
| Secretary-Corresponding | Cate Mahoney | 203-879-6000 |
| Treasurer | Stephen Rice | 203-630-9749 |
| Branch Class | Leslie Kearney | 203-281-6591 |
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