

Reel Time

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

Winter 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.

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.

New Haven Branch Scottish Country Dance Class
Whitney Arts Center, 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.

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

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting for the election of
branch officers is scheduled for May 3 – 1:30 PM with
dancing to follow.

New Haven Branch Highland Ball: Saturday, March 1,
2014, 5:00 pm to midnight. West Hartford Town Hall
Auditorium, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT
06107. Music by *The Parcel of Rogues*. Visit the New
Haven branch site at <http://rscdsnewhaven.org> or
<http://mysticscottishdancers.com> for applications and
details.

Please send in your reservations as soon as
possible. The fee is \$65 for the ball and brunch if you
register before February 19th.

Sunday Ball Brunch: Sunday, March 2, 11:00 AM at
the High Lane Club, 40 High Lane, North Haven, CT for
brunch and dancing. We will again be holding the
"Dancing Duds" sale at the brunch, so please bring any
gently used clothing to sell as this is a major fund raiser
for the branch. If you are attending the brunch please
try to bring a pot luck dish.

Windsor Un-St. Patrick's Day: The Windsor group is
having an un-St Patrick's Day party Tuesday, March 18
at 7:00 PM with music by Norb Spencer and Friends.
The program is currently TBD. Refreshments will be
served. The cost is \$10 per person.

Annual Tea Party: Middletown Class Wednesday,
April 23, 2013. First Church of Christ, 190 Court St.,
Middletown. 7:00-9:30 pm, there is no fee. Norb
Spencer and his buddies will be playing for the dance.
This is a social dance night with Scottish tea. Call Lucile
Blanchard, 860-347-0278, for more information.

Rerr Terr - Save the date. Tenafly, NJ Saturday, April
5, 2014. For more information check
<http://www.rscds-nj.org/events.html>

Tartan Day - Save the date. The 16th Annual Tartan
Day Parade, April 5, 2014. Possibility of getting a bus to
New York as we have done in the past.
<http://www.americanscottishfoundation.com/tartanday/index.html>

Kilts and Ghillies Tea Dance – March 29, 2014 in
Southbury CT. Dance program is available at
http://mysticscottishdancers.com/data/2014_Kilts_and_Ghillies.pdf

Boston Highland Ball Weekend: - May 9-11, 2014.
RSCDS Boston Highland Ball Weekend, This is the 58th
anniversary of the RSCDS Boston Branch Highland Ball.
The formal Ball is on Saturday, May 10 at the Soldiers

and Sailors Memorial Hall, 590 Main St., Melrose, MA.
<http://www.rscdsboston.org/events-HighlandBall.html>

Pawling Weekend (50th) – Save the date. Hopewell Junction, NY. Friday, May 16 - May 18, 2014. For more information see www.rscdsnewyork.org.

Scottish Pinewoods Sessions, July 11 – 19, 2014. See www.rscdsboston.org for more information.

Dance Out Opportunity – May 25, 2014 – Heirloom Festival. <http://www.rareseeds.com>
Comstock, Ferre & Company, Wethersfield, CT
The oldest continuously operating seed company in New England. If you are interested contact Ev Munro
Bonnieladdie63@ct.metrocaset.net

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

Middletown Fall Party –

On Wednesday, October 30, the Middletown class held their Fall Dance. Ken Way devised the program and used CDs for the music. Since it was the night before Halloween, people were encouraged to come in costume which most dancers did. This always makes for a lot of laughs. Ken's program began with The Mad Hatter.



Then we danced Widdershins which is a Scottish word for getting things backward. In this dance we started 4 hands around to the right instead of the left, then danced left hands across first and ended with lefts and right. It took some thought to get those changes of direction in our heads. The Black Dance was appropriately named, and then Wind on Loch Fyne, another dance with tricky spots, being three couples in a triangular set. It's on the New Haven Ball program.



It was a wild bunch of dancers. For break people brought in a large variety of foods and Barbra Link made a pumpkin cake which was very tasty. Then it was back on the floor for Tattie Bogle, a name for scarecrows. Ken had appropriately dressed as one, leaving bits of straw behind during the evening.

Betelgeuse, a Robert Gregg dance named after a bright star, got our attention and the evening ended with, what else? – De'il Among the Tailors. It was a really fun evening. a prelude to the holiday the next night.

Lucile Blanchard

Middletown Class Holiday Dance

On Saturday, December 28th the Middletown class held a Holiday Dance with Norb Spencer and his crew playing some great music. People brought snacks, mostly cookies, for refreshments served at the break. We were glad to have 18 dancers and the program, devised by Ken Way, was his usual mix of familiar and strenuous. A test for our minds and muscles.



We started with Hollin Buss which Ken described as particularly meaningful since he happened to see one at a museum – a boat, he says. Then on to the Shores of Solway which makes a kind of nautical sense. The first set finished with Caberfei. Norb's band played very well so they appreciated going to have fruit drinks and cookies at the break.



The second set began with Wild Geese and ended with The Fireside Reel. A happy time was had by all.

Lucile Blanchard

Tony and Judith Dewdney

And now for something different.....

Tony and Judith Dewdney were sent from England

to the U.S. because Tony was working with Amtrac to take what he learned back to England for their train system. There were Scottish Country Dancers so they came to our class for a year or more.

Tony is now a fully retired Past President of Probus. I had to look that up. Probus Clubs worldwide work to provide regular gatherings to those retired or semi-retired business or professional men who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of a similar level of interest.

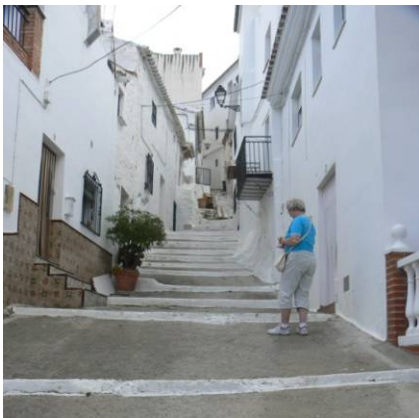
The following pictures are from Tony and Judith's latest Probus holiday.



The Probus holiday this year was a week's river cruise on the Rhine and Moselle through Germany.



The holiday was delayed on Madeira until May to see the famous Flower Festival.



Some time was spent in Nerja on the Spanish Costa del Sol.



Some time was spent at Durham cathedral. It is simply stunning and there have been daily prayers in the Choir continuously for over 900 years... a remarkable record.

Tribute to Jean Milligan

This year we will be paying tribute to Miss Milligan



Miss Milligan was one of the major forces in promoting Scottish Country Dancing. Ladies are requested to wear hats and gloves during the Grand March in honor of Miss Milligan.

Mystic Scottish Country Dancers Annual Robert Burns Supper

The Mystic Scottish Country Dancers hosted The Annual Robert Burns Dinner on Saturday, the 8th of February. The ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Norwich was resplendent with All Things Scottish, including Bob Byrnie's beautiful painting of the Eilean Donan Castle against a background of the St. Andrew's Cross that reaches through storm clouds into the night sky.



The castle, located near the Isle of Skye, dates back to the 13th Century. Mary and Bob had visited the Castle some twelve years ago and were so charmed with its setting and history that he painted the picture, and dedicated it to his grandfather, James J. Byrnie. We are proud to be able to display the Castle Eilean Donan at our functions and were touched to note that many families had their pictures taken with the painting in the background. Later in the program, Bob presented The Toast to the Lassies – made more touching and so filled with meaning as he made a special tribute to his dear Mary – on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

The 255th Celebration of Robbie's birth opened with a Grand March of our Scottish Country Dancers, led by the color guard of the Mystic Highland Pipe Band. Our jovial emcee Neil Sharpe welcomed one and all to the celebration – and introduced the Scottish Country Dancers who performed "The Reel of the 51st Division" and "The Minster on the Loch" – accompanied by Susie Petrov and the Parcel of Rogues.

Our enthusiastic guests were also treated to several dances by members of the Stirling Highland Dance Company, followed by a presentation by the pipe band which included band favorites, a stirring drum salute, and finally *Amazing Grace* – whose rendition left not a dry eye in the house.



We made special mention of a magnificent portrait of Robbie Burns recently presented to the Mystic Scottish Country Dancers by the family of Hugh Maxwell MacKenzie, Sr. Hugh was featured for many years at our Burns Night festivities as he eloquently recited Burns' poetry – from *To a Mountain Daisy* (1786) and *To a Louse* (1786) to *A Man's a Man for a' That* (1795) Hugh's life was marked the excellence of the man whose life spanned from 1924 – 2013. We were pleased to note that "If there's another world, he lives in bliss. If there be none, he made the best of this." And may Hugh rest in blessed peace.

Dave Lees, our talented Scottish Country Dancer, presented the traditional *Immortal Memory*. He stressed that the legacy of Robert Burns has survived "in the heart and minds of those who have read his words, his ideas and feelings...inspirational poetry and songs, works that have survived wars, revolutions, and technological advances. He noted that the passion and honor of the man is timeless. Robbie was able to see the truth in every aspect of his life and was able to name it and describe it for the rest of us who do not have those words! Dave reminded us that "When *Auld Lang Syne* rings across the world; whenever a love is compared to a red rose; when man dares to consider himself the equal of his self-appointed master, Burns is there!" Dave noted that "Princes and lords are but the breath of kings, An honest man's the noblest work of God." He then asked us then to be upstanding as we drank a toast to the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns...and we did!

Our own Andrew Fraser gave Robbie Burns' address *Ode to a Haggis*, with the help of Piper Bob Scent, Haggis Bearer Mark Davis, Dirk Bearer Bill Cournoyer and Minna DeGaetano as Posie Nancy.



Andrew traditionally performs an "interactive" rendition of the Ode, asking the audience to provide

rousing sound effects, particularly when the Chieftain “cut you up wi’ ready slight” and again when “The trembling earth resounds his treat!” NEVER had we experienced such enthusiasm on the part of the audience, and we all joined in with a vigorous, “Gie here a haggis!!”... Robbie would have been mighty proud of us all!! Robbie would also been delighted to note the enthusiasm of the youngsters who were in the audience...as well as their delight in dancing and keeping time with the music! We were mighty pleased to “note” their enthusiasm and were indeed reassured that the younger generation represents a talented group of future Scottish Country Dancers and pipers and drummers!

After a sumptuous dinner and rousing toasts, the social dancing program began with Linda Scent coordinating (and calling) all. Susie and her talented musicians provided the music – and we truly had “a ball” until time for *Auld Lang Syne*.

It was a fantastic evening...and we did indeed rejoice for such a splendid evening AND the fact that there was NO SNOW!!!

Ruth Walsh

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 folks 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.

An Opportunity

Mark Brady, Middletown dancer circa 1985 has asked me to try and find new homes for some of his father’s Scottish items. Among them are the following:

- Tweed kilt jacket (Scottish Lion) very good condition, Size 46
- Formal kilt jacket (Scottish Lion) very good condition, Size 46
- Pair of Ghillie Brogues, size 11 1/2, never worn.
- Embossed black leather sporrán, never worn.
- One quite large kilt, looks like 44" waist approx
- Also several minor items; inquire if you have specific needs
- Looking for bids in line with ebay similar items. There are some fine opportunities here.

Contact Ken Way

Editor's Note

Deadline for the next newsletter is May 15 for publication 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

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).

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

RSCDS New Haven Branch Officers:

- President Catherine Mahoney 203-879-6000
 - Vice President Stephen Rice 203-630-9749
 - Secretary, rec Susan Leff 203-264-0870
 - Secretary, cor. Catherine Mahoney 203-879-6000
 - Treasurer Catriona MacAuslan 203-421-4060
 - Branch Class Leslie Kearney 203-281-6591
 - Intergroup Don Wills 960-536-1981
 - At Large Mary Byrnie 860-635-4056
 - Peter Leibert 860-887-9184
 - Everett Munro 860-501-0649
 - Elizabeth Muir 860-345-8403
 - Karen Pestana 860-298-8311
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