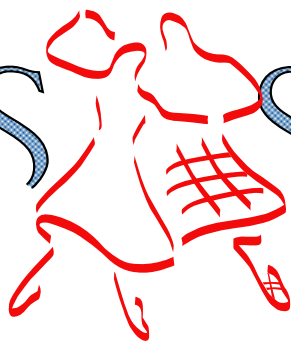


RSCDS Toronto

www.dancescottish.ca



From the Chair...



Louis Racic

Hello dancers. Earlier this month, I was happy to attend my first ever RSCDS AGM in Scotland. Virtually, of course. There is a full description of the AGM by Deirdre MacCuish Bark elsewhere in the newsletter. Andrew Kellett, the out-

going Chair, spoke candidly about the crisis we are all facing in not being able to run events and the impact that is having on the RSCDS finances. He encouraged all branches and associations to do what we can to keep our dancers connected and engaged, so that we will be ready to restart our dancing activities when we are once again able to do so. He lauded the efforts of groups worldwide, Toronto included, who were dancing virtually.

It is hard to believe it is already December. This means that Christmas is just around the corner. Normally we would be planning for our December Family Christmas Dance. It is always one of our best attended dances. This year, of course, it will be a virtual dance. I am looking forward to the breakout rooms and chatting with groups of dancers. It will be just like a regular in-person dance when you have a quick chat with the dancers that are standing near you between dances. I will be wearing my kilt and my Christmas tie.

I leave you with the following thoughts, with apologies to Charles Dickens.

Christmas time! Draw your chair nearer the blazing fire—fill the glass and send round the song—and if your social life be smaller than it was a year ago, or if your face be covered with a mask, and you are weary of this Covid blight, reflect upon your present blessings—of which everyone has many—and thank God it's no worse. Fill your glass again, with a merry face and contented heart. Our life on it, but your Christmas shall be merry, and your new year a happy one!

...Louis Racic

N.B. Thank you to all the members who attended the Special General Meeting held on November 21, 2020.

The motion to change our engagement with our accountants to reduce our costs by \$2000 was passed.

My last gig was the Belleville Workshop and Ball on March 7, 2020.

I sure didn't expect that eight months later we'd still be shut down with no end in sight.

Most of you know me as the pianist for Scotch Mist, but I also have a Newfie-style folk trio known as End of the Road. We play fairs, festivals, and concerts around Ontario. As well, I regularly play piano with a couple of Cape Breton fiddlers.

*** IT ALL STOPPED ! ***

Aside from monetary considerations, what do I do with my time?

I listen to music, of course, and I like to read... but libraries are closed. Fortunately, my local connects to a cloud-based e-book library so I am able to devour 2-3 books a week.

I try to stay in touch with fellow musicians to make sure they are okay and provide what little moral support I can to help keep up their spirits – and mine. It isn't always easy.

I play a bit each day and have actually posted a few of my "noodles" to Facebook. I call them the "Scruffy Sessions". The picture above shows why. I have a few more recorded and will post them. [\[click here for Scruffy Sessions playlist\]](#)

I'm trying to write a little music, but it's sometimes hard to get motivated. I have, however, been working on a project with Laird and Kathy Fraser-Collins to publish a book of the music of The Scottish Accent band. All of the tunes are written by former members of the band: Bobby Brown, Kathy Fraser-Collins, Laird Brown, Rob Wolanski, Etienne Ozorak, and me, Donny Wood. It hasn't gone to print yet but we'll keep you posted.



Don Wood: pre-Covid



Don Wood: The scruffy months

Fortunately, our health is good, including that of my father, the soon-to-be-98-years-old, Bill Wood. His retirement residence has been, and remains, virus free. I've only been able to visit him twice since this started, but I call and talk with him every day, which is difficult given his hearing problems. He appears to be weathering the storm very well.

I miss all you folks and look forward to seeing you on the dance floor sooner rather than later. I only hope I can still fit into my tux.

Be well and stay safe people.

What to do now?

...Don Wood

Virtual Classes

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

Erin Mills / Bloorlea ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Keith Bark and Arlene Koteff teach week about. All are welcome.

To join, contact [Keith](#) or [Arlene](#)

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS:

Humbercrest ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches. All are welcome.

To join, contact [Deirdre](#)

Glenview ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Moir Korus teaches. All are welcome.

To join, contact [Erica de Gannes](#)

THURSDAY EVENINGS:

Basic Technique Classes ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Keith Bark teaches Basic Technique based on his Level 1 and Level 2 Toronto Association classes. All are welcome.

To join, contact [Keith](#)

FRIDAY EVENINGS:

Woodglen ~ 8 p.m. ~ 60-90 mins

Deirdre MacCuish Bark teaches. All are welcome.

To join, contact [Deirdre](#)

SATURDAY MORNINGS:

Rosedale Youth

Saturday Mornings ~ specific times for different classes

Family Class: 9:30am (30 mins)

Young children can dance at home with parents/siblings.

Intermediate Class (age 8+), 10:15am

New dancers are welcome.

Info and Zoom password: [Moir Korus](#) 647.378-5753

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS:

NEW ► Scottish Step Dance for Beginners

2 p.m. - 3:00 (starts in January)

Scottish Step Dance (a.k.a. Ladies' Step) is typically done solo; thus it's well suited to Zoom classes and increasingly popular with both men and women. Certificated and gifted teacher Alma Smith will introduce basic steps and sample a variety of step dances. Also included will be Highland steps used in Scottish country dance (e.g. Glasgow Highlanders).

More info/register, contact Alma Smith: asmith26@cogeco.ca

LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH:

NEW ► Ceilidh Dancing ~ 8 p.m. - 9:00 (starts Nov 30)

If you're missing the fun of the Saint Andrew's Ball this year, come join me (Alan Rosenthal) for some virtual ceilidh dancing. Beginners welcome. You don't need a partner.

Register with Alan at ceilidh@alanr.ca

More info: www.alanr.ca/dance/virtualceilidh.html

Special Class

Deb Lees of RSCDS Newcastle: *Scottish Country Dance for Beginners*

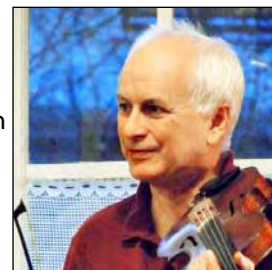
January 17 @ 2 p.m. (Ontario Time)

Deb Lees will teach a one-hour Zoom class on basic technique for new and beginner dancers. She will be accompanied by her husband, Roger Malton, on fiddle. Deb regularly teaches at St Andrews Summer School and at workshops around the UK and Europe. Deb and Roger live in Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

The class is aimed at beginners, but all are welcome to join. The class will be followed by a short session of Zoom social dancing, incorporating the elements learned in the class.

Info, or to register, please contact Alma Smith at asmith26@cogeco.ca

Alma teaches weekly Zoom Scottish country dance classes for new and beginner dancers on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10:00 am, and a social class for experienced dancers Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.



How the December 12 Virtual Family Christmas Dance will Work

Saturday Dec. 12 @ 8 p.m. ~ 90 mins (no charge)

The session will be interactive – everyone will see everyone else, and may converse — different from RSCDS Dance Scottish at Home which is a one-way presentation.

The evening programme is the December monthly dance, except for *The Spirit of the Dance* (unless things go exceptionally well and time permits).

Dances will be performed once and to the bottom in three, two, or one couple sets. Dancers will be designated as A, B, or C and sets will be formed as ABC or BCA, etc. as starting positions. For an ABC dance, A's will dance as 1st, then 3rd, then 2nd; B's will dance as 2nd, then 1st, then 3rd, etc.

If dancers prefer to do their own thing, they can — no one else will be impacted.

We will do three dances, then have a 12-15 minute chat session in breakout rooms. Each room will have no more than 9 people so that everybody is visible on a single screen. The mix of people in a breakout room will be random and change for each breakout session.

We hope to cover eight or nine dances and have three chat sessions. Scottish country dancing is social and we are trying to make the event as social as possible. However, space is limited to 100 connections. If you are interested in attending, please register with me in advance for connection details.

...Keith R Bark: barkk@rogers.com

The Scottish Country Dancer and **zoom**



Phil Buddle

Had you asked me a year ago what Zoom was, I probably would have said it's a word to describe how fast something is moving. But now, I am very familiar with Zoom, and it has turned out to be my best friend.

My introduction to Zoom was as a result of the RSCDS weekly classes coordinated from Scotland. In order to attend, I had to download Zoom. That turned out to be easier than I anticipated, and I was relieved to discover I didn't have to open an account to complete the download. I already have more online accounts than I know what to do with.

I was nervous about being seen on Zoom. This concern was put to rest when I attended my first class and realized that I could see the teacher but nobody, including the teacher, could see me. It did not matter if I headed off on a right shoulder reel when it should have been a left shoulder reel. No one could see me!

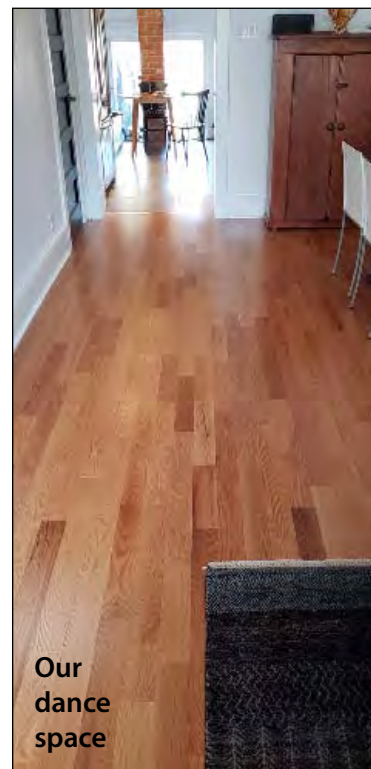
During these weekly classes, I learned about CHAT. It was amazing to see that so many people were signing in each week to participate. Imagine—over 1000 people from around the world attending a class on Zoom. The wonders of technology.

Dancing with Zoom had its challenges. It took a little time for me to figure out where the top of the set was on my computer screen. The teacher was saying to move right, but she seemed to be moving left. And many in my set were not very helpful in pointing me in the right direction when my mind drew a blank as to the next formation. After all, they were ghosts. Ha! My wife, Louise, reminds me that she was very helpful in pointing me in the right direction. Dancing using Zoom did become easier with each class.

As the pandemic continued into the fall, several social groups decided to offer social dancing via Zoom. Louise and I had attended, and enjoyed, many of the RSCDS weekly classes, and much of the RSCDS summer school programme, so we decided to return to social group dancing in this virtual way. We knew we would be dancing more in the social dancing than we had in the classes and had to give more thought to where we would dance and how we should set up the computer. After a couple of test runs, and after moving some furniture, we ended up with a hardwood floor dance space that is about 6 x 10 feet. Plenty of space for two to dance.

Now, I am on Zoom for eight to ten activities a week. In addition to Scottish country dancing, these activities include webinars, concerts, talks, other types of exercise classes, and, most importantly, chats, drinks, or dinners with family and friends. It is not the same as seeing someone, or dancing in person, but a much better alternative to no contact at all.

...Phil Buddle



Our dance space



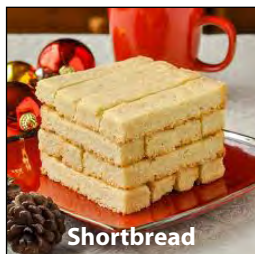
Sheena Gilks

Nourishing Thoughts

MY PARENTS MOVED FROM NORTH EAST SCOTLAND TO ENGLAND, IN THE MIDLANDS. There, my brother, sister, and I spent our childhood. We became part of a strong expat Scottish community, the centre of which was the local St. Andrew's Society, and we formed strong friendships. It was a support

network, a way of sharing Celtic bonds. So Scotland surrounded me from an early age. I remember people popping into our house (unannounced was almost the norm then!) and impromptu mini-socials happened. Domestic chores would happily be set aside, the kettle put on for a cup of tea, and out would come the baked goodies.

That leads me to food. My mother was a great cook. She'd open the pantry door, take a look and say, "Right, let's see what we have here," then she would magically whip up something tasty. Here are some of my culinary memories.



Shortbread

Shortbread, Buttery and Light: Within minutes of cooling on the rack, a strange disappearance act occurred. For the shortbread's safety the remaining few were hidden from us children (necessity, as all mothers know, is the mother of invention).

Pancakes: A real treat. Out came the heavy cast-iron griddle and soon the thinnest of pancakes were ready to eat. With a sprinkling of sugar, touch of jam, or squeeze of lemon, we'd roll them up and enjoy. **Fudge:** Rich and creamy with perhaps a touch of whisky added, just because. **Porridge:** A steaming bowl, perfect on cold, damp winter mornings, with milk, a sprinkling of sugar, or in my father's case, salt.



Meat and Tatties

Meat and Tatties: Our go-to staple. A leftover roast joint (the culinary kind), would enhance the flavour, and always oatmeal to sprinkle on top.

Tongue: A large ox tongue simmering in the pan then transferred to a weighted press. The end result was thin slices of tasty cold meat.

Sausage Rolls: Meaty filling wrapped in the lightest of pastry.

Clootie Dumpling: Dark, heavy, full of rich fruit, gently boiling away in its ball of cloth inside a large pot.

Black Bun: Ceremoniously presented along with other goodies at gatherings of family and friends. They'd be in the living room, an impromptu ceilidh in full swing with poetry recitations and singing,



Black Bun

much of it encouraged by Dad's homebrew beer, bearing the caveat: "for the brave of heart".

Great social memories filled my early years. But that was then. Today, we're giving social life our best shot with virtual get-togethers. The need, of

course, is the same: to connect, to set aside for a moment the cares of the day. Life being what it is right now, perhaps I should bear in mind Dad's caveat!

...Sheena Gilks



Clootie Dumpling

2020 RSCDS Annual General Meeting

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS HELD USING ZOOM.

The Society has been working hard over the last eight months offering a weekly dance session on Wednesdays and a newsletter full of articles, puzzles, music, a five-day summer school, and associated items of interest to keep us connected worldwide.



Lorna Ogilvie

Chairman Andrew Kellett welcomed dancers from all over the world. After reading a message from the Society's Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, he handed the mic to Lorna Ogilvie (the incoming Chair), who announced and congratulated recipients of the Scroll of Honour. There were eight awardees including one from Canada, Fiona Miller (Alberta); and two from the USA, Marjorie McLaughlin and Ron Wallace (both from California).

Andrew announced two redundancies at Coates Crescent, which unfortunately included Julia Parr, who deals with the Education & Training Committee, examinations, and related items and was the person who set up the virtual E & T committee meetings.

Andrew praised Angela Young, Ian Muir, and their helpers who set up Dance Scottish at Home and the Summer School celebrations. He mentioned The Virtual Festival, local activities, and members' on-line events as being vital as the strength of recovery depends on us as dancers, teachers, and musicians.

Society Treasurer Bill Cant explained the huge deficit the Society experienced this year, COVID having induced a dancing famine on both this and next year's budgets. Bill invited anyone with questions or comments to email him.

The meeting then dealt with the appointment of auditors and with the membership subscription motion. Delegates had voted beforehand as there could be no questions or votes counted at the AGM itself. Chair Kellett thanked those retiring from RSCDS committees, and also Jimmie Hill, stepping down as editor of *Scottish Country Dancer* magazine. Incoming Chair Lorna Ogilvie spoke about the Society's 100th anniversary in 2023. She then continued with the election results:

- Chair Elect: William Williamson
- Convenor Elect Membership Services: Angela Young
- Convenor Elect Youth Services: none
- Management Board: Trevor Clarke, Neil Copland, Fiona Grant (3 yrs); David Macdonald, Jane Meikle, Joan Nesbitt (2 yrs)
- Education & Training: Oluf Olufsen, Rachel Shankland (3 yrs)
- Membership Services: Ainslie Dunnett, Keith Rose
- Youth Services: Abigail Brown

The new editor of *Scottish Country Dancer* magazine is Fiona Grant; Luke Brady is Music Director, and Elizabeth Harry joins the Finance Committee.

Lorna praised all the entries in the Virtual Dance Competition. The Under 16s category was won by the Moscow Scots & Vikings entry. The overall winner was Lyon Branch with its excellent entry, which referenced the cancelled Spring Flings in St Petersburg and Toronto with a dance medley including *Links With St Petersburg*, and *The Toronto Volunteers* — with appropriate photos and video footage.

The meeting adjourned, having lasted just under one hour.

... Deirdre MacCuish Bark

The Autumn Evening (a.k.a. The Autumn Gathering)

THE AUTUMN EVENING CONSISTED OF A PLAYLIST OF NINE POPULAR

DANCES TO RECORDED MUSIC, accompanied by photos and background information. Dances were presented by the Scroll recipients, who gave short intros and briefed the dance. We recognized many dancers in the photos, which were taken from both Winter and Summer Schools, as well as past Autumn Gatherings, some Spring Flings, and various Festivals. A demo of *Asilomar Romantic* from Twin Cities



Deirdre MacCuish Bark

Branch had two of Keith's former candidates dancing in it. *The Reel of the 51st Division* included several all-men sets, dancing as was first intended when it was devised in a POW camp during WWII.

Marjorie McLaughlin briefed *The Minister on the Loch* and quoted ballet choreographer George Balanchine, who said:

"Dancing is music made visible".

During an interval Jimmie Hill and Maureen Rutherford made a presentation on Quadrilles, and why they were so popular in the 19th Century. Maureen played music (recorded in her home); Jimmy spoke. He had driven down from Lewis to make his part of the presentation in an elegant Edinburgh drawing room, and he dressed in period costume appropriate to the setting and the subject matter. Quadrilles arrived from Paris in 1816 and lasted into the early 20th century. The secret of their success was that they used all the popular tunes of the day, so one could dance the same dances several times in an evening, but to different tunes each time.

Ian Muir introduced *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*. The music was played by 14 musicians from the virtual Summer School music course. Each musician recorded in their homes and Ian integrated the tracks. I recognized one Canadian — Betsy Brydon on cello.

The evening finished with *The Flying Scotsman*, introduced by Angela Young, followed by *Auld Lang Syne*, played by Summer Workshop musicians, including David Queen on fiddle.

It was a successful, if very different, RSCDS Autumn Gathering.

... Deirdre MacCuish Bark



Dear Editor...

Last month's *Set & Link* featured *Reuben Freemantle*, the person behind www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com. I cannot thank him enough for this invaluable resource! Everyone has a different style of learning and through the clever design of this website there is something for everyone; cribs, diagrams, and videos!

With the exponential increase in the number of new and more complicated dances, I find the video section particularly useful as it not only explains what everyone is doing, but provides the nuances of time and place. It also allows me to practise at home with the correct music.

Please pass on my gratitude for all the work which has gone into its creation and maintenance. It has made participating in tea dances and balls far more enjoyable!

Every edition of *Set & Link* is a treat!

...Helen Bellé, South Simcoe

CONGRATULATIONS

Lyn Aird Barsevskis and Tristan Gerrie each passed the Teaching Certificate Unit 1 examination.

The Bird Whisperer of High Park

DURING ONE OF OUR DAILY WALKABOUTS, Ken and I met Al, a photographer and birder, who taught Ken how to communicate with the avian wonders of the park. Seems, if you stretch out a hand filled with seeds and peanuts, it's easy to make a feathered friend. Of course, you have to introduce yourself first.

Although the Downy Woodpecker and the White-breasted Nuthatch



Photo by Glenna Macdonald

are most interested in Ken's offerings, we usually behold a number of birds in this area: a male and female Cardinal, a Chickadee, a Kingfisher, and a Red-Bellied Woodpecker (we think). The woodpecker (seen here) actually looks at Ken before he takes a peanut. Ken usually says "Hi."

Ken has "stumbled onto a seductive truth: paying attention to birds, being mindful of them, is being mindful of Life itself."*

One of life's grand pleasures.

... Glenna Macdonald

* From Graeme Gibson, *The Bedside Book of Birds, An Avian Miscellany*, "a book not about birds but about people's relationship with them" – T.O. Star

MYSTERIOUS SIGHTINGS

WHILE WALKING ABOUT OUR SCARBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD, Rob and I spied some unusual rock formations. Not stone circles like the Calanais Standing Stones or Ring of Brodgar; not The Stone of Scone, used for centuries in the coronations of Scottish monarchs. And no, we didn't fall through the stones near Inverness into *Outlander*. We simply noticed some gardens were hiding strange rock blossoms: colourful and intricately painted stones of various sizes suddenly appearing on lawns, beneath trees, behind grinning gnomes. What was going on? It became our sport to spot them.

After much investigation conducted during our wandering rock walks (try saying "rock walks" five times fast!), we learned that an artistic neighbour, a working mom of three, decided to paint inspirational rock gifts, anonymously planting them in gardens as a way of promoting community, kindness, and delight. Although we discovered the mini masterpieces kilometres from home, I'd carefully, and hopefully, examine our own tangled flower beds to see whether we were deemed rock worthy. Nothing :-)



Summer faded. Then, unexpectedly, in late September, staring us straight in the eye from our front step, the artist's stone found us. It's painted gold, the colour of sunshine and good news, its face artfully dappled in arrays of eight, just like a dance. We took it as a symbol of hope, a rock solid promise for the future that we will gather again soon, to dance, to share stories, and to gather stones together.

... Teresa & Rob, Stone Sleuths



A Noble Encounter

When I'm at my cottage at Skootamatta Lake, each day I try to paddle my kayak, always with the hope I might encounter wildlife.

This past summer I was paddling along the shore, about to round a point. To my surprise and delight, just as I reached the point, a very large bird flew round from the opposite direction. It swooped down to the water, right off my bow,



Both photos by Marian White

its legs extended and each talon fully visible, intent on snatching a fish for breakfast. It was maybe five or six kayak lengths in front of me and about fifteen feet above the water.

It was as startled as I was, I think, as it suddenly rose and veered off into the trees. I sat in the kayak, hoping it would take to the air again, but no such luck.

However, I managed to take some photos as it perched and watched warily from the trees. It was a young Bald Eagle in brown plumage and did not yet have the white head. If I'd had my camera ready, the shot of it swooping down would have been impressive — but how was I to know we were going to meet like that?

...Marian White

The Tournée Perplex: For Proficient Dancer... and Executive Chef



The Tournée figure in a Scottish country dance is almost certain to separate the proficient dancer from the novice. The figure is not frequently used, but when it appears it's a challenge. The Tournée progression interchanges the positions of two adjacent couples in a longwise set. Dances containing the Tournée include *From Scotia's Shores We're Noo Awa'* and *Alltschellach*.

The fundamental problem with the figure is that it requires both awkward turns and parallel covering, plus a demanding transition moving counter-clockwise from second position to first position.

[See [Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary: The Tournée](#)]

Who would have expected a similar tournée challenge in the kitchen? *Tournée* is French, meaning "turned", and the method of turning vegetables, absurd as it seems, is demanding:

“The real purpose of teaching how to turn vegetables is to put the culinary student through hell.*”

Mastering this skill paves the path from sous-chef to Executive Chef.

*Sophie Brickman, on [Huffpost](#)

In culinary circles, Tournée refers to a method of cutting and peeling vegetables into fancy, rounded oblong, seven-sided football-like shapes tapered at each end. This classic French technique helps vegetables like carrots, turnips, squash, zucchini, and potatoes cook evenly. The ultimate prize is the aesthetic display on a plate or platter. It is argued that the purpose is more than aesthetic for it produces pieces of uniform size, which cook evenly and can be tossed and rolled in a sauté pan so that they glaze and colour on all seven sides.



The practice itself is *un peu fou*, that is "idiotic". To achieve the desired shape, one uses a bird's beak knife to carve an arc on a two-inch piece of vegetable while turning it so that you end with seven equal sides (and all 10 fingers).

[see [Le Cordon Bleu's YouTube video: "Turning Vegetables"](#)]

Since we are largely confined to our homes because of COVID-19, dreaming of dances we cannot do except virtually, and planning for holidays we hope will happen, why not experiment with the Tournée Cut? It is probably easier than the dance formation.

Think how elegant your vegetable display would look surrounding your Christmas turkey. Yet if by Christmas you haven't mastered all the turns required for the Tournée Cut in your vegetables, any more than you have mastered the movements in the dance formation, remember that the Tournée is always performed in Strathspey time, so be patient — practice promises improvement; not perfection. Both are satisfying and elegant when done well.

Finally, I wonder... couldn't aesthetically pleasing equal-sized, and even-cooking vegetables just as satisfactorily be achieved with a melon-baller?

...Donald E. Holmes

Scottish Trivia Quiz

Christy Barber shared a board game called *Highland Games*. These Scottish trivia questions come from that game.

1. If a dark-haired man crosses over your doorstep on Hogmanay, it is a sign of: _____.
2. Dunedin is the Gaelic name for _____.
3. Legend calls him the first foreigner to wear a kilt. (Clue: He was a Viking) _____.
4. The composer Mendelssohn, awed by the beauty of Staffa, was inspired to write what popular overture? _____.
5. Complete this Scottish proverb: "There's nane sae busy as him that _____."

6. What Scottish-born actor starred (and sang) in *Darby O'Gill and the Little People*? (Clue: He likes his martinis shaken.)

7. What is the next line of this beloved song: "Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon..."

8. Name Scotland's two northernmost island groups: _____.

9. Traditionally, it was the "Crowning Stone" of Scottish, and now, British monarchs: _____.

10. She lost both the crown and the royal head: _____.



Answers on back page

Les Jumelles* de Saint Laurent

A 40-bar Reel for 2 Couples in a 3 or 4 Couple set

- 1-8 1W+2W, RHJ, dance across between partners, Cross & Cast round men (2W up, 1W down) into centre;
2W+1W Turn RH 1¼ x (1W pulling RSh back) to end facing down, 1W on right of 2W.
- 9-16 *Meanwhile:* 1W+2W Lead down & up to 1st pl in centre BHJ, **while** 1M+2M Set (2), Chase c'wise (6) ending in 2nd place in centre, 1M pulling RSh back to face 2M BHJ.
- 17-24 1W+2W, 1M+2M dance Pousette, end: 1s on men's side (1M, 1W), 2s on ladies' side (2M, 2W).
- 25-32 1s+2s Set+Link; 2M+1W change pl RH, all set.
- 33-40 Circle 4H round & back.

Blair Gerrie, Toronto, 2020

Dedicated to the Fairhurst twins – Margaret and Patricia. Living in St. Laurent, they danced with the Montreal Branch before moving to Toronto in 1980, where they both met their husbands at SCD. (Blair is Patricia's husband). For many years within the Toronto Scottish country dance community, they were simply known as 'the twins'.

1-24 The twins often danced together, which didn't help with identification.

25-40 They finally got sorted out, found their husbands, and celebrated together.

Recommended music: [Montreal Diamond Anniversary Reel 6x40R](#)



Photo from 1980s

Margaret and Patricia (same order in both images)

Tom's tenuous link with 007

Halyna Sydorenko wrote: Many of you know (or know of) Tom Kerr, deviser of the popular strathspey, *Cape Town Wedding*. A recent news story caused Tom to reflect a bit on his, dare I say, younger days — he is, after all, only ninety years young! When Tom shared this story with me, I asked if he's willing to share it with you. He is...

During and after the war, in my mid-teens, my first girlfriend was Irene Miller. We were pupils in the same school in Edinburgh at the time.

It was nothing serious, and after some time we drifted apart. In the mid-fifties I went to work in the oil fields in Iran for seven years. After my return to the UK, I had a job in London so bought a house in Kent, where I lived with my wife and two small children. For summer holidays in the 1960s, we stayed with my parents in Edinburgh, where I had been brought up.

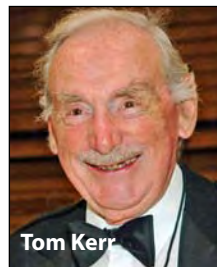


Sean in high school

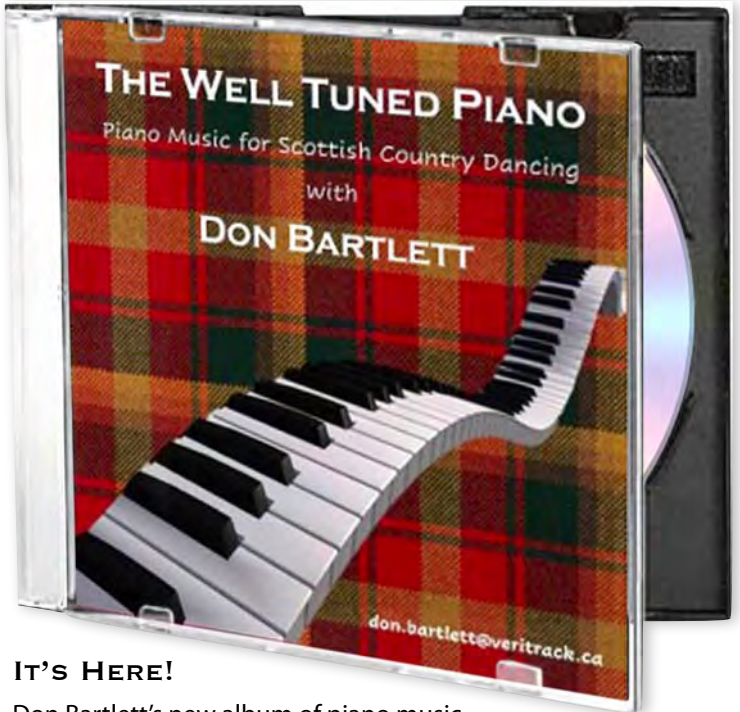
One day, we went into a newsagent's and there was Irene, serving in the shop. We recognised each other immediately and got chatting. Amongst other things, she told me that after we had parted, she took up with a new boyfriend. After a while, she threw him up as he had "no prospects", just delivering milk. His name was Sean Connery! Irene and I never did meet again.

Sir Sean was born 10 days after me.

...With All Good Wishes, Tom Kerr



Tom Kerr



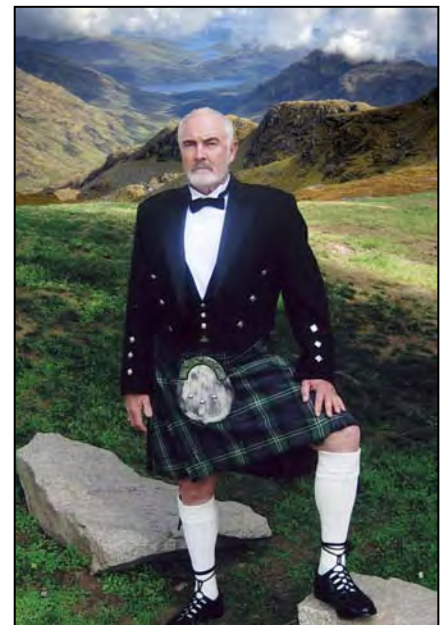
IT'S HERE!

Don Bartlett's new album of piano music for Scottish country dancing has [15 tracks](#) featuring some of his favourite music – 20 of his own tunes as well as traditional melodies. The CD includes a 12-page booklet with information about the tunes and instructions for non-RSCDS dances.

The price of the CD is \$20 CDN, plus cost of standard shipping. Expected shipping costs for a single CD are: \$4 within Canada, \$6.50 to the USA, and \$12 to the UK. The album may also be downloaded from iTunes, Amazon Music, Spotify, and other platforms, but without the informative booklet!

To order one or more CDs for yourself (or perhaps as a Christmas gift), please email don.bartlett@veritrack.ca

Grace Notes



Sir Sean Connery
25 Aug 1930 - 31 Oct 2020

A Virtual Caroling Party

~ Amadeus Choir ~

Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Several of our dancers sing in this choir. You can sing along with them and other members of the choir from your own home! You'll receive an e-songbook and be invited to tune in a live-streamed event with special guests, performances, and lots of festive cheer.



In addition to an amazing concert, we have \$10 raffle tickets for an Gourmet Holiday Basket worth over \$200. It contains specialty Italian cheeses, artisanal pasta, lovely Italian red wine, and many other gourmet delights! Pick-up or delivery in the GTA
Tickets \$10-\$25: amadeuschoir.com/virtual-carolling

Mass Hysterical: A Comedic Cantata

Saturday, Dec. 15 at 8:00 p.m.

Colin Mochrie (our enthusiastic Guest of Honour at the 2010 Tartan Ball) hosts a cheeky, celebratory look at 1000 years of ecclesiastical music – a satirical, loving look at the repertoire, the composers, and the personalities. An ensemble from the TSO, a choir, and popular comics perform songs, dialogue, and comedy.

Tickets (sharable) are \$32.74 from: sidedooraccess.com

Trailer: www.facebook.com/MassHystericalKRU/videos/



Alive and Kicking

I highly recommend this 2017 documentary by Susan Glatzer on Netflix. It's about the origin of the Lindy Hop, which started in Harlem in the early '30s, and later grew into the Swing Dance craze. Reviews of the film echo the sentiments of Scottish country dancers for the hobby we love and miss so much:

"It captures the love and support of an intergenerational community, one in which nonagenarians cut the rug alongside up-and-comers."

"...a modern tonic for isolation... a happy cult of movement and human connection in an increasingly digital world."

In this time of (literally) restricted movements, I think you'll find this show very entertaining. Let's hope we will be able to get some swing (or is that spring?) in our steps again soon. ...HISCD Christy Barber



Left-overs: A Royal Christmas Dinner Choice

In the late 1800's Queen Victoria proved it is not low brow to serve Christmas leftovers for up to a week after the royal banquet. Her Majesty's yuletide offerings included a whole stuffed boar's head that arrived as a gift from the German Emperor; and a giant woodcock pie from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Scottish Trivia Quiz Answers

1. Good luck 2. Edinburgh 3. Magnus Barelegs
4. Fingal's Cave 5. ... has the least to do 6. Sean Connery
7. How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair? 8. Orkney, Shetland
9. Stone of Scone (or Destiny) 10. Mary Stewart (Mary, Queen of Scots)

We wish our readers a Merry Christmas,
and a healthy, Happy New Year.

RSCDS Toronto Association Board of Directors

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~ Board Meeting Dates ~

Scheduled Dates

Dec 10 Jan 6 Feb 8
Mar 11 Apr 7 May 10
Jun 10



Please send submissions
to Set&Link by the
10th of each month.
Send to Donald Holmes
deholmes@sympatico.ca

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