

Calendar of Events

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| Nov. 26, 2004 | St. Andrew's Ceilidh, Masonic Temple, 7:30 p.m. (Tickets \$10.00. Ceilidh Music, Pipes etc. Noreen and Martin will lead the Ceilidh dancing, which is planned for about 8:00 and 9:00. There will be sandwiches and vegetable trays.) |
| Dec. 13, 2004 | Last class for Fall Session, Gower St. United, 7:45 p.m. |
| Jan. 10, 2005 | First class for Winter Session, Gower St. United, 7:45 p.m. |
| Jan. 15, 2005 | Twelfth Night Party, Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m. |
| Jan. 29, 2005 | Burns Night Supper, Mary Queen of Peace Parish Hall |
| Mar. 5, 2005 | March Social, Masonic Hall, 8:00 p.m. |
| May 2, 2005 | Last class for Winter Session, Gower St. United, 7:45 p.m. |
| May 7, 2005 | Spring Social, Masonic Hall, 8:00 p.m. |

<http://www.pharm.mun.ca/rseds-stjohns/>

Do you want to find the location of an upcoming event? Earlier newsletter? History of Corryvreckan or the demonstration team? Dances composed by Martin Mulligan? Phone number of the Treasurer? All this and more is at your finger tips when you access the branch website, which is maintained by Margaret Connors. Check it out for all kinds of information and links relating to our branch and Scottish Country Dancing generally.

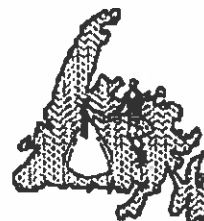
Committee of Management 2004-2005

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|----------------------|------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
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Answers to Where in Scotland: 1) Jura 2) Orkney 3) Glasgow



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society St. John's (Newfoundland) Branch

NEWSLETTER

November 2004

Fall Social, November 5, 2004

What a *firecracker* of a Social we had on November 5th at the Masonic Hall, and even the rain couldn't put a damp *squib* on it! The dance floor was filled most of the evening, with regular members and lots of guests, both young and young at heart, *guys* and *gals*. (Sorry about this juvenile humour!) I hope we inspired some of them to come to classes next session. Bill Scott led a demonstration dance after the intermission, which showed how well the figures can be performed, and he hopes to attract more of the social dancers to Thursday evening technique classes.

As always, live music added an extra dimension to the event, and the band was much appreciated. I would like to apologise to Corryvreckan and its members for spelling errors in the dance booklet. Not only did I misspell Corryvreckan, I got the wrong band altogether. I should actually have credited Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plotters for accompanying us. (Bruce Shawyer's humour this time!)

Many thanks also to those responsible for organising the social, for choosing, teaching and introducing the dances, for setting up the refreshments, and to everyone who came, brought nibbles, and enjoyed themselves.

Mary Bridson, Editor.

Thank you, and keep them coming, please!

Thank you to Brenda Burness for her many years of editing the newsletter. She deserves to rest on her laurels! As her successor, I am requesting your help. Please send me information, interesting articles, jokes, recipes, puzzles etc. I much appreciate the readiness with which several people have contributed time, words and effort to this issue. Next deadline is January 6, 2005.

Starters

There's a lot to remember when dancing.
The **name** of the dance, for a start.
And to stand with your heels close together
And your toes most correctly apart.

The name of your partner is useful as well –
It's not an essential, it's true –
But if you require her assistance
It's better than calling "Here, you!"

And what of your lines – are they crooked or straight?
Are they narrow or maybe too wide?
What number are you? And what gender as well?
Should you be on the opposite side?

Have you curtsied or bowed, smiling sweetly?
Are your arms and your hands nicely placed?
And are you au fait with the opening bars,
Or peering at Pilling in haste?

There's a lot to remember when dancing
For a learner who's barely begun.
And all of this list you will notice
Comes before **any** dancing is done!

by Pat Batt, from *Pat's Party Pieces*, Vol. 5.

(Thanks to Brenda Burness for this)

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Gail and Colin Bartholomew on the birth of a second granddaughter, on September 22, to daughter Linda and her husband, David Ryan. Samantha Kate is a sister for Dana.

Oatmeal Gingerbread

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour | 1 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar |
| 3/4 cup serious porridge oats (not the quick stuff, the large kind that take hours to cook) | 3 1/2 teaspoons of ground ginger (don't skimp) |
| 3/4 teaspoon baking soda | 1 generous cup of margarine |
| | 1 1/4 cups of brown sugar |

Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease a 14 x 9 inch baking pan. Combine flour, oats, soda, cream of tartar and ginger in a bowl. Cut in the margarine and blend until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar. Put into pan and press down. Bake for 20-30 minutes until brown (i.e. browner than it is with the flour and sugar) but before the sugar starts to burn. Cut into squares before it cools, and then leave to cool in the pan. It keeps really well if you store it in a good tin.

(Thanks to Kathy Simonsen, who brought these squares to the November Social.)

Where in Scotland are these places?

- 1) One of my main products has been described as "peaty-flowery, salty and smooth;" George Orwell wrote his novel *1984* here; and a natural phenomenon, that strikes a chord with St. John's Scottish Country dancers, occurs off my north coast.
- 2) Many of my sons became agents of the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies; my Mainland is actually an island; and I sheltered the British Navy during WW II.
- 3) My opulent City Chambers were built on sugar and tobacco; Newfoundland's Alphabet Fleet was built on my banks; and when you've had "a couple of drinks on a Saturday," I belong to you!

(Answers on back page)

Cups and Cookies

In the interests of doing our bit for the environment, please try and bring your own cup for tea or lemonade on Monday nights. Not only will this cut down on waste, but it will mean we have more money for cookies! Thanks.

Pat Rivers, Chair

St. Andrew

St. Andrew, one of Christ's Apostles, is the Patron Saint of Scotland, and November 30 is designated as St. Andrew's Day.

In 1000 AD. a Greek monk, St. Regulus, brought the bones of Andrew to Fife, and in what is now the town of St. Andrew's, a reliquary church was built and the bones placed in a sarcophagus. The church was actually a tall square tower which provided a safe haven from marauding Vikings. The tower still stands in the cathedral grounds of St. Andrew's.

Andrew was crucified on a Saltire cross as he felt unworthy of being crucified on the same shaped cross as Jesus. Legend records that around 1000 AD., Saint Andrew appeared in a vision to King Angus on the eve of a battle. As the troops knelt to pray before the battle, a white saltire cross appeared in the blue sky. This became Scotland's national flag and represents Scotland in the Union Jack.

St. Andrew's, the town, is well known to Scottish country dancers, as it is the location of the annual R.S.C.D.S. summer school, to which dancers come from all parts of the world to attend classes. The Saltire Cross is the symbol that is seen on many of the Society's publications and a dance has been devised named *The Saltire Cross*. Many dances have immortalized the name and to list a few, we have:-

*St. Andrew's Fair, St. Andrew's Gardens, St. Andrew's Links,
St. Andrew's Day and St. Andrew's Nicht.*

All over the world there are St. Andrew's Societies where Scots plan activities to maintain their heritage and celebrate November 30. The St. Andrew's Society of Newfoundland and Labrador was formed in 1837, and the organization continues to this day. A Ceilidh to commemorate St. Andrew's Day in St. John's has been planned for November 26 at the Masonic Temple. (See Calendar of Events.)

In conjunction with other St. Andrew's Societies, the local group has a celebration planned to honour Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns, who was born on January 25, 1759. The local event will take place on January 29, 2005, at Mary Queen of Peace Parish Hall, where Scots will be happy to invite you to be part of our cultural heritage.

Noreen MacLennan

Dance Scholarship

The St. John's Branch of R.S.C.D.S. is proposing to create a scholarship fund to assist dancers who wish to attend the TAC or St. Andrew's Summer Schools, up to an amount of \$500. Preference will be given to those who wish to participate in the teacher candidacy classes. Applications for funding for this coming summer should be made in writing to the executive by March 31, 2005.

Membership in R.S.C.D.S.

A reminder to anyone who is thinking about qualifying to be a Scottish Country Dance teacher – you need to have been a full member of the R.S.C.D.S. for three years in order to take the exams. Our fee structure changed this year, so that dancers are not now paying the \$25 fee for membership in the Society. Instead, everyone contributes \$5 to cover mandatory membership for the executive. If you wish to take out full membership, please contact the treasurer. It will cost you a further \$20 per year.

TAC – What and Where?

For the information of novices like your editor, TAC stands for Teachers Association (Canada). It is the association of Scottish Country Dance teachers and was formed in 1958 to promote and foster high standards of excellence in Scottish Country Dancing. Teacher candidates' courses are held every other year in conjunction with the Summer School, which this year is at Shawnigan Lake School, Vancouver Island, B.C., July 31-Aug. 7. Visit their website at <http://tac-rscds.org> for more information.

Summer Visitors

We were joined on one of our Monday night dancing sessions this summer by visitors from Minnesota. Mike and Audrey McClellan are members of the Twin Cities R.S.C.D.S. branch, and were vacationing in Newfoundland. Audrey has recently published two volumes of romance fiction, titled *Westering Home* and *The White Rose of Scotland*, which are well reviewed on Amazon.com. They feature an American woman, disillusioned in marriage, who travels to Eilean Dubh off the Scottish coast to investigate her Gaelic roots. The books are praised for their wealth of cultural detail, which includes Scottish Country Dancing and music. Audrey was also conducting a bit of research this summer, and Newfoundland may appear in her future work.

Profile: Monday Night Teachers

Martin Mulligan and Penny Gillies share the duties of teaching our Monday night social and beginners classes. As a new dancer (less than two years,) I was interested in learning more about them, and how they got involved in dancing and teaching. They very kindly agreed to answer my questions and share the information with you.

Martin Mulligan

Martin has been living, dancing and teaching in St. John's since 1988. He is a molecular biologist, and currently head of the Biochemistry Department at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Though born in Glasgow, Martin grew up in Ireland, and started Scottish Country Dancing at Harvard in 1977 with Barbara Little's classes. He danced with the Boston Branch Cambridge class, and also the Demonstration Team. When he left Boston in 1981, he danced with the Pittsburgh Scottish Country Dancers and the Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers, (which became the Chicago Branch in 1986.)

Martin passed the Preliminary Test in Boston in 1981, and obtained his Teacher's Certificate at the TAC Class in St. Catherine's in 1986, so he came to St. John's with full qualifications and a lot of experience. He has shared that expertise with many other groups near and far, teaching in weekend workshops in Madison, Chicago, Charlottetown, Halifax, Pictou, Montreal, Moncton, and Adelaide. He has also been on the teaching staff at Pinewoods, (a renowned dance and music camp near Plymouth, Mass.) at Scottish Camp at Mendocino in Northern California, and the 2002 Australian Winter School in Sydney.

When asked to name some favourite dances, Martin said that would need more thought, but he did admit at the November Social that the Postal Code jig (EH3 7AF) was one.

Several of Martin's own compositions are a regular part of our repertoire. *Up the Pond* (1994), a 32 bar Jig for 3 couples, celebrates the Royal St. John's Regatta. *The Avalon Waltz* (1995) often completes our dance socials with a gentle round-the-room farewell. And a legacy of his time in Australia, *On the Wallaby Track* is a 32 bar Hornpipe for 3 couples. You can find all of Martin's dances on his web site at

<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~mulligan/dances/dances.html>

Penny Gillies

Penny was born in Bishop Auckland in County Durham in Northern England, but soon moved with her family to Glasgow, where she spent her early childhood. She lived in Aberdeenshire during her teenage years, but returned to Glasgow for college. There she met Stewart, and in their early 20's they emigrated to Canada.

This was a double blessing for St. John's Scottish Country Dancers, as Stewart Gillies is much more than a dentist. He is one of the fiddlers in Corryvreckan, who play for all our socials and other ceilidhs.

Since living in St. John's, Penny has worked part time as the dental supply manager for a large dental practice of 9 dentists and 10 hygienists. She is also involved with lots of outreach projects with St. David's Church. Her hobbies include cooking for friends and family, reading, and gardening at home and at the cabin.

Scottish Country Dancing is not the only activity that keeps Penny on her toes. She is a recreational runner, and one of several of our group that participated in the Tely 10 Road Race this summer. She and Stewart have also taken up ballroom dancing lately.

I was surprised to learn that Penny is such a recently qualified Scottish Country Dance teacher. She took the Preliminary Test in St. John's in 1997, and received the full Teacher's Certificate at the TAC Summer School in Waterloo in 2002. She credits Bill Scott for the weekly tutorials that he gave for several of the dancers here, and tremendous support from the local group, in helping her achieve this.

Penny has been teaching our branch group since taking the Preliminary Test, but she also teaches Guiding groups and children's classes at St. Andrew's School and at St. David's.

Penny has many favourite dances, some because she enjoys the formations and patterns involved, others because the music accompanying them is so fabulous and compelling. Her list includes:-

Follow Me Home, Blooms of Bon Accord, McDonald of the Isles, Asilomar Romantic, The Duchess Tree, Highland Rambler, Culla Bay, and The Sailor.

I am sure you will all agree that we are very lucky to have such dedicated teachers, and thank them for the time they spend choosing dances and music, and guiding our often clumsy feet through all the steps, so that we can share the fun of the dance with them.