

CDS Boston News



December 1988



CDS Annual Holiday Party

December 17, 1988

"But I don't do English Country Dancing."

"I know, but you'll love this!"

So will you! If you've never been to the CDS Annual Holiday Party, now's your chance to try it out.

This year's party promises to be another joyful event (if I do say so myself) with music by Bare Necessities, and a great mix of English and American callers, dances, AND DANCERS!

Although my view is slightly biased (I've been chairing the party for the past two years), I think many people share it. There is something very special about a party dance, for one thing, and particularly a dance that mixes different types of dance, whether it be an English/Scottish party, the CDS Holiday Party, or any other such event. Everyone seems open to learn or help others learn the dances--few are experts in all of them! There are familiar faces you sometimes see nowhere else. And friendliness is a given: people want to socialize and dance with you.

The dancing consists of English and American--all taught, and varying in difficulty and type as the night progresses. At the break, there are finger foods and entertainment, usually an exhibition of ritual dance.

My goal in putting on the CDS Annual Holiday Party has been to continue to bring together as many facets of CDS as possible to celebrate the holiday season. Once called "The Christmas Party," "The Holiday Party" strikes me as a more appropriate term, since it helps to make everyone welcome and to stress that this is a celebration of all and any holidays--or at least as many as we can fit.

So don't be left out in the cold this year. We welcome your company, your dancing, and your finger foods. Join us on December 17, 1988 at the Philips Congregational Church in Watertown Square, and dance the night away.

Julia Huestis

Ha'penny's Ten!

Boston's Ha'penny Morris, born during the Blizzard of 1978, celebrated its tenth anniversary year with a ten-day tour of England this summer. By all accounts, the trip was a smashing success: we danced with old friends and new, introduced our style of morris to a warm and enthusiastic British public, saw many of the sights of southern England from Kent to Devon, and discovered that we can get along even when cramped for days in a rented van among piles of luggage. Amazingly, even the weather was with us! (Well...o.k., most of the time.)

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to our friends in the Country Dance Society who have helped us in so many ways: You swelled the ranks at our benefit dance (special thanks to the musicians) and bought items at the auction. You came to the yard sale or donated your treasures. You baked goodies. You bought T-shirts. (You didn't? Well, you still can, while the supply lasts.) And to those of you who have coached and advised us through the years and inspired us to do our best--or better--we are eternally grateful. We couldn't have done it without you.

Ha'penny Morris





Sic Transit
or
Written in Haste
on the Bus to Work

It is said that Che Guevara (a physician by training) got to be appointed Cuba's Minister of Finance because he dozed off during the crucial meeting at which all of the cabinet-level jobs in the new post-revolutionary government were being assigned and waked to what he thought was a show of hands for "Is there a Communist in the house?" to discover, to his chagrin, that what they had actually been looking for was an economist.

This by way of introducing myself as the new managing editor of the CDS Newsletter. (I thought they wanted to know if anybody at the meeting knew how to spell "predator.")

Now fully awake to the task at hand, I have discovered that the CDS Newsletter does not, as I had previously imagined, magically spring into being every two or three months of its own accord (with perhaps a little editorial prodding) but, rather, takes the work of more people than you might think: writers of articles, makers of fliers, keepers of calendars, typists, proofreaders, graphics designers and layout persons, volunteers to collate, fold, and staple the finished product, and an intrepid soul to see the 500-odd collated, folded, and stapled missives into the willing (if not eager) hands of the U.S. Postal Service.

Those of you who have not been caught napping can probably guess what comes next: Yes, the fervent--and serious--plea for help in making this all happen on a regular basis. Come on: add another bullet item to your resume, see your name in boldface 12 point (10 point?) type, and bask in the warm glow that comes with doing a service to your community. We really need you:

- Writers--you don't have to be Marcel Proust (indeed, it would be better if you weren't since not only is he dead but he was probably

never much of a dancer), just have some news or thoughts or reminiscences about dance and be willing to write it down and send it in.

- Copy editors and Proofreaders--writers and the managing editor can't really be trusted to catch every misspelling or infelicity of punctuation or grammar that somehow sneaks into their work (like those rocks that the Devil heaves up into the local pastures during winter).
- People to collate, fold, and staple the finished newsletter and fliers that go with it. The collating, folding, and stapling has in recent years taken place off and on during the Wednesday night dance in Cambridge just before the grand mailing, but there's no reason why this enjoyable, low-key social event couldn't take place at a Tuesday night dance (or at any other time, for that matter) if that seemed like a good idea.
- Mailing maven--in some ways, the most crucial job. All you have to be willing to do is to go to the officially designated post office with the Newsletters, and mail them. The part about "officially designated" is a detail that is easily resolved.

O.k. I have said my editorial say and promise never to do so ever again at such great and tiresome length unless nobody gets in touch with me to help out. I am

Alex Humez
151 Elm Street
Somerville, MA 02144

(617) 625-3069

Come on: I know you're out there. Volunteer for something and, while you're at it, let me know what you'd like to see (or not see) in future CDS Newsletters. Also--and this is an extra-credit question for volunteers only--would you like to keep the number of issues of the Newsletter to four a year or would you like to boost it to six?



The Dreaded Deadline

Please send your news and articles for the next issue of the CDS Newsletter by **January 15, 1989** to

Alex Humez
151 Elm Street
Somerville, MA 02144

COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, BOSTON CENTRE
EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

BOSTON CENTRE PROGRAMS:

Tuesday New England Square and Contra Dance Series, St. John's Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown. Callers: 1st Tuesdays - Tony Saletan, 2nd Tuesdays - Ted Sannella, 3rd Tuesdays - Tony Parkes, 4th and 5th Tuesdays - Special Programs and Guests. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Contacts: Arthur Anger (H)899-8702, (W)253-7044 and Betsy Opitz (H)899-8702. Through June 13.

Wednesday English Country Dance Series, YWCA, 7 Temple Street, Cambridge. Dance program 8:00-11:00 p.m., attention to basics 8:00-9:00. Music by "Bare Necessities." Contact Jenny Mosley (H)646-9202. Through June 14.

Wednesday Ritual Class, YWCA Lower Gym, 7 Temple Street, Cambridge. See flier. Contact Meg Ryan (H)735-0586.

First Friday English Country Dancing, Church of Our Savior, Monmouth and Carlton Streets, Brookline. 8:00-11:00 p.m. Dances will be taught with the expectation that the dancers have a thorough familiarity with basic English country dance figures. Contact Jenny Mosley (H)646-9202.

CDS Annual Holiday Party, Phillips Congregational Church, 111 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown. December 17, 1988; 8:00-11:00 p.m. See flier.

English-Scottish Session Scholarship Fund Benefit Party, February 11, 1989; details to come. Contact Evelyn Murray (H)864-8945.

Boston Playford Ball, Village Hall, Framingham Center. March 4, 1989. Advance registration required. Details in January. Contact CDS office 354-1340.

Pinewoods Camp, Plymouth -- 1989 Boston Centre events: First Weekend -- Friday p.m. 6/16 to Sunday p.m. 6/18; July "4th" -- Thursday p.m. 6/29 to Monday a.m. 7/3; (with RSCDS, Boston Branch) English-Scottish Session -- Monday p.m. 7/3 to Friday a.m. 7/7; Labor Day -- Saturday a.m. 9/3 to Tuesday a.m. 9/5.

Boston Centre Committee Meetings, all welcome:

- Board of Directors, 3rd Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., CDS office, 1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 354-1340.
- Building Committee, 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., CDS office, 1950 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, 354-1340.
- American Dance Committee, 2nd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Cafe Rose, Watertown; contact 899-8702.
- English Dance Committee, 2nd Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., pot-luck @ Alex Humez, 151 Elm Street, Somerville; contact 625-3069.

FRIENDS OF CDS, BOSTON CENTRE, EVENTS

Arlington, MA -- Roaring Jelly, 3rd Friday through June, St. John's Episcopalian Church, 74 Pleasant Street, Arlington; Susan Elberger, caller; Doug Reiner, music director; 8:00 p.m. Contact 776-1007 or 894-4464.

Barnstable, MA -- English Country Dances on Cape Cod, Friday 12/9, Barnstable Unitarian Church; Francis Worrell; 7:30 p.m. Contact (508) 362-9570.

Brookline, MA -- English Country Dance Party, 3rd Friday (except April), Church of Our Savior, Monmouth and Carlton Streets, Brookline; Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Sayler; music by Karen Axelrod, Pat MacPherson, and friends; 8:00 p.m. Contact 897-8629 or 475-0791.

Cambridge, MA -- RSCDS, Boston Branch Scottish Country Dance, Monday, YWCA, 7 Temple Street, Cambridge; warm-up 8:15, beginners and experienced classes 8:30-9:45, social dancing for all 10:00-11:00.

Milford, NH -- International folk dancing, 2nd and 4th Saturday, Unitarian Universalist Church, 17 Elm Street; 7:30-9:30 p.m. Contact (603) 673-2196.

Rockport, ME -- English Country Dance, Friday 12/9, Simonton Corners Community Hall; Merymeeting Musical Menagerie; 8:00 p.m. Contact (207) 594-4730.

Salem, MA -- RSCDS, Boston Branch Pinewoods Benefit Ball, Saturday, 12/3, Hamilton Hall, Chestnut and Cambridge Streets, Salem; Reservations in advance; Pot-luck supper 6:00 p.m. (First Church, Essex Street, Salem), dance 8:00 p.m. Contact Sally Dee (H) (508) 745-2229.

South Weymouth, MA -- English Country Dance, Monday (except 1st Monday), Old South Congregational Church, South Weymouth; George Fogg; live music; 8:00-10:00 p.m. Contact 335-0818 or 426-1048.

Southboro, MA -- Framingham Folk Dancers, International Folk Dancing, Wednesday, Fayville Village Hall, Central and Grove Streets, Southboro; 8:00-10:30 p.m. Contact (508) 872-4110.

BALLS:

- Philadelphia, December 3, 1988. Contact (215) 269-9924.
- Williamsburg, March 4, 1989. Contact (804) 229-1775.
- Boston, March 4, 1989. Contact (617) 354-1340.

All calendar submissions should be made by January 15, 1989 in writing to

**Harvey Cohen
54 Elda Road
Framingham, MA 01701**



Something Borrowed

The following is borrowed from the November, 1987 newsletter of the RSCDS Ottawa Branch and is not only a cautionary tale about the limitations of Artificial Intelligence but a reminder of what it is to be a new dancer with a whole new set of vocabulary to learn. The writer is Charlie Inglis, who fed the instructions for the Scottish Country dance, "The Highlandman's Umbrella," into his machine translation program.

<u>The Highlandman's Umbrella</u>		<u>The Highlandman's Umbrella</u>	
32 Bar Reel	4 couples Anna Holden	32 Saloon Bobbin	4 duos Anna Holden
Bars		Saloons	
1-4	All four couples taking promenade hold advance and retire	1-4	All four duos taking promenade clutch promote and sleep
5-8	The four women, casting by the right, dance round one place clockwise	5-8	The four handmaidens, molding by the right, dance looped one vicinity clockwise
9-12	All four couples, taking promenade hold with a new partner, advance and retire.	9-12	All four duos, taking promenade clutch with pristine cohort, promote and sleep.
13-16	The four men, casting left, dance round one place counterclockwise.	13-16	The four chaps, molding to the left, dance looped one vicinity counterclockwise.
17-18	All set to new partner.	17-18	All congeal to pristine cohorts.
19-20	First and third men change places giving left hand.	19-20	First and third chaps mutate vicinities giving left ovation.
21-22	Second and fourth men change places giving left hand.	21-22	Second and fourth chaps mutate vicinities giving left ovation.
23-24	All set to original partners.	23-24	All congeal to original cohorts.
25-32	Eight hands round and back. Repeat from new places.	25-32	Eight ovations looped and spine. Repeat from innovative vicinities.



More Word on the Second Ralph Page Legacy Weekend

In the last CDS newsletter, we announced the Second Ralph Page Legacy Weekend, which is going to be held on January 13-15, 1989, at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in Durham, NH. Now we have additional information to tempt you.

There will be a session, hosted by Ralph Page's old friend Roger Knox, during which we will exchange anecdotes about Ralph and dance to a tape of his calls. The fine musical groups, New England Tradition and Yankee Ingenuity, will join forces with callers Tony Parkes, Chip Hendrickson, George Hodgson, Ted Sannella, and Marianne Taylor on our top-notch staff. Other leaders are yet to be confirmed. A variety of workshops for dancers, callers, musicians, and those interested in folklore are being planned, as well as two dance parties and a Grand Ball.

The price for the weekend package (not including breakfasts and lodging) has been lowered from last year's to \$65. Lunches, snacks, dinner, and banquet will be provided by the UNH food service, which is noted for its sumptuous quality, variety, and quantity.

For further information on this fabulous weekend, contact the NEFFA office at 190 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140; phone (617) 354-1340.

Ted Sannella, Chairman
Ralph Page Memorial Committee

Monthly English Dance Parties

After a successful first season, we are pleased to announce that the Third Friday English Country Dance is alive and well, indeed, flourishing. Terrific music is once again being provided by Pat MacPherson, Karen Axelrod, and friends, for a lively evening of dances called by Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Saylor. Scrumptious refreshments (often featuring home-baked delicacies by Laura Sprung) are served at a mid-dance intermission.

Dancing starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Church of Our Savior, at the intersection of Monmouth and Carlton Streets in Brookline on all third Fridays of the month (except for NEFFA Weekend in

April). So get out your dancing shoes, call a friend, and come on over for a truly enjoyable evening just for the fun of it.

Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Saylor

AMC-CDS Mt. Cardigan Dance Weekend

Forty-seven Country Dance Society and Appalachian Mountain Club members enjoyed a wonderful dancing and hiking weekend of friendship on September 16-18, 1988, at the AMC Cardigan Lodge at Alexandria, NH. English country dances led by George Fogg, folk and circle dances led by Betty Hoskins, and exciting squares and contras by George Hodgson were enthusiastically received by everyone. Ellen Mandigo, Roger Pinard, and Andy Riffin provided the music.

Saturday afternoon found members hiking up Mt. Cardigan or less strenuous trails to Welton Falls. The gloom of late afternoon rain was dispelled inside by the happy hour fellowship and special hors d'oeuvres served by the lodge crew under the direction of manager Tom Kehoe.

Song-fests after the evening parties included popular folk and contemporary songs. A Sunday morning hymn-sing was held, with Evelyn Lamond at the piano, accompanied by Roger Pinard on the violin.

After a morning of energetic dancing, the lodge held its famous Sunday Barbecue. The wind blew away the clouds to give us beautiful sunny weather for the afternoon and a farewell look at the peak of Mt. Cardigan before the start of the trip home.

This annual event, under the leadership of Marty Markham, is a totally volunteer weekend by Boston Centre members. The callers/leaders and musicians donate their time and talent. Special thanks to Cal Howard who once again loaned us his PA system and electric piano.

Marty tells us that another weekend for 1989 is already being planned, so stay tuned.

Frances Clayton



Thanks

To Harvey Cohen, Frances Clayton, Jan Elliott, George Fogg, Deborah Hawkins, Julia Huestis, Jean Humez, Andrea Humez, Herb Jacobs, Lynn Cornelius Jacobs, Susie Petrov, Robin Rogers-Browne, Meg Ryan, Ted Sannella, Brad Saylor, Mary Stafford for their hard work behind the scenes; and to my fellow members on the CDS Board for their unhesitating vote of confidence.



Happy 230th Birthday, Robert Burns!

Jean Redpath, the foremost vocal interpreter of Scottish traditional music, and Alasdair Fraser, a show-stopping fiddler of international renown, are featured guests at the Burns's Birthday Celebration on January 28 and 29, 1989, in Harvard's Sanders Theatre.

And what is a Burns party?

Traditionally, Robert Burns's birthday is celebrated with a supper feast where much whiskey is consumed, speeches are delivered, and the address to the haggis is much appreciated. When the conventional format of a Burns supper is strictly followed, as Jean Redpath puts it, "depending on the speeches, you could be dealing with boredom and indigestion."

But that's not what you will have to deal with if you go to the Royal Scottish Dance Society (RSCDS) production of "Burns Night." Variety-instrumental music, fiddles, pipes, ballads, airs, jigs and reels, highland and country dancing, kilts, sporans, and tea and shortbread following the concerts is what you can expect at Sanders Theatre.

And the reason for all of this merriment is Robert Burns, Scotland's most popular poet, lyricist, and composer. Born in 1759 into a poor family, Burns grew up working the fields for his father and deriving a rich store of traditional songs, ballads, and proverbs from his illiterate mother. As a young man in his twenties experiencing the embarrassment of financial difficulties and a few affairs of the heart, Burns emigrated to

Jamaica. Fortunately, he decided to publish his poems before he left. They were a great success, and Burns became the darling of the gentry and the "bard of nature" overnight.

But Burns's life was an up-and-down affair in more ways than one. Financial difficulties dogged the man, who was finally reduced to making a living as a tax collector. His greatest long poem, "Tam O'Shanter," brought him fame but no significant monetary reward. Some claim that Burns was a lady's man who finally did marry the mother of his two sets of twins. Most agree that he was ashamed of neither his Scottish peasantry nor of its bawdy tradition.

Through his acquaintance with James Johnson, the editor of the six-volume THE SCOTS MUSICAL MUSEUM, Burns became enthusiastically involved in collecting folk songs of his native land and, where no lyrics were available for favorite airs, he supplied his own. Burns contributed more than 300 songs and some of the finest lyrics in the language, insuring his place in history and guaranteeing the preservation of the Scottish folk heritage.

Good enough reason for a party? RSCDS thinks so, and so did last year's audiences prudent enough to have bought their tickets before they sold out. The good news for this year's music, dance, and verse fans is that there will be *two* performances at Sanders Theater on

- Saturday, January 28, 1989, 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 30, 1989, 3:00 p.m.

More live music, dancing for everyone, and tea and shortbread will follow each of the two concerts.

Mark your calendars, buy your tickets early, and come prepared to dance your socks off. And thank you, Robert Burns.

Deborah Hawkins

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