

In Step

Promoting traditional Celtic dance, music and culture

Newsletter of the Greater Washington Ceili Club

<http://gwcc-online.org>

February 2007



ELECTRONIC ROLLOUT

The big news this issue is the introduction of our new format – electronic! Bringing you more news, pictures, color and events. To prepare for this new format, last month some sixty brave souls signed up to receive a trial version. It was a raging success. Thanks to all who volunteered. Now we are ready to rollout this new electronic newsletter. Here's the plan:

- This month, everybody gets a print version in the mail as usual and by email if we have your address.
- Next month, the newsletter will be distributed by email to all members possible and by snail mail to those who do not have an email address or requested it from the editor.

Please send your email address to Frank McCarthy at frankgwcc@aol.com to receive the newsletter by email. We will respect your privacy and not distribute your address to anyone. For those who prefer to receive a print version by snail mail, please send a request to editor.gwcc@gmail.com. Keep in mind that the print version will be limited to four pages in black and white, so you may miss out on pictures, color and some content. The newsletter will be posted on our website at <http://gwcc-online.org>.

Howard



NEW EDITOR

After many years of uncomplaining toil, our editor, Pat Towmey, has passed the mantle on to a new voice...

...a great big thanks to Pat for all his hard work over many years. With a new editor and format, there is certainly much change afoot here at the newsletter. You'll see photos, color, bylines, more events, more articles on dance, music and culture. It is my intention that the newsletter continue to be a representative voice of our club - so articles, comments, complaints, suggestions, requests, announcements, opinions and corrections are all welcome. Please send them to me by the 10th of the month at editor.gwcc@gmail.com.

Anne Marie Russell, editor.



NEW SET DANCING CLASS HOWARD COUNTY

by Jan McVey

Howard County Recreation and Parks will be offering a basic set dancing class this spring. They will be held at Waterloo Elementary School in Columbia on Monday evenings, 7-8:30, beginning April 16, 2007.

Classes will be taught by Jan McVey and Don Kaliher.

To register call 410 313-7275. For more information: call 410 313-4634 or go to: www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP

editor.gwcc@gmail.com



DANCE NOTES

by Edie O'Donnell

New Year's Eve Ceili

The hall was sparkling and so were many of the dancers as GWCC members and friends gathered for a night of festivity to ring in the New Year. Cherry Hill was looking its best, thanks to our dedicated decorating committee, whose special attention to detail always creates a magical environment. Our attendees worked some dessert magic as well; the buffet covered three tables, and truly held something for everyone!

The band also sparkled, with Dave, Billy, Zan and Myron giving us their very best reels, polkas and waltzes. We danced a lot of old favorites, with the first set including the Clare Plain Set, the North Kerry and the Connemara Reel. After an attack on that bountiful dessert table, we began the second set with the 16 Hand Reel, followed by the Cashel, the Clare Mazurka and a "just before midnight" waltz. At midnight, we counted down the old year, and celebrated the new year with champagne, noisemakers, and hugs and kisses all around. We finished off the night with the Paris Set, a waltz and a spirited Clare Lancers.

Throughout the evening, door prizes were awarded, and the 50/50 was won by Steve Thompson. By all accounts, everyone had a wonderful time; we can't wait to do it again next year!

January Ceili

On Sunday, January 28th, the GWCC monthly ceili was held at Cherry Hill Park.

The workshop dance was the Dublin Set, taught by Paul O'Donnell. Choreographed for the Dublin Millennium, this complicated 4-figure dance is a favorite here in Washington, DC. The workshop sets did themselves proud getting through all four figures in the allotted hour. The band for the evening was comprised of Laura Byrne, Billy McComiskey, Peter Fitzgerald and Pat Egan, who kept the dancers happy all night with lively tunes.

The first set of dances included the Clare Mazurka Set, the Siege of Carrick, and the North Kerry Set. The pot luck tables once again showed off the culinary talents of our dancers. The second set of dances started with the Connemara Reel Set. It was followed by the Ballyvourney Jig Set, a waltz and the Dublin Set. During the second break, Hugh Conway won the 50/50 prize. We ended the evening with November's workshop dance, the Kilfenora Plain Set, followed by another waltz, and concluded with the Clare Lancers Set.

Upcoming Dance Events

Upcoming dance events include a set dance workshop with Patrick O'Dea from Ireland at the Frost Center on Thursday, February 22, from 7:30 to 10PM.

Outreach Events

As we get closer to St. Patrick's Day, our outreach events at area seniors' residences begin. If you have never participated in these performances, which are open to all members, and would like to join us, see Edie O'Donnell or Dixie Baker for details. A practice session is scheduled prior to the events.

Scheduling Changes

note some scheduling changes: Our February ceili will take place on the "regular" fourth Sunday of the month; however, in March, the ceili is scheduled for March 18th, to coincide with St. Patrick's Day. The April ceili will be on April 22nd. Finally, on May 20th, Matt Cunningham will be back with us, and nobody wants to miss that special dance event. Mark your calendars now!

GWCC Dance Classes

And if that's not enough dancing for you, don't forget to come to the GWCC dance classes at the Frost Center in Rockville on Thursday nights. The new session is underway, so shake off the winter blues with some spirited dancing! See Paul O'Donnell for details.



PERFORMING AT THE FESTIVAL

by Diane Clark

The Southern Maryland Celtic Society had their second annual Winter Celtic Festival on January 6, 2007. It's held in a little community theater built in, what was previously, a library. Sixteen dancers, billed as Southern Maryland Irish Set dancers, danced for the second year. Thanks to some folks driving long distances to join us, we were able to have two sets on stage. Pond Scum was beside us, filling the stage and providing wonderful, energetic dance music! Since a play was starting that same week, the stage design was a living room, presenting a true 'house ceili' feel.

We started with the Ballyvourney Jig, hoping we'd hold audience attention for the lengthy dance while we were new to them. After that, we did a few figures to reels, ending with a polka. We gathered to practice as a group in 'Clark's Dance Hall' that afternoon. On our way down to the evening event, we stopped at Panera Bread. All in all, a very fun time!



GWCC dancers join Southern Maryland dancers to perform at the Winter Celtic Festival.



WARM UP COLD NIGHTS HOT WHISKEY

Add a spoon of sugar, a measure of whiskey, a slice of lemon and five whole cloves to a glass and fill with hot water. Stir, inhale the warm fragrant steam and enjoy. Fabulous after a sweaty bout of vigorous set dancing, when the cold winter air has chilled you through.



MEMBER BULLETIN BOARD

Congratulations to Frank and Betty on their 50th anniversary. Wishing you many more of the same.

Anne Marie and Scott welcomed their firstborn, a lovely boy Aidan Christopher, who arrived Feb 1st, weighing in at a little over 7 pounds. Congratulations and our very best wishes to the new parents.



Comhghairdeas Go maire bhur mbabai a shaol ur



REELIN' THROUGH IRELAND

by Marilyn O'Brien

Plans are now underway for the Ring of Kerry Irish Dancers' Fourth Tour of Ireland. The journey, which will stretch from Ballyvaughn in Co. Clare to Baltimore in Co. Cork, begins on June 25, 2007 and ends July 6. For twelve days we'll be on one adventure after another—including island trips, ceilis, lectures, hiking, sessions, and, of course, pub hopping.

Everyone is invited to join us! There are currently eight spaces left on the bus so contact Marilyn O'Brien soon if you need more information. 301-926-6943 or obieobwan@aol.com.



**HIGHLIGHT
AN ARTIST: Cory Clark**

Last fall, Cory, an accomplished artist and set dancer, spent several months in Co Clare, Ireland as a Study Abroad student. This month, she treated us to a showing of her art at our ceili. About the experience and the art she created there, Cory has this to say:

“The Burren College of Art is a very conceptual art school with emphasis on the ideas behind the artwork, instead of the technical skills used to create it. My first "assignment" was to create artwork without an assignment! Having never done this before, I was perplexed about what I enjoyed creating, and had absolutely no ideas. At first I was inspired to create a traditional representation of the landscape. I began taking countless photographs for reference and realized when creating my first pieces of artwork that I did not want to simply imitate a photo. I then began to examine my surroundings a little more carefully. Interestingly, the telephone poles caught my eye. I enjoyed the way they traversed across the landscape since they were clearly visible without any trees to interrupt my view. I also enjoyed the negative space (the space around an object, instead of the object itself) that was created within the crisscrossing cable lines. My artwork quickly merged into more abstract representations of the telephone poles to highlight the qualities I found most pleasing. Ultimately, I realized I would not have been inspired to create such 'divergent' works in my ordinary surroundings, and therefore continued to enjoy every moment of my time in Ireland.”

In this issue, see five of Cory’s watercolor paintings. You can reach her at treasurehider@gmail.com.



**A SPECIAL EVENING:
SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS**

The O’Neill-Malcom Branch of the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann is sponsoring a program of dancing at the Old Town Hall in Fairfax, April 28 at 7:30PM. The program includes ceili and set dancing to the Bog Wanderers, step-dancing by the Culkin School, sean-nos dancing by Shannon Dunne and trad songs. For Info: Call 703-978-8265 or www.ccepotomac.org



Burren 3 by Cory Clark

Feb 2007



Burren 12 by Cory Clark

Feb 2007



Burren 11 by Cory Clark

Feb 2007



IRISH FESTIVAL CRUISES

by Brenda H. Sullivan-Miller

Every winter up to five hundred Irish born and Irish Americans set sail for 7-10 days packed full of Irish music, culture and dance. This event was started sixteen years ago by Paddy Clancy of the famed singers, The Clancy Brothers, to promote Irishness. Now it is directed by Mary Rowley.

The atmosphere is friendly and warm. There are many opportunities to dine and visit with the performers. Many guests are repeat cruisers because of this conviviality. I have attended eleven Irish Festival Cruises and highly recommend it. This year, the ten day long 16th Annual Irish Festival Cruise started on January 22nd, and we visited a private island owned by the ship, Aruba, The Panama Canal, Costa Rica, Colon, Puerto Limon and Curacao. Previous ports of call were in the Carribean.

Each cruise has 4 hours of Irish music in the evening and numerous workshops during the day while at sea. Workshops include dance, spirituality, holiday customs, sea chanteys, tin whistle, Bohran, Gaelic, The Story of the Musician in Ireland, The History of Folk Music and others. Well known Irish entertainers perform such as Paddy Reilly. Cherish the Ladies, Tommy Makem, Dermot Henry, Liam Tiernan, The Black Family (Mary, Frances, Michael, Shay and Martin), Tom Sweeney and John Gleeson. The venue is a private party and guest photo IDs are provided to ensure there is adequate space at functions. An extra fee is included in the rate to transport the entertainers, many of whom live in Ireland.

Information about the 2008 cruise can be found at www.IrishFestivalCruises.com or by calling 1-800-441-HARP. This website also features photos of other years.



HIGHLIGHT A MUSICIAN: Lily Neill

from Jesse Winch

Lily Neill is a rising star in the world of harp playing - successfully melding her own compositions with traditional music from Scottish, Irish and other folk repertoires

Performance: 28 Feb. 7:30 PM Strathmore Hall ,
www.strathmore.org (301) 581-5108



Burren 10 by Cory Clark

Feb 2007



Burren 5 by Cory Clark

Feb 2007

GWCC Officers:

Tom Scullen - President
Dixie Baker - Vice-President
Ed O'Connor - Treasurer
Paul O'Donnell - Secretary

Board Members:

Susan Boon, Linda Fitzpatrick, Dick De Freyre, Don Kaliher, Betty McCarthy, Frank McCarthy, Emmett Murphy, Joan O'Connor, Edie O'Donnell, Bev Ricks, Anne Marie Russell, Jane Twomey, Pat Twomey

Committees (Chair):

- Ceili (Dixie Baker and Dick DeFreyre)
- Membership (Frank and Betty McCarthy)
- Outreach (Edie O'Donnell and Dixie Baker)
- Newsletter (Anne Marie Russell)
- Scholarship (Linda Fitzpatrick)
- Cape May (Linda Fitzpatrick)
- Spring Fling (Joan O'Connor)



LOCAL SOURCES FOR IRISH GOODS

compiled by Chris White

Wonder where to find those goodies you enjoyed on your last trip to Ireland? Chris compiled the following:

The Irish Walk in Alexandria carries Barry's Irish Tea, Irish Knit sweaters, jewelry, CD's, books, flags.

Safeway stores carry Kerrygold butter and some cheeses imported from Ireland.

Shoppers in Germantown carries Killians, Harps and other Irish brews.

Magruder's in Gaithersburg carries Kerrygold butter, Dubliner cheese, Harps, Killian's, Guinness as well as other imported beers.

LOCAL SEISIUNS

J Patrick's Pub, Locust Point, MD
Monday – Beginners Seisiun
Tuesday w/Laura Byrne & Jim Eagan
Thursday w/Peter Fitzgerald
Kids Sesiun w/Donna Long
info: 410-244-8613

Royal Mile Pub, Wheaton, MD
Kids' seisiun, 4th Sunday, 5-6:30
info: jmitchellf@yahoo.com
Adults' seisiun, 4th Sunday, 7-10:30
info: 301-946-4511

McGinty's Publick House, Silver Spring, MD
Kids' 2nd Sunday info: jmitchellf@yahoo.com
Adults' Tuesdays, 8:00 info: Doc Botzer

RiRa Pub, Bethesda, MD
Wednesdays, 7-11 and Sundays, 3-7 p.m.
info: philvar@erols.com

Auld Shebeen, Fairfax, VA
Saturdays, 12-2:00, kids once a month 11:00
info: 703-293-9600
Kids' info: <http://www.novasession.org/kids>

O'Faolain's Irish Pub, Sterling, VA
Sundays, 6-9:30 info: 703-444-9796

Ri-Ra, on Wilson Boulevard, Arlington
Sundays, 2-5 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 22, A Set Dancing Workshop featuring Patrick O'Dea from Ireland on his 2007 Winter Tour at the Frost Center 7:30-10PM
Admission \$10.00... Information 301-294-3568 or www.GWCC-online.org.

Feb 25, GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill...Set Workshop starts at 4:00 PM Set of the Month "Claddagh Set" Music by Custom House
Information 301-294-3568.

Feb 27 & 28, Cherish the Ladies
The Barns at Wolftrap, 8 pm : www.wolf-trap.org

March 4, Natalie McMaster
Center for the Arts, 7:00 p.m. GMU www.gmu.edu/cfa

March 7, Solas in concert
The Barns at Wolftrap, 8 pm www.wolf-trap.org

March 13, Solas at Rams Head
March 10, CCE Ceili Green Acres School,
Fairfax, VA info: KendraR179@aol.com

March 11, D.C. St. Pats Day Parade 12 noon,
Constitution Ave info: www.dcstpatparade.com

March 11 JPat's ceili 4:30PM
1371 Andre Street Baltimore, MD

March 15 mini-ceili Frost Center 8PM
March 17, Blackthorn ceili

McCathran Hall Washington Grove, MD
info Dan Moore 301-990-0184

March 18, GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill
Set Workshop starts at 4:00 PM
Information 301-294-3568

March 28, Lunasa Weinberg Center
Frederick, MD Info: 301-228-2828

March 29, Lunasa Center Stage,
Reston, VA info: 703-476-4500

April 6, Lunasa The Birchmere
info: www.birchmere.com

April 12-15, CCE Convention
Atlanta, Georgia Westin Airport Hotel
info & registration: www.irelandindixie.com

April 28, CCE Spotlight on the Arts 7:30PM
Old Town Hall, Fairfax, VA
info: KendraR179@aol.com

May 12, CCE's End of Season Ceili
Green Acres School, Fairfax, VA
info: KendraR179@aol.com

Sept 18-27, Irish Charter Cruise
Rome, Italy Info: byrne_g@yahoo.com

Sept 28-30, Cape May Dance Weekend
Info: sousane@comcast.net

M a r c h 2 0 0 7
See upcoming events, seasons, class and ceili listings for full details

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|--|--|--------|---|
| | | | | 1 Class Frost Center 8PM | 2 | 3 Emerald Isle Club ceili 7PM Towson, MD Class 10:30AM CCE Fairfax |
| 4 Natalie McMaster Center for the Arts, 7PM GMU, Fairfax, VA www.gmu.edu/cfa | 5 | 6 Class 7PM Ring of Kerry | 7 Class Glen Echo 7:30PM Solas 8PM The Barns at Wolftrap www.wolf-trap.org | 8 Class Frost Center 8PM | 9 | 10 CCE Ceili 7:30PM Green Acres School, Fairfax, VA Class 10:30AM CCE Fairfax |
| 11 J Patrick's Ceili 1371 Andre Street Baltimore 4:30PM 12noon D.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade | 12 | 13 Class 7PM Ring of Kerry Solas at Rams Head | 14 Class Glen Echo 7:30PM | 15 Mini-ceili Frost Center 8PM | 16 | 17 Saint Patrick's Day Blackthorn ceili Washington Grove Class 10:30AM CCE Fairfax |
| 18 GWCC Ceili 5PM Cherry Hill Park 4PM workshop | 19 | 20 Class 7PM Ring of Kerry | 21 Class Glen Echo 7:30PM | 22 Class Frost Center 8PM | 23 | 24 Class 10:30AM CCE Fairfax |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Class 7PM Ring of Kerry | 28 Class Glen Echo 7:30PM Lunasa Weinberg Center Frederick, MD | 29 Class Frost Center 8PM Lunasa Center Stage, Reston, VA | 30 | 31 Class 10:30AM CCE Fairfax |

DANCE CLASSES

Mondays
Waterloo Elementary School, Columbia, MD
set dancing 7-8:30 beginners, starting April 16th
Instructors: Jan McVey and Don Kaliher
Info: 410 313-7275. www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP

Tuesdays
Ring of Kerry, Gaithersburg, MD
ceili & set dancing 7:00 beginners, 8:00 advanced
info: KBWall@comcast.net

Wednesdays
J Patrick's Pub
ceili & set dancing 7PM
1371 Andre St Locust Point Baltimore, MD
Instructor: Dan Stanton info: 410-276-2766

Wednesdays
Glen Echo Park, Bethesda, MD
ceili & set dancing 7:30 beginners, 8:30 advanced
Instructors: Dick DeFreyer, Ann Marie Breheny and
Jim Keenan
info: rdefreyre@aol.com

Thursdays
GWCC Frost Center, Rockville, MD
set dancing 7:30 beginners, 8:00 advanced
Instructor: the Paul O'Donnell IrishGWCC@aol.com

Saturdays
Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd Fairfax, VA
ceili & set dancing 10:30 beginner friendly
Instructor: Marilyn Moore
info: Larry 703-281-0910 lfrank2@earthlink.net

CEILIS

First Saturday,
Emerald Isle Club Ceili 7-11 p.m. Sept – May
ceili dances, some set dances, all called
American Legion #22, York Road, Towson, MD,
info: 410-263-5544

Second Saturday,
CCE Ceili, 7:30 Sept-May
ceili dances, some set dances, all called
Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd Fairfax, VA
7:00 workshop
info: KendraR179@aol.com

Second Sunday,
J Patrick's Pub, 4:30-8:30 all year
set dances, some ceili dances, all called
1371 Andre St Locust Point, Baltimore, MD
info: 410-244-8613

Fourth Sunday,
GWCC Ceili 5-9:00PM Sept – May
set dances, some ceili dances, some called
Cherry Hill Park College Park, MD
4:00 workshop
info: rdefreyre@aol.com

Join the club! Get our monthly newsletter and save on monthly ceilis, all for just \$15. To sign up or renew today, send this membership form and your check to Frank McCarthy 78 Milshire Ct Silver Spring, MD 20905

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____

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GWCC