

Great SCOT!

Look what's
going on...

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

January 2012

Whisky Tasting Feb. 25

A cold night near the end of February would seem to be the perfect time to sample a few drams of Scotch whisky, no? Again this year, Craig Hill will conduct a Whisky Tasting on Saturday evening February 25. The place and price are yet to be determined, but watch for further details on our website or Facebook page.

Whisky tasting participants will be treated to a full meal and Scottish-themed entertainment. Also, attendees will not only be able to sample several different expressions of malt whisky, but also gain an understanding of, and an appreciation for, the remarkable differences between different single malt whiskies. For example, did you know that while “whisky” may mean Scotch whisky to most of the world's population, it is often wrongly substituted by the spelling “whiskey,” or even misspelled as “wiskey” or “wisky?” Much of this misunderstanding originates from the fact that there are a number of countries that distil their own whiskies (or whiskeys). Scotch whisky is by far and away the largest selling and most renowned; however, local spirits distilled in Ireland, Japan, Canada, America and India are also known as whiskey (whisky).

Scotch Whisky is always spelled without an 'e', be it Single Malt Whisky or Blended Scotch Whisky. Japanese Whisky, Canadian Whisky and Indian Whisky are also spelt without an 'e'. It is believed that Japanese Whisky is spelled this way as a result of Japan's first whisky distillers learning their trade in Scotland, in the early 1920s, thereafter adopting the Scottish convention. Canadian and Indian Whiskies, it is thought, in a similar vein embraced the spelling when they were part of the British Empire.

Historically, Irish Whiskey distillers inserted an 'e' to their spelling to differentiate their product from Scotch Whisky. American Whiskeys, both Bourbon and Rye, have in general taken up the insertion of an 'e'. Though, as you would expect in this vast country with much Scottish ancestry, there are some distillers who prefer to adopt the Scottish practice.

The word “whisky” originates from the Scots Gaelic word *uisge beatha* (meaning the water of life), which was been Anglicised over time to whiskybae and, finally, shortened to “whisky.”

Burns Supper Jan. 21



Robert Burns
1759 — 1796

SCOT is proud to participate in the Burns Supper held at The Country Squire in Kenansville, NC, in true Scottish tradition. Once more a great evening of food and entertainment is in store. Come along and enjoy this celebration honoring Scotland's national bard.

The Country Squire has managed to keep the price of tickets the same as last year, \$45 per person. Along with this, all SCOT Members will receive a coupon for an extra glass of wine or beer in appreciation of their support. The menu includes:



Haggis, Neeps & Tatties

Salad with Choice of Dressing

Choice of Entrée served with Potato & Vegetable:
Spinach Stuffed Chicken w/ Cream Sauce

8 oz. Ribeye

Broiled Flounder

Scottish Steak Pie

(add \$5 for a side order of Haggis)

Scottish Trifle for Dessert

All dinners include glass of wine, tea, and coffee.



Reservations can be made directly with The Country Squire at 910-296-1727 or <http://www.countrysquireinn.com/index.html>, or you may contact Donald Ross at welake87@gmail.com or 919-934-1915.

Be sure to test drive our new & improved
website at www.scot.us!

SCOT Calendar of Events

- Jan 21 **Burns Supper**, The Country Squire, Kenansville, NC (see Pg. 1 for details).
- Feb. 25 **Whisky Tasting**, location TBD (see Pg. 1 for details).
- Mar. 18 **Scottish Ceilidh Concert**, Page-Walker Arts & History Center, Cary, NC.
- Mar. 24 **Cary Indoor Competition**, Highland Dance & Piping, Resurrection Lutheran School, Cary.

Scholarship Follow-up

As you know, our fund-raising activities help bring in funds for the SCOT community to have fun and learn neat stuff from whisky to dancing to George Burns to cooking. It also helps provide funds to those wanting a deeper experience in all things or one thing Scottish here in North Carolina. The Board will be announcing the 2012 Scholarship application process in early winter and then awarding them in May. Here is a bit of information on what two young ladies did with their 2011 scholarships this year.

Sally Johnson used her SCOT scholarship to attend the School of Scottish Arts (SSA) in Minneapolis, NC this summer. On the last day of camp, Pat Johnston brought in a highland dance judge for those who wanted to take their medal tests or their Associate or Member exams for the British Association of Teacher of Dance (B.A.T.D.). Based on Sally's medal testing at SSA, the judge recommended her to compete for the B.A.T.D Highland Scholarship in Chicago in late October, part of the B.A.T.D North American Weekend. These scholarships are awarded to the respective dance schools of the winners. The dancers were required to do a solo choreography, written paper, and practical. Sally attended the competition and has performed her solo choreography recently at the Downtown Cary Winter Festival. Sally was able to attend only the Williamsburg competition this fall, where she won the trophy in her premier age group.

Waverly Noble also used her scholarship to attend the SSA. She had lots of fun, made many new friends, and went on to win a trophy at Charleston this year. At Williamsburg, she got the Most Promising Hornpipe (2nd), along with three thirds (SD, ST, and Laddie)!

Watch for scholarship information in the next newsletter and via the SCOT website.

Wake and District

Fall has seen the band busy completing their first season as a Grade 4 Pipe band in competitions about the South with a 3rd place finish at the Scotland County Games out of a field of six. Moving forward into 2012, the Grade 4 band will be under the leadership of Pipe Major Seamus Russell who comes to Wake & District from the Jamestown Pipe Band along with his wife Jean (a tenor drummer). A Grade 5 Pipe band will be forming this Spring.

Several W&D pipers and drummers competed in solo competitions this Fall. At the Charleston Games, Jake Egen placed 2nd in the QMM and 3rd in the March. At the Scotland County Games, Chris Mogensen had a 2nd place finish in his first Grade 4 piping competition and Jake Egen earned 2nd place in Grade 4 snare drumming. This wrapped up a very successful competition season for Jake and will find him moving up to Grade 3 snare for 2012!

Pipe Major Joe Brady will continue to oversee the overall growth and function of the band and continue to provide distinguished tributes to our fallen comrades, families and co-workers of public safety employees of the Carolinas. This kept the band busy this fall with playing at the USO 7th Annual Salute to Freedom Gala at the Raleigh Convention Center. They also were honored to play for what will most likely be the last USO of North Carolina and the Triangle Flight of Honor this fall as veterans returned from a trip to the WWII Memorial in DC.

On November 5, the Band had a successful wee Celtic Ceilidh at Tir Na nOg Irish Pub for our CD release party. The band is grateful to the other entertainers sharing the stage—the Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance, Scottish dancers Kelly Kent, Skyler and Elaine Hinkel, and other performers making it an evening of fun and song.

Ending 2011 on a successful note, the band is planning for a busy and fun 2012. Hope to see you at some of the events. Here is a photo of the band at the USO black-tie gala—debuting our Class A formal uniforms and custom band cap-badges and ties.



Fall Gathering Recap

Hilarity and non-stop conversations carried the day during the recent SCOT Fall Gathering at the home of Bill and D’Nise Hefner. More than 40 SCOT members and guests learned all about Hallow’een customs in Scotland from Andrew and Maureen Pettigrew who arrived at the Gathering with traditional turnip lanterns in hand. With Emily Sprague’s bagpipes playing in the distance, we all tried dook’n for apples, and the young and the brave tackled the treacle scones. Pat Johnston had the right idea when she whipped Devon’s shirt off over his head just before he attempted to bite into a scone dripping with molasses (the closest we could get to treacle)—did I mention that the sticky drippy scones were dangling from strings and the helpful older “laddies” kept the strings hopping and swinging—not only for Devon but for each other??

While kids made guising masks in the spirit of Hallowe’en, HUGE debates arose in the kitchen as Carolyn Graf and Maureen Pettigrew led a cooking class on making of tattie scones. Shouts of “That’s not how my Gran made them” were drowned out by “’Tis too!” from the other corner—Carolyn and Maureen deserved battle pay for turning 6 lbs of potatoes, flour and butter into warm, wonderful wedges of comfort food. Countless hands emptied the platter as fast as they came off the griddle and then moved on to the many choices of soup and a table groaning with sandwiches, fruit and cheese – no one went hungry!

Barbara Youngman taught Scottish Country Dancing for all ages on the Hefner’s improvised dance floor, with a number of people trying Country Dance for the very first time—including a couple of teens in the neighborhood who came by on a Birthday Party Scavenger Hunt! Dan Brubaker led a small but hardy group in songs by the bonfire while kids frolicked in the yard. Many thanks to all the cooks and to the folk that shared activities that made it such an enjoyable “Fall Gathering”!

A turnip lantern—the forerunner of pumpkin jack-o-lanterns.



Carolyn Graf successfully stabbed an apple by dropping a fork from her teeth into the washtub!

A “Guising Mask” disguises a young Fall Gathering participant.



Ceilidh Concert Recap

On October 30, another successful Scottish Ceilidh Concert was held at Page-Walker Arts and History Center in Cary, NC. A full-house received an entertaining and enjoyable array of Scottish cultural presentations from a large number of performers.

The performances ranged from entrancing Scottish drawing room music from Alison and Gordon Arnold and Julie Gorka on flute, cello and harp, delightful Scottish fiddle playing by Mara Shea backed by Julie Gorka on piano, sweet singing from Julia Cobley, harp music presented by Michelle Cobley, through Scottish songs by Bill McCulloch and accompanied by Julie Gorka, and a wonderful duet from Julia Cobley and Bill McCulloch. These performances were accompanied by interludes of indoor piping by Howard Sanford, and readings of Scottish poetry by George Birrell. The whole concert was greatly enlivened by rousing music played by the Raleigh Scottish Fiddle Club led by Blaine Neuman, to which most feet in the hall were tapping, but all were too polite to get up and dance! The whole performance ended with Bill McCulloch leading the audience in song, before enjoying tea, tasty Scottish nibbles and pleasant chatter.

Comments received from some members of the audience: “that music took me back to my childhood with my Scottish parents” and “when is the next Ceilidh for more good Scottish entertainment?” The answer to that question is March 18, 2012, so mark your calendar and buy your tickets early—as this event was sold out in advance!

(Continued from page 6)

In battles seven centuries ago, human aspects were much more important to success than today because much of the fighting was face to face and human spirit and resolve in fighters and strong image of leaders on the field were very important for victory.

Picture early on the mid summer evening before the battle, two sides drawing up their forces to face each other across open ground. The English army arranging itself, hot and hungry, after a long, hard march, the King discussing with a few his lords, some already in armor ready for the battle and others not. Across the field, the Scots, grouped by Clans and sharpening their claymores as their lairds discussed strategy while their King,

Robert the Bruce, on a pony, without armor and carrying only a short battle axe, was examining the contours and surface of the open battlefield, just as a modern football manager might inspect a pitch before a major game.

The English King was alerted to Bruce being alone and unarmored on the field by a Knight who added that due to the rules of chivalry in a tournament one could not attack an unarmored man. King Edward, seeing an opportunity to cast a serious emotional blow to the Scots before the battle, concurred but added "In battle day nice tourney rules are set aside" and directed De Boune to attack. Many men saw De Boune charging across the open field with his long battle lance aimed at Bruce and even knowing the effect of this exchange, all stood rooted and powerless and watched.

Bruce noticed the charging English war lord and prepared as best he could by aligning his pony to that of the charging English lord, grasped his small battle axe and waited, poised and ready. At the crucial moment when the English lord began to thrust his lance, Bruce suddenly leaned aside causing the lance to miss him, rose in his stirrups and swung his battleaxe as the English lord was passing and split wide open the lord's head "like a hazel nut"! Clansmen rushed to Bruce, a mixture of praising his skillful moves and remonstrating that he should not have exposed himself, the Scottish leader to such a risk. Bruce merely said, my axe is broken and needs repairing for the battle tomorrow!

This crucial human incident, nay omen to the simple soldiers before the battle, sent waves of emotion through both armies, despondency through the English and great senses of victory for the morrow, through the Scots. If The Bruce could do that with only a wee battle axe on a pony in open combat against a fully armored knight, then we can and will fight with all our hearts, souls and skills to gain victory tomorrow.

Some years after Bannockburn, John Barbour, from talking with men who had fought in that famous battle, wrote his historical poem "The Brus". Five centuries on, the researcher and writer Sir Walter Scott studied Barbour's writings and in words and grammar of his day wrote his piece on this incident as part of one of his massive, poetic tales from Scottish history and culture. In it Scott captures the human elements, strategic political plays, the urgency and emotions of this knightly, man to man duel and the effect of its outcome on the fighters on the field of Bannockburn which in turn affected the battle which changed the lives of every Scot from that date onwards.

So human actions can have crucial effects in moving history one way or another.

- Dr. George S. Birrell

Kimsey-Barrett Wedding

Saturday, October 8 dawned a sunny, beautiful fall day as Megan Kimsey and Justin Barrett exchanged wedding vows at Resurrection Lutheran Church with reception following at the Kimsey's church, Cary Alliance Church in Apex. Megan is well known to SCOT members for her years of highland dancing and teaching as well as daughter of SCOT members Nancy and Ray Kimsey. After a honeymoon in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Megan began work as a Physical Therapist at Sports and More Physical Therapy in Raleigh.





President's Corner

Dear Members, by the time this newsletter is in your hands we will be into the New Year, and I trust that everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year, ready to enjoy 2012. I am enthusiastic about the year ahead and trust that SCOT will have great participation from all our members at the events this year. Once more I will encourage you to let us know what we can do to make your experience in SCOT all that you want it to be. We are unable to read your minds, so please keep us informed of ways that we can help. Of course, I want each of you to encourage young people to get involved in SCOT, as they are our future.

God Bless and have a great year!

Sincerely,
Donald Ross

welake87@gmail.com
919-934-1915

Beer Here!

There have been several recent articles in local papers recently about craft beers in the NC and the Triangle in particular. One award winning brewery is the Aviator Brewery in Fuquay-Varina. We had a beer tasting party several years ago as a fall activity and The Board is looking at something similar again. Now with a Scotsman (well, he's not from Scotland but is Scottish and a pipe band member-close enough!) as a brewer at Aviator – we are actively pursuing an outing there. We hope to have a tour, tasting of individual beers or flights of beer and have asked for a short talk about meads, ciders and the like. There may be a small fee involved and of course the cost of the beer. More later as we finalize our plans!

SCOT

215 SE Maynard Road
Cary, NC 27511
www.scot.us

The Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle (S.C.O.T.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing and educating the public about the history, culture, and heritage of Scotland and the Scottish people.

Board of Directors:

George Birrell
Carolyn Graf
D'Nise Hefner
Patricia Johnston
Cheryl Jones

Ginny Kent
Judith Lloyd
Donald Ross
John Sprague

Tastes of Scotland



Tattie Scones

These were made at the SCOT Fall Festival and the bakers couldn't keep up with the tasters. It is interesting that many recipes occur in different cultures under different names: potato pancakes, latke, etc. Most cultures have a pancake fried on a flat griddle. Since there were only a few basic ways to cook things over a fire this makes sense. In Scotland, Tattie Scones would be served for tea or supper. The leftovers would be reheated in butter or bacon fat for breakfast.

Ingredients:

1 pound potatoes (russet or whatever you like best for mashed potatoes)
Pinch of salt
4-5 ounces plain flour
6 tablespoons butter, melted

Peel the potatoes and cut into small pieces. Boil until soft. Mash the potatoes and add the butter. Mix in enough flour to make a stiff dough. Shape into thin pancakes. Melt a little butter on a hot griddle or frying pan. Cook the scones until brown, turning once. Serve with more butter and perhaps some jam!

Traditional recipes are meant to be adapted to your own taste. A SCOT member made these using sweet potatoes, and her family loved them.

- Carolyn McDonald Graf



Maureen Pettigrew cooks up a batch of tattie scones for an enthusiastic audience. (See page 3 for more about the Fall Gathering.)

Poem and Commentary

“Before Bannockburn”

(excerpt from “Lord of the Isles”

By Sir Walter Scott

“Knowest thou...De Argentine,
Yon knight who marshals thus their line?”
“The tokens on his helmet tell
The Bruce, my Liege: I know him well.
Were he but horsed on steed like mine,
To give him fair and knightly chance,
I would adventure forth my lance,”
“In battle day” the King replied,
“Nice tourney rules are set aside”...
And at King Edward’s signal, soon
Dash’d from the ranks Sir Henry Boune...
He spurr’d his steed, he couche’d his lance,
And darted on the Bruce at once...
The heart had hardly time to think,
The eyelid scarce had time to wink,
While on the King, like flash of flame,
Spurr’d to full speed the war-horse came!
But swerving from the Knight’s career,
Just as they met, Bruce shunn’d the spear.
Onward the baffled warrior bore
One pitying glance the Monarch sped
His course—but soon his course was o’er!

High in his stirrups stood the King,
And gave his battle axe the swing.
Right on De Boune, the whiles he pass’d,
Fell that stern dint, the first, the last!
There round their King the leaders crowd,
The helmet crash’d like hazel-nut;
The axe shaft with its broken clasp,
Was shiver’d to the gauntlet grasp...
His broken weapon’s shaft survey’d...
First on that fatal field, how soon,
How sudden fell the fierce De Boune!
One pitying glance the Monarch sped
Where on the field his foe lay dead;
Then gently turn’d palfrey’s head,
And, pacing back his sober way,
Slowly he gained his own array.
There round their King the leaders crowd,
And blame his recklessness aloud,
That risk’d...a life so valued and so dear.
His broken weapon’s shaft survey’d...
The King...a careless answer made,
“I’ve broke my trusty battle axe.”

Many people know that the Scots defeated the English at Bannockburn on mid-summer day 1314 to begin the creation of Independence for Scotland. However, a crucial human event prior to that battle helped move emotions of fighters towards a Scottish victory.

(Continued on page 4)

We welcome your contributions to this quarterly newsletter! Please forward news of any achievements, births, marriages, or graduations to Amy Mooney (danceramy@aol.com) to be included. If you have an article, story, artwork, or bit of Scottish lore to share, please submit it to Jane Dunbar (thedunbars@mindspring.com).

S.C.O.T.

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle
215 SE Maynard Road
Cary, NC 27511