

Great SCOT!

Look what's
going on...

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

March 2012

Pipers, Dancers, and More at Cary Indoor

Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary will once again be the venue for SCOT's **Cary Indoor Competition** on Saturday, March 24. The Highland Dance Competition starts at 9 a.m. with pre-premier dancers in the morning and premier dancers and choreography sessions in the afternoon. This highly-anticipated competition draws dancers from all over the U.S. and Canada. Our area highland dancers will be there in force all day long. Come and see what Highland dancing is all about and join our SCOT community to cheer our dancers on!

Around 30 pipers from across the region will be competing at the Cary Indoor Solo Piping Competition, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Cary Indoor is popular amongst solo competitors because it provides an opportunity to get a jump start on the competition season; it is indoors where adverse weather is not a detractor; and it has a reputation as a well-organized event where competitors can relax and play their best. Spectators are welcome to sit in on any of the piping events to hear the marches, reels and Piobaireachds. Perhaps we should give out a prize if you can correctly pronounce this!

To help raise money for this event, we have a silent auction running all day in the hall where the dancing takes place. We'd love to have you come by and buy a few tickets for something that tickles your fancy and help us fund the competition.

All in all, we hope you can stop by and enjoy Scottish dance and piping close to home. Directions, ticket information are on the SCOT.US website. Hope to see you there!



Music from British Isles

Come enjoy traditional Celtic music from Scotland and Ireland at the annual *Music from the British Isles* concert on Wednesday, March 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Stewart Theatre on the NCSU campus.

The Grade III and Grade IV bands of the NCSU Pipes and Drums will play their repertoires of Scottish marches, dance tunes and novelty tunes. Since 1968, there has been a strong educational component to the band, with beginning bagpipe lessons offered each semester as well as multiple groupings within the band to allow each player to play at his or her maximum potential. The concert will feature musical presentations by a wide range of talented pipers and drummers.

Music from Ireland will be provided by the Irish Session, a weekly gathering of musicians who play traditional Irish music and occasionally sing Irish songs. Joining them will be some Irish dancers. The session has been running since January 2005 and is open to all NC State students, faculty, and staff, as well as local community members who are interested in playing traditional Irish music. Typical session instruments include the fiddle, flute, tin whistle, concertina, accordion, guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, and bodhran. The repertoire includes reels, hornpipes, jigs, slip jigs, polkas, and airs. As in Ireland, session members learn and play tunes orally, although members are free to bring recording devices to the session and notation is available in tune books and on the internet.

Tickets, available at the Theatre box office, are \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information, call John Sprague at 919-828-1269.

Scholarship Established

A Pipes and Drums Scholarship has been established at NCSU for experienced pipers or drummers who enroll at NC State and who want to play in the NCSU Pipes and Drums. The application deadline for the 2012 Fall Semester has been extended.

Please help spread the word! Information on applying for the scholarship may be found at www.ncsu.edu/music/scholarships.

SCOT Calendar of Events

- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Raleigh.
- Mar. 18 Scottish Ceilidh Concert, Page-Walker Arts & History Center, Cary.
- Mar. 24 Cary Indoor Competition, Highland Dance & Piping, Resurrection Lutheran School, Cary.
- Mar. 28 Music of the British Isles, NCSU's Stewart Theater, Raleigh.
- Apr. 6 Tartan Day, events TBD.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

On Saturday March 17, Raleigh will again celebrate the Wearin' O' the Green with its Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The SCOT float, with its imposing standing stones, will be part of the festivities. Come out and cheer us on. Then stick around Moore Square for demonstrations of Scottish Highland Dancing. If you would like to wear your Scottish regalia and ride on the float (as Craig Hill demonstrates in the photo below), contact Carolyn Graf at cmcdgraf@aol.com.



Wake and District

Winter is a time of building up, trying new things, and practicing again and again! Wake and District Pipe Band also fits in some fun to lighten the dark months of winter.

In January, the band played for the Raleigh firemen who were promoted on January 26, in a ceremony held in City Council Chambers. They also played at Tir Na Nog for Robert Burns night and raised money to fund the band.

In February, instructors Andrew Hoinacki and Ken McKeveny came to town to give band members an excellent workshop over the weekend of February 9-11.

And looking ahead to March, band members are gearing up for St. Patrick's Day. Our journey begins on Friday, March 16, as members travel to South Carolina and play a few tunes at Tilted Kilt and Flynn's Irish Tavern. The next morning, March 17, we march in the 24th Annual North Myrtle Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade. Once the parade has concluded, we travel home to Raleigh to play at a few local pubs including The Piper's Tavern, and then end the day's celebrations by taking to the street in front of Tir Na Nog. Get ready to get your shenanigans on!

Auction Items Needed

The Cary Indoor Competition has become one of the premier indoor competitions for Highland dancers and pipers. It is one of SCOT's signature events. It also costs money to host, far more than registration fees bring in. Being the thrifty Scots we are, with the exception of the judges, all the staff are volunteers. Resurrection Lutheran Church is a lovely and inexpensive venue, yet there are still expenses that need to be covered.

For the last 2 years, there has been a silent auction of donated items, baskets, restaurant gift cards, hotel stays, and more that covers much of the expense. We still need items for the auction or cash donations to help pay for this year's competition. If you can donate a product, service, gift card, or anything else that seems appropriate, we would be grateful for your assistance. Please contact Carol Muth at swollocks@mindspring.com if you can help.



Highland Dance Recap

With the dancers taking the stage at regional competitions in the late Fall 2011 and Winter 2012, several here and around the nation, I thought I'd take a moment to let you know how some of them did. This is by no means a complete list:

Williamsburg: Sally Johnson won the Premier trophy for her age group; Waverly Noble got Most Promising Hornpipe and three thirds; Kelly Kent, Skyler Hinkel, Lauren Wall, and Maddy Spencer placed well in their age groups, as did several other Triangle Highland dancers. Kelly Kent won enough money to treat her mother to dinner on the way home when several cars of dancers stopped at an Italian restaurant off I-95.



Richmond: Saturday was so cold that the dancers were moved inside, but pipe bands competed in a huge culvert under the road to stay out of the rain and sleet. Josh Wall danced in the Novice under 15 group in the morning. Lauren Wall won the trophy for the Premier under 13, with Ingrid Findlay and Rachel Wall also placing. Elizabeth Chatelain and Elaine Hinkel placed in the Premier over 13 and under 15 group. A large group took to the stage in Premier over 15 and under 18, and Madeline Hren placed in 3 dances. In the Premier 18 and way over, Kelly Kent placed in all 4 dances. The Sunday competitions also saw our dancers place in many age groups.

Orlando: A blustery cold Saturday found four of our dancers, Skyler and Elaine Hinkel, Kelly Kent, and Susan Tapp, bundled up but competing well. Sunday was bright and the Florida warmth had all four of our dancers finishing well.

There was a wonderful, intensive Highland dance workshop over the first weekend of February with Ellen Mahoney coming to town to prepare dancers for the spring competitions. Highland dance will be well-represented in Raleigh's St. Patrick's Day parade, Cary Indoor, and Loch Norman Highland Games.

- Ginny Kent

Burns Supper Success



What a great night it was for our eleventh year! We enjoyed a crowd of 115 people, which included many SCOT members, not only performing, but also in attendance. Even though our total numbers were down a little, many people thought that this was our

best Burns Night ever. I feel confident in saying that nowhere in the world is there any better tribute to Rabbie with such a warm social atmosphere.

I have to say a huge thank you to all of our dancers, singers, speakers, and, of course, The Port City Pipes and Drums, who have become such a huge hit with our attendees over the past few years. I rely so heavily on our performers each year to help make the evening a success, and every time you come through with flying colors.

For those of you who were unable to be there, be sure to mark your calendars for next year. When word gets out about this year's event, we will probably have a full house on Jan. 26 of 2013.

To all of the SCOT members that do support this event each year, my sister Iris and the staff of the Country Squire thank you so very much and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

As I reflect on the event, all the stress involved in planning disappears in knowing that we had a great evening, and in looking forward to next year. I hope to see many of you at the various SCOT events before then.

- Donald Ross

Noteworthy

The commentary on "Auld Lang Syne" by Robert Burns, by Dr. George S. Birrell, along with the original poem from 1796, first published in the SCOT Newsletter of January 2011 has been reprinted as a two page spread in the January/February 2012 issue of "The Highlander" magazine, which is available at various booksellers across the United States.

Ceud Mile Sailte!

One hundred thousand welcomes to our new members:

Ray Buchanan and Joanna Tierney—Raleigh

We are delighted you have joined SCOT and look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming SCOT events. We hope all of you will remember to invite friends and acquaintances to join SCOT. Share the website address for friends to peruse and (hopefully) fill out a membership application. All of our activities, history, newsletter, and more are on our new and beautiful website, plus you can use PAYPAL to buy tickets for events and join online (and renew!).

We encourage all of our current members to continue to support the Scottish arts and culture by renewing their annual memberships. And we welcome contributions from Life members. All funds received from memberships are used to support programs and scholarships and qualify for a tax deduction. Please consult your tax professional to determine deductibility in your own situation.

We remind you that 2012 memberships are due by March 31. We encourage you to get those membership dues in so your name is not dropped from our rolls. We don't want you to miss any of the great SCOT events coming up!

In Memoriam



We are sad to report the passing of SCOT member Nellie McNeill Sanders on February 13, 2012. Nellie was well known to the SCOT community for her love of golf as demonstrated by her play in the Mark Johnston SCOT Golf Classic, her enthusiasm for all new ventures, and the beautiful flowers she and her daughter Vickie Corporon provided for the SCOT Tea. Well into her 80s, Nellie attended a Scottish Step Dancing

Workshop and kept up with all the other dancers. Nellie had been Editor of the Clan McNeill magazine, *The Galley*, for 21 years. She and her daughter produced this very impressive clan news magazine, which was the envy of other Scottish clans. Our sympathies go out to all of Nellie's family.

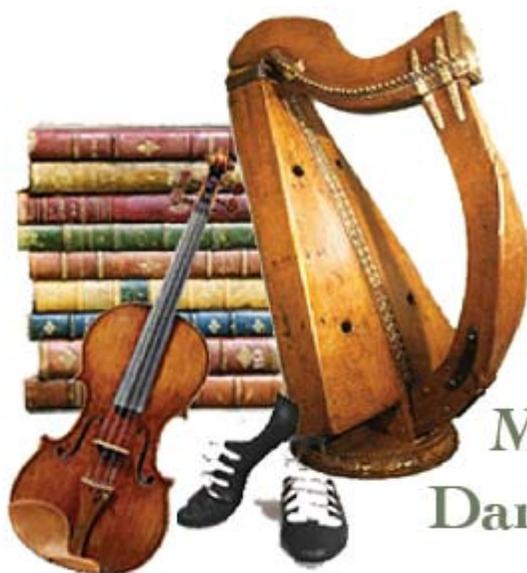
Bonnie Babes

Mark Braswell Mooney was born January 19, 2012. Parents Chuck and Amy Mooney, big brother Bryant, and grandma Pat Johnston all enjoy watching him sleep.



Tara Margaret Johnston was born October 2, 2011, weighing 7 lbs 9 oz. Her proud parents are Alan and Kristen Johnston.





*Scottish fiddle and bagpipe
music, traditional dance,
songs and stories,
Celtic harps....
a great way to celebrate
North Carolina's
cultural roots!*

Music, Song & Dance from Scotland

It's a ceilidh concert at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center!
Enjoy an afternoon filled with Scottish music, dance, songs and
poetry. Stay for tea and shortbread, talk to the musicians, dancers,
and native Scots...and learn more about Scotland!

When: Sunday, March 18, 2012
4-6 p.m.

Where: Page-Walker Arts & History Center
119 Ambassador Loop, Cary, NC
Information: (919) 460-4963

Fee: \$15 Tickets are available at www.etix.com, the eTix Phone Center at 1(800) 514-3849,
or in person at the Cary Arts Center Box Office, Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
and Sat. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 101 Dry Avenue in Cary. If available, tickets may be
purchased at the door.



So...what's a ceilidh?

It's an informal concert or party. It's for fun!

How do you pronounce "ceilidh"?

Just say "kay-lee" and every Scot in the world will know what you're talking about.

Supported in part by SCOT (Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle)

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Commentary, cont.

(Continued from page 8)

A somewhat similar suggestion posed to a girl today may be more of asking her to wait for the return of the boy from war, whole or wounded or at all. However, in the history of Scottish armies and soldiers the reality was as implied in this poem. Then, it was normal for an army to be accompanied by “camp followers” of wives and bairns, servants and girlfriends. Indeed, at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, the eager approach of the Scottish camp followers to the battlefield, too early due to thinking the battle had been won by the Scots and wishing to begin scavenging for booty, caused some parts of what remained of the English army to scatter as they feared Scottish reinforcements and increased the ease for them to be cut to pieces and routed by the Scottish swordsmen.

Even allowing that this young couple have known each other for a while, the young man greatly underestimates the common sense of young Scottish women when faced with such an offer. However, a young girl’s life may be so unfulfilled at home, in the fields or kitchen, that an offer to leave, even of long odds, may be considered and even accepted. Indeed, some of the implications of the poem remind the writer of when at the University of Illinois we gave shelter to a young couple with no place to stay, who had joined together in Hungary during its uprising against Communism with only a hope of freedom to walk for days along scores of miles of railway tracks to escape from oppression.

From this lassie’s response to his suggestions, there is no doubt that war is something of which she will not partake. Also, she knows the “sodger laddie” has little money for their upkeep and clearly she has received similar “talking to” from friends and family. Offering the lassie “a part o’ my bed wherever it be” and “come try my knapsack on your back” is offering only a harsh, gypsy future in return for sweet words such as “my honey, my life, my dearest.” The pragmatics of a future life are of more concern to Scottish women, young and older, than most Scottish young men and some older men can realize.

How wonderful it is that Burns can create the potential network of thinkings, conflicting and confluencing, present and future, in the minds of these young folks and transfer them to the minds of the readers through the few words of this short, sharp, succinct conversation.

Of course, thinking about the poem after a couple of readings, maybe this situation was just a young farming lad “trying his luck” with a good looking lassie, or even a lady!

- Dr. George S. Birrell

Tartan Day

Six years after the Battle of Bannockburn, Robert the Bruce commissioned the abbot of the Abbey of Arbroath to write a petition to the Pope to intercede with England and recognize Scotland as a sovereign country. The Declaration was signed by 100 nobles on April 6, 1320. (It is of significance that it was not signed by Robert the Bruce, probably since he was exiled from the church at that time.) Eight years after it was sent to the Pope, the treaty of Northampton was signed by Edward III, finally acknowledging Scotland as an independent country and Robert the Bruce as its king (though he has always been referred to as King of Scots, not King of Scotland).

The Declaration was the first of its kind, marking a separation of one country from the rule of another. It was one of several documents used by Thomas Jefferson in his creation of the U.S. Declaration of Independence centuries later.

One of the more famous quotes from the Declaration is the ending line, “for so long as a hundred of us are left alive, we will yield in no way to foreign dominion. We fight not for glory nor for wealth nor honours; but only and alone we fight for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life.”

Canada was one of the first nations to choose April 6 as Tartan Day, to give people of Scottish Heritage a special day to celebrate that heritage. The U.S. Senate set April 6 as Tartan Day in 1998 with Resolution 155 sponsored by Trent Lott. On March 10, 2005 in the House of Representative, Resolution 41, co-sponsored by NC Representative Mike McIntyre, reiterated the date of April 6 as Tartan Day. President G. W. Bush signed a proclamation declaring April 6 as Tartan Day in early April of 2008.

Celebration of Tartan Day in the Triangle area is still in the planning stages. Check SCOT's website www.scot.us as the day draws near for specific details on where, what, and when.

- Judi Lloyd



Tastes of Scotland



Regional Recipes

There are many Scottish Cook books and many about Scottish food history. Catherine Brown is one of the most thorough Scottish food historians I have found. Her Scottish Regional Recipes is a wonderful way to learn about Scotland, visiting each region in depth. What makes this book so satisfying is the commentary that accompanies each region and even each recipe. By including the historical, cultural, and topographical influences, the author gives a clear picture of Scotland, region by region.

For instance, although Orkney and Shetland are considered in the same region, they are very different due to the landscape. The Orkneys, with rolling hills and fertile land, is a farming community which also fishes. Shetland has acid soils, cool summers, and frequent salt laden gales and has a fishing community that farms some.

Sassarmaet and Brönies (Shetland)

Preserving meats was a necessity before modern refrigeration. Sassarmaet is a kind of minced beef that is salted, spiced and preserved in a cool place. In the original recipe is it mixed with fresh minced beef, breadcrumbs, and onions. Then it is made into cakes and fried. These are called Brönies. This adapted recipe combines those steps.

- 1 lb. minced beef (hamburger)
- ½ cup bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 small onion finely chopped
- 1 level tsp. salt
- A pinch of each: freshly ground black pepper, white pepper, ground cloves, and cinnamon

Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl. Divide the mixture into four patties and dust with flour. Fry them over medium heat in oil or butter.

Orcadian Oatmeal Soup (Orkney)

- 2 Tbs butter
- 2 medium carrots, grated
- 1 leek chopped
- 1 ½ cups turnip or cabbage finely chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup fine oatmeal
- 2 ½ cups stock
- 2 cups of milk

Melt the butter in a large pot. Add all the vegetables. Cook for 5 minutes stirring occasionally. Stir in the oatmeal and cook for 5 minutes. Add the stock, salt, and pepper. Simmer for about 15 minutes. Puree the soup in a



President's Corner

Dear Members, by the time this Newsletter is in your hands, we will be into March and looking forward to Spring and all the warm events that will go along with the good weather, not that we could complain about this past winter.

I am enthusiastic about the events that are planned, and I trust they will all be well supported. Remember if you are not supporting our events and not giving us feed back then we will not be able to make the necessary changes needed to gain maximum participation.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the board and those working behind the scenes, such as our webmaster, newsletter editor, e-mail coordinator, and so many others who help to keep SCOT going.

God Bless & Take Care, welake87@gmail.com
Donald Ross 919-934-1915

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

SCOT

215 SE Maynard Road
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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	Ginny Kent
Carolyn Graf	Judith Lloyd
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blender, food processor or with an immersion blender. Add the milk, heat through, check seasonings and serve.

The reader may wonder, since this region has such a strong fishing history, why a fish recipe is not included. The historical fish recipes often include parts of fish (such as the head) that modern cooks shun. Other recipes simply fry or boil the fish. The recipes included here were chosen for their interest and with the hope that readers might try them. As always, we are interested in your comments and your recipes!

Scottish Regional Recipes, Catherine Brown, W&R Chambers Ltd. Edinburgh, 1981.

Poem and Commentary

“As Late By A Sodger I Chanced To Pass”

By Robert Burns

As late by a sodger¹ I chanced to pass,
I heard him a courtin' a bonnie young lass,
“My hinnie², my life, my dearest” quo he,
“I’ll mak³ you fain⁴ to follow me.”

“Gin⁵ I should follow you a poor sodger lad
Ilk⁶ ane⁷ o’⁸ my cummers⁹ wad¹⁰ think I was mad.
For battles I never shall lang¹¹ to see,
I’ll never be fain to follow thee.”

“To follow me I think you may be glad,
A part o’ my supper, a part o’ my bed,
A part o’ my bed wherever it be,
I’ll mak you fain to follow me.

Come try my knapsack on your back,
Alang¹² the king’s highgate¹³ we’ll pack¹⁴,
Between St Johnston¹⁵ and bonnie Dundee,
I’ll mak you be fain to follow me.”

¹soldier, ²honey, ³make, ⁴wish, ⁵given, ⁶each, ⁷one, ⁸of, ⁹friends,
¹⁰would, ¹¹long, ¹²along, ¹³highway, ¹⁴travel/contract, ¹⁵Perth

All of what is in this poem may feel unique to each young couple, but it has been so for millions of couples in all societies around the world for centuries.

Robert Burns presents an overheard conversation between a young laddie and a young lassie contemplating their uncertain futures. The young laddie is about to go to an uncertain future in war and the young lassie, even with uncertain feelings about her future, is sure she does not wish to accompany him to war, or so she says. She seems to have less deep feelings for him and more common sense than his hopes and persuasive capacity wishes.

The poem gives us two young people conversing “between St Johnston and bonnie Dundee,” which means the Carse of Gowrie, that fruitful land between Perth, the ancient capital of Scotland built around St. Johns Kirk, Dundee, at the mouth of the river Tay and along the southern slopes of the Sidaw Hills. Where in the Carse did they converse? Was it at a “farm road end” in the flat, fertile fields around Errol, was it by the stables of Kinfauns Castle below the cliffs of Kinnoull Hill, was it on a twisty tree shaded road climbing above Glencarse towards Scone and its palace, was it beside a Tay salmon fisher’s bothy, was it along an open hill road above Kilspindie on the way over to the castle of Macbeth? So with a simple phrase Burns stimulates us to search and contemplate different aspects of the natural beauty, the peoples and history of Scotland.

(Continued on page 6)

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.

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