



SCOT Newsletter

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

November 2004

Alasdair Fraser With Rhythms of Scotland

Our first Rhythms of Scotland show in March 2003, was a marked success. A sold out audience at Fletcher Opera Theater enjoyed a unique evening that showcased our many talents. We are back again with what will be an even more exciting event. Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas will join us as marquee performers for our new rendition of Rhythms. Mark your calendars and buy your tickets for what we know will be an evening of great fun.

Alasdair Fraser is a world renowned Scottish fiddler. Here is what others have said: "... *the expressive gamut from deep Celtic melancholy to joyful jig, his fiddle imitations of the bagpipe almost unbelievable, the whole rendered with a humble sincerity, flawless virtuosity and just about the sweetest sound since Fritz Kreisler.*" —*L.A. Times*

"*Alasdair Fraser is recognized throughout the world as one of the finest fiddle players Scotland has ever produced. [His] name is synonymous with the vibrant cultural renaissance which is transforming the Scottish musical scene.*" —*SCOTS Magazine*

Joining Alasdair will be cellist Natalie Haas. Their new album "Fire and Grace" has been nominated for Celtic Album of the year by the BBC's Scottish Traditional Music Award Committee. Alasdair and Natalie will play with the whole exciting cast of Rhythms. Performers will include the Jo Kalat Scottish Highland Dancers and their award winning choreography, vocalist Jennifer Licko,

N.C. State Pipes and Drums, Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers, piper David Coulter, and narrator Mick McKenna.

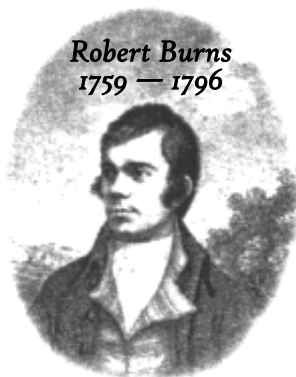
Duke University's performing artist series "Living Traditions" is co-sponsoring the show along with SCOT. We will play for one night only: **Friday, March 11, 2005** in Page Theatre on the Duke University Campus. Tickets purchased through Duke are \$20/\$25 (www.tickets.duke.edu). We have, however, reserved 300 of the best seats for current SCOT members at a reduced price of \$15/\$20.

To get the best seats and to ensure seeing this wonderful show, purchase your tickets now by calling or emailing Eugene Oddone. Your tickets must be reserved before February 1, 2005. Phone: 919-401-4403; Email: gene.oddone@duke.edu



Burns Night Dinner: January 29, 2005

With all the holiday goodies starting to appear in the stores, Christmas is right around the corner, and that means January is right behind it. It is not too early to think about our upcoming 4th Annual Burns Supper!



This year SCOT is definitely sponsoring a bus to take us to The Country Squire Inn in Kenansville, to save the hassle of driving and the worry of having a wee Dram and getting back on the road. For those who have never been to a real Scottish Burns Supper, you have a treat in store with true Scottish hospitality and good entertainment. I know that all who have been before are looking forward to another great evening.

The cost will be approximately \$50.00 for SCOT members and \$60.00 for non-SCOT members. This will include bus transportation, dinner and a champagne toast. If you're interested in attending or you need more information, please contact me by email (nondo@dockpoint.net) or by phone (work: 919-934-1915 or home: 919-841-5668).

- Donald Ross



SPONSORED EVENTS 2005

- Jan. 29 **Burns Night Dinner** will be held at the Country Squire Inn in Kenansville, a wonderful dinner holding to the true traditions of Burns Night. Contact Donald Ross (nondo@dockpoint.net) for bus and dinner reservations.
- Feb. **Whiskey Tasting and Book Night.** More details to follow.
- Mar. 11 **Rhythms of Scotland.** Renowned Scottish Fiddler **Alasdair Fraser** will perform with Rhythms of Scotland to be held in Duke's Page Auditorium. Co-sponsored by Duke University's International Artist Series "Living Traditions," it highlights Alasdair and Natalie Haas (cellist), and includes narrator Mick McKenna, performances by Jennifer Licko, choreography by Highland and Scottish country dancers, and the NC State Pipes and Drums. Volunteers are needed to usher and sell merchandise. Discounted tickets are available to SCOT members by contacting Eugene Oddone (gene.oddone@duke.edu or 919-401-4403).
- Mar. 26-27 **Tartan Day** will be celebrated on two weekends during the Renaissance Faire on the NC State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. SCOT will sponsor a booth as well as a variety of performances over the four days. Contact Judi Lloyd for more information (jlloyd@a4healthsystems.com).
- Apr. 2-3
- April 2 **Cary Indoor Highland Dance Competition and Scottish Fiddle Workshop** will be held at Cary Academy. Over 100 dancers from four states competed in last year's event. An appreciative audience watched some of the most committed dancers compete in a spirit of good fun. An added feature of this year's event will be a Scottish Fiddle workshop and demonstration. Contact Pat Johnston (dancing, patriciatj@aol.com) or Ian Dunbar (fiddling, thedunbars@mindspring.com) to register.
- May **Ceilidh.** The 2004 inaugural SCOT Ceilidh was a resounding success—with great food & drink, dance, song, and skits. More details to follow on this year's event.
- June **SCOT Golf Classic.** Be thinking about the possibility of adding a picnic or pig-picking for all members after the tournament.
- July **Afternoon Tea** at the SCOT booth at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
- August **Annual General Meeting.**
- Sept. **Cary Celtic Festival.** SCOT will sponsor a booth and children's activities.

2004 AGM Wrap-Up

On August 29, almost 60 SCOT members and guests packed the party room at Tir na Nog Pub, a surprising change in venue after fire significantly damaged Green-shields Tavern the week before the 2004 SCOT AGM. AGM organizers hurried to handle last minute details and adjustments as concerned inquiries from members poured in. Adaptability was the name of the game as SCOT members took advantage of the cozy accommodations to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances—definite bonding took place as table “teams” struggled to complete the 3rd Annual Pub Quiz with questions like “How many islands make up the Orkney Isle?” Clan Johnston triumphed again!

Gene Oddone presided over the business portion of the AGM as SCOT members voted in the upcoming year's slate of board members. SCOT welcomed Cheryl Jones, Judi Lloyd, and Chuck Mooney on-board, as we said goodbye and “thank you” to retiring board members Brian Youngman and Frank King.

Chuck McDougal entertained us all with a terrific “year in review” of images and music from the various SCOT events throughout the year—how far we've come, and so many more ideas in the works! If you didn't see a particular group or event represented in the show, be sure to take pictures this year and send them in for next year's recap.

Door prizes—single malt donated by Don Ross, an embroidered ghillie bag donated by Barbara Youngman, and a TNN brunch for two donated by TNN Pub—went home with happy AGM attendees. To join the fun, be on the lookout for next year's AGM date in a future edition of the newsletter!

- D'Nise Hefner



Pondering the Pub Quiz



Greeters:
Kristen Hefner,
Carolyn Graf &
D'Nise Hefner

Pipes & Drums Add Festive Touch

The NCSU Pipes and Drums is one of the featured instrumental groups in the NCSU Music Department's Holiday Concert on Friday, **December 3** at 7 pm in Stewart Theater. They will present a medley of Christmas tunes in addition to other favorite numbers. Their next opportunity to spread holiday cheer will be on **December 9** as they take part in the Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting downtown. On **December 15**, the band will provide the music for the NCSU Fall Commencement in the RBC Center. And the last performance of the year will be on **December 31** as the band once again leads Trigon the Dragon and the People's Procession through downtown Raleigh during Raleigh First Night 2005.

On Saturday, **January 29**, at 7 pm the Pipes and Drums will give a concert of bagpipe music at Stewart Theater. The pipe band has two performing groups and on this evening both groups will play their repertoires. In addition, solo pipers and drummers will demonstrate their skills. Here is an excellent chance to hear a variety of pipe music performed by one of the top bands in the South.

- Emily Sprague

♪♪ Calling all fiddlers! ♪♪

Join us on Saturday, April 2, at Cary Academy for a Scottish fiddling workshop starting at 10:45 a.m. followed by a performance & demonstration at noon.

Books & Tartans Needed

The SCOT booth is tucked away in its winter home after a busy summer and fall. Although it is out of sight, it is not out of mind.

The first thing that attracts potential members to our booth is visual. We have made great strides with our faux stones and bright sign but we could still use more tartan fabric. Since we don't have a clan tartan, we have used a variety of tartans to emphasize our Scottish-ness. If you have a small piece of tartan that you would donate, we can put it to good use.

The next thing that attracts potential members is our information. Again we have made progress with a number of books but we could use more. Anything Scottish from cookbooks, to travel books, to pattern books would be useful. Our main mission is to promote Scottish culture, so if you have any books you would like to donate, please give them to any board member.

Look for your SCOT booth at upcoming games and festivals!

- Carolyn Graf

❧ Traditional Scottish Recipes ❧

Neeps & Tatties

This is another of those simple recipes that seems to have grown up from everywhere at once, but it afforded the writer some interesting searches so here it is. I began with Neeps and Tatties, which is a vegetable dish often served with haggis at Burns Night Dinners. It wasn't in several of my Scottish cookbooks, but Clapshot was and seemed to be the same thing, so I went to the internet to discover the difference.

My conclusion is that there really isn't any difference. Both call for yellow turnips or Swedes, which you can find as rutabaga. It's a large round turnip almost the size of a coconut. It has a sweeter flavor than our regular turnips. Both recipes call for potatoes, salt, butter, and milk. Clapshot, which is said to have originated in the Orkneys has chopped onions and/or chives added, but I also found Neeps and Tatties that called for chives. So for those coming cold winter evenings I offer my recipe, which you can call by either name and to which you may add additional onions and chives.

2 lbs. potatoes	butter	salt
1 ½ lbs. rutabaga	milk	pepper

Peel and cut vegetables into cubes. Cook separately in boiling water until tender. The rutabaga can take quite a while to cook. Drain thoroughly and mash together. Add a nice size blob of butter and enough milk to create a texture that pleases you. I like it quite stiff. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with cheese for a supper, or as a side for a roast dinner.

It is interesting to note that both Ireland and Wales have similar recipes but with different names.

- Carolyn Graf

SCOT

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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:

Crawford Crenshaw	Judi Lloyd
Carolyn Graf	Cheryl McDougal
D'Nise Hefner	Chuck Mooney
Patricia Johnston	Eugene Oddone
Cheryl Jones	Donald Ross
Leslie Kennedy	John Sprague

International Festival A Huge Success!

The Scots were well represented at the 19th annual Raleigh International Festival. In addition to the Cultural booth and the World Bazaar booth, sponsored by SCOT, five of the dancing performances featured either Scottish Highland or Country dancers, many of whom are SCOT members.

The Scottish Cultural booth and the World Bazaar booth, adjacent to each other, were excellently designed by our resident artists, Carolyn Graf and D'Nise Hefner to show the interior of a crofter's cottage and a small Scottish general store. Hundreds of visitors to the festival stopped at the Cultural booth to look up Scottish names and tartans and to make rubbings of knotwork, knights and princesses. At the World Bazaar booth, visitors examined t-shirts, books, jewelry and foods. Quite a few were happy to see Irn Bru. SCOT members Bruce Wright with *Carolina Celt* and Yance and Kathleen Covington with *Celtic Wonders* provided inventory along with *Hi Ho Silver*. In addition, D'Nise Hefner and Barbara Youngman had craft items for sale.

The Hefners, Grafs, Johnstons, Mooneys, Youngmans, and Jones were there most of the time. In all, SCOT had over 20 volunteers sign up to work both booths, which was wonderful support. It was a great help to have the volunteers in Scottish attire either at the booths or standing around outside the booths to talk to people, invite them into both booths. We were pleased to make a small profit after expenses.

The Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers performed beautifully in two shows, while adult Highland Dancers from the same group primarily showed the variety of Scottish dance, as well as the stamina involved by doing a Highland show. Kudos to those dancers, Dan Brubaker, Kate Hanser and Amy Mooney, who immediately went from the Highland show right into a Country Dance performance. Young adult dancers from Jo Moore Kalat's School of Scottish Dance provided another excellent section of Highland Dance while younger dancers from the school thrilled audiences with the fling and sword in the children's performance

Next year we encourage more of you to attend and be a part of the festival. What a great way to promote Scottish culture in the Triangle area and help support our activities and membership!

- Pat Johnston



Chuck & Amy Mooney greet visitors at the Cultural Booth.

We welcome your contributions to this quarterly newsletter! If you have an article, story, artwork, or bit of Scottish lore to share, please submit it to Jim Cobb (jls Cobb@yahoo.com) or Jane Dunbar (thedunbars@mindspring.com).

S.C.O.T.

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