

SCOT

Scottish Cultural Organization
of the Triangle

newsletter

January 2007

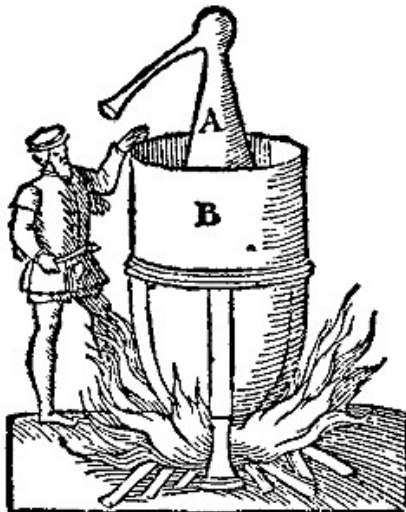
whisky tasting

SCOT's 3rd annual Whisky Tasting is planned for Saturday evening, **February 24**. This year's event will be bigger and better than in past years: we're going to convene at Greenshield's restaurant in Cary for a fun-filled evening of eating and tasting Scotch whisky. Craig Hill will lead the tasting, matching five different whiskies to a three-course meal offered by Greenshield's, and offering his knowledge about the origins of whisky, regional differences among whiskies, and an opportunity for you to participate and take your own "tasting notes."

Details are not yet finalized, but whiskyphiles should expect dinner plus whisky to cost about \$40 for SCOT members (and about \$50 for non-SCOT members). Beer and wine will be available from the cash bar for those who are so inclined. SCOT members who want only dinner (nae whisky) can attend for a slightly reduced price.

Last year's Whisky Tasting was a huge success: we sampled an Aberlour single-cask strength whisky; a Caol Ila 12-year old; Cragganmore 12; Scapa 10; and a single-cask offering named The Old Man of Hoy. As you might expect, the event generated a lot of laughter, and those in attendance might have even learned a little bit about whisky and how to appreciate its power and subtleties. This year, we'll have an assortment of whiskies that also covers a wide range of body, bouquet, and color. We hope to see you on the 24th of February, when it will almost certainly be good whisky-drinking weather!

- submitted by Craig Hill



BURNS supper



Robert Burns
1759 — 1796

Our 6th annual Burns Supper is just around the corner on Saturday, **January 27** and just down the road at The Country Squire in Kenansville, NC. Get out those 2007 calendars and mark them now — you don't want to miss this great event!

We will be running a bus from Cary as usual, leaving 1401 S.E. Maynard at 4:30 pm and returning by midnight. The only cost increase this year will be a little on the bus fare: \$23.00 for SCOT members and \$28.00 for non-members.

The Country Squire has agreed to keep the cost for dinner at \$35, the same as last year (it pays to have a little clout in that area). The menu will be the traditional plate of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, followed by a choice of Ribeye Steak, Spinach-Stuffed Chicken, or Broiled Flounder, and Dessert, along with tea or coffee, and a glass of house wine.

Once more, as a special token of appreciation from The Country Squire for their on-going support of this event, all SCOT members in attendance will be receiving a coupon for an extra complimentary glass of wine or beer. So remember to get booked early, and I will see that you get your coupons.

I look forward to seeing many of you on the 27th; in the mean time, I can be reached at nondo@dockpoint.net or 919-934-1915 if you have any questions.

- submitted by Donald Ross

what exactly is a scotch hop?

Come join us Saturday, **February 17**, for an evening of family fun at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary. Bring your families, friends, and anyone interested in learning easy and fun "ceilidh" dances. If you haven't done much dancing before, this is a great opportunity to try it out.

During a trip to Scotland this past summer, Bill, D'Nise, and Kristen Hefner attended an event called a Scotch Hop. They described a low-key, informal evening of Scottish social dancing for beginners and veterans alike. Disappointed that some of the rest of us missed the fun, we've decided to recreate that event a little closer to home. All dances will be explained and walked through, so participants can practice patterns at a slower pace before trying them with the music. Who knows, we may even see the elusive Steve Johnston dance!

This evening begins with a potluck dinner at 5:00, so bring a favorite dish to share, and SCOT will provide the paper products and drinks. There is no charge for SCOT members, and non-members will be \$5. Contact Amy Mooney for information: danceramy@aol.com.

Reserve your
All Natural Haggis
for Robert Burns' Day.
\$5.99 lb; one feeds 6-8 people

Join our Celebration
on January 25th!
We'll have haggis, kilts,
and bagpipes too!

**WHOLE
FOODS**
MARKET
Raleigh

3540 Wade Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27607
919-828-5805

www.wholefoodsmarket.com

st. patrick's day

SCOT will again sponsor a float in Raleigh's St. Patrick's Day Parade on **March 17**, 2007. All who wish to participate should plan to wear traditional Scottish garb, and should contact Carolyn Graf (919-846-1176) or Amy Mooney (919-552-3419) for more details.

This will be the second annual SCOT-sponsored float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2006, it was discovered that fun was had by all and the experiment was deemed successful enough to do it again. As was the case in 2006, the SCOT float will be directly in front of the Jo Moore Kalat Highland Dancers and will supply music both for the float, the highland dancers, and the enjoyment of the spectators.



it's ceilidh time!

Don't miss the 4th annual SCOT Ceilidh on March 17 from 7:00-9:30 pm at the Triangle Dance Studio at 2603 S. Miami Blvd. in Durham. Planned and impromptu ceilidh acts are in store, and wear your comfy shoes because ceilidh dancing is always a favorite activity. In the true spirit of a ceilidh, the entertainment is exactly what we provide—get your "party piece" ready! Questions? Contact ceilidh organizer D'Nise Hefner: dbhefner@aol.com or call 847-9909. Reservations are not needed, but I wouldn't mind an approximate headcount.

What to bring: An appetizer or dessert to share. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. Admission: SCOT members \$5, with kids 12 & under free, non-member guests \$8.

Directions: Take I-40 to the Miami Blvd exit #281. Head north on Miami Blvd for about 3 miles. Just after the Tire King, you'll pass Lumley Road. Triangle Dance Studio is the 1st house on your right (a 2-story gray house). Look for a SCOT sign & park in back. NOTE: This year's venue is in the building at the back of the parking lot. More room = more fun!

SCOT sponsored events
 Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle 2007

- Jan. 27 **Burns Night Dinner** and bus trip to the Country Squire Inn in Kenansville. Come join us for a real Burns Night Dinner. The first 50 SCOT members who sign up will enjoy a lively bus trip from Cary to Kenansville, a wonderful dinner holding to the true traditions of Burns' Night. Contact Donald Ross to register or for more details: nondo@dockpoint.net.
- Feb. 17 **"Scotch-Hop"** at Kirk of Kildaire. This will be a family activity where SCOT members can come, in casual clothing, to learn easy and fun "ceilidh" dances. Bring a dish for the potluck dinner and SCOT will provide the paper products and drinks. There is no charge for SCOT members; non-members will be \$5. Contact Amy Mooney for information: danceramy@aol.com.
- Feb. 24 **Whisky Tasting.** Back by popular demand with a new format. Craig Hill will host this event at Greenshields in Cary. For information contact Craig Hill: chill@rti.org.
- Mar. 17 **St. Patrick's Day Float.** If you're interested in participating, plan to wear traditional Scottish garb and contact Carolyn Graf (919-846-1176) or Amy Mooney (919-552-3419) for details.
- Mar. 17 **Ceilidh.** Our 4th annual event, and one of the most popular and fun events of the year. Contact D'Nise Hefner for more information: dbhefner@aol.com.
- Mar. 31 **Cary Indoor Highland Dance and Piping Competitions and Fiddle Workshop.** Over 100 dancers from four states competed in last year's event and many stayed for a special workshop on Sunday. This year will be even better with our first piping competition. Contact Pat Johnston, patriciatj@aol.com (dancing), Ian Dunbar, iandunbar@mindspring.com (fiddling), and John Sprague, sprague3@bellsouthnet (piping).
- April **Tartan Day** at the NC Renaissance Faire. Join us for three great weekends at the NC Renaissance Faire to be held on the State Fairgrounds. SCOT will sponsor a variety of performances over the four days (Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers, Scottish Highland Dancing, Pipe Band, and more). This is also a great opportunity for you to volunteer in our booth to meet and greet. Contact Judi Lloyd for more information and to volunteer: jlloyd@a4healthsystems.com.
- May **Mother's Day Tea.** Our second annual tea, and back by popular demand. This is a great event for conversation and sharing of traditions. Emily Sprague will again host this tea: sprague3@bellsouth.net.
- June **Fourth Annual SCOT Mark Johnston Memorial Golf Classic and Pig Pickin.** Date and site to be determined. Chuck McDougal will again organize and host this popular event: cherylmcd@nc.rr.com.
- July **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.** SCOT will host a booth with afternoon tea.
- August **Annual General Meeting.**

cape Breton classes

Are you interested in learning some basic Cape Breton dance steps? The Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers will be sponsoring a beginner series of six classes at the School of Scottish Dance in Cary on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm, starting on January 24. Amy Mooney will instruct. Contact Pat Johnston at patriciatj@aol.com or (919) 614-3303 for directions, cost, and other information.

Book award

We are happy to pass on the news that Michael Newton's recent book, *Dùthchas nan Gàidheal: The Selected Essays of John MacInnes*, has been awarded the Research Book of the Year 2006 in Scotland by the Saltire Society. Michael would be happy to let you know how to purchase this award-winning book: michael@saorsamedia.com.

highland dance recap

This fall, the highland dancers from Jo Moore-Kalat's School of Scottish Dance in Cary have been busy dancing in many of the southeast regional competitions and local performances. The studio entered several Twasome couples at Richmond and we swept the top three places! Though the competitions are always enjoyable and our dancers placed very well in various age groups, it was the performances this year that has the dancers really on their toes!

Starting in late August, dancers went to the Triad Games along with David Coulter's studio to demonstrate Scottish Dancing to the crowd. Later that month, we danced at Exploris for an enthusiastic crowd who joined our dancers on stage for instruction in Pas De Basques and high cuts. The steamy end of summer brought our dancers on stage at Cary Lazy Daze for traditional dances and some Rhythms choreography.

Erin McDougal was asked to dance at the UNC University System's Board of Governor's Awards luncheon earlier this fall and represented the school, Scottish dancing, and her proud family. Highland dancers took up the banner for the school at the St. Michael's International Festival and again at Campbell University's Homecoming in October. The International Festival at the Fairgrounds saw several primary, pre-premier and premier dancers on stage this year.

The Town of Cary had a Winter Festival on a cold Saturday in December and we wowed the audience with performances by all levels of dancers to entertain the chilly crowd. To round out the busy season, we went back to Exploris along with SCOT, the NC State Pipe Band, and the Raleigh Country Dancers for Hogmanay in mid-December.

In addition to all this dancing, the Ghillie Gang, an organization of dance parents, hosted a well-attended injury prevention workshop in mid-October. The winter brings hints of several more in-house workshops and learning the 2007 championship steps in preparation for the busy competition season ahead.

- submitted by Ginny Kent

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. Eight years after it was sent, the treaty of Northampton was signed by Edward III finally acknowledging Scotland as an independent country and Robert the Bruce as its king. The Declaration, which was the first of its kind, was 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."

The U.S. Senate set April 6 as Tartan Day in 1998 with Resolution 155 sponsored by Trent Lott. On March 10, 2005, Resolution 41, co-sponsored by NC Representative Mike McIntyre, reiterated the date of April 6 as Tartan Day in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Locally, the NC Renaissance Faire will be holding a Tartan Day celebration Friday evening, April 6 at the NC State Fairgrounds. The Faire will be open from 3 to 10 pm on that date. Tentative plans include a SCOT-sponsored Bonnie Knees contest, Albannoch, and the presence of Mary, Queen of Scots. Check the SCOT website for definite times as the day draws nearer.

- submitted by Judi Lloyd





country dance

Continued from page 6...

Scotland. In 1951, the first new dance was published by the society. Today, Scottish Country Dancing is a thriving tradition, with new dances being published continuously.

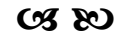
Despite the thousands of dances available, you can learn to do Scottish Country Dancing fairly quickly. There are only five basic steps and two tempos to learn. All the dances are composed of basic figures, which are combined to create different dances. Once these figures become familiar, you are on your way. If any of you are interested in learning this national art form, please call either Pat Johnston at 919-614-3303 or Barbara Youngman at 919-467-3390, and we will be happy to direct you to one of our classes taught in the area.

The Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers are celebrating our 25th year in the area with a weekend of dancing, ceilidhs and workshops on February 9-11 at the Matthews House in Cary. We will have a Friday Welcome Dance and Ceilidh on February 9, workshops for beginners and experienced dancers on Saturday, February 10, followed by an elegant dinner and ball Saturday night, and a brunch on Sunday morning. For information, please contact Barbara Youngman, 919 467-3390.

- submitted by Pat Johnston



tastes of scotland



glasgow curry

“The Scots are great lovers of curries and indeed the trade to India in the 19th and 20th centuries brought India and Scotland close together, both economically and culturally. Today you can find excellent Indian restaurants in most Scottish towns, but Glasgow excels. This is a Scottish version of an Indian curry - great for using up leftovers or for a quick supper.”

- 1 large onion sliced
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 cup stock or water
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ¼ cup of raisins
- 1 tablespoon shredded coconut
- 1 pound cooked lamb, beef, or pork
- Hot rice (about 4 cups cooked)

Melt butter in heavy saucepan and sauté onion until tender but not browned. Add flour and curry powder, mixing well. Add stock, stirring until smooth. Bring to a boil, adding sugar, raisins, and coconut. Cook over medium heat until thickened to your liking. Season to taste. Add chopped meat and heat through. Serve over rice.

This recipe is from a wonderful, little book called Quick and Easy Scottish American Recipes. There is no other publishing information.

- submitted by Carolyn McDonald Graf

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:

Carolyn Graf
D'Nise Hefner
Craig Hill
Patricia Johnston
Cheryl Jones
Judi Lloyd

Cheryl McDougal
Amy Mooney
Eugene Oddone
Donald Ross
John Sprague

♫ scottish country dancing ♫

We Scots have a wonderfully long holiday season, stretching from Thanksgiving, through St. Andrews, Christmas, Hogmanay, and all the way to Burns' Night. With all these opportunities to enjoy tasty treats, we might be thinking of New Year's resolutions involving exercise. What more enjoyable way to get that exercise than Scottish Country Dancing! There are several classes in the Triangle for you to learn the social dance of Scotland. Although it may look intricate, we provide lessons which start at the very beginning. If you can count to eight, you can do Scottish Country Dancing.

The name Scottish Country Dancing has different origins depending on who you consult. Country dancing may have meant either dances done in the country as opposed to those done at the monarch's court, or court dances done to music with a pastoral or rural flavor. Alternatively, the term may have arisen as a variant on the French word *contre* meaning across since many of these dances are done in opposing lines. Books compiling country dances in England date from the 1600's. References were made to country dances as done in Scotland. Many

of these had the same names and similar figures as English country dances. The differences lay in the music used for the dances, or the particular Scottish step used for traveling or setting which means dancing on the spot.

Even as other forms of dance like the waltz, a dance for one couple, became popular elsewhere, country dancing became more entrenched in Scotland. The dance form was truly universal since it was danced from the manor house right down to the lowest crofter's cottage. Regional variations arose even within Scotland as to favorite dances, figures, ways to do footwork, or definitions of figures.

In 1923 Miss Jean Milligan and Mrs. Ysobel Stewart formed the Scottish Country Dance Society to preserve this wonderful dance form by collecting country dances, publishing them, and teaching classes. Later in 1952, when Queen Elizabeth became the patron of the society, the name was changed to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. During its first quarter century, the society published existing dances collected from throughout

Continued on Page 5

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 Jane Dunbar (thedunbars@mindspring.com).

S.C.O.T.

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