

SCOT

Scottish Cultural Organization
of the Triangle

newsletter

January 2008

KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN

BURNS SUPPER

A Kirkin' o' the Tartan Service is scheduled for Sunday, **January 13** at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary. The church is located at 200 High Meadows Drive, at the corner of High Meadows Drive and Kildaire Farm Road (just across Kildaire Farm Road from the McDonalds).

The service celebrates our Scottish roots, but it is truly a Scottish-American custom begun by Dr. Peter Marshall, the Scottish-born pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. During World War II, he held a prayer service to raise funds for British war relief and at one of his services, he gave a sermon entitled "The Kirkin' o' the Tartans"—thus a legend was born. Since then, the history of the service has been embellished, with some stating that the custom dates to the time when displaying one's tartan was forbidden, so Highlanders hid pieces of tartan and brought them to church to be secretly blessed at a particular point in the service. True or not, we will carry on this practice by supplying each church participant with a bit of Carolina tartan as they enter the Sanctuary.

The NCSU Pipes and Drums will perform outside the church prior to the service. Tartan banners will process into the church, followed by a "Blessing of the Tartan." The service will include readings from the Scot's Confession, Celtic prayers, and Scottish hymns. All are cordially invited to a Scottish-themed covered dish lunch after the service in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a short program of music and dance.

Come dressed in your family tartan! If you would like your clan represented by a tartan banner, please contact Emily Sprague at 828-1269.



Our 7th annual Burns Supper is just around the corner on Saturday, **January 26** and just down the road at The Country Squire in Kenansville, NC. Get out those 2008 calendars and mark them now, you don't want to miss this great event!

We were hoping to run a bus from Cary as usual, but with the huge increase in gas prices, the cost is prohibitive. I apologize to all those that were looking forward to traveling by bus again, but some of the members are willing to car pool, so anyone interested in doing so may contact me and I will try to help organize this..

The Country Squire has informed me that there will be an increase in the cost of the dinner this year, as with gas prices rising, so does the cost of everything else. The dinner cost this year will be \$40 each. 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 a 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 26th; in the mean time, I can be reached at 919-934-1915 or nondo@dockpoint.net if you have any questions.

- Donald Ross



Robert Burns
1759 — 1796



sponsored events 2008

- Jan. 13 **Kirkin' o' the Tartan at the Kirk of Kildaire.** Celebrated at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services with a potluck lunch after the 11:00 service. Come in Scottish dress. Contact Emily Sprague at 919-828-1269 or sprague3@bellsouth.net, or Steve Johnston at 919-380-7707 or sajscot@aol.com
- Jan. 26 **Robert Burns Night Supper** at the Country Squire Inn. See page 1 for details. Contact Donald Ross at 919-841-5668 or nondo@dockpoint.net.
- Feb. 16 **Whisky Tasting.** See page 6 for more info. Contact Craig Hill at 919-319-1280 or chill@rti.org.
- March 8 **Ceilidh** at Triangle Dance Studio. For more information, contact D'Nise Hefner at 919-847-9909 or dbhefner@aol.com
- March 15 (tentative date) **Float for St. Patrick's Day Parade**
- March 29 **Cary Indoor Dance & Piping Competitions and Fiddling Workshop**
- April **Tartan Day at the Renaissance Faire.** The whole weekend of April 5-6 will celebrate Scotland. Plans for a concert by the Glengarry Boys, a Bonnie Knees contest, Scottish Country Dancing, Highland Dancing, a Scottish wedding, and possibly some Heavy Athletic demonstrations. Contact Judith Lloyd at 919-790-8250 or starshipraleigh@aol.com for information.
- May 11 (tentative date) **Mothers' Day Tea.**
- June 21 (tentative date) **Mark Johnston SCOT Golf Classic and SCOT Family Barbecue.** For information, contact Chuck McDougal at 919-783-7476 or elscrodley@nc.rr.com
- July 10-13 **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.**
- Aug. 24 **SCOT Annual General Meeting.** Contact Cheryl Jones at 919-851-3956 or at jones_cherylae@yahoo.com for information.

other events of interest to scot members

Old Blind Dogs: Come out on Friday, **February 1** to enjoy a Celtic concert at Tir Na Nog and support SCOT at the same time. Tickets are only \$12 each and all family members are welcome. In addition, 10% of all food sales after 4 pm will go to SCOT. Please contact any SCOT board member to purchase tickets. Come out and give this band a hearty North Carolina welcome!

Valentine's Dance: Dust off your ghillies and pull out your kilt. The Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers invite you to our 18th annual Valentine's Day Dance on Saturday, **February 9** at the Kirk of Kildaire. Music provided by the MacRowdie Ceilidh Band. Check the our website at www.rscd.us for details.

2nd Annual Celtic Concert Series, offered by the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, NC. Tickets available at www.artscenterlive.org.

- Boys of the Lough on February 24
- Dervish on March 11
- Solas on March 19
- Grada on March 21
- Battlefield Band on March 28

scotch hop recap

On Saturday, October 13, a group of SCOT members, friends, and church members gathered at the Kirk of Kildaire. This enthusiastic group brought a variety of dance experience, and all of the food was delicious. Pat Johnston and Barbara Youngman taught us a variety of Scottish country and Social dances, and everyone got a chance to try something new. If you haven't joined us before, be sure to mark your calendars next year for this relaxing evening of food, dance, and fun.



a BRIEF history of hogmanay

What is Hogmanay? Most of us know it's a long-standing Scottish tradition that's celebrated on New Year's Eve (and well into the wee morning hours). Beyond that, historians are not certain of the origin of the tradition or the name itself. But I can assure you it has nothing to do with hogs, or with the Arkansas Razorbacks either (sorry to burst your bubble, Jim Cobb).

The tradition is variously attributed to Viking and Norman invaders, as well as to the Celts themselves (but who may have come from Ireland). There are words similar to Hogmanay that can be found not only in their countries of origin, but also in the Anglo-Saxon (translated "Holy Month") and Flemish (translated "great love day") languages. Since these origins are so far back in "the mists of time", you're at liberty to pick the origin that suits you.

In any case, Hogmanay is still celebrated in Scotland. Pat, Mark, Amy, and I were in Scotland during Hogmanay in 1991. We were invited to the Ballahulish House by Andrew Johnstone (some of you old timers may remember Andrew), who was still single and working for the National Trust for Scotland in Edinburgh at the time. At the outset, Mark and Amy were concerned that the Hogmanay party at the Ballahulish House would be all elderly folks and thus too dull for their liking. But boy were they wrong! This is the time of year when all the local young adults who, having had to go to London or elsewhere in England to find employment, returned home on holiday to whoop it up. It was essentially a big reunion of young adults, and everyone but me (of course) danced all night. We had to pull Mark and Amy away sometime after 4 a.m. to get back to our digs.

Visitors are given special treatment on Hogmanay. They are greeted with warm hospitality and a kiss. It's all designed to welcome in the New Year on a happy note. "First footing" is an integral part of the

celebration too. To ensure good luck for the house, the first person to appear on the doorstep after midnight (i.e. the "first foot") should be male, dark headed, and bring symbolic items of warmth (coal, shortbread, salt, black bun, and especially whisky). Why male and dark headed? Women didn't typically traipse about after midnight, and during the era of the Viking invasions, blond strangers arriving on your doorstep typically meant trouble!

So, enjoy Hogmanay with special zest this year. Listen for a knock at the front door after midnight. Who knows? They may be bearing a bottle of Laphroaig.

- Steve Johnston

congratulations!

A new feature SCOT would like to include in the quarterly newsletter is a "Congratulations Section" to SCOT members and their families for births, graduations, marriages, etc. If you know of any exciting news, please contact Amy Mooney via email at danceramy@aol.com or call her at 919-552-3419.

◆ Nancy Ross and Donald Ross are new grandparents
 ◆ Carrie Saxton (daughter of Sandy Saxton) married Brian D. Muegge on July 14, 2007
 ◆ Carolyn Calcagni (daughter of Meg and John Calcagni) married Richard Buractaon on August 18, 2007
 ◆ Hillary McKean-Peraza (daughter of Meg McKean and John Peraza) married Justin Lee on September 22, 2007
 ◆ Jaime Hefner (daughter of Bill and D'Nise Hefner) married Keith Graham on September 29, 2007
 ◆ Alan McDougal (son of Cheryl and Chuck McDougal) married Jennifer Wright on November 4, 2007
 ◆ Kristen Hefner (daughter of Bill and D'Nise Hefner) graduated with her Masters of Research in Biomedical Life Sciences with a concentration in Neuroscience from the University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland on November 29, 2007
 ◆ Erin McDougal (daughter of Chuck and Cheryl McDougal) will graduate from North Carolina State University with a BS in Zoology on December 19, 2007 ◆



success at international fest!

SCOT was well represented at the 2007 International Festival on November 3 through 4 at the State Fairgrounds. Our Cultural booth was well attended with inquiries about tartans and clans. In keeping with the theme of Wonders of the World, the booth sported Standing Stones in front of a lovely landscape backdrop painted by Dan Jones.

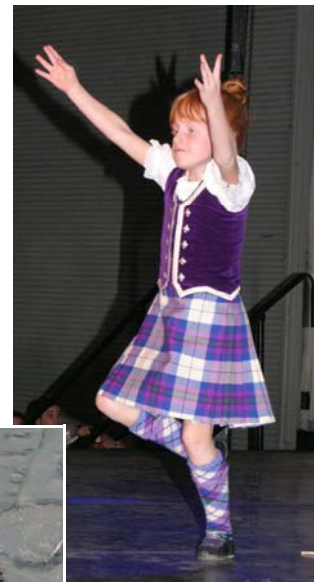
In the next space our Scottish Bazaar was busy selling a variety of items purchased from popular vendors such as Hi Ho Silver and Hyde and Heddle, as well as crafty creations from SCOT members, including Barbara Youngman and D'Nise Hefner.

On the dance front, our varied dance groups performed five times during the weekend. We especially loved performing just before the Lebanese Young Adults. They generated such enthusiasm for dancing that the whole crowd was clapping in time with our music. Our dancers were great!

Thanks to all who helped with our booths, especially the Grafts, Hefners, Jones, Johnstons, Youngmans, Rosses, Judi Lloyd, and Larry Haynes, and to all the dancers from the Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers, Pat Johnston Highland Dancers and the Jo Kalat School of Scottish Dance. Keep this event in mind for the first weekend of November next year. It is a wonderful experience of cultural sharing and learning!



Megan Kimsey dances to David Coulter's piping.



Gillian Wright dances the highland fling.



Carolyn & Doug Graf and Barbara & Brian Youngman display the variety of items for sale at the bazaar.



Nancy & Donald Ross field queries about tartans.



D'Nise Hefner demonstrates her handiwork to the curious.

help name our newsletter

Our SCOT Newsletter needs a name. Help us come up with a name that is eye-catching! Our next Newsletter is due out the first week of March, so send in your suggestions for a great name by Saturday, February 9 so that the next issue can come out with a new name. Besides the honor and recognition for naming our Newsletter, the winner will receive a special prize to be announced later. Send your suggestions to Pat Johnston at 614-3303 or patriciatj@aol.com.

welcome to new members

We are delighted to welcome Gloria Stafford of Moncure, North Carolina as a new SCOT member. Gloria joined after attending a session on Scottish culture at Kirk of Kildaire taught by Steve Johnston. We hope all of you will remember to invite friends and acquaintances to join SCOT. Encourage them to check our SCOT website at www.scot.us for information on joining and upcoming events. We also remind current members to send in your 2008 membership. You won't want to miss any of the great SCOT events coming up!

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
Alan Johnston
Patricia Johnston
Cheryl Jones

Judith Lloyd
Cheryl McDougal
Amy Mooney
Donald Ross
John Sprague

tastes of scotland



het pint

A traditional drink for Hogmany, Het Pint is ale, heated, spiced, and laced with whisky. It was carried through the town in hot copper kettles and handed out by the cupful as midnight approached. It makes a hearty drink for any winter occasion.

2 quarts ale
1 teaspoon grated nutmeg
½ cup sugar
3 large eggs
1 cup Scotch whisky

Heat ale and nutmeg in a saucepan over medium heat. **DO NOT BOIL.** Add sugar and stir to dissolve. In a bowl, whisk eggs until frothy. Add ¾ cup of hot ale mixture to eggs and stir to blend well. Add mixture to hot ale, stirring continuously. Stir in whisky. Reheat and serve at once in warmed mugs.

As with all traditional recipes, there are variations. One recommends pouring the punch from one pan to another "until the mixture turns clear and sparkling." Another uses wine and brandy instead of ale and whiskey. Either would do for a cold winter evening.

- submitted by Carolyn McDonald Graf

Note: If you have a recipe you would like to share, or a recipe you would like to find, please contact Carolyn at CMcDGraf@aol.com.



it's ceilidh time!

You won't want to miss the 5th annual SCOT Ceilidh on Saturday, **March 8** from 7:00-9:30 pm at the Triangle Dance Studio in Durham. Planned and impromptu ceilidh acts are in store; 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 at dbhefner@aol.com or call 919-847-9909. Reservations are not required, but an approximate headcount is appreciated!

Where: Triangle Dance Studio
2603 S. Miami Blvd
Durham, NC 27703

When: 7-9:30 pm on Saturday, March 8, 2008

What: Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

Cost: SCOT members \$5, with kids 12 & under free, non-member guests \$8

Directions: Take I-40 to the Miami Blvd, Exit #281 (turn right onto Miami if coming from Raleigh, turn left if coming from Durham/Chapel Hill direction).

Head north on Miami Blvd. for about 3 miles. Just after you pass the Tire King/Shell station on right, you'll cross over Lumley Road. Triangle Dance Studio is the 1st house on your right (a 2-story gray house). Look for a SCOT sign, and park in the back. NOTE: This year's venue is in the larger space in the building at the back of the parking lot.

whisky tasting

For at least the fourth year in a row (for obvious reasons, no one can remember exactly how long we've done this), SCOT will sponsor a Whisky Tasting event on Saturday, **February 16**. While we have not yet completed all the planning activities, we are nonetheless certain that this year's event will be one to remember. In years past, we have sampled whiskies from the various whisky regions of Scotland; this year, however, we'll focus on only one region: the Islands. We'll taste single malt Scotch whiskies from the Isle of Jura and the Isle of Islay.

The price will likely be around \$40-\$50 per person, including dinner and a tasting of 6 different whiskies. What a great evening to spend with your Valentine! Watch your email and the SCOT website for location and other details to be announced soon.

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.

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