

Great SCOT!

Look what's
going on...

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

January 2010

Ceilidh Concert

MUSIC, SONG, DANCE AND POETRY

Of Scotland

By Native Scots in the Triangle

Native Scottish voices and players will present a program of Scottish music, song, dance and poetry from 4 to 6 pm on **March 28**, at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center, 119 Ambassador Loop in downtown Cary.

Celtic harp music performed by the local ladies group, Harps Delight, will welcome you and set the mood for the afternoon, along with Scottish fiddle music to entertain you as you enjoy Scottish dancing and listen to Scottish singers and musicians.

Enjoy the beautiful voices of well known local Scottish singers, Julia Cobley and Bill McCulloch, President of the Capital Opera Raleigh, as they share Scottish songs of love and sadness as well as humorous tunes to make you laugh.

Mara Shea, our local professional fiddler, will provide an exciting and exceptional quality of Scottish fiddle music with commentary on its place in Scottish culture.

Michelle Cobley will perform lyrical Scottish harp music to lift your mind to the Scottish Highlands.

Scot, George Birrell, will present poetic words and images created by Robert Burns, the world famous Scottish poet, along with poetry in the Doric dialect from Aberdeenshire in the north East of Scotland.

The program will be introduced and woven together with humor by local Scot, Donald Ross, as Master of Ceremonies.

At the close of the program, please stay and enjoy Scottish delicacies for a taste of Scotland and meet the musicians, dancers and other performers and their friends.

All this for just \$10 per ticket! You can purchase tickets from SCOT (discount for members) or through www.townofcary.org. For more information call 919-460-4963. Space limited to 55 seats. Co-sponsored by the Town of Cary Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Department and SCOT.

Burns Supper

January 23 is just around the corner and once more we are preparing for another great evening. We had a fantastic celebration for Burns 250th anniversary last year and I'm sure many of you are skeptical about this year being able to keep up such a high standard. The resounding answer is, of course, we can, and a great evening is in store!

The first bit of good news is The Country Squire has agreed to hold the price the same as last year at \$42 per person. The other good news is we are going to have The Port City Pipes and Drums on stage again this year. They were such a hit last year we had many requests for them to return.

The menu will be as follows:

The traditional plate of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties
Salad with choice of dressing

Entrée Choices:

Spinach Stuffed Chicken with Cream Sauce

8 oz. Ribeye Steak.

Broiled Flounder

Scottish Steak Pie (by popular request)

All entrees served with potato & vegetable

Dessert of Scottish Trifle

All dinners include glass of wine, tea, and coffee

Once more, as a special token of appreciation from The Country Squire for our 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 January 23. In the meantime, I can be reached at: nondo@dockpoint.net or 919-934-1915.

- Donald Ross



Whisky Tasting

SCOT's Annual Whisky Tasting event is slated for Saturday night **February 20**. What better way to spend a winter evening that warming one's insides with wee drams of several fine single-malt Scotch whiskies? Our annual Whisky Tasting puts you in the company of about 50 other Scots and/or whiskyphiles, all coming together to learn about whisky, to sample new whiskies, or just to have a good time. Attending the Whisky Tasting puts you in a position to join your voice with others in "raising a defence of this great, potent, and princely drink."

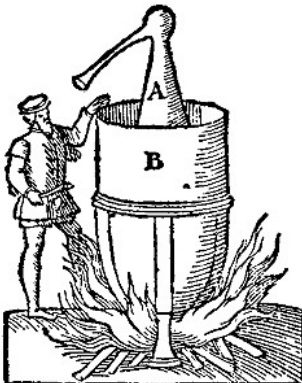
Whisky, of course, has a long and venerable history of its own and is, indeed, part of the Scottish fabric. Did you ever think, for example, about how the Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie might have interacted with whisky during the ill-fated 1745 Uprising? Aeneas McDonald wrote (in 1930): "Whisky found an honored place in the commissariat of the Jacobite armies. It gave spirit and endurance to Montrose's men on those marvellous marches with which they confounded the hosts of the Covenant; it comforted the kilted soldiery on the mad memorable raid on Derby in 1745 and ministered to the Prince himself when he was a hunted man."

Robert Burns, too, as you might suspect, wrote about whisky—and more than once. Here's an example:

Sages their solemn een may steek,
An' raise a philosophic reek,
An' physically causes seek,
In clime an' season;
But tell me whisky's name in Greek,
I'll tell the Reason.

Attendees will enjoy a buffet-style dinner and a taste of five or six whiskies specially selected for the event. We have not yet selected a venue, but watch for email from SCOT, or for announcements on our website (www.scot.us) or on Facebook page (search "SCOT"). The cost for this event will be around \$45 per person. Slainte!

- Craig Hill



SCOT Calendar of Events

- Jan. 23 **Burns Dinner** at the Country Squire Inn in Warsaw, NC. For details contact Donald Ross at nondo@dockpoint.net or 919-841-5668
- Feb. 20 **SCOT Whisky Tasting**. Contact Craig Hill at chill@rti.org or 919-319-1280
- Feb. 27 **SCOT Family Ceilidh** at the Kirk of Kildaire, Cary. Free family ceilidh and pot luck supper. Bring your party piece to perform, learn a few group dances, sing some Scottish songs, say a poem, show off your new highland dances. Contact Pat Johnston at patriciatj@aol.com or 919-614-3303
- Mar. 13 **St. Patrick's Day Parade with the SCOT Float**. Contact Carolyn Graf at cmcdgraf@aol.com or 919-846-1176, or Amy Mooney at danceramy@aol.com or 919-552-3419
- Mar. 27 **SCOT's 9th Annual Cary Indoor Highland Dance & Piping Competitions and Scottish Fiddling Workshop**. Resurrection Lutheran Church. Contact Pat Johnston at patriciatj@aol.com or 919-614-3303 for dancing, John Sprague at esprague@nc.rr.com or 919-828-1269 for piping, and Amy Mooney at danceramy@aol.com or 919-552-3419 for fiddling
- Mar. 28 **Ceilidh Concert** music and dance at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. Contact George Birrell at GSAMBK@yahoo.com or 919-303-7262
- Apr. 10-11 **Scottish Weekend at the NC Renaissance Faire**. Renn Faire continues April 17-18, 24-25 Contact Judi Lloyd at judith.lloyd@allscripts.com or 919-790-8250
- Apr. 27 **Music from the British Isles**. Stewart Theatre, NCSU. \$10 general public, \$8 seniors. Pipes and Drums, Irish Session Musicians, Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble, and Scottish dancers. www.ncsu.edu/pipesanddrums.
- May 9 **SCOT Mother's Day Tea** at Kirk of Kildaire. Details to be announced.
- June 10 **7th Annual Mark Johnston SCOT Golf Classic**. Contact Chuck McDougal at escrodley@nc.rr.com or 919-783-7476
- June 10 **SCOT Family Barbeque**. Details to be announced.
- July 8-11 **SCOT Booth** at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
- Aug. 29 **SCOT Annual General Meeting**. Contact Cheryl Jones at jones_cherylrae@yahoo.com or 919-851-3956.

Highland Dance Success

The Scottish Dancers of the Triangle had another impressive fall competition season. Our local dancers - from Primary through Premier - took over-all trophies in all age groups. The Triangle dancers traditionally are quite competitive up and down the east coast, while making their teachers, parents, and peers proud. They take careful consideration to their technique, their highland dress and grooming, and most importantly, show grace and sportsmanship under pressure.

Besides competitions, several exhibitions were scheduled for the Fall in Raleigh and Cary, and Wake Forest. Upcoming performances include First Night, Raleigh on New Years' Eve.

One of the strengths of the Highland dance presence in this area has been the cooperation and joint efforts of all the teachers in the area. All the local teachers are part of a network which works to improve Highland dancing for all local dancers rather than just those of the teacher's own school. To exemplify this atmosphere of cooperation, the teachers adopted the phrase Scottish Dancers of the Triangle to include all the schools. The Triangle has been blessed to have had dedicated Scottish dance teachers in the past; it looks like, with several certified young teachers in our midst, that Highland dance will continue to have a presence for future dancing success!

- Beth Schleusener, chair of "The Ghillie Gang"



Valentine's Dance

The Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers invite you to our 21st Annual Valentine's Dance to be held on **February 13** at the Triangle Dance Studio, 2603 S. Miami Boulevard, Durham, NC. Even if you don't dance you can enjoy the live music by fiddler Mara Shea and pianist Julie Gorka as they play lively reels and jigs and elegant strathspeys. The Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers first met in 26 years ago in January 1983. They have held this dance at various locations around the Triangle for the last 20 years. Anyone interested in learning Scottish Country dancing can contact Pat Johnston at patriciatj@aol.com or 919-614-3303 for information on all the Scottish Country Dance groups in the area.



SCOT Ceilidh

Mark your calendars for **February 28** for the annual SCOT Ceilidh. A ceilidh is a party rather than a performance. That means that you are invited to dust off your party piece to share with everyone. We will start with a pot luck supper and continue the party with entertainment by whoever wants to share. We look forward to all the dances, musical numbers, sing-alongs, poems, jokes and skits which show up each year. Someone will be on hand to teach a few ceilidh, country or old time dances to get everyone moving. If you haven't come to this event, before now is the time to come. This year's event is free to everyone and will be held at Kirk of Kildaire

Pipes and Drums

The NCSU Pipes and Drums had a busy fall with performances, competitions, concerts and parades. The last appearance of the year will be on December 31 as the band leads the People's Procession through downtown Raleigh as part of Raleigh First Night activities. This will be the 19th year in a row that the band has had the honor.

A new Beginning Bagpipe Class starts on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 7 PM at Price Music Center on the NCSU campus. Both NCSU students and community people are welcome to sign up. Prospective pipers or drummers may register by calling John Sprague at 919-828-1269.

The NCSU Pipes and Drums Scholarship Endowment is about two-thirds of the way towards its goal of a \$15,000 endowment, the interest from which will be awarded annually to an experienced piper or drummer attending NCSU. To contribute, make a check out to ARTS NC State and mail to Campus Box 7306, Raleigh, NC 27695-7306. Be sure to indicate *Pipes and Drums Scholarship* on the memo line.

- Emily Sprague

Real Men Recap

On December 9, we participated in this event once more at The Carolina Inn.

There were a total of 73 people in attendance, which is much better than the past couple of years; this was certainly due to the lower price with Cash Bar available for all those wishing to enjoy some extra Christmas Spirit.

It was a delight to see the young dancers taking part, and they were a big hit with the audience. The folks at The



Carolina Inn were pleased with the evening which means we will probably see the lower prices being kept for future years.

If you have never been to this event you should make plans to go next year, for an evening of good food, good fellowship and great surroundings.

- Donald Ross

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 Vikings 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

The Bruce Trilogy

A couple of months ago most of the SCOT board members received an email telling us about “The Bruce Trilogy”. At first this appeared to be a scam and the consensus of the board members was to ignore it and not pass the information along to our members just in case it was a scam.

As the email was from Scotland, I felt compelled to check into it a little deeper. I then checked out the website and found their phone number in Girvan Ayrshire. I called the number and found Willie Stewart to be just as passionate about The Bruce Trilogy in our live phone conversation as he had been in the email. After a long discussion and some tips for him to improve his emails, I went back to the website and ordered The Trilogy.

Delivery was very prompt and they come from a supplier in Texas to avoid the overseas shipping charges. I think the cost at the time was \$39 total. Of course, as usual in life, I was unable to sit down right away and watch them, but one night Nancy and I pulled it out and popped them into the DVD player. We were thrilled with our purchase. The re-enactment parts may not be exactly like a Hollywood production, but the scenery and the historical places and facts were worth every penny.

Due to the fact that I am probably more biased than most, before sending in this article I asked one of our new members to view the Trilogy and give me her views on it, here are some of her comments:

Hey Donald, just finished watching the “Trilogy” and I enjoyed it thoroughly!! I was most impressed with the orderly and quite interesting portrayal of the life of “Robert the Bruce.”

The narrator succeeded with providing historical information coupled with using actors to relate a historical account of this time period centered around “Robert the Bruce.” The strong positive aspects of this trilogy were the on-going photography of local areas of Scotland, the appropriate musical tunes and the “non-staged” discussions w/ locals regarding the historical topics.

The above comments were a couple of paragraphs from her response, so it is with pride and honor to Bruce that I have no hesitation in recommending “The Bruce Trilogy” to members of SCOT to purchase and enjoy for many years to come. The website for purchase is www.kingrobertbruce.co.uk.

- Donald Ross

The Scottish Bookshelf

The Outlander Series

By Diana Gabaldon

Have you ever engaged in “What I would do if I won the lottery” daydreams? When I was a child (before I ever heard of the lottery) I used to have “When I grow up and get rich” daydreams. I always wanted to hire a favorite author (it changed over time) to write a book that would never end—as fast as I could read it, the author would write more.

Well, I’m grown up (mostly) and I’m definitely not rich, but I do have that author—Diana Gabaldon. author of the NY Times #1, internationally award-winning “Outlander” series of time-travel books. STOP! Don’t say “I’m not really a sci-fi kind of person,” because I’m not either. I bought what was actually the second book in the series, *Dragonfly in Amber* at a Friends of the Library book sale many years ago because it had tartan on the cover and a nature-y sounding title (OK, I was in a hurry that day).

I was a little puzzled when the book started out with a 20th century woman doctor is returning to Scotland with her young adult daughter and when I glanced further on, the same woman was involved in the 1745 Jacobite rebellion and battle at Culloden. I also was a hair confused by some references to things and eventually realized that I had started on the second book of the series (it said so on the cover) To make a long story short, I was totally hooked and have never looked back. I DO heartily recommend however that you read the books in order! The first 3 books primarily take place in Scotland.

- *Outlander* (1991)
- *Dragonfly in Amber* (1992)
- *Voyager* (1994)

The remaining four books (so far!) take place primarily in NC starting at the time of Cross Creek just before the Revolutionary War.

- *Drums of Autumn* (1997)
- *The Fiery Cross* (2001)
- *A Breath of Snow and Ashes* (2005)
- *An Echo in the Bone* (2009) This book JUST came out!

Why do I love these books? They are really hard to categorize by genre—each contains elements of romantic fiction, historical fiction, and science fiction, but in a

Continued on Page 7

Chieftain's Conference at The Gathering

My main reason for attending The Gathering was the Chieftain's Conference at the Scottish Parliament on Friday, July 24. There were approximately 100 chiefs there and several of their heirs. There were chiefs who have held the position for many years and a couple who have newly become chief. The conference was put on by the Council of Scottish Chiefs, which is a body put together to further communication with the chiefs of Scotland. A total of 400 people were invited, 200 of these were the chiefs and a guest. The other 200 were clan and association leaders from around the world. I was quite thrilled to be told several months ago I was going to be invited to the event.

One of the questions of the day was whether the Council of Scottish Chiefs should take on the larger role of also communicating with clan groups across the globe. Another question put to the group was the expectations of the world Scottish community from the Council of Scottish Chiefs and the chiefs themselves. The morning was taken up with 4 speakers, who spoke to the expected and actual roles of the chiefs in their clan societies abroad, heraldry and the claims of chiefdom, the expectations of clan and district societies abroad from Scotland and the Council of Scottish Chiefs, and the state of being of the clan system today. In the afternoon we broke into sessions of approximately 30 people each and discussed various questions such as the expected roles of the Council of Scottish Chiefs and the chiefs themselves and what is referred to as Tartan Tat (the exhibition of tartan on everything imaginable) which were our two questions that we addressed. I learned later that our moderator was

Andrew Durie, Chief of Clan Durie. Note that there are several clans in Scotland that do not have a society outside of Scotland and some who have none in Scotland either. Durie is one of these latter ones. There were seven female chiefs there.

There is a distinct difference in what we (and I can only speak to what I've heard and seen in the clans) are expecting from the chiefs - to play a very prominent role in the leadership of their clans and in supporting their clan societies abroad with visits, letters, etc. While on the other hand, several chiefs spoke about their jobs, financial status, and duties to young families as reasons why they cannot be the person their clans expect them to be. One of the chiefs there was a gardener on another chief's estate. In other cases, the chief is chief simply because he is the first son of the first son, period. Some clans have a system whereby the successor is named by the current chief, or the successor can be from another branch of the family, but those are the exceptions, not the rule. So there is going to be an issue unless expectations are addressed. Most of the chiefs were quite adamant about the correct display and colors allowed in the clansman's crest and what the crest and tartan should be placed on, and even spoke to the type of material from which the tartan is made.

In summary it was quite interesting to be involved in this discussion, the first of its kind between Scotland's chiefs and their foreign clansmen.

- Judith Lloyd

Wake and District Tartan Ball

SCOT was well represented at the Wake and District Tartan Ball at the Downtown Raleigh Sheraton Hotel on Friday, November 13, 2009. The audience enjoyed performances by SCOT members who played and danced with both the Wake and District Band and the NCSU Pipe Band as well as dancers from the Jo Kalat School of Scottish Dance, the Pat Johnston Highland Dancers and the Raleigh Scottish Country Dancers. The Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance also performed. An information booth for SCOT was also available. This annual ball is sponsored by the Wake and District Public Safety Pipes and Drums. Mark your 2010 calendars for November to attend next year's event.



Bookshelf, cont. from p.5

wonderful balance. There are great descriptions of natural flora and fauna (in Scotland, the West Indies, in North Carolina) which is not surprising since Diana Gabaldon has an MS in Marine Biology. The characters really seem like real people with daily joys and challenges—it makes you totally BELIEVE you can be in 1945 Scotland in one minute and 1745 Scotland the next.

The Wake County Public Library has all of these books, including in audio format. DO NOT go with abridged versions—there are so many characters and twists and turns you'd miss too much "good stuff". Audio versions narrated by Davina Porter are to die for. And I still love my well-thumbed paperbacks that are each in the neighborhood of 1000 pages each—the "book that never ends." Try them and let me know what you think!

- D'Nise Hefner

Postscript: For a piece of local history—when the Borders on Walnut Street first opened, Diana Gabaldon provided an Author's Reading promoting the new release of *Drums of Autumn*, and the School of Scottish Dance performed—how can that be 12 years ago!?

Congratulations

Welcome to Bryant Johnston Mooney who made his appearance Wednesday, November 25, 2009 and congratulations to his proud parents Amy and Chuck Mooney and even prouder grandparents Pat and Steve Johnston. It's time to check the market for six inch kilts!



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
Craig Hill
Patricia Johnston

Cheryl Jones
Judith Lloyd
Donald Ross
John Sprague

Tastes of Scotland



Jacobite Cake

"Drambuie is known as Prince Charles Edward's personal liqueur. He brought the recipe with him to Scotland in 1745 along with a dream of a Stuart on the throne once more. It is said that the Prince gave his recipe to McKinnon of Skye to thank him for his help. The McKinnon family still makes Drambuie today. The name comes from the Gaelic "dram buidheach," which means "the drink that satisfies." Whether many of Bonnie Prince Charlie's followers tasted Drambuie, we may not know, but now anyone, Jacobite or Loyalist, can enjoy this cake! It is important to "*Cuimhnich an i abhartas Prionnsa*" (Remember the gift of the Prince)."

- from *The Caledonian Society of New Orleans*

I found another interesting reference to this cake as one that was baked on April 21, 1746, when the City of Glasgow held a cake-and-wine banquet to celebrate the defeat of the Jacobites and offer the Duke of Cumberland the freedom of the city. As with so many recipes, the origin is cloudy. Try it and create your own story!

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup cake flour
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup Drambuie
- 1/3 cup walnut or pecan pieces chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line bottom and sides of a 6" cake pan with baking parchment or brown paper. Sift flour and sugar together, sift again. Separate egg yolks and whites. In a mixing bowl, combine egg yolks and Drambuie, and beat together until the mixture thickens. Beating continually at slow speed on an electric mixer, add flour/sugar mixture to egg yolks. Using clean, dry beaters or a wire whisk, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry, and fold into the dough. Fold in the chopped nuts. Pour the batter into a prepared cake pan. Bake in the pre-heated oven 35-45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean and the top of the cake is golden brown. Let the cake cool for 15 minutes, then carefully remove from the pan to cool on a wire rack. Peel the paper off the bottom and sides of the cake. Store in a cake tin with a tight-fitting lid.

The recipe was found in *Fern Cakes, Petticoat Tails, and Butter Rowies: Scotland's Bakery Delights* by Vicki B. McLeod, Unicorn Limited, 1996

- Carolyn McDonald Graf

*THE BANKS O' DOON**By Robert Burns*

Ye banks and braes¹ o' bonnie Doon,
 How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair?
 How can ye chant ye little birds,
 And I sae weary fu' o' care!

Thou'll break my heart, thou warbling bird,
 That wantons through the flowery thorn !
 Thou minds me o' departed joys,
 Departed never to return.

Aft hae I roved by bonnie Doon
 To see the rose and woodbine twine,
 And ilka² bird sang o' its luvie,
 And fondly sae did I o' mine.

Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd³ a rose,
 Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree !
 And my fause⁴ luvier staw⁵ my rose—
 But ah! he left the thorn wi' me.

¹ slopes, ² every, ³ plucked, ⁴ false, ⁵ stole

The river Doon flows near the butt an' ben cottage at Alloway in which Robert Burns was born. So too is the Brig O' Doon which is the scene of the exciting end to Burns epic poem "Tam O' Shanter." Today, the Burns Memorial is nearby and its beautiful, formal gardens on the banks of the river Doon which may enable contemporary couples to sample the happier feelings expressed in this poem.

Almost certainly, Burns as a boy would have played on these river banks and the bridge between them. Perhaps as a young man, on a summer evening, he walked along these river banks with a young girl friend, or two! In Burns' lifetime, the beauty of these river banks would have been more natural than today, but Burns took that natural beauty into his mind and expressed subtle human feelings using images from its peaceful nature.

The poem is in the mind of the speaker walking alone on the banks of the river, remembering past happiness there when a couple, intermingled with current sadness of that love lost but still worthy of remembering.

These thoughts are entrancingly and delicately presented by using the image of the rose for the joy of love and its nearby thorns for the sadnesses which lurk around that love. The singing of birds that enhanced the couple's feelings of love in the past, now accentuate the feelings of sadness and loss in the lone walker, thinking on what had been and maybe, what could have been.

The words in this poem could be those of either a man or a woman describing their feelings and memories of love with another person, until Burns leads the entranced reader to an ending with a powerful human twist which in turn opens the frisson of the unresolved degree of hurt felt by the speaker and maybe its future burdens greater than only sad memories of past happiness and love.

These are magical nuances in humanity from just a few phrases shaped by Robert Burns.

- George Birrell

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