

Great SCOT!

Look what's
going on...

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

March 2008

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 first 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.

New Name for Newsletter

Congratulations to Carolyn Graf for our newsletter's new name! We hope that reading “Great SCOT!” and finding out about Scottish happenings in the Triangle is just as exciting for you as building a DeLorean time machine was for Doc in “Back to the Future.”

Cary Indoor Competitions

The 7th Annual Cary Indoor Competition, sponsored by SCOT, will be held on **March 29** at East Cary Middle School (9th Grade Center). Dancers and pipers from Florida to Pennsylvania will convene in Cary to compete for prizes and trophies.

In the morning, newer dancers will be competing. Some of the top dancers in the United States will be competing in the premier categories in the afternoon. In addition, dancers will also perform choreographies of their own composition.

During the afternoon, pipers will compete in several categories. Spectators are welcome to come and watch all of the events during the day. On Sunday, March 30, SCOT is proud to host a highland dancing workshop taught by the dance judge and highland dance piper.

Encouraging these Scottish arts is one of the major purposes for which SCOT was founded and we are delighted to have such a wonderful event take place.

Real Men Wore Kilts

SCOT was well represented by both dinner guests and entertainers at the Real Men Wear Kilts evening at the Carolina Inn on December 12. It was an elegant evening with a truly wonderful meal, piping by Bruce Wright and dancing by Pat Johnston's highland dancers and Amy Mooney. But the highlight of the evening was listening to Donald Ross tell about “The Garden Shed.” Look for this heart-warming story to be serialized in our newsletter over the next few issues (see page 5 for the first installment). And keep the Scottish evening at the Carolina Inn in mind during the December holiday season next winter.





SPONSORED EVENTS 2008

- March 8 **Ceilidh** at Triangle Dance Studio. Come on out ready to sing, dance, hear and tell stories. Fun for the whole family! For more information, see page 1 or contact D'Nise Hefner at 919-847-9909 or dbhefner@aol.com.
- March 15 **Float for St. Patrick's Day Parade.** Let's show our Scottish pride! See page 3 for more details.
- March 29 **Cary Indoor Dance and Piping Competitions.** Be sure to see some of the best dancers in the United States from here in the Triangle. The morning highlights the younger dancers while the afternoon is for the Premier dancers and the bagpipe competition. See page 1 for more details.
- April 5-6 **Tartan Day at the Renaissance Faire.** The whole weekend of April 5-6 will celebrate Scotland. See page 8 for the history of Tartan Day. Plans are for a concert, a Bonnie Knees contest, Scottish Country Dancing, Highland Dancing, Cape Breton step 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.** See page 4 for more information about the SCOT booth.
- Aug. 24 **SCOT Annual General Meeting.** Contact Cheryl Jones at 919-851-3956 or at jones_cherylae@yahoo.com for information.

Burns Supper Success!

Wow—what a great night it was for our seventh year! We had a total of 105 people, which included about 20+ SCOT members 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 and speakers. I rely so heavily on you each year to help make the evening a success, and every time you come through with flying colors. I enjoyed the Cape Breton dance routine this year—it was a nice addition and I'm sure our audience enjoyed it just as much.

For those of you that were unable to be there, be sure to mark your calendars for next year. When word gets around about this year's event, we will probably have a full house next year on Jan. 24, 2009.

To all of the SCOT members that 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 our Burns Night, all the stress from the past couple of weeks just disappears knowing that we had a great evening, and looking forward to next year. I hope to see many of you at the various SCOT events before then.

- Donald Ross

Tea Dance, Soup Supper

Attention all Scottish Country Dancers. We invite you to enjoy an afternoon tea dance and soup supper on **March 8** from 2:00-6:00 pm at the Triangle Dance Studio for just \$5. After supper, for just \$5 more, you can stay to enjoy the SCOT Ceilidh at 7:00 pm at the same location. Contact Pat Johnston at patriciatj@aol.com; Barbara Youngman at bjyoungman@nc.rr.com; or D'Nise Hefner at dbhefner@aol.com to let us know you are coming so we can plan for food.

Pipe Band News

Don't miss the NCSU Pipes and Drums annual *Music from the British Isles* concert on Thursday, **April 10** at 7:00 pm in Stewart Theatre on the NCSU campus. It will be a varied program with stirring bagpipe music from the Grade III and Grade IV bands, toe tapping melodies from the NCSU Irish Musicians, regal sounds from the NCSU Brass Quintet, and spirited dancing from area Highland dancers and Scottish Country Dancers. Tickets are available through Ticket Central at 919-515-1100.

Other opportunities to hear the pipe band include Raleigh's St. Patrick's Day Parade and Moore Square Concert following the parade on March 15, and Tartan Day observances at the State Fairgrounds on April 5 and 6.

The band has performed this year at First Night Raleigh People's Procession, the Kirkin' o' the Tartan service, a Robert Burns celebration, and an Irish Potato Dinner. Many band members are involved with the Cary Indoor Solo Piping Competition on March 29. And all competing bandsmen are practicing diligently for upcoming band competitions at Loch Norman, Gatlinburg and Greenville, SC.

- Emily Sprague



St. Pat's Day Parade

Come out to downtown Raleigh on Saturday, **March 15** for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade follows a route that meanders from Memorial Auditorium to Moore Square. Keep your eyes open for the SCOT float, with standing stones and well dressed SCOT members, along with Highland Dancers and Pipe Bands throughout the parade. Following the parade, there are dancing and piping performances among the variety of festivities at Moore Square. Bring the family and enjoy the fun!

- Amy Mooney

Kilt Night at Tir Na Nog

What a busy time of the year this has turned out to be! We just enjoyed the Burns Supper and then we had the evening of Scottish music on February 1 at Tir Na Nog. I hope everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening as much as I did. Old Blind Dogs were fantastic, and anyone that missed it should not hesitate if we ever have the opportunity to hear them again.

I did not stay to listen to Seven Nations, but the word is that I should have made it a late night and enjoyed them as well! Harry & Iain tell me I am just getting old...

Tir Na Nog offered to give SCOT 10% from food sales in the seating area where the band would be playing, which resulted in a total of \$100 back to SCOT. What a great night of entertainment and \$100 in the bank!

I trust we can get together with our Irish friends again in the near future. Sincere thanks to everyone who supported this event.

- Donald Ross

SCOT Directory

Have you ever struggled to remember the names of people you met at an event? Have you wished there was a way you could refresh your memory between events? The SCOT directory is a picture directory of SCOT members. It will be set up on the SCOT website behind a password so that only SCOT members can access and download it as a file to view on your computer or to print out. It will be updated regularly with new members.

To participate in the SCOT directory, we need you to email a picture to scotdirectory@yahoo.com. The pictures will be small, so make sure the family or individual is the main focus of the picture. Please include the names of everyone in the picture. In addition, you may include your address, phone number, and email to make it easier for other SCOT members to stay in touch. Including this is optional, so please let me know what you want included with your picture.

- Alan Johnston

Meet Your SCOT Booth

If you haven't been to any of the games where our booth was set up, it's time you met our representative to the world. When you look across MacRae's meadow at Grandfather Mountain Games, our booth stands out with our bright red SCOT banner and flags flying. Walk closer and you see the entrance framed by cleverly crafted stone pillars. Inside the booth, amid bright red table cloths and squares of many different tartans, is an assortment of books on Scottish culture and flyers from Scottish groups in the Triangle area. The most important part is the friendly people who "man" the booth and tell interested folk about our wonderful organization.

This is YOUR booth; a place to rest during the games. It's a place to meet old friends and make new ones. You can use it as a base to leave your cooler while you watch the events and visit the vendors.

But most importantly, this is our chance to let people know who we are and what we do. If you are an enthusiastic SCOT member please help us with the booth. We will be at Grandfather and Flora MacDonald Highland games as well as Cary Lazy Days. We will have a modified booth (minus the pillars) at the Cary Indoor Dance Competition and the State Pipes and Drums Concert. If you are willing to "man" the booth for one or two hours at any of these events please contact Carolyn Graf at CMcDGraf@aol.com.



Congratulations!

William Bear Floyd was born on Jan 29, 2008. He weighed 6 lbs 6 ounces, and will be called Liam. Mother and baby are doing great. Liam is the son of Highland dancer Robin Kalat Floyd and her husband Rick, and grandson of SCOT members Jo and Jim Kalat.

On Saturday, February 16, Katie McDaniel and Kurtis Proffit were married in a beautiful ceremony at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. Following the ceremony, George and Ki McDaniel (SCOT members and Katie's parents) invited family and friends to an elegant reception at the NC State Park Alumni Center, a perfect setting for a family of NSCU alumni. Although the bride and groom were the guests of honor, they happily shared the spotlight with NCSU mascots Mr. and Mrs. Wolf, who arrived to present the groom's cake, a delicious replica of Carter Finley Stadium created by SCOT member Carolyn Graf!

Church Remembers Its Scottish Roots

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan service held on January 13, 2008 at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church stirred the Scottish blood in those present and helped all appreciate the Scottish roots of the church. About 600 people attended the two morning worship services, each receiving a swatch of Carolina tartan fabric to clutch during the *Blessing of the Tartans*. Fourteen tartan banners, along with the Scottish and American flags, processed into the sanctuary as bagpipes and organ played *Highland Cathedral*. The service included Scottish hymns, readings from the Scot's Confession and a sermon inspiring all to follow in the steps of their Scottish forbearers. Following a recessional led by the NCSU Pipes and Drums and a postlude on the Celtic Harp, about 200 people enjoyed a Scottish-theme covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

- Emily Sprague

The Garden Shed

A Story in Multiple Parts, by Donald Ross

This story begins a very long time ago, in 1952. We had just moved from a top flat in a tenement building in Morningside Edinburgh, to what seemed like a hundred miles away in the country at the time; but in reality, as the crow flies, it was probably no more than a few miles. The place was called Colinton Mains and to us this was the ultimate in luxury. We had our own front door, a little garden in front, and what seemed like a huge garden in the rear. We even had hot running water, well that was when Dad would let us turn on the water heater, which would only be for emergency use, as in desperate for a bath when you really needed one. I am not saying that Dad was tight, but he did squeak a little when he walked!

Well when you have a garden you need to have gardening tools, and of course you need a place to put them, ...so, what does that mean?? ...you need a GARDEN SHED. We think that restrictive covenants are a nuisance now, but they were just as bad away back then. The shed could only be a certain size and had to be in a certain position etc., but my Dad must have been a bit more of a rebel than I had realized, as he decided that our shed was going to be a little bit taller, a little bit wider and a little bit longer than the covenants would allow. (WOW)

When I arrived home from school this day, there was our new shed in all its glory. I could hardly believe my eyes! It was huge and had a window in the side, a small bench and a vice, and there was room for all our tools and bikes, ...I truly was in Boy heaven. I spent many happy hours in the shed over the years fixing things (or breaking them!!)

As the years went on, and I started to notice the fair sex, my time spent in the garden shed became less and less. By the time I was fifteen I made the decision that school and Donald should part company as it was obvious to me at least, that the effort required to make it all the way to University was not in my future.

With this decision made, my Dad helped get me into an Engineering factory which made paper making machines; this was quite an experience for this little

lad, almost like being thrown among the wolves! This was an amazing place where there was no such thing as early retirement. We had a couple of hammermen in the blacksmith shop; one of them was 82 and the other 83. There were many men well into their 70's but all seemed to be doing a good productive days work. There of course were a lot of younger folks as well, and one particular person that I met was Gordon Cain. He was probably the most vibrant person I have ever known. Gordon was an athlete and had been the long jump champion of Scotland. When Gordon walked it looked as if he was gliding across the floor; he had such a spring in his step it was just amazing to watch.

When I was working with Gordon I always learned a lot as he was a good teacher to those who wanted to learn. But beware if you crossed him, "oh boy" he would let you know how he felt in no uncertain terms.

Gordon was married and had three young sons Gordon, Michael and Nigel. Well of course, with three young children at home, he was always making little things on the side; and as we became friends, I would be there helping or at least watching for the Foreman coming.

A couple of years later Gordon decided that he could not make enough money working in the factory, so he decided to go out and work for himself. This was very disappointing to me and probably helped prompt me to leave also. By this time I had become very interested in cars and I was able to transfer my apprenticeship over to auto repair (with a bit of effort!) and so I also left the factory.

To be continued in the next issue of "Great SCOT"
so keep this copy if you want the full story.



A Very Few Important Dates (AD) in Scottish History

(Let's face it - all dates in Scottish history are important!)

- TMOT:** (The Mists of Time) Lots of undocumented Scottish history!
- 142-145:** Romans under Antoninus Pius build Antonine Wall
- 397:** St. Ninian establishes a Christian Mission at Whithorn
- 563:** St. Columba lands on Iona
- 8th Century:** Those pesky Norse Vikings arrive
- 11th Century:** King Malcolm III (Malcolm Canmore) establishes Highland Games
- 1263:** Battle of Largs, end of Viking dominance on mainland
- 1297:** Sir William Wallace defeats English at Battle of Stirling Bridge
- 1306:** Robert the Bruce is crowned King of Scotland
- 1314:** Robert the Bruce defeats English at Bannockburn
- April 6, 1320:** Declaration of Arbroath, Scottish Declaration of Independence; finally accepted by English in 1328
- 1424:** James I is crowned King of Scotland
- 1587:** Mary, Queen of Scots, is executed after 19 years in captivity
- 1603:** Union of the Crowns - King James VI of Scotland (son of Mary, Queen of Scots) becomes King James I of England, establishing the reign of the House of Stuart in the British Isles
- 1688:** King James II of England flees country, ending the reign of the House of Stuart; replaced on throne by William and Mary
- 1707:** Union of the Parliaments under Queen Anne
- 1745:** Bonnie Prince Charlie lands on Scottish soil, hoping to re-establish Stuart reign
- 1746:** Scots come in second place to English at the Battle of Culloden
- 1747-1782:** Proscription Act banning Scottish way of life (kilts, bagpipes, tartans, etc.)
- 1996:** Stolen Stone of Destiny (later Stone of Scone) is returned to Scotland after 700 years
- 1999:** Opening of New Scottish Parliament (or reopening after the 1707 Union of Parliaments)

- Steve Johnston

Dance On!

Far from being a quiet winter, the School of Scottish Dance has been busy this year. We ushered in the New Year dancing in two shows at *First Night* in Raleigh on 12/31 with the Wake and District Pipe Band. Dancers were called up on stage by the band, and pipers stepped forward to play 5 dances for each set. The second show was standing room only, with the audience clapping the pipers and dancers on. Greg Graf and Carissa Koontz-Graf came back from Georgia and danced, with Greg helping to direct the pipers in tune selection and tempo.

Highland dancers will be marching in the Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15 and performing in the afternoon. We will be painting faces and having a bake sale as well, and can always use baked goods. Our dancers have other performances coming up in early April helping to share Scottish heritage in the community.

Legendary dance instructor, Betty Lawrence will be giving a workshop at the studio in March. The studio families will be helping SCOT set up and run the Cary Indoor Competition and Dance Workshops in March. We have a terrific group of families and look forward to an enjoyable spring competition season.

- Virginia Kent

Ceud Mile Sailte!

One hundred thousand welcomes to our new members – **Robert L. Phillips**, Monroe; **Sandie Wash**, Louisburg; **Melissa & Gary Hinkel**, Raleigh; **Kelsie Stephen**, Apex; **Alistair & Irene Jones**, Cary; **Fred Duthie**, Cary and **Margaret Mitchell**, Raleigh. It is especially exciting to see new members from all over the Triangle area. 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. For our previous members, we remind you that 2008 membership dues are due. Annual members who have not renewed memberships by March 31 will be dropped from the membership rolls. We encourage you to get those membership dues in. We don't want you to miss any of the great SCOT events coming up!

Celtic Concert Series

Check out the remaining events in the 2nd Annual Celtic Concert Series, offered by the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, NC.

- Dervish on March 11
- Solas on March 19
- Grada on March 21
- Battlefield Band on March 28

Tickets available at www.artscenterlive.org.

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	Judith Lloyd
D'Nise Hefner	Cheryl McDougal
Craig Hill	Amy Mooney
Alan Johnston	Donald Ross
Patricia Johnston	John Sprague
Cheryl Jones	

Tastes of Scotland



Stoved Chicken

I enjoy reading old recipes. I like imagining what utensils the cooks might have used and what their heat source would have been. There are many recipes for "stoved" foods which would have been cooked on top of the range or stove. This is obviously a modernized version using boneless chicken breasts. I suspect an older version would have used chicken pieces or leftover chicken. As with many old recipes, it is a basic one that could be endlessly varied.

- 2 oz. butter
- 4 small chicken breasts skinned & sliced thinly
- 2 lbs potatoes, peeled and sliced thinly
- 2 large onions sliced
- 1 pint chicken stock
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

Lightly brown the chicken in 1 oz. of butter. In a large heavy saucepan place a layer of potatoes. Season and then add a layer of onion and a layer of chicken. Repeat, ending with a layer of potatoes. Pour the stock over and dot with the remaining butter. Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer slowly for about 2 hours. Add more water if necessary to keep from drying out. Sprinkle with parsley before serving. Serves four.

From a lovely little book with nostalgic illustrations: Scottish Country Recipes, compiled by Johanna Mathie, published by J. Salmon LTD. Sevenoaks, England.

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.

History of 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 later, the treaty of Northampton was finally signed by Edward III 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 honors; 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, and on March 10, 2005, the House of Representatives followed suit.

Whisky Tasting

Nearly 50 SCOT members and their guests converged on Tir Na Nog in downtown Raleigh on Saturday night, February 16, to learn about Scotch whisky--principally, by tasting it. Craig Hill led attendees through a crash course in "Whisky 101" by covering the biology, history, geography, chemistry, and etymology associated with the venerable "water of life."

Tasters enjoyed a three-course dinner prepared and served by the staff at Tir Na Nog, and sampled whiskies from the "Islands" whisky region of Scotland: Highland Park (from Orkney); Isle of Jura; Bowmore; Laphroaig; Caol Ila; and Lagavulin (the last four from the Isle of Islay). Craig taught those in attendance how to see, smell, and taste whisky, as well as brief introductions to the impact of the varied geography of Scotland on whisky distilling and flavor, to the long and storied history of whisky distilling and production, and to the origins and spelling of the word "whisky." We are certain that those who are able to remember these lessons (they did taste *six* whiskies, after all) will be able to impart them faithfully to any whisky-neophytes they encounter--or, failing that, that they can just enjoy drinking whisky.

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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