

Great SCOT!

Scottish Cultural Organization of the Triangle

Look what's
going on...

March 2011

Cary Indoor Competitions

SCOT is proud to sponsor the 10th Annual Cary Indoor Competitions and Workshops to be held on March 26 at Resurrection Lutheran School in Cary. Dancers and pipers from all over the United States will convene in Cary to compete for prizes and trophies. In highland dancing, newer dancers will be competing in the morning. Some of the top dancers in the United States will be competing in the premier categories in the afternoon including several previous champions. In addition, dancers will also perform choreographies of their own composition.

A record number of pipers are expected from across the region at the Cary Indoor Solo Piping Competition, which is expected to last from 10 am to 3 pm. The Cary Indoor is popular amongst solo competitors because it provides an opportunity to get a jump start on the competition season, it is held indoors where adverse weather is not a detractor, and it has a reputation as a well-organized event where competitors can relax and play their best. Spectators are welcome to sit in on any of the piping events to hear some excellent piping. For more piping information, call John or Emily Sprague at 919-828-1269.

On Sunday, March 27, SCOT hosts a highland dancing workshop taught by former World Highland Dance Champion Sandra Bald Jones, Matt Turnbull, and Sandy Gribbin. Sandra is also judging the dance competition, Matt, the piper for our dance competition, is a former Highland Dance Champion who also danced professionally in ballet. Sandy is the daughter of SCOT members Leslie and George Kennedy of Apex. She is a former Highland Dance Champion who now has her own business in exercise physiology. Sandy has recently developed the Scot Fit series of workout DVDs designed to benefit highland dancers. 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.



If your **email address** has recently changed or if you have not been receiving regular emails from SCOT about upcoming activities, then please notify Cheryl McDougal at cherylmcd@nc.rr.com or scot@nc.rr.com.

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 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 Raleigh area Tartan Day celebration has been traditionally sponsored by the NC Renaissance Faire and includes the NC State Pipes and Drums, Highland Dancing, and Scottish Country Dancing as well as a Bonnie Knees Contest. Mary, Queen of Scots is the Faire's reigning monarch for the celebration. The date for 2011 is the weekend of April 10 in Knightdale at Poplar Creek Village. For more information visit the Tartan Day page of the site www.ncrenfaire.com or Tartan Day North Carolina on Facebook.

- Judith Lloyd

British Isles Concert

The spring *Music from the British Isles* concert at NCSU has been a tradition since 1970. This year's concert will be on Wednesday, March 23 from 7 to 9 pm in Stewart Theatre on the NCSU campus. It will showcase three talented NCSU groups representing Scotland, Ireland and England: the bands of the NCSU Pipes and Drums; the Irish Session Musicians; and a Brass Quintet. The program will include familiar Celtic and British melodies along with modern compositions which are guaranteed to delight the audience. Tickets, available at the Theatre, are \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. For more information, call John Sprague at 828-1269.

SCOT Calendar of Events

Mar. 12	Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade
Mar. 20	SCOT Music, Song & Dance from Scotland, Page Walker Hotel, Cary, NC
Mar. 23	Celtic Concert, NCSU Pipe Band & Irish session musicians, Stewart Theatre, NCSU, Raleigh, NC
Mar. 26	SCOT Cary Indoor Highland Dance and Piping Competitions, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, NC
Mar. 27	Cary Indoor Highland Dance Workshop
Apr. 2-3	CHDA's Virginia Indoor, Fredericksburg, VA
Apr. 6	National Tartan Day
Apr. 9-10	Tartan Day at the Renaissance Faire, Knightdale, NC
Apr. 15-17	Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC
Apr. 30	Triad Highland Games, Greensboro, NC
May 7	Savannah Scottish Games, Savannah, GA
May 13-14	Gatlinburg Scottish Festival, Gatlinburg, TN
May 15	SCOT Afternoon Tea, West Raleigh Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC
May 20-22	Smoky Mountain Scottish Games, Maryville, TN
May 27-28	Greenville Scottish Festival, Greenville, SC
June TBD	SCOT Golf Tournament & Family BBQ, location TBD
July 2-7	School of Scottish Arts, Minneapolis, NC
July 3-8	Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance, Banner Elk, NC
July 7-10	Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC
Aug. 28	SCOT Annual General Meeting, location TBD

5th Anniversary Concert

On January 8, the wind blew cold and blustery through Raleigh, chilling all in kilts and skirts as they hurried into the Progress Energy Center for the Wake and District Pipe Band's 5th Anniversary Concert. Joining Wake and District on stage was piper John Cairns, the NCSU Pipes and Drums with two Highland dancers from the Triangle Scottish Dancers, Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Chicago Police Department, the Triad Highlanders, and the Inis Cairde School of Irish Dance for a wonderful concert of music and dance.

SCOT was well represented by John and Emily Sprague and other SCOT members who played for the NCSU and WanD Pipe bands, dancers Kelly Kent and Skyler Hinkel, ushers Pat Johnston and Matthew Kent (also a member of WanD), and Ginny Kent, who manned the SCOT booth.

Hats off to Joe Brady, Pipe Major, and the members of Wake and District on their 5th anniversary and a terrific, well-balanced and organized show!

Afternoon Tea

You are cordially invited to an elegant May Tea on Sunday, **May 15** from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall. There you may indulge yourself with a cup of hot tea along with delectable tea sandwiches, scones, shortbreads and many other savory and sweet tea goodies. We encourage each attendee to bring a favorite tea cup and saucer and wear a hat appropriate for an afternoon tea. Alison Birrell will display and describe her extensive collection of Buchan Pottery. You may bring any Scottish pottery that you have acquired to add to the display. Because it is May and graduation time, we will honor anyone present who is celebrating a graduation this spring. The cost for the Tea is \$10 for SCOT members and \$15 for non-members. First time SCOT members will be our honored guests at the Tea and not expected to pay. Invite all your friends and family and RSVP with Emily Sprague (828-1269) or Alison Birrell (303-7262) by May 8 so the bakers will know how much food to prepare. Following is a recipe for Rock Cakes which will be served at the Tea:

Rock Cakes

- ♦ 1-2/3 cup self-rising flour
- ♦ Pinch of salt
- ♦ ½ cup butter
- ♦ ½ cup sugar
- ♦ 1 cup golden raisins
- ♦ 1 extra large egg (or 2 smaller eggs)
- ♦ 1-2 T. milk

Grease a baking sheet and preheat oven to 425 F. Sift the flour and salt into a bowl. Cut the butter into small pieces and rub into the flour. Stir in sugar and raisins. Whisk the egg and add to dry ingredients, mixing with a fork. Add enough milk to bind all together. Drop by tablespoons onto the greased baking sheet. Bake for 12 - 15 minutes.

Note: the mixture should be stiff and hold its shape. If too much milk is added, cakes lose their rock-like appearance.

Submitted by Sandra Knutsen

Please Take Note:

- ♦ Be on the lookout for information about the 8th Annual Mark Johnston SCOT Golf Classic and SCOT Family Barbecue, planned for early June. Details regarding date and location will follow soon. If you have questions, please contact Chuck McDougal at 919 783-7476 or elscrodley@nc.rr.com.
- ♦ SCOT recently purchased a tent to be used for events and it will make its debut at the Triad Highland Games on April 30, held at Bryan Park in Greensboro, NC, and we hope to see you there!

Poem and Commentary

from egalitarianism or social rigidity and their own willingness to range across social boundaries or succumb to them. In a poem of relatively few but exquisitely illustrative words, Burns stimulates our thinking by highlighting features in a network of complex, human and social feelings in which powerful positive and negative forces in individual human beings interact within and across the strata boundaries of society.

The two pairs of people in the poem are the Lord and his Lady and auld Colin and young Jenny. Perhaps Burns created the poem from observing a chance meeting of the lord and young Jenny on a farm road across the heather covered moors in Ayrshire. Did such meeting pass unknown or did it grow to cause social and individual values to be cast aside, create risks for potentials sought and change many future lives forever from a chance, instant twinkle of human interaction creating receptive thoughts?

In the poem the lord has lands, wealth and power in the society. As part of his full life he enjoys hunting and could do so with hounds and hawks and any large entourage he chooses but he prefers to ride alone to hunt. What is his game and why? His lady wife, whose trim figure is always beautifully dressed and bejeweled is from an equally high-standing family (an early stream of the Kennedys). The lady brings to the marriage the expectations and capability of living as a lord's lady, with all its social accoutrements, but nothing is said of her interests and happinesses as a woman. Shockingly, it is revealed that the lord's major interest in the marriage was the tochter (dowry) of lands that she brought from her family to his! So trophy wives are not a modern phenomenon! Auld Colin is a man worthy of having his own cottage. Is he a working or retired ghillie (gamekeeper) or a retired farmer enjoying the quiet of the moors? Is he a widower

or is his wife just not mentioned and, most importantly, is Jenny his daughter or housekeeper? Does he find the lord's attention undesirable or even dangerous for Jenny and himself or is he complicit in the lord's hunt? The main woman in the poem is auld Colin's bonnie lass, Jenny, who lives with him in his cottage. Is this beautiful Jenny with a dazzling smile and a hint of more, so pleased to see anyone that it stimulates an enticing smile or is she calculating upon whom she bestows her charms to fulfill immediate desires or dreams for her longer future? Is she simply a nice person from isolation, naive to the feelings of others and what may result from evolving interactions for good or otherwise or both? Does she know she is a "lily in the wilderness" with "een sae blue, where laughing love sae wanton swims!"? or that she is the game the is lord hunting?

Magic from words of Robert Burns, giving each of us image threads from the real world of people, tantalizing each of us to weave a moving picture of what could be the present and future for these individual humans. Either in the times of Burns or today, what is the moving picture you create from these word threads?

Dr. George S. Birrell

Ceud Mil Saitle!

One hundred thousand welcomes to our new members from all over the Triangle –

**Timothy Edward Rogers – Fuquay-Varina
Jan & Sandra Knutsen - Raleigh**

We are delighted you have joined SCOT and look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming SCOT events. 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

This is membership renewal season. We encourage all of our current members to continue to support the Scottish arts and culture by renewing their annual memberships. And we welcome contributions from Life members. All funds received from memberships are used to support programs and scholarships and qualify for a tax deduction. Please consult your tax professional to determine deductibility in your own situation.

We remind you that 2011 memberships 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!

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
Patricia Johnston
Cheryl Jones

Ginny Kent
Judith Lloyd
Donald Ross
John Sprague

My Lord A-Hunting ~ Robert Burns

My lady's gown, theres gairs¹ upon't,
 And gowden² flowers sae³ rare upon't,
 But Jenny's jimps⁴ and jirkinet⁵,
 My lord thinks meikle⁶ mair⁷ upon't!

My lord a-hunting he is gaen⁸,
 But hounds or hawks wi' him are nane⁹;
 By Colin's cottage is his game,
 If Colin's Jenny be at hame¹⁰.

My lady's white, my lady's red,
 And kith¹¹ and kin¹² o' Cassillis¹³ blude¹⁴;
 But her ten pund¹⁵ land o' tochter¹⁶ guid¹⁷
 Were a' the charms his lordship lo'ed¹⁸.

Out o'er yon muir¹⁹, out o'er yon moss²⁰,
 Whare²¹ gor-cocks²² thro' the heather pass,
 There wons²³ auld Colin's bonnie lass,
 A lily in the wilderness.

Sae sweetly moved her genty²⁴ limbs,
 Like music notes o' lovers hymns!
 The diamond-dew in her een²⁵ sae blue,
 Where laughing love sae wanton swims!

My lady's dink²⁶, my lady's drest²⁷,
 The flower and fancy o' the west;
 But a lassie that a man lo'es²⁸ best,
 O, that's the lass to mak²⁹ him blest³⁰!

¹ gores, ² golden, ³ so, ⁴ stays, ⁵ bodice, ⁶ much, ⁷ more,
⁸ gone, ⁹ none, ¹⁰ home, ¹¹ acquaintance, ¹² blood relative,
¹³ wife's family home, ¹⁴ blood, ¹⁵ pounds, ¹⁶ dowry,
¹⁷ good, ¹⁸ loved, ¹⁹ moor, ²⁰ bog, ²¹ where, ²² moorcocks,
²³ dwells, ²⁴ courteous, ²⁵ eyes, ²⁶ trim, ²⁷ dressed, ²⁸ loves,
²⁹ make, ³⁰ blessed

The lord goes a-hunting but what is the game he seeks?

In the times of Robert Burns, most Scots lived in a society more stratified than in the self-selecting and meritocratic twenty first century. Then, the landed aristocracy and the families of former clan chiefs were the rather powerful upper crust of society, and farm laborers and tinkers were at the bottom. Between them were various strata such as professionals, say lawyers and doctors, independents, say self-made tenant farmers, skilled trades people and shopkeepers, employees, say servants and semi-skilled workers, and the whole sprinkled with people such as dominies (school teachers) and ministers of religion who were more likely, maybe, to mix with people in each stratum.

Yet in this relatively stratified society, each man and woman was a human being. Like today, each had his and her own permutation of desires, fears and aspirations and their own leanings of varying strengths towards and away

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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.

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