



# The Saltire

Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society of Rhode Island  
 Founded 1923, Incorporated 1998



Volume 93

2012

Issue I

## SUBJECT OF LEGEND SPOTTED IN THE HIGHLANDS

Photographs and story by Tom Smith, Scotland

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Tom and his wife Moira spotted the rare white stag while out hill walking.



On a recent walking trip to the Highlands I filmed a rare white stag, thought to be one of only a handful in Britain. The "ghost-like" red deer was spotted on the west coast of Scotland, but its location is to be kept secret to prevent it becoming a target for poachers. There was a shooting of a white stag on the border of Devon and Cornwall  
*Continued on page 4*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Burns  
 Dinner and Dance

*Rhodes-on-the-  
 Pawtuxet*

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012





## Piper's Dram

By: Rob Hanold

I am pleased to announce that the RI Highlanders will be returning to the Burns Dinner in Cranston this February. While many pipe bands are shrinking in size, parade committees are being forced by economic realities to cut back on funding for parades. As bands shrink, many have merged, even as there are fewer opportunities to march and raise money for supplies, travel expenses, etc.



Round Hill Highland Games, Norwalk, CT

The RI Highlanders Pipe Band is the exception. I am pleased to announce that the RI Highlanders will be returning to the Burns Dinner in Cranston this February. After a period of flux, our own pipe band just keeps growing and improving. As an alumnus of this band, I was very pleased and proud when they swept all aside and earned their recent upgrade. Now the competition is a bit stiffer, but the results this past season are very gratifying:

- 5th Round Hill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Glascowlands
- 9<sup>th</sup> Glengarry, Maxville Ontario
- 4<sup>th</sup> Montreal
- 3<sup>rd</sup> NH Loon Mt.

The Maxville Ont. Competition is especially impressive, as our band was up against 17 bands, mostly Canadians enjoying home field advantage.

Currently P/M Debbie Kane has 20 pipers and 15 drummers. They practice in 2 different groups, according to experience and ability. High standards are maintained. To march on the street, a musician must be able to play without error all 5 parade medleys. You will hear the rewards of this policy at any parade. Other pipe bands sound uneven in tone and hardly in unison. When the Highlanders march by, the unison is sharp; the tuning is excellent. The drumming is crisp and correctly pointed. The quality that always strikes me is the tone of the band. The drones are blown so well, so steady that you would think there were twice as many pipers. Full drones add a richness to the music and soften the inherent harshness of the chanter. The end result is truly balanced pipes and drums.

The band practices on Friday evenings, so that the younger members aren't sacrificing schoolwork on a school night. The location is the Varnum Memorial Armory in downtown East Greenwich.

For more information call Debbie at 401-295-7688 or visit the band's website.

[www.rihighlanders.org](http://www.rihighlanders.org).



Maxville, Ontario Canada—Glengarry Highland Games





**Waiting for Opening Massed Bands, Maxville, Ontario Canada—Glengarry Highland Games.**



**Brown University Graduation in May, Providence, Rhode Island**



# Rare White Stag in Scotland

## (August 2011)



*Continued from page 1*

during October 2008 which caused an outcry after local residents managed to protect its location for several years.

Its head was removed as trophy and its carcass was found hanging from a tree. It was originally thought to be the only one in England but it was reported recently that it had sired a white calf.

I advised the Scottish Wild Life Trust and the John Muir Trust who replied : “we are thrilled to know that there is a white stag roaming free out there in the Scottish Highlands.”

As you can see from the photos the deer looked almost ghost-like.

The white appearance is caused by leucism, a rare genetic pattern that reduces levels of the pigment responsible for the animal's color.

White deer are popular in mythology and the ancient Celts considered them to be messengers from the after-life.

Legend has it that they are closely associated with unicorns and their appearance is said to herald profound change in the lives of those who encounter them.

In Arthurian legend, the white stag is a creature that can never be caught and King Arthur's unsuccessful pursuit of it represents mankind's quest for spiritual knowledge.

The Scottish SPCA advise: “The white hart is extremely rare and quite magnificent. White animals in a

landscape not covered in snow can be very vulnerable because they are so visible.”

“It is important that people recognize this and ensure it is kept safe. For anyone who sees it, it will be a very special experience.”

“But we would ask them to maintain the secrecy of its location and bear in mind that mythology states it is very bad luck to kill one.”

You'll have heard of the Palace of Holyroodhouse and the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood but do you know the legend of King David I and the Holy Rood?

*The Scottish King David I was the son of King Malcolm Canmore and Saint Margaret.*

*He lived in the 12th century and loved nothing more than deer hunting in the forests at the edge of Edinburgh.*

*King David encountered a white stag. White animals were magical, otherworldly creatures. In Brittany fairy women could change their shape, taking the form of white hinds. The Fairy Queen that met Thomas the Rhymer at the Eildon Tree rode a milk-white horse. The fairy hounds of the Arawn, King of Annwn, were white dogs with red ears.*

*The word 'rood' is a name for the Holy Cross and King David placed a Holy Rood where he had seen the white stag. 'The Dream of the Rood' is a famous poem that tells the story of Christ's crucifixion as a dream dreamt by the wooden cross. Lines from 'The Dream of the Rood' are carved into the Ruthwell Cross.*

*King David's mother, Saint Margaret, had a piece of the True Cross, known as the 'Black Rood of Scotland'.*

*Today, the Black Rood is lost, but you can visit Holyrood Abbey and Saint Margaret's Chapel, and look for stone carvings of a stag with a cross between its antlers in Edinburgh's Old Town.*



Join us for a night of revelry  
as we toast the memory of

# Robert Burns

**DINNER:**  
THREE COURSE MEAL  
THE TRADITIONAL  
HAGGIS CEREMONY

**ENTERTAINMENT:**  
THE IRISH EXPRESS  
THE RHODE ISLAND  
HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND

**LOCATION:**  
RHODES-ON-THE-PAWTUXET,  
CRANSTON

**DATE:**  
FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

**PRICE:**  
\$45 FOR ADULTS  
\$20 FOR CHILDREN

**FOR RESERVATIONS:**  
E-MAIL: [BURNS2012@COX.NET](mailto:BURNS2012@COX.NET)  
PHONE: 401-434-0386 - ROBIN

ENDORSED BY THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMISSION



# Member's Page



## Flowers of the Forest

Reverend Frederick K. Jellison, October 11, 2011  
Loving father of Jane Jellison and Margaret Noel

Lee Cotterell December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Loving brother of Barbara McKechnie



Peter Ronald Venuti born November 23, 2011 in Mobile, Alabama. Grandson of member Stephen Venuti



Proud grandparents Richmond and Carole Cargill share a picture of their new granddaughter Isabella Grace Farina



Marc Gravel popped the question to Eve at LaSalette on December 10th, 2011



**New Members**  
**Mike Lydon**  
**Alan and Peggy Burse**

Our good friends Jane and John Aulerich are moving South.

On January 24<sup>th</sup> they leave to start a new chapter of their lives in Tigerville, South Carolina – population 426. John served many terms as a member of the Board of Directors and more recently, many will know him as the presenter at our Whisky Tastings. John and Jane ran the Leslie tent at the various Highland Games and attended most society functions. We will miss them both and hope they will come back now and again to spend time with us.

Their e-mail address will remain [jaulerich@yahoo.com](mailto:jaulerich@yahoo.com)

***ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF RI, INC.***  
***SCOTTISH COUNTRY & CEILIDH DANCING***

***SCHEDULE WINTER/SPRING 2012***

*JANUARY 16, 23 AND 30*

*FEBRUARY 6, 20, 27*

*MARCH 5, 19, 26*

*APRIL 2, 16, 23, 30*

*MAY 7, 21*

*JUNE 4, 18, 25*

*You are invited to join us on the Monday's listed above at the*

*Legion Hall, 7 Legion Way, Cranston, RI*

*Doors open at 7.15pm - on the floor by 7.30pm*

*dance until 9.00pm*

*followed by tea/coffee from 9 to 9.30pm*

*\$5 per person to offset the cost of the hall*

*If you have any questions please contact*

*Joyce at 401-334-2448*



**St. Matthew's choir under the direction of Brother Enoch John enjoyed by all at our Christmas Ceilidh.**



**Congratulations! Jena Fairbairn and Fred Summers were married September 10th, 2011.**



**What a repertoire—thank you Mystic Voyagers. Also a big thank you to The Dram Boys, Rob Hanold and Debbie Kane for making the evening complete.**



**National Library of Scotland**

The following link was provided by society member Cathy Poirier. It is a link to the digital gallery of the National Library of Scotland, and is summarized as a wonderful resource for anyone interested in Scottish history and culture.

<http://www.nls.uk/digital-gallery>





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powerlord\_stu@hotmail.com

Stuart Smith sails high above Ben Nevis in his paramotor.  
To enjoy Stuart's experience go to YouTube and enter "Paramotor ascent of Ben Nevis".

## Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE

Joyce Dell	VP	401-334-2448	<a href="mailto:joycedell@cox.net">joycedell@cox.net</a>
Betty MacLean	Secretary	401-781-7909	<a href="mailto:bjmac88@cs.com">bjmac88@cs.com</a>
Virginia Butler	Treasurer	401-823-8431	<a href="mailto:queenmom34@aol.com">queenmom34@aol.com</a>

### DIRECTORS

G. Richmond Cargill		508-644-9820	<a href="mailto:riscotty@verizon.net">riscotty@verizon.net</a>
Peter Dell		401-334-2448	<a href="mailto:peterdell45@live.com">peterdell45@live.com</a>
Robert Hanold	Society Piper	508-695-8601	<a href="mailto:robhanold@yahoo.com">robhanold@yahoo.com</a>
John MacLean		401-781-7909	<a href="mailto:bjmac88@cs.com">bjmac88@cs.com</a>
Br. Enoch John Valentine		401-597-6771	<a href="mailto:brenochjohn@gmail.com">brenochjohn@gmail.com</a>
Joseph Muzzy		401-732-2304	<a href="mailto:jfmuzzy@cox.net">jfmuzzy@cox.net</a>



# The Saltire

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Volume 93

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Issue II

## QUEEN ELIZABETH II CELEBRATES HER DIAMOND JUBILEE CONGRATULATIONS YOUR MAJESTY

Inside this issue:



Official Diamond Jubilee portrait of Queen Elizabeth II photographed in the Centre Room of Buckingham Palace, overlooking The Victoria Memorial Statue

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Queen Elizabeth II has been part of our lives for 60 years. Her reign began at the age of 25 and she has dedicated her life as a servant of her people for more than 21,000 days.

I remember being given the day off school and my mother taking us with Union Jack in hand to see the Queen as she made her journey around Scotland. Each child was given a commemorative cup and saucer filled with candy and a commemorative coin both of which I still have today.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

[Loon Mountain Games](#)

Sept. 21st, 22nd, 23rd

[Scotland Ct. Games](#)

October 7

[Tartan Bash](#)

November 2nd

[Christmas Ceilidh](#)

December 1st





## Piper's Dram

By: Rob Hanold



The kilt brings out the best and the worst in some people. On the one hand, it serves as a fine ice-breaker. The kilt can bring strangers together instantly, as they discover common ancestry or similar love of Scottish history, music, or geography. On the other, the kilt discomforts and threatens people who are insecure, or who harbor restrictive sexual stereotypes. Every man who wears a kilt can tell of stupid comments made by other men, especially in men's restrooms—stupid wisecracks about ladies in skirts belonging in the other restroom.

While playing at wedding receptions I have been threatened by drunken guests simply because I dressed differently. Men in kilts can also be objectified, harassed, and insulted in ways similar to the sexual harassment suffered by women. The stereotype of the kilted gentleman takes two forms: the effeminate pseudo-gael posing for attention, or the clannish half-savage Highland gangster speaking in unintelligible grunts and killing without concern.

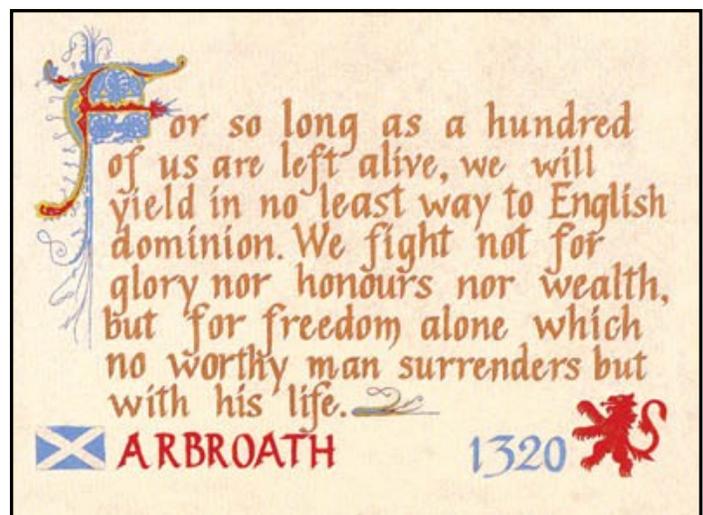
In the post-Sept 11<sup>th</sup> world, challenging someone's ethnicity poses more risks than before. We all wish

to be accepted as equals, but we need to maintain our individuality. When does individuality become a threat or a joke to others?

Nine years ago, we were upgrading our phone and cable service. We arranged with the cable company to visit in a two-hour window on a particular day. Back then, the cable business was expanding so rapidly that the big companies sub-contracted jobs to any electrician available. After the appointment was set, I was hired to play at a funeral on the very day. At the same time, a workman was making repairs on the house. So picture the encounter. The cable man knocks on the door. Our workman opens the door in dirty work clothes, a hammer in his hand. I am behind him, in Highland garb, but without dirk, claymore, or battle ax. The cable man refused to speak to me; rather, he would only speak to the workman, telling him that he could not enter the house. The poor coward would not even make eye contact, but instead retreated quickly to his truck. I had to call the cable company to reschedule.

Imagine, a middle-aged man weighing all of 145 lbs. being a threat to anyone. If it weren't so silly, it would be infuriating. And yet, when I started teaching in 1968, a female teacher who wore pants instead of a skirt was reprimanded and sent home to change clothes.

Last week was Tartan Day, and the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath. I think I'll raise a glass to our different heritages, which make up the wonderful fabric of America, especially now, when there is such pressure to punish everyone who is in the least bit 'different'.



# Whisky Tasting 2012

By: Cathy Poirier



The fine turnout of tasters allowed for quite a lot of comments back and forth regarding the cask strength whisky versus the traditional bottled whisky. Truth be told, one end of the tasting table was somewhat more raucous than the other, but this taster chooses not to name any names. (You know who you are J) In the end, each of the tasters had their very own favorites.

While the tasting table was fully stocked with fruits, cheese and crackers, additional treats were supplied by Donald between tastings. Such delicacies as salmon pate, haggis puffs, lamb skewers, shrimp, and small stuffed red potatoes were quickly consumed by the tasters and their guests. After the last tasting, all were treated to “sliders”, those mini hamburgers with tomatoes and lettuce – delish!

Not to be forgotten, the fifteen guests were invited to share in the delicious wine selected by Joyce Dell. All who consumed a glass or two were very pleased, and a couple of guests were seen writing down the name of the wine so they could purchase some for themselves.

Coffee and tea followed, accompanied by the requisite Walker’s shortbread cookies. (My favorite!)

Passing back through the open door of the log cabin as the tasters and their guests made their way home; all agreed it was a wonderful afternoon spent with friends.

Bright sunshine and a warm breeze blowing through the open front door of the log cabin welcomed all to the St Andrew’s Society annual whisky tasting. Held on a recent Sunday in April at the Rehoboth Anawan Club, twenty-seven whisky tasters and their guests spent a delightful afternoon learning about Scotch whisky and a few of the Scottish distilleries. Delicious treats were prepared for the event by member Donald Blais.

Due to John Auerlich’s recent move to out of state, the tasting was ably led by Peter Dell and Rob Hanold.

The focus this year was on “Exploring the Value” between cask strength whisky versus traditional bottling. Selected whiskies for the tasting included those from the Macallan, Glenfarclas and Laphroaig distilleries. The Macallan and Glenfarclas distilleries both are located in the Highlands region of Scotland, yet each of the whiskies has a distinct colour, nose, palate and finish. As expected, the Laphroaig whiskies provided an altogether different taste. Six whiskies were tried in all, cask strength and traditional bottle strength from each of the represented whisky makers.

Leading the group through the very enjoyable (and sometimes rather loud!) tasting process, Peter explained the distilling process for each of the whiskies and the impact of the distillery’s location on the flavor of the whisky. The tasters sipped, sipped again, added water (or not), sipped again, wished for more (no way!), and sipped again. One or two of the whiskies might have found their way to a neighboring taster, if a taster did not care for a particular whiskey, but those instances were few and far between.



# Tartan Day Picnic 2012





SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30 – 9AM TO 3.30 PM

## CELTIC STONECARVING FOR BEGINNERS

SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> – 8 PM \$13.00 advanced - \$15.00 day of show

**THE GNOMES** – 5 member band. Instrumentation includes: fiddle, Irish whistles, erhu, accordion, guitar, mandolin, bass, percussion keyboard and vocals. The spirited music takes you around the world encompassing Celtic, Scandinavia, Caribbean, Asian and Latin styles.



OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> – 8PM - \$15

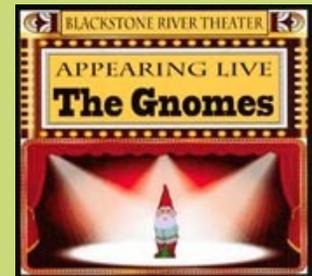
## NORTH SEA GAS

We have had this group for private concerts in the past. Please support them.

NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 7PM - \$20.00 advanced - \$24 day of show

## ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS

Celtic Music



*North Sea Gas*



## HEADS UP ON THE TARTAN BASH - RESERVATION FORMS WILL BE MAILED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER

DATE: NOVEMBER 2ND, 2012

NEW LOCATION: AFTER LOOKING AT THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP WE HAVE CHANGED TO A MORE CENTRAL LOCATION. THE IMPERIAL ROOM, THE SHRINE CLUB, ONE RHODES PLACE, CRANSTON.

WE ARE OPENING THE FUNCTION UP TO A LARGER SCOTTISH AUDIENCE THIS YEAR. WE WILL BE MAILING THE INFORMATION TO OUR MEMBERS AND THE BURNS SUPPER ATTENDEES WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE BURNS COMMITTEE.

THE COST WILL BE \$45 UNTIL A SPECIFIED DATE AFTER WHICH IT WILL BE INCREASED TO \$50. THIS IS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BOOK EARLY TO ASSIST OUR RESERVATIONS CHAIRPERSON.

YOU WILL BE WELCOMED BY A PIANO RECITAL IN THE FOYER, DINNER, HAGGIS CEREMONY FOLLOWED BY DANCING TO THE IRISH EXPRESS.

DRESS IN YOUR FINERY. BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND PLEASE BOOK EARLY AS SEATING WILL BE LIMITED

## MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON

[www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org)

Now until Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Photographs by Yousef Karsh - Celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 60 years as monarch of Great Britain and Commonwealth Realms.

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Mario Testino – British Royal Portraits

October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Kings, Queens and Courtiers: Royalty on Paper

# Member's Page

## Flowers of the Forest

David Johnson, loving husband of Linda

*Get Well Soon*

Roy McKechnie, Bernadette Maynard, Diane Wilkin



### New Members

Debbie and Frank Kane  
Frederick and Maraidh Thomson



Our congratulations go out to member Stephen Venuti on the occasion of the ordination of his son Matthew to the Roman Catholic Priesthood. Fr. Venuti, a former Episcopal priest was ordained at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Mobile, Alabama June 2nd. Ad multos annos, Fr. Venuti!

## Dance Schedule

October  
1, 15, 22, 29

November  
5, 19, 26,

December  
3 and 17<sup>th</sup>



Joe and Nancy Muzzy's German Shepherd, Freyja "Casamoko's Daughter of Valhalla" wins Best in Breed puppy at the Cape Cod Kennel Club dog show held on September 13th in East Falmouth, Massachusetts's.





### THE OTHER “FLYING SCOTSMAN”

Congratulations Pilot Smith! Member Graeme Smith earned his Private Pilot’s License nine months to the DAY after his Airman’s Flight. Look up you may see him soaring in the blue yonder in his recent acquisition or you can read about Graeme learning to fly at <http://graemejwsmith.com> and watch some videos of him flying his plane on <http://youtube.com>. Search for – “graemejwsmith”.

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Joyce Dell	VP	401-334-2448	<a href="mailto:jdellmri@gmail.com">jdellmri@gmail.com</a>
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Robert Hanold	Society Piper	508-695-8601	<a href="mailto:robhanold@yahoo.com">robhanold@yahoo.com</a>
John MacLean		401-781-7909	<a href="mailto:bjmac88@cs.com">bjmac88@cs.com</a>
Br. Enoch John Valentine		401-597-6771	<a href="mailto:brenochjohn@gmail.com">brenochjohn@gmail.com</a>
Joseph Muzzy		401-732-2304	<a href="mailto:jfmuzzy@verizon.net">jfmuzzy@verizon.net</a>



# DINNA YE HEAR IT?

## The MacLeans Gather



Eleven-hundred-plus MacLeans descended on the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides on June 18, 2012, to help their chief, Sir Lauchlan MacLean, celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the restoration of their castle, Duart Castle, a 12th-century structure which had been destroyed over time. The MacLeans, staunch Jacobites and Stewart supporters, lost their lands because of debts accrued in this support.

In 1688 Duart was besieged and bombarded from the sea by English warships. The Campbells, who were Whigs and opponents of the Stuarts, returned to Mull with a force of 2,500 took and lay waste to Duart Castle. Though in a ruinous condition, it was garrisoned by government troops until 1751. After the occupation it was left to become even more dilapidated. For the next 160 years Duart would not belong to MacLean chiefs. In 1911 the ruin of Duart and a portion of the peninsula on which it stands, were brought back by Colonel Sir Fitzroy MacLean, BT, KCB 26th Chief of Clan MacLean. He engaged the Scottish architect, Sir John Burnet, to restore the castle and make it a comfortable place to live.

So after a lapse of over 200 years, the banner of the Chief once again flew over Castle Duart. Sir Fitzroy extended the following invitation to MacLeans world wide:

"Dear Clansman or Clanswoman, the Chief of the Clan, Colonel Sir Fitzroy Donald MacLean, Bart; KCB; D.L., extends an invitation to his Clan to meet him at Duart Castle on Saturday, 24th August 1912. "A fiery cross going forth to the far corners of the earth to muster the Clan for peace, not war, 71 different newspapers of the day had accounts of the event. It was estimated between 300-400 people were present from all parts of Britain, Canada, the USA, Germany and Holland, a remarkable number for travel conditions of those times. When Sir Lauchlan, the present chief, put out the call at the 2007 gathering, the Clan responded 1,000 strong in 2012.

