



The Saltire

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



2021

www.sasri.org

Issue I

HOST YOUR OWN BURNS SUPPER!



What would have been the 58th Burns Supper this February was upended by the pandemic. But fear not! As one door closes, another one opens – this may be the year that you host your own Burns Supper. It could be a simple affair, or something more elaborate depending on your enthusiasm – perhaps you might zoom in with friends to virtually share the evening? Here are some ideas for hosting your own Burns Supper:

The Food

The first item on the list is haggis, of course. SASRI gets its haggis from the good folks at the Scottish Gourmet. You can order via their website (thescottishgourmetusa.com) or place a phone order by calling 877-814-3663 toll free. The Scottish Gourmet has other delicacies on hand as well as instructions for cooking the haggis. Don't wait too long to order as supplies are limited!

In addition to haggis, consider a menu of salad, scotch broth, and neeps & tatties. Those that enjoy cooking will have a lot of fun preparing a menu. If you are looking for suggestions here are some options:

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UPCOMING EVENTS



STATE OF THE SOCIETY

Needless to say, all activities of the Society continue to be on hold, but we all rejoice in the prospect of a light at the end of this tunnel. Toward that end, we are very hopeful that 2021 will see us back together again in person at some point. While none of us are certain of the precise vaccination timetables quite yet, it certainly looks like we may well be able to hold our summer picnic this year and finally raise a glass to one another. Beyond that, we will look forward to seeing all of our “clan” at the Tartan Bash in the Fall. We hope that by the time the April issue of the Saltire is published, we will have a much clearer picture of the recovery and then be able to make more specific plans. In the meantime, and as described elsewhere in this issue, please be sure to keep the immortal memory of Robert Burns alive in your own way, and please consider joining us for our first and only virtual whisky tasting.

Our annual meeting of the Society will be held via Zoom on March 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm. In accordance with the revised by laws, our Board members are elected to five-year terms in three staggered groups. All Board members are currently serving their terms and there are no elections to be had this year. Nevertheless, please notify Board member Cathy Poirier at cath251@hotmail.com if you are interested in participating in the annual meeting. Also, and as indicated in the previous issue, we will not collect dues for 2021.

Finally, the Board voted to make our annual charitable contributions on behalf of the Society. Specifically, the Society donated \$500 each to the Folio Trust in Scotland and to McAuley Ministries here in Rhode Island. In addition, the Society donated \$100 to the Rhode Island Highlanders Pipe Band as well as \$70.35 to Scots Charitable Trust. The unusual amount requested by that entity represents the value of a single dollar in 1684, a seminal date in that charity’s past.

Board of Directors

John MacLean	Chair	401-784-9649	jcmac1925@gmail.com
G. Richmond Cargill		508-644-9820	RIScotty12@gmail.com
Br. Enoch John Valentine		401-440-4784	brenochjohn@gmail.com
Joseph Muzzy		401-732-2304	jfmuzzy@verizon.net
Gail Kelleher	Treasurer	401-524-9455	kellehergail@gmail.com
James Kelleher		401-461-9552	notonedime55@gmail.com
Cathy Poirier	Secretary	401-263-1538	cath251@hotmail.com

ANOTHER HIGHLAND “CLAN” by Jim Kelleher

Since anyone can remember, countless people have made their way to Loch Ness in hopes of catching a glimpse of Miss Nessie only to be disappointed. If those people had followed the River Ness to its end, they may well have made observation of something nearly as surprising; dolphins frolicking in the Moray Firth.

Among the many unique experiences to be had when visiting the Highlands, one not to miss is the chance to see the dolphins. Nearly two hundred bottlenose dolphins live in and around the Moray Firth, the large coastal sea bay near Inverness. These dolphins are by far the most northerly population of dolphins in the world, and also the largest. While the typical dolphin attains an average length of eight feet, these hearty Highlanders grow to be thirteen feet long. Like all dolphins, they spend their lives living among an extended family known as a pod, whose numbers range from ten up to thirty.



There are many vantage points from which the dolphins are easily observed, but considered the best among them is Chanonry Point, located on the coast (naturally) between Fortrose and Rosemarkie on the Black Isle. There are also fine observation points across the Firth at Fort George as well as at the Scottish Dolphin Centre in Spey Bay. There are dolphin-watching boat tours run out of Cromarty as well, with the best chances of seeing the dolphins between the months of May and September. Although the dolphins rarely venture farther than the Moray Firth and along the nearby coast, they have been tracked by GPS as far away as Ireland and even The Netherlands.

At present, the British newspapers have been abuzz following a mother and her calf that have taken up residence on the Isle of Man. In addition to this unexpected population of dolphins, the Moray Firth also provides a home for harbor seals, porpoises and orcas. Among the many, many reasons to visit Scotland, you now have yourself yet another.

Sheep! Past, Present and Future Heroes by Gail Kelleher

Our experience with sheep goes way back. As a child, someone gathered you on their lap and recited nursery rhymes, including *Baa Baa Black Sheep*. You might have seen sheep grazing on farmland, clearing out an overgrown yard, or being shaved down for its wool. Perhaps you watched a cartoon whereby a wolf and his prey are outsmarted by a sheep dog. Or maybe your closest encounter with one is counting them at night in hopes of falling asleep.

Sheep are docile animals and in Scotland, they outnumber people. And where does one find these sheep? All over the countryside, with the greatest concentration in the Scottish Borders (with 17% of the total) and in the south of Scotland having one-third of all of Scotland's sheep. There are some things in Scotland that the locals hardly notice but that visitors (especially from the USA) find charming. One of these is sheep.



Sheep in winter, Balquhiddel glen.

Now, one of the most famous cloven-footed denizens of Scotland is Dolly*. She was the first mammal cloned from an adsomatic cell. Dolly was born in 1996. The cloning process was inefficient back then, and Dolly was the only lamb to survive to adulthood from 277 attempts. The

*Dolly was cloned from a cell taken from the mammary gland of a six-year-old Finn Dorset sheep and an egg cell taken from a Scottish Blackface sheep. Because Dolly's DNA came from a mammary gland cell,

successful cloning of Dolly led to dire and fantastic predictions: Humans would be cloned; Diseases would be prevented; Lost children rebirthed. Today, 24 years after Dolly's birth, the impact of cloning on science has surpassed expectations. Its biggest significance has been in the stem cell advances it triggered. Stem cell biologist Shinya Yamanaka said that "Dolly's cloning motivated me to begin developing stem cells derived from adult cells"—an accomplishment that won him a Nobel Prize in 2012. "Because they are artificially created and can have a variety of futures, they are called induced pluripotent stem (or iPS) cells. These iPS cells have reduced the need for embryonic stem cells—which have long caused ethical concerns for some—and iPS cells now form the basis for most of today's stem cell research."

Fast forward to 2020 – guess who's helping in the fight against COVID-19? Twenty researchers at the University of Dundee have identified 28 proteins created by SARS-CoV-2 that produce an immune response in the body. These proteins are introduced into sheep on a local farm. The sheep then start to produce antibodies against the viral proteins which are harvested from the sheep every few weeks (no harm comes to the sheep!) The antibodies are brought back to the laboratories in Dundee and prepared for their various uses. The final product will be sent to labs around the world to be used in the fight against COVID-19.

The antibodies that the sheep produce will be used to develop diagnostic tests. One use will be a technique that can rapidly identify the presence of the virus in a blood sample. But its most important function will be in understanding the basic biology of the virus and to identify ways to defeat it.

So, let's hear it for sheep! They put us to sleep at night, they keep us warm with their wool, they advanced stem cell research, and they are helping the fight against COVID-19. Baa!!!



Dolly and her lamb, Bonnie.

she was named after the country singer **Dolly Parton** in an attempt to humanize a research project that might otherwise have seemed detached from everyday life.

St. Andrew's Society of Rhode Island, Inc. – 2020 Annual Report

Operating Account – October 1, 2019 thru September 30, 2020

Beginning Balance October 1, 2019		Beg. \$ 15,121.53
Total Deposits for this Period	\$10,969.41	
Total Disbursements	\$10,818.66	
Ending Balance September 30, 2020		<u>End \$ 15,272.28</u>

Tartan Account – October 1, 2019 thru September 30, 2020

Beginning Balance October 1, 2019		Beg. \$ 6,487.82
Total Deposits Plus Interest	\$ 380.00	
Total Disbursements	\$ 2,470.91	
Ending Balance September 30, 2020		<u>End \$ 4,396.91</u>

Certificates of Deposit

Operating Account CD	\$7,957.65
Tartan Account CD	\$7,957.65
Charitable Account CD	\$3,312.52

\$ 19,227.82

Total Assets as of September 30, 2020

\$ 38,897.01

SAVE THE DATE

Virtual Whisky “Tasting”

One of our most anticipated events each year is the Whisky Tasting which, like nearly everything else, must wait for the green light before we can hold it safely. In the meantime, however, we are planning a virtual whisky tasting for **Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 7:30 pm** via Zoom. Rather than a traditional whisky tasting, we anticipate a one hour get-together with your favorite

whisky (or other beverage) in hand. It has been far too long since many of us have had the chance to see one another, and what better way to do so that with a wee dram? If you're a Zoom novice, it's simple as long as you have a computer or cell phone. There is no cost and no specific obligation, but if you are interested in joining us for that social hour, please send an email to Joe Muzzy jfmuzzy@verizon.net or Jim Kelleher notonedime55@gmail.com and let us know. We will then email a link with simple instructions to all those who are interested. Hope to see you then!





Members' Page



We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Saltire*! If you wish to forego a paper copy and read the electronic version on our website (www.sasri.org) in the future, please send an email to kellehergail@gmail.com.

Dear Members,
Please be so kind as to notify Gail Kelleher when a Society member passes on so that she may include this information in the Saltire.

If you have a special event/photo that you would like to include in the next Saltire, please send this information to Joe Muzzy (jfmuzzy@verizon.net) and/or Gail Kelleher (kellehergail@gmail.com).



Member in the News – Congratulations to Roberta Mudge Humble!

If you haven't been to the Westerly Armory, you should include it on your list of places to visit when it is safe to do so. The Armory has been reinvented as the People's Museum, and much of the credit and thanks goes to Roberta. For nearly three decades, Ms. Humble has worked to preserve and renovate the Armory, a building she used to visit as a child growing up in Westerly. Through the years, the Armory has hosted luminaries like singer Ella Fitzgerald; Rocky Marciano boxed there; and the old New York Celtics played basketball in the 6,000 square foot drill hall.

In 1992, Roberta formed a non-profit, Westerly Armory Restoration Inc. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996 – that's the year the RI National Guard moved out and the Town of Westerly purchased it for \$1. Today, Humble holds the title of President. "She is the heart and soul behind the intent and purpose of the facility." If you missed the article in the *Providence Journal*, you can read it [here](#). Nice Work Roberta!

Entertainment—We have an Outlander Two-fer!

Clanlands: Whisky, Warfare and a Scottish Adventure Like No Other. This New York Times Bestseller tells the story of cast members Sam Heughan and Graham MacTavish as they explore a land of raw beauty, poetry, feuding, music, history and warfare. Their journey begins at Glencoe and finishes at the Culloden battlefield, where along the way they experience adventures and a cast of highland characters. *Clanlands* promised to be an entertaining read!

Men in Kilts Update: The first episode of this two-episode documentary premiered Christmas on Starz. "Happy Holidays from Men in Kilts! Cozy up next to this Scottish yule log with Sam, Graham and their kilts". Check Starz listing for schedule.

Thank You!

Special thanks to [Arthur MacDonald](#) for his donation to defray the cost of publishing *The Saltire*. We are so glad you enjoy this newsletter, and we appreciate your kind words and support!

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[Seared Salmon with Heather Honey Dressing](#) This delicate starter is enough to whet your guests' appetites but will leave plenty of room for haggis and neeps & tatties.

[Traditional Scotch Broth](#) "Broth" is a little misleading to describe this delicious soup. It is not difficult to make, but it does take time to cook.

[Neeps and Tatties with Whisky Sauce](#) If you attended the Scottish Dinner prepared by Chef Donald Blais a couple of years ago, you enjoyed the timbale presentation of this classic dish. If you prefer something simpler, try [Crispy Neeps and Tattie Cakes](#).

Presentation of the Haggis

You may not have a sword handy, but don't let that stop you from presenting the haggis. I know some of you have the Address to a Haggis memorized, so by all means please recite it. And for those who do not, there is no dearth of videos. Click [here](#) to listen to Top Burnsian, Cameron Goodall as he addresses the haggis in Edinburgh Castle at a private dinner in the Jacobite Room. And have your glass of whisky ready for the toast!

The Selkirk Grace

Although this grace was known for 80-100 years before it was attributed to Burns, it came to be called the Selkirk Grace because Burns was said to have delivered it at a dinner given by the Earl of Selkirk in 1794:

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit.*

Table Decorations

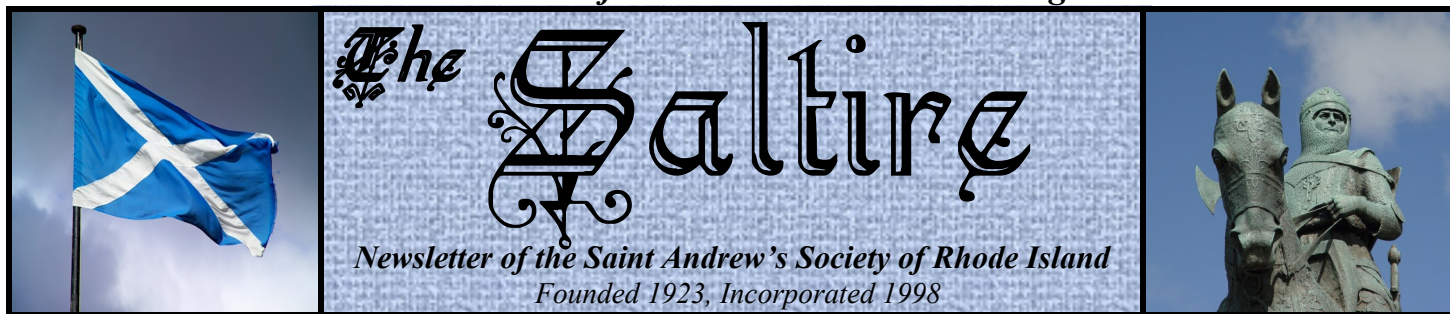
Tartan always makes for a festive atmosphere so display yours proudly! Tartan table runners and ribbons set the mood along with candles and flowers. And if you have a framed picture of the Bard (who doesn't), remember to include the guest of honor as a centerpiece. Here are a few ideas for making your table memorable.



Immortal Memory or Poetry Reading

Traditionally, one person has the honor of presenting "The Immortal Memory", to bring the life and work of Robert Burns to your family in an informative and entertaining way. There are many examples of this on the web if you wish to get some ideas on delivering your own. Or, click [here](#) for a transcript of the Immortal Memory presented in 2019. Another option would be to read aloud some of the poetry of Robert Burns.

At evening's end, you should be full of food and warm with whisky, and ready to sing Auld Lang Syne. These are mere suggestions; you can celebrate anyway you like and make your own traditions. It is our sincerest hope that we will all be together in 2022. Here is the most important thing to remember: **Please, take a photograph of your home celebration and send to me for the next Saltire!**



2021

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Issue II

A WEE DRAM



After what seemed like an eternity, we finally were able to have a St. Andrew's Society event of sorts on February 27th. On that Saturday evening, twenty of our members "gathered" for the first (and hopefully last) Virtual Whisky Tasting. Although it was of necessity a type of BYOB, we nonetheless were able to feature whiskys representing many of the regions. Our participants enjoyed such stalwarts as Oban, Macallan, Talisker, Laphroaig, Edradour and many more. Recently, a 72 year old bottle of Glen Grant single malt was sold at auction for \$54,000, but that bottle didn't surface at our event so apparently that one was a bit steep in price for our group.

Although far from a traditional whisky tasting, our principal mission was to have an opportunity to see each other's faces and to enjoy each other's company. That we did indeed. What began with some small talk and catching up blossomed (with some assistance from the aforementioned whisky) to an evening of laughter and story after story. Since Joe Muzzy confirmed that he has somehow resisted the urge to dip into the whiskys purchased for the ill-fated 2020 Whisky Tasting, we are all set and rarin' to go for next year's in person, back to normal Whisky Tasting.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**TARTAN PICNIC
AUGUST 22, 2021**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
HIGHLAND GAMES
SEPTEMBER 17TH TO
19TH, 2021**



STATE OF THE SOCIETY

As our front page article indicates, the Society is slowly starting to arise from it's pandemic-induced hiatus. We are delighted to report that we have no less than three actual SAVE THE DATE announcements:

Our **Summer Picnic** will be held on Sunday, **August 22, 2021** at Goddard Park in Warwick, the same location as the 2019 picnic. This is, of course, an outdoor event so there should be little in the way of Covid restrictions in place by August. Nonetheless, we will of course abide by whatever restrictions are in place at that time. The picnic will be, as always, free to members. As we get closer in time to the event, please keep an eye out for an email we will be sending with more details.

Our **Tartan Bash** will be held on Sunday, **October 24, 2021** at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. (That isn't a typo; the Shriners' Imperial Room has closed so we were lucky to be able to move the event a mere 500 feet down the road). As with the picnic, we will provide more detailed information as we get closer in time to the event. Time to start pressing your pleats...

Our long-awaited **Burns Supper** will be held at Rhodes on Saturday, **February 12, 2022**. Details to follow as we get closer to the event.

The recent sale of the American Legion hall has caused us to look for alternative locations for the Christmas Ceilidh as well as the Scottish country dancing group and we'll provide more information as it becomes available. We recently sent out a survey to the members concerning your interest in dancing this fall. Please complete the survey if you have not already done so. If you did not receive the survey, please contact us by [email](#) and the survey link will be sent to you.

Our Society has been invited to participate in the Rhode Island Heritage Month's Virtual Celebration, which will be broadcast on You Tube in September (details to follow). We are in the process of preparing a video that will highlight some of our activities and traditions.

Finally, we invite you to read the thank you letter recently received from the Folio Trust in Scotland, one of the charities to which the Society makes a contribution each year. Click [here](#) for the letter.

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RAINBOWS OF HOPE IN EDINBURGH

On March 26, a tribute to NHS workers and staff was beamed from the Edinburgh Castle, sending a message of hope from the city to the rest of the world. The art installation coincided with the one-year anniversary of the pandemic restrictions. The rainbow was chosen as a symbol of hope when during the pandemic, thousands of school children across the UK painted and drew rainbows when their schools were closed.

Created by Berlin-based artist Yvette Mattern, the rainbow is visible from up to ten miles away.



Unique Events directors Al Thomson and Penny Dougherty said: "As we pass the one-year anniversary since lock-down restrictions began, reflecting on the year past, but now looking ahead with renewed hope and optimism, we believe it is more important than ever to let some light back into our lives, celebrating the work of our NHS Staff and key workers, and look forward to a brighter future for all."

Picture: Jane Barlow/PA Wire

A second 'rainbow of hope,' was created using 12,000 plants and was unveiled at The Mound in Edinburgh earlier this week to coincide with the first anniversary of the lockdown restrictions.



Picture: Lisa Ferguson

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION, OR, MY WONDERFUL SCOTTISH ADVENTURE

By Denise Carmichael Aiken

I've always wanted to go to Scotland. Ask anyone who knows me, and they will tell you I used to bore them to tears with my saying "Someday, I'll get to Scotland" yada, yada, yada.

Then, in the summer of 2013, I learned that there would be a gathering of Clan Carmichael. Yes! I registered as soon as possible and started packing in October 2013 for my June 25, 2014 flight. I arrived in Lanarkshire on June 26th in time for the first night's reception with our handsome clan chief Richard and his lovely Lady Patricia. It was like going to a family reunion and meeting relatives you never knew you had.

My luggage, however, was not so fortunate. It spent a week in London. Fortunately, my house mates, Jennifer and Claudia, were able to keep me clothed in the interim, and I did a bit of shopping. Waking up on Friday morning on June 27th at 4:15 AM with the sound of a rooster (a good Rhode Island breed, like me) and looking out over the Carmichael Estate made my heart soar.

We spent the day walking all over the estate, retelling the story of the name and the lands. Home. And later that night, marching as one clan among the others gathered, through the streets of Stirling and with 1,000 pipers playing!! Never mind that I did it in ballet flats, the only shoes I had! I was so happy to be a part of it, I would have done it barefooted.

And what can I say about Bannockburn? To stand in a place where Scots, including Clan Carmichael, asserted their independence 700 years before is an experience I will carry in my soul for the rest of my days.

But the adventure continued with a tour of the Outer Hebrides (in my own clothes recovered from British Airways). I kept a travel log for the whole trip and re-read about the July 4th "fireworks" that we managed by borrowing roadside flares from our bartender and setting them off on a beach on the island of Eriskay. The beauty of Harris and St Clements Church with its Sheela Na Gig. And the standing stones of Calanais on Lewis! To touch such structures placed by long forgotten people. They considered these places sacred, and I have no reason to doubt them. We met author Alistair Carmichael who welcomed 13 Carmichaels whom he had never met into his home on Lewis. I learned a lot about single malt that day, and our host had a lot less of the wonderful nectar when we left.

On July 8th we stood in Skara Brae in Orkney. The houses only needed roofs to be ready for their owners to return to take up residence. It felt like they had only just left, not that 4,000 years had passed since those hearths had cooked a family meal.

So, my family got a little bigger. And the next time Chief Richard Carmichael of Carmichael called his clan, I was there.



Denise at Carmichael Castle



Lewis Standing Stones



Skara Brae



NEW HAMPSHIRE GAMES ARE A GO! The games will happen this year, though there will most likely be restrictions imposed by the State due to COVID-19. All the information will be in their newsletter; if you haven't already, please sign up for the newsletter at www.nhscot.org. The games will be held September 17 - 19, 2021. Please check their newsletter, social media and website for the latest news, including when tickets will go on sale.

Post Scriptum : Chief Richard called us in 2017 where we were featured in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We have our next Carmichael Gathering in June 2022.

VIRTUAL BURNS SUPPER PHOTOS!

Please enjoy the photos that members submitted to show how they celebrated Burns Supper in 2021. Claire O'Donnelly provided her kitchen-tested recipes that you can view [here](#), which include Scotch Broth, Balmoral Chicken, "Simplified Haggis" and Cranachan — looking forward to trying these, especially the Haggis!



Rod Fraser presents the guest of honor!



Eiriana & Darroch in Formal Attire



The Kelleher Table

Members' Page

Flowers of the Forest

Nancy Englehart, December 8, 2020

John Ouder Kirk, December 29, 2020— celebration of Oudie's life tentatively scheduled for July 18th at the Westerly Yacht Club. Scottish attire encouraged; more details to follow.

Gregory McLaughlin, March 13, 2021

Entertainment

For those of you waiting for news of *Go Tell the Bees that I am Gone*, book 9 of the Outlander Series, Diana Gabaldon announced via Twitter that "It's Done" – publishing is set for November 23rd this year. When asked about the unusual name for the book, Ms. Gabaldon stated, "Talking to your bees is a very old Celtic custom (known in other parts of Europe, too) that made it to the Appalachians. You always tell the bees when someone is born, dies, comes or goes – because if you don't keep them informed, they'll fly away."

Daily Lines (excerpts) can be read [here](#) if you want a taste of what's coming in the new book.

Show Us Your Scottish Pride!

Rod Fraser went all out when he purchased new seat covers for his car!



Charles & Patricia MacCaibe shared this picture of Lachlan, their young Scottish Deerhound.



We hope you enjoy this issue of *The Saltire*! If you wish to forego a paper copy and read the electronic version on our website (www.sasri.org) in the future, please send an email to kellehergail@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all our members who shared photos of their at-home Burns celebration this year and to those who participated in our first (hopefully our last) virtual whisky tasting.

Dear Members,

Please be so kind as to notify Gail Kelleher when a Society member passes on so that she may include this information in the Saltire.

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VIRTUAL BURNS SUPPER PHOTOS



This lad and lassie are ready for the evening!



John & Frances Topping's Shepherds Pie



The MacCaibe Family Cat or 1st Course?



Fairbairn Family Dessert



Enoch & Donald's Elegant Table



The Saltire

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Issue III

The Caves of Scotland by Gail Kelleher

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The beauty of Scotland's landscape cannot be denied, whether you are lucky enough to have seen it first hand, or simply viewed photography of this lush country. But have you considered what lies below the sea ?

Scotland is blessed with many caves, both sea caves (cut by waves) and carbonate caves (limestone, dolomite & marble cut by acidic streams). Many of these caves were formed around 22,000 years ago. The caves, while fascinating to visit and exceptionally beautiful, must be respected for their dangerous conditions depending on their location. I could not find the exact number of caves in Scotland, but I did find descriptions of what are considered two of its finest.

Let's start with *Smoo Cave* (above - photograph credit Peter Maddison) located in the northern coast of Scotland. It features a rushing waterfall and large skylight, making it unique among caves. The cave was formed by both sea and freshwater erosion which created multiple caverns that joined together.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES

SEPTEMBER 17TH TO 19TH, 2021

TARTAN BASH — OCTOBER 24

STATE OF THE SOCIETY

When it rains it pours, it seems. We were all set to finally get back together at Goddard Park for our Summer Picnic, but Mother Nature stepped in and sent a hurricane our way. Notwithstanding the hurricane-related cancellation of the Summer Picnic, the members of Society are busy planning our Tartan Bash. Unlike previous years, this year's Bash will be held on a Sunday, specifically **Sunday, October 24, 2021**. In addition, the location has changed, but only by a stone's throw. The Imperial Room has closed permanently, but we will be holding the Bash at the beautiful and recently refurbished **Rhodes on the Pawtuxet**, the same lovely location at which our Burns Suppers have been and will continue to be held. Given all that has transpired, the decision was made to forego Ceilidh dancing as a group activity but will nonetheless feature the music of the Irish Express, social dancing, as well as a performance. You should have received an invitation/registration form which will indicate that we will follow all Covid guidelines that may be in place at the time of the event. For further details please check the Events/Bash page on the SASRI website one week before the event regarding what, if any, protocols may be in place as of mid-October. [Note that the deadline for us to receive the reservation is October 1st.](#)

You may recall that the Board decided to forego the dues obligation for 2021 due to the lost year in 2020. We will be collecting dues for the upcoming year (2022) and will implement an option to pay online. In order to facilitate the proper noticing, it will be necessary for anyone interested in the online payment option to email the Membership Chair no later than December 1 at notonedime55@gmail.com. Those who choose to pay online will not receive a paper notice. If you wish to pay online, please send an email no later than December 1 and online payment instructions will be provided to you. If you prefer to continue to pay by paper check, simply wait for the reminder that will be mailed out in late December.

Lastly, please note that we will not hold the Christmas Ceilidh this year for safety reasons, but we plan on resurrecting the tradition next year.

Board of Directors

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James Kelleher		401-461-9552	notonedime55@gmail.com
Cathy Poirier	Secretary	401-263-1538	cath251@hotmail.com

Summer Book Club by Gail Kelleher

Many of us enjoy spending the lazier days of summer enjoying a good book. What's better than sitting under a shady tree and being transported to another place and time? It was early summer when Kristen Howe made the suggestion for the Society to host a book club. Initially, we brainstormed on a convenient meeting place but with COVID fresh on everyone's mind, it was decided to have a book club via Zoom.

Kris suggested *Men in Kilts*, based on the popular series featuring Sam Heughan and Graham MacTavish, for our first book. Kris, Cindy Downie, Ruthie Gravel, Patty Pereira, Karen Sibley and I met each week to discuss the chapters assigned. At first, I wondered how meeting virtually would translate but it was surprisingly easy to coordinate. In no time, it felt completely natural to have our discussions face to face on our laptops. Besides learning about Scottish history and the chicanery between these two friends, we all got to know each other a little bit better – perhaps the best part.

Mid book club, Karen and her family moved to Virginia but with the magic of the internet, she of course could continue to join us. Patty arranged a 'high tea' which was hosted by Cindy to give Karen a proper send off. What a great way to spend a summer's afternoon!



We are nearly finished with our second book (welcoming Denny Aiken to our group): *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus. Please check out the website under the Members tab for the latest on what we're reading. There's always room for more in the Book Club!

Picnic Plans Thwarted! by Cathy Poirier

Thanks to Mother Nature via Hurricane Henri, this year's Tartan Picnic scheduled for Sunday August 22 was cancelled. Oh, and it was to be a grand time! With 55 respondents including some non-members, we were expecting the largest turn out in recent years.

Usually coordinated by Patti Pereira and Cathy Poirier, this year additional assistance was needed. The call for help went out, and was immediately answered by Denise Aiken, Lauren Loader, Betsy MacLean, Jim Kelleher and Claire and Brian O'Donnelly. Many thanks to those folks for stepping up, not even knowing what they would be tasked with doing!

Due to Covid concerns regarding masking, social distancing and hand sanitizing, the "Shortbread Games" were to have been abbreviated to include only the Trivia Game. As the date came closer, member John Topping suggested we have a sing along, and volunteered to create song sheets with lyrics to a few of the more commonly known Scottish tunes. Jordan Cannady accepted with relish the invitation to bring along his guitar and lead us in a few tunes.

Anticipation of a great time was building, as we all looked forward to seeing one another after a year or more of no St. Andrew's events.

And then, the rains came. And the wind. And in some parts, flooding.

The decision to cancel was made on Friday when a Hurricane Watch was announced for Rhode Island. While we hated to cancel, it seemed like having a picnic with rain driven by 50 mph winds would not be much fun at all. And so, while disappointing, we are all safe, and hopefully none of you sustained any damage. There's always next year!!

So, thinking about next year, mark your calendars as the picnic is generally the 3rd Sunday in August. This is very much a "members' event", meaning, it is an event held to honor all of you, our members! Usually a potluck, the Society provides the meat and soft drinks. It's wonderful to taste the delicious variety of foods, and it's always great to see all of you. We encourage you to bring your friends and extended family - the more the merrier!!

If you have suggestions for activities you'd like to see at the picnic, or for this event to be done any differently than we typically do it, and/or if you would like to volunteer to help coordinate/ plan this annual event, please contact Cathy Poirier at cath251@hotmail.com. We value your input, and always appreciate our members being engaged with our Society!

And once again, many, many thanks to those who answered the call for help this year! Your responses were truly appreciated - See you at the Bash!

RI Heritage Month's Virtual Celebration

You probably know that the St. Andrew's Society Burns Supper is recognized as a cultural event by the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. Besides promoting our event, the RIHPHC provides support by publicizing it and other events on their website, and providing the postage and mailing service too.

In February, the Society received a communication from Donna Alqassar, RIHPHC coordinator, asking if we'd be interested in participating in the Virtual Heritage Celebration to be held this September. We said yes of course – all we had to do was submit a video.

Hmmm... no one on the Board knew how to put a video together. We put a request out to the membership and our volunteers stepped up:

Graeme Smith – video creator

Joe & Nancy Muzzy – video recorders

Enoch Valentine – host/narrator

Debbie Kane – music

Jim Kelleher – script

WE CAN'T THANK OUR VOLUNTEERS ENOUGH!

Every Saturday during September, the RIHPHC will host a weekly 60-minute virtual event on YouTube which will feature "Heritage Highlights" from visual artists, cultural performance groups, cultural organizations, etc. Here is the link to view the all videos scheduled to premiere September 4th. The St. Andrew's Society video is featured in Week 3 (Saturday, September 18).

<https://preservation.ri.gov/events/rhode-island-heritage-months-virtual-celebration-week-one>

You can view the videos by using the RIHPHC youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaG1cZr9YRl_f2zuzi-y4aA

We may be biased, but we think you'll find that our video really shines, and more importantly, paints an exciting picture of the Scottish culture SASRI seeks to promote and preserve. Our video is posted on the SASRI website under the About/Who We Are tab.

We encourage you to watch the videos as they premiere on September 4 on the RIHPHC youtube channel and support the Preservation & Heritage Commission as they've supported us through the years. Enjoy!

Twenty Enchanting Castles in Scotland

I P I L U J X I M C C X H H P H Y D U N O O N F B
 B I R J Z V B X L D S L K W L B U T F S X S K D A
 I J A E Q B O A B A L M O R A L W W S G R A I X O
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 X E R O U S D E G L A M I S I A O Y C O T Q U F W
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 Q U N C K Q N Y V U P Y V A W K T A L C T G B J V
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 O O H T N W C O O X C P W Y T E Y H O D L Q G N V
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EILEAN DONAN

EDINBURGH

INVERARAY

DUNNOTTAR

TANTALLON

BALMORAL

URQUHART

TOLQUHON

STIRLING

BOTHWELL

ROTHESAY

THREAVE

GLAMIS

BRAEMAR

KELLIE

DUNOON

DUART

BLAIR

FYVIE

CAWDOR

Members' Page

Flowers of the Forest

Reverend Lois Neilson, May 22, 2021

Mother of Deborah Kane

Dolores Mac Donald, June 27, 2021

Mother of Joseph Muzzy

Welcome to Our Newest Member

Johnna Bridget Jamieson - Jan. 6, 2021

Reminders

- When a society member dies, please notify either: Joe Muzzy, email jfmuzzy@aol.com or Gail Kelleher, email kellehergail@gmail.com
- If you have a new email and/or change of address please notify

Members in the News - Fraser Lang



It's always nice when one of our members appear in the *Providence Journal*. On May 23rd, Fraser Lang wrote a poignant commentary about what it was like to be a stranger in a new land (his father emigrated from Scotland at age 12), and how important the comfort of community was/is to his family. Mr. Lang also mentions Hartley's Meat Pies which continues to serve the community since 1954. That made me smile as my father would sometimes bring them home as a 'treat' to our family when I was a kid. Please take a moment and read the article [here](#). Thank you, Fraser!

A Fond Farewell

Dear Karen & John Sibley and family! – We wish you well on your new life in Virginia. You will be missed in Rhode Island, especially among your SASRI family. You attended so many of our events, and we were better for it! Please keep in touch when you travel through our state; you are always welcome at any SASRI function. And we'll always have the Book Club!

Scottish Dancing is Back – A New Day and Location

We are happy to announce that Scottish Dancing will resume on Wednesday **October 6th, 2021***. Our new location is the Knights of Columbus Hall, 70 Pettaconsett Avenue, Cranston on the second floor. It is a bright room with hardwood floors – perfect for dancing. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Warm up begins at 7:20 pm promptly followed by dancing from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm; the cost is **\$6 per person**. Tea and Refreshments will be served when dancing ends.

***We will, of course, follow all CDC Guidelines that may be in place, if any. Please contact Ruth Gravel (ruthgravel@gmail.com) on October 4th to confirm that dancing will continue as scheduled or be delayed.**

The Caves of Scotland continued from page I

Neolithic, Norse and Iron Age artifacts have been found in the cave, and it is believed the name Smoo comes from the Norse term 'smjugg' which means hole or hiding place. Maybe that is why this cave is famous for many mysterious stories about supernatural events and being a hiding place for smugglers. It is possible that the "hiding place" that so appealed to the Vikings was not so much the cave itself as the extremely narrow and steep sided inlet which extends for a third of a mile back to the mouth of the cave from the shoreline to the north.

Another cave famous for its architecture and sound is *Fingal's Cave*, located on Staffa off the Isle of Mull. You can clearly see the columns rising from the sea of dark, volcanic rock that gives this cave its distinctive appearance. These columns are often described as one of Scotland's natural wonders. The cave was renowned for its phenomenal acoustics, eerie sounds produced by the waves and naturally arched roof, similar to a cathedral. Its natural beauty was a draw for artists: Composer Felix Mendelssohn visited the cave in 1829 and then completed his

[Hebrides Overture](#) (known commonly as Fingal's Cave) in December of that year.



The cave was immortalized in 1832 by artist J.M.W. Turner in "Staffa Fingal's Cave", as well as being visited by Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, Robert Lewis Stevenson and Dr. David Livingstone.

And let's not forget the incredible sea life found in these caves. According to the Scottish Natural Heritage (Nature Scot), the entrances to the caves on some of Scotland's most remote islands are teeming with marine life. These photographs (courtesy of George Stoye/SNH) show a scorpion fish hiding among anemones and a Lion's Mane Jelly Fish sheltering in its tentacles.



The next time you are in Scotland looking for excitement, this might be the activity for you! And if you go, make sure you are with an experienced guide, bring water, wear a head lamp, go at low tide (please!) and let us all know about your fabulous Scottish adventure!