


	<h1 style="font-family: serif;">The Saltire</h1> <p><i>Newsletter of the Saint Andrew's Society of Rhode Island</i> Founded 1923, Incorporated 1998</p>	
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2024

www.sasri.co

Issue II

The Beauty and Power of Scotland's Bogs



Teeming with wildlife and flora, Scotland's bogs were historically misunderstood to be wastelands. After WW II, draining of the bogs was encouraged to make use of the bogs for agricultural and building purposes. Climate scientist now know that bogs in good condition act as sinks for carbon – in fact, peat bogs cover 20% of Scotland's landscape, and may hold more than half of the country's carbon in its soil.

The waterlogged bogs are very acidic and are made up of layers of partially decomposed sphagnum moss and other bog plants. Bog conditions make it hard to disturb the plants, effectively trapping the carbon forever.

Scotland has worked to protect its bogs for the last ten years and is now considered to be a leader in peat restoration. The immediate problem facing the peat bogs is warmer summers and frequent droughts. If the bogs dry out, they could release the equivalent of 140 years-worth of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Restoring the bogs by rewetting them causes the emission of methane gas. This is one of the trade-offs scientists must grapple with when addressing peat bog preservation.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SCOTTISH ARTS 4/20
NEW HAMPSHIRE
INDOOR SCOTTISH
FESTIVAL, SALEM N.H.

WHISKY TASTING 4/28
(SEE FLYER PG. 8)

HIGH TEA 7/21
SWEET MARIE'S
WICKFORD

SUMMER SHINDIG 8/10
COLT STATE PARK



STATE OF THE SOCIETY

Since the last issue of the Saltire, we held our 60th annual Burns Supper and the turnout from among our membership was wonderful to see. As previously indicated, our Centennial year and the various events held to mark that milestone resulted in many new members joining our ranks. Among the many benefits of increasing our ranks is that new members bring with them new perspectives and fresh ideas.

Toward that end, we're delighted to announce that the Society has established a *Special Events Committee*, whose mission is to develop and orchestrate a get-together or two each year to supplement our annual events such as Burns Supper, Tartan Bash, and Christmas Ceilidh. You can read more about this committee on Page 5 of this issue.

We are looking for four volunteers to represent the Society at this year's Rhode Island Heritage Festival, to be held on September 21, 2024 at the WaterFire Arts Center, 475 Valley Street, Providence from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We need two people (for each 2.5 hours shift) to be at our table, which will feature our banner, flyers about our organization, books for instant genealogy research and more. Visitors to the event will typically stop at each table and perhaps ask a question or two about the organization. This event features tables representing dozens of cultures that make a home in Rhode Island, and while there you can enjoy cultural exhibits, crafts, culture, music and dancing from around the world (and food trucks outside). It really is a wonderful way to represent the Society and have a great time doing so. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know at standrewssociety1923@gmail.com.

As a gentle reminder, March is the month in which annual dues are to be paid. The amount increased slightly this year and the dues are now \$30 for an individual membership and \$45 for a family membership. We appreciate the many members who have already sent in their dues and those who will be doing so in the next few weeks. As you know, the money collected in dues helps to defray the cost of our many activities and to facilitate our charitable giving. If you'd like to use the convenient Venmo option in order to help defray our mailing costs, the Society's Venmo account is @sasofri. **A few of our members have reported that the self-addressed envelope came back to them as undeliverable for some reason. If you receive a reminder email from us after March 31 and believe yours may have been lost in the mail, please contact**

standrewssociety1923@gmail.com right away. Thank you.

Our annual meeting was held on March 12, 2024, and among the agenda items was the election of two members to serve a five-year term on the Board of Directors. As a result of that election, incumbent Board members Joseph Muzzy and Br. Enoch John Valentine were reelected. Congratulations to both as well as our thanks to them for agreeing to continue their service to the Society.

Lastly, let's all wish our Chairman of the Board John MacLean a speedy recovery!

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@aol.com
Gail Kelleher	Treasurer	401-524-9455	kellehergail@gmail.com
James Kelleher		401-524-6035	notonedime55@gmail.com
Cathy Poirier	Secretary	401-263-1538	cath251@hotmail.com

THE “CRIME” OF THE CENTURY?

In October of 2022 in the village of North Connel, just outside of Oban, an elderly man passed away with little fanfare. The passing of Ian Hamilton was worth noting, however, for he was no ordinary man. Sixty-two years earlier, on Christmas morn in 1950, Hamilton and a few of his law school classmates perpetrated an astounding heist and in so doing, righted an ancient wrong.



According to legend, Fergus Mor was crowned the first King of Scotland in 498 on a massive stone that was believed to have been found near Perth in the village of Scone. For the next several centuries, each of his successors was likewise crowned on the giant slab (which weighed 336 pounds). Toward the end of the 13th Century, a dispute arose as to the proper successor to Queen Margaret whose death at the age of six left the crown unclaimed. Amid the turmoil and fighting, King Edward the First of England (Edward Longshanks, the villain of the *Braveheart* film) led his army into Scotland and seized power. In 1296, Edward cemented his stranglehold on Scotland by having the Stone of Scone brought to Westminster Abbey in London and placing it below the Coronation Chair, where it would henceforth be used for the coronation of all subsequent English monarchs.

Ian Hamilton had been raised as Scottish nationalist and was part of a growing movement calling for Scottish independence. After World War II, this veteran of the Royal Air Force finished his degree at the University of Glasgow and then enrolled in its law school. Hamilton decided to do the impossible; to retrieve the Stone of Scone. With the assistance of three classmates, he hatched a plan to break into Westminster Abbey and steal the immense stone. Just before dawn, they managed to pry open the door to the Abbey and located the stone in its perch under the Coronation Chair. After moving it a few feet, it broke in two and they were somehow able to drag the pieces out of the building and into two getaway cars. The pieces were spirited back to Scotland on a ferry, splashed with whisky for good luck, masoned back together, and hidden.

After four months of futile searching by the British, Hamilton made contact with the government and offered to surrender the stone. It was transported to Arbroath and re-taken by the British government to be returned to Westminster Abbey. The government decided not to prosecute the four culprits.

In 1996, British Prime Minister John Major announced that the Stone of Scone would be permanently repatriated to Scotland on the condition that it be brought to Westminster Abbey for coronations. It has since resided in Edinburgh with the exception of the 2023 coronation of King Charles. This coming year, the stone will be relocated to a museum in Perth, not far from the little village of Scone.



Burns Supper 2024

On a chilly February 3rd we gathered once again to pay homage, remember and raise a glass to Scotland's poet laureate Robert Burns. Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, festooned with tartan and portraits of the great man, was the scene of a fine evening indeed. Rod Fraser ably served as our Master of Ceremonies and also delivered an entertaining Address to a Haggis. This event marked the debut of a new band for us. Fellswater, a seven-piece Celtic band from Massachusetts, did a wonderful job according to nearly everyone in attendance.

No such event would be complete without performances from the Rhode Island Highlanders and they didn't disappoint. A highlight of the evening was, of course, the presentation of The Immortal Memory. Our own Richard Lobban provided an interesting perspective on Burns and his remarks were well received. Once the pipers began to play the Gay Gordons it was time for all to hit the floor and dance. B.J. Whitehouse called the dances as we stripped the willow among many fun dances. Sharon Randall did a fine job announcing the lucky raffle winners, and congrats to Audrey MacLeod-Pfeiffer for winning the Scottish liquor basket, only fitting since Audrey donated one of the raffle prizes! Many thanks to Sandy Brown for creating the coloring kits to amuse the wee ones at the event, and a very special thank you to Glenn Fairbairn and Donald Blais for entertaining us with Burns music. Well done all!



Please enjoy the pictures from the evening on our website: <https://sasri.co/burns-supper-2024> Your erstwhile photographer has since upgraded her phone and future pictures posted to the website will appear much clearer!



Introducing our Special Events Committee!

Last December, a request was sent to the membership looking for fresh ideas and perspectives to enhance the Society's usual activities. We are very thankful that these members answered the call! The Special Events Committee is chaired by Sandy Brown and she is joined by Jenn Ferguson, Ken Ferguson, Tracy Heffron, Merri Lassotovitch, Lynn Rathbone, and Ivy Swinski. The Committee has some exciting plans for members and guests, starting in July 2024 and ending in October 2024. **Check in regularly to see dates/times/ and places of the events at www.sasri.co under the events tab.**

What can you look forward to?

- A High Tea along with the history of tea in our Scottish culture,
- A Shindig of ALL Shindigs to celebrate summer: a mini SASRI Highland games, a truck with frozen treats, and a 50/50 Raffle!
- Then to wind down the year with drinks and a storyteller at a Speakeasy (maybe some banjo music to add some Scottish flair!)

Kirkin' O' the Tartan – Peace Dale Congregational Church (est. 1870)

Many thanks to member Tracy Heffron for inviting the St. Andrew's Society to celebrate a Kirkin' O' the Tartan at Peace Dale Congregational Church on April 7th. This beautiful church provided an intimate location to honor this venerable Scottish tradition. Richmond Cargill spoke of the origins of the Kirkin', and David Worthen stepped in to recite the 23rd Psalm in Broad Scots. Reverend A. Fred Evenson enhanced the Kirkin' by including the Affirmation of Faith from the Scots' Confession (1560), and even a few wee bagpipe jokes! Speaking of bagpipes, Debbie Kane provided the music, including Ode to Joy – what a lovely event! The Kirkin was followed by a nice lunch at Mews Tavern - we hope to see you at the next one 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Rev. A. Fred Evenson & Member Tracy Heffron



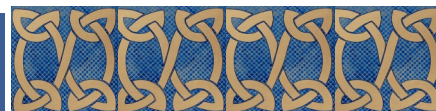
Spectacular Rose window in the nave of the church



Participants Artena Fairbairn, Jim Kelleher, Cathy Poirier, Joe & Nancy Muzzy, Glenn Fairbairn, Richmond Cargill and Debbie Kane.



Members' Page



Welcome to Our Newest Members

Scott Panella
Jane Jellison
Bill and Susan Leach



Flowers of the Forest

Linda A. Eaton - May 25th 2023



Congratulations to Eiriana Fairbairn-Summers on completing her Eagle Scout project – Building a Bat Neighborhood. Click [here](#) to learn about the importance of bats to our community.



Congratulations to the Swinski Family on winning 2nd place at the Cranston Historical Society Trivia Night!

Reminders

- Don't forget to check out the Scottish Dancing schedule on our website! If you are feeling a bit rusty or would like to meet other members of the Society and get some exercise, Scottish Country dancing is the place to be!
- When a society member passes, please notify or in the event of a change of address please notify either: Joe Muzzy, email jfmuzzy@aol.com or Gail Kelleher, email gailkr@verizon.net
- Lastly, don't forget to check out and share information regarding the John & Betty MacLean Scholarship being offered. Visit www.sasri.co/scholarship for details!

Thank you

Many thanks to members Audrey MacLeod Pfeiffer and Roberta Mudge Humble for their donations to the Society – it is greatly appreciated!

A Coalescence of Old and New



*The SASRI Tasting Team Will Explore New, Unique,
and Very Special Whisky Offerings*

Complete With Food Pairings

Sunday, April 28th, 2024 at 3PM

Saint Luke's Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island

*Limited to **50** Paid Tasters*

Taster - \$60 per person (Non-member \$65)

Non-taster - \$30 per person (Non-member \$35)

To secure your reservation please be prompt and make your check payable to

St. Andrews Society of R.I. and mail to:

Joseph Muzzy, 66 Everill Street, Warwick, R.I. 02889

*To avoid any delays or errors in registering - **please provide names**, return address,
telephone number and or email address with your payment so we may promptly
notify you if the tasting is full when your reservation is received.*

Directions - Saint Luke's Church, 670 Weeden Street, Pawtucket, R.I. 02860

Contact Joe Muzzy 465-5050 or Enoch John Valentine 440-4784 for assistance.