

St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut

The Caledonian
JUNE 2009



From the Desk of the President:

Here we are again beginning our warm weather outdoor activity season. Travel, family outings include games/festivals and picnics. The Society has both for us. June 28th brings the Annual Society Picnic for family and friends. The yearly Scottish Festival planning for Saturday October 3rd is moving ahead as always.

Our 26th festival is in the works because of the expectation that many SASCT member volunteers will share the hours needed. Step up to give a couple of hours. That will allow us to maintain this Scottish cultural activity. Sign up opportunities will arrive in your mailbox this summer. Your time is of great value. It allows the Society to organize the Festival that funds its Good Deeds.

We look forward to sharing our events with you. Our upcoming gathering is a picnic on Sunday June 28th at Shingle Hill Park in West Haven. Directions to the park are provided on a further page of this newsletter.

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that it gives you useful information.

Pam Munro

Pamela Reed Munro, President
pmunro@sbcglobal.net 860-859-1803



The Caledonian Newsletter Delivery Choice

Some members have noted a preference for receiving the Society newsletter via email. The emailed version is sent in Adobe PDF and so the file is not large. This edition has the benefits of color and active World Wide Web links.

If you are interested in having the emailed version come to you, it will save the Society more than a dollar each issue and give you the added benefits above..

Email this preference along with your name to: pmunro@sbcglobal.net



St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut 26th Annual Scottish Festival

**Saturday October 3rd 2009 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Goshen Fairgrounds Route 63 Goshen Connecticut
RAIN or SHINE**

**Scottish Entertainers, Clan tents, Pipe Bands, Athletic Competition,
Piping Competition, Highland Dance Displays, 42nd Regiment of Foote,
Sheepherding Demonstration, Scottish Sheep Breed Dog Show,
Weavers, Bonnie Knees Contest, Children's Games,
Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Scottish Imports and Scottish Food**

The Festival Gets Ready. You can help.

Volunteering for a couple of hours will allow the festival to continue for its 26th year. The Society funds the scholarships and benevolence awards from the one festival day each year.

Pitch in a few hours to set-up, work a booth and/or take down the festival.

A future mailing will have sign up opportunities to make the annual Festival a success.

SASCT 2009 Education Scholarship Awards

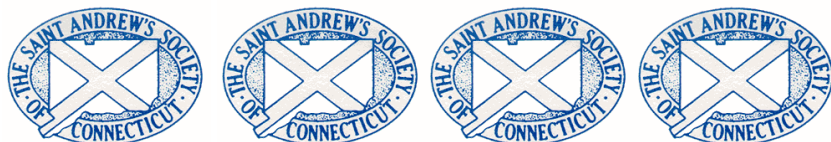
Tess Puopolo	dancer workshop	Devin Abbott	piper workshop
Emily Crowther	dancer workshop	Ruth McGee	kilt making workshop
Kristyn McGee	dancer workshop	Daniel Pisowloski	drum major workshop
Brian Horbal	drumming workshop		

Benevolence Committee

Forward suggestions for the December Benevolence Committee proposal to:
gerald.d.munro@sbcglobal.net or pmunro@sbcglobal.net Telephone 860-859-1803

We usually split the funds between Scotland and Connecticut.

Suggestions gladly researched.



In some ways it's hard to believe that events like Miss Scotland still take place, but on Thursday night 10 young Scottish women competed for the crown.

Promoted as far more than a tartan beauty pageant, the Miss Scotland final will propel one woman into a year of photoshoots, PR events and the ultimate gig: representing her country at Miss World. The judges were looking for an all-rounder, a poised and confident ambassador for Scotland. Hundreds of fans and the social elite gathered at Glasgow's Clyde Auditorium, some armed with banners, T-shirts and very loud voices to heckle support for their chosen one. The VIPs seemed to outnumber the paying guests, but given the number of sponsors and official supporters that was hardly surprising.

Determined self-promotion The show began slowly; the audience trickled in from the bar and a Star Wars-esque welcome kicked off with bagpipes and drums. Let the clichés commence. There was plenty of big hair, tartan, and kilted hunks with Saltires painted on their bare chests. The 10 finalists (aged between 17 and 24) were understandably nervous. After two days of gruelling dress rehearsals, facing an audience whilst dealing with stairs, a catwalk, high heels and glitzy evening gowns is not easy. After standing with hands on hips for what seemed like an eternity, they took part in an impressive Bollywood dance routine.

Then the tension was upon us. Suddenly the 10 would be whittled down to five in the last of a public vote. Donned in distinctly un-Scottish red and white, the finalists had to endure reality TV style results and five smiling faces left the competition. One of those girls was Edinburgh's Rebecca Irving, 19; a receptionist by day, she only started modelling a few months ago. She was disappointed at missing out on the Miss Scotland "job" but was philosophical about the experience. It's provided previously unattainable opportunities, she said, and she's now keen to get into radio ... that's after a well-earned rest from weeks of determined self-promotion.

Back on stage it was time for the swimwear round. That's something I truly believed was a myth but there were plenty of men there excited by its existence. The overall show was fun but at times disjointed. "**I can't believe they called my name, I feel amazing**" Katharine Brown Miss Scotland However, it didn't disappoint the masses, who lapped up the glamour. Duncan James (from boy band Blue) happily interviewed the final five, learning little that we didn't already know. Whilst the judging panel (including Ultimo's Michelle Mone and River City's Chris Brazier) deliberated, pop stars The Saturdays took to the stage - another un-Scottish aspect - but they were real crowd-pleasers.

Soon it was time for 2008's winner Stephanie Willemse to reluctantly hand over the crown. After more tension, the bookies' favourite Katharine Brown became Miss Scotland 2009. The 5ft 11in tennis coach from Dunblane, 22, ticked all the boxes: she's tall, gorgeous, blonde, friendly and has a dazzling smile. A tried-and-tested winning formula. Katharine sat alone on her throne at the top of the stage as The Saturdays performed until the show faded away. After a period of bemusement, Miss Scotland got to her feet, removed her weighty crown, and happily danced on her own.

Backstage immediately afterwards, her first request was "to see mum for a great big hug". It was a tearful meet and both were clearly elated. "I can't believe they called my name," she said. "I feel amazing, it's a dream come true." Having grown up with Andy Murray, one of Katharine's most ardent supporters is his mum, Judy. She was there last night to witness her new success.

PR machine Michelle Mone was delighted with the new Miss Scotland and warned Katharine's mum to watch out for all the men who would now appear in her daughter's life. As the event organisers clocked off, the PR machine took over. They made sure she was wearing the right jewellery, had her lipstick on, and led her through the first of countless photoshoots and interviews. In December she'll compete against 79 other Misses in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the Miss World title ... but perhaps we'll let her get through day one on the job before dwelling on that.



Sunday June 28th Society Picnic
For Society families and friends
Shingle Hill Park West Haven, Connecticut
Sunday afternoon from 1 p. m.

Bring your family and friends to enjoy a day at the park and picnic.

St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut will supply:
hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments and cooking charcoal.

Please bring for your family:
anything else you may need including lawn chairs, plates, plastic ware, napkins,
salad, chips, soft drinks or bottled water. (No alcohol is allowed at the park)

A short Society meeting will take place during the afternoon.

Shingle Hill Park West Haven, CT Corner of Shingle Hill Road and Chase Lane

Directions:

From Fairfield about 25 minutes

Exit 42 for CT-162/Saw Mill Rd. Turn right at CT-162/Saw Mill Rd (signs for W Haven Center/Milford).
Continue to follow CT-162. Continue on W Main St Continue on Shingle Hill Rd.

From Hartford about 45 minutes

I-91 S toward New Haven Merge onto I-95 S. Exit 42 for CT-162/Saw Mill Rd. Turn left at CT-162/Saw
Mill Rd (signs for Orange). Turn left at Allings Crossing Rd. Turn right at Shingle Hill Rd

From New London about an hour

I-95 S toward New Haven. Exit 42 for CT-162/Saw Mill Rd Turn left at CT-162/Saw Mill Rd (signs for
Orange). Turn left at Allings Crossing Rd. Turn right at Shingle Hill Rd



FLOWER OF THE FOREST

Longtime member Louise Murray, wife of Donald Murray
May 14th in Wallingford, Connecticut





Scottish Parliament Parliamentary Business

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/index.htm>

Upcoming Recess Dates 27 June - 30 August 2009

Meetings of Scottish Parliament are recorded by staff of the Broadcasting Unit. Committee; meetings are usually broadcast live on Holyrood TV and can be viewed at www.holyrood.tv.



Other Events of Interest

June 13	RI Scottish Games	www.riscot.org
June 27	Round Hill Scottish Games	www.roundhill.org
July 18	Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival	www.glasgowlands.org
August 8	Cape Cod Scottish Festival	www.CapeCodScottishFestival.org
August 15	Maine Games	www.mainehighlandgames.org
August 22	Long Island Scottish Games	www.liscots.org
August 22	Quechee VT Festival	www.quecheescottishfestival.com
Sept. 18-20	NH Games	www.nhscot.org
Sept. 26 th	Pipes in the Valley Hartford, CT	www.pipesinthevalley.com

October 3rd SASCT Scottish Festival Goshen, CT www.sasct.org



Centre sheds light on sea kingdom

By Craig Anderson BBC Scotland news

They ruled a vast swathe of Scotland for almost two centuries but their role in helping to forge the nation has been largely forgotten - until now. On Saturday a new visitor centre celebrating the Lords of the Isles opens on Islay, which also allows people access to the island in Finlaggan Loch which was the seat of their power. **“ You're taught about Louis XIV, Cleopatra and the Napoleonic Wars but you're not taught the importance of the Lords of the Isles ”** Donald Bell Finlaggan Trust

The Ri Innse Gall - Lord of the Isles - held sway over a sea kingdom which encompassed all of the Hebrides and much of the northern mainland. The Clan Donald Lords also had strong links with the Isle of Man, Ireland and the Northern Isles. Their hold on power during most of the 14th and 15th centuries was based on their seagoing prowess. With both Gaelic and Norse roots, their boats were an adaptation of Viking galleys and allowed easy transport and communications throughout their domain.

The islands of Finlaggan Loch were the centre of administration, where both justice and hospitality were dispensed. The ruins of many of the buildings can still be seen today. Built from stone and slate the Great Hall would have been an impressive building for its time. It would have hosted lavish banquets for visiting chiefs, tables groaning with venison and beef and cups overflowing with uisge beatha - whisky - or even claret from France. "They had banquets, feasting, buxom wenches and enjoyed themselves," said Donald Bell of the Finlaggan Trust.

On the nearby Council Island, the Lord and his chieftains would deliberate on the great issues facing their empire. The ruined 14th Century chapel still contains intricately-carved Celtic grave slabs. The newly refurbished and extended visitors centre displays an array of ancient artefacts discovered during years of archaeological investigations at the site. They include clasps, combs and arrow heads as well as a beautifully-carved stone crucifix.

Son of the monarch There was no castle at Finlaggan, partly because the site is naturally defensive - an island in a loch on an island. But much of the reign of the Lords of the Isles was largely peaceful. "It was very powerful and well-run," according to trust member Rona MacKenzie. "It was the centre of this part of the world."

Donald Bell hopes the Finlaggan centre will begin to address the lack of recognition of the place occupied by the Lords of the Isles in Scottish history. "It has never been told in the history books," he said. "You go to school and it's not taught to you. You're taught about Louis XIV, Cleopatra and the Napoleonic Wars but you're not taught the importance of the Lords of the Isles."

The title "Lord of the Isles" is now traditionally reserved for the eldest son of the reigning UK monarch. Prince Charles is the current Lord of the Isles. The new Islay centre offers visitors the chance to learn much more about those who held the title almost eight centuries before him.