

St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut

The Caledonian

Summer 2022



From the Desk of the President:

Dear Fellow Society Members,

We hope this finds you well. The world is amazing these days, there seems to be an unending list of new events to capture our attention.

Our annual Society picnic for 2022 is again at Ashlar Village "on the deck" overlooking the pond in Wallingford on Sunday, September 25. See details inside.

We need your time and your ideas to continue our Society mission of 'Good Works' and 'To Relieve the Distressed'. Our mission to spread Scottish culture and arts requires some time. This December will see our annual dues mailing. We will include more information for the annual Robert Burns Celebration on January 28, 2023.

Looking forward to joining you at the picnic September 25 and at the annual meeting Sunday, December fourth, as well as the Burns Event January 28, 2022. Please check our Society website www.sasct.org for event news and any required adjustments during these fluid times.

See you September 25 at the picnic. Please leave a response by September 15 on the telephone at 860-859-1803 or pmunro@sbcglobal.net.

Slàinte mhath !

Pam

Pamela Munro, President

SASCT Board of Managers

OFFICERS

President	Pamela Munro	Recording Secretary	Peg Limbacher
Vice President	Catherine Sutherland	Corresponding Secretary	Heather Gromko
Treasurer	Peg Limbacher		

MANAGERS

Melanie Gustin, Kevin McCall, Sandy Sanderson, Joey Sanderson, Bud Wyllie, Gayle Wyllie

Connect with *St. Andrew's Society of Connecticut*

Website: www.sasct.org Join our group on Facebook



Glasgow Museums has agreed to return seven stolen artefacts to India.

Delegates from the Indian High Commission sealed the move by signing an agreement at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. It is thought to be the first repatriation to India from a UK museum - with more to follow elsewhere. Six of the items, including 14th Century carvings and 11th Century stone door jams, were stolen from shrines and temples in the 19th Century.

The seventh object, a ceremonial sword or called a tulwar, with its scabbard, was stolen in 1905 from the collection of the Nizam of Hyderabad by his prime minister.



NEWS



Annual Society Picnic

Sunday, September 25 from 2 to 5 pm

Ashlar Village 74 Cheshire Road Wallingford, CT 06492

The 2022 annual picnic will again be at Ashlar Village “on the deck”. There will be a catered meal including soft drinks and water from the village. The picnic is located on a covered deck, overlooking the pond. A \$10 donation toward the meal is requested. You are welcome to bring additional food for yourself. The picnic is located under a covered deck area in Bridgehouse. Please respond with the number attending by September 15 so that we can order the meals.

**Our 2022 picnic will feature a visit and talk by
American Scottish Foundation President Camilla G. Hellman, MBE
and will include a short display of highland dance.**

*Respond by September 15 with the number attending to
(860) 859-1803 or pmunro@sbcglobal.net*

FROM HARTFORD I-91 South to exit #17 (Wilbur Cross Parkway - Route 15 South) Take exit #64, at end of ramp there is a traffic light, turn left. Immediately at next traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right. At the 2nd stop sign, turn left and immediately right into the parking lot.

FROM THE SOUTH: Route 15 North to exit #64. At the end of the ramp, turn left (under the highway). At second traffic light, turn right onto Cheshire Road. Ashlar Village Main Entrance is ½ mile on the right. At the 2nd stop sign, turn left and immediately right into the parking lot.

The main entrance will be in front of you “under the portico”. You will have to sign in and wear a mask while you are in the building. We will be on the deck, overlooking the pond. If the weather is bad, we will be inside in our private dining room.



Recent Recap of Flowers of the Forest

Linda Coad of Woodbury March 2022

Julie L. (Graveline) Sorbie of Plymouth December 2021

Anne Raver of Ansonia January 2021

Gerald Munro of Salem May 2021

William Burns Waff of Cary, North Carolina December 2020

David Battistoni of Red Hook, New York June 2020

Mary (Coutts) Ehrler of Bethany June 2020

Helen M. Ruthven of Branford April 2020

Rev. Richardson Armstrong Libby of Annapolis, MD April 2020

Frederick Schmalz of Windsor Locks June 2020

Thomas Scanlon of Norwalk March 2020

Martha Schmalz of Windsor Locks April 2019

Terrance Tancredi of Salem December 2019

Save the Dates tae Haste Ye Back

Society Picnic

Sunday, September 25

Ashlar Village Wallingford

Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 5

TBA

Annual Burns Event

Saturday, January 28, 2023

J. Timothy's in Plainville

Further adventures of Society Board Member, Melanie Boyd Gustin, in Scotland ...

Bannockburn 700th

Even now I get goosebumps, thinking about an event celebrating something that happened 700 years ago. 700 years! To most Americans I think it would be mind-boggling. First Nations people were here on this continent, and maybe a Viking or two, but most of our ancestors were as yet unaware of what lay beyond the vast ocean. Yet to most Scots, I imagine Bannockburn would seem no more than a midway point in their own history, although with a mighty hero at the center.

About two miles south of Stirling Castle flows the Bannock Burn, a stream that feeds into the River Forth. King Robert the Bruce, a genius at making use of terrain as a weapon, used the boggy land there to his advantage when defeating the English 700 years ago. It was here, in June 2014, behind the Bannockburn Visitor's Centre, that we Boyds joined many other clans in commemorating his victory. The clan tents were assigned in alphabetical order, so naturally the Boyds were right next to the Bruce clan tent. Nothing could have been more fun! The Bruce group was dressed in period costume; their tent was jam-packed with Bruce banners, medieval weaponry, even a throne! One woman had a live pigmy owl perched on her shoulder. When they saw us Boyds, the "King" gave us a hearty welcome: "We love Boyds!" I had to think about that for a moment, until I realized he was referring to Robert Boyd, one of Bruce's commanders in the battle. Moments later, another member of his group joined him, dressed in Robert Boyd's colors. His actual name was Frank Boyd, now reenacting his ancestor's role. Throughout the two days of this event, the Bruce tent drew the greatest attention from visitors, which overlapped into ours.

Our clan historian was Mike Boyd, an older gentleman from Australia. Ten days earlier, he had fallen while chasing an escaping lawn mower, breaking his elbow in two places. Normally such a thing would make a seventy-something person reconsider a trip like this, but not Mike. He had to be here, ever on the hunt for Boyds around the world. Thankfully his 6'6" son was with him to assist. Mike never left his post at the tent, welcoming Boyds. He reminded me of a red-light district hustler trying to lure passersby into a strip joint! But his "hustle" was to reveal the proud history of our clan. I was delighted not to have this duty. I was a novice with zero experience and would have failed miserably! It also freed us to go off and enjoy the rest of the event.

The grounds were jam-packed with folk coming to hear ancient legends at the story-teller's stage, or to witness the "torture" of volunteers at the tent featuring medieval implements designed for that purpose (one being a rat in a small cage which is placed on the bare belly of the victim where, once the bottom is slid out of the cage, the rat can begin eating the exposed flesh!) Vendors sold a delightful assortment of souvenirs, most popular being plastic swords, of course. One female Boyd cousin was randomly chosen for attack by a pint-sized warrior with this weapon! There were tartans galore, including a new one: the Bannockburn tartan, created specifically for this event. Unusual foods popped up as well. Ever had a water buffalo burger? They're yummy!

The main attraction was the reenactment of the Battle of Bannockburn. This was accomplished by the Clanranald reenactors* who are professional Scottish combat actors trained to perform battle scenes in films. You no doubt have seen this group in movies like "Ivanhoe", "Gladiator", "Thor", "Robin Hood", and recently, "Outlaw King". Here at Bannockburn, on a large field, they used a narrator to explain the two-day battle of 1314, calling in the actors, horses, weapons, to demonstrate various memorable scenes. One scene became scarily memorable when a warrior was knocked from his horse as scripted (historically accurate). Apparently, the horse hadn't read the history books thoroughly enough, so he spooked and bolted – heading right for the corner of the field where I was seated, two men dashing frantically after him. He had every intention of jumping the ropes separating the audience from the performance, but was caught in the nick of time!

Bannockburn 700th Continued

**Clanranald reenactors are using the profits from their movies to build an accurate medieval palisaded village not far from Stirling, called Duncarron. Several of us visited it after Bannockburn. What they are attempting is quite remarkable and worth a visit. You might even get a few lessons in the use of a longbow!*

The other big draw was the music. I had already announced to our Boyd group that I would irresponsibly abandon the clan tent for certain performers. These included Treacherous Orchestra (many of this large band are also in the Scottish Symphony Orchestra), Saor Patrol (the tribal band connected to the Clanranald group mentioned above), Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, and beloved folk singer/songwriter Dougie MacLean. Their performances were outstanding, prompting singing and wild dancing among the audience on the grassy hillside.

An important piece of this amazing weekend was the brand new Visitor's Centre itself. It is a high-tech audio-visual museum, a source of thoroughly researched information focused solely on the battle.

One room in the Visitor's Centre houses reproduction weaponry and armor from Bruce's time, which, although attached to their display rack, can be handled. They were reproduced to precise specs of medieval weaponry. You can even put on a chain mail tunic and feel its amazing weight. This room also shows digitally recreated scenes from the battle on all four walls, making you feel you are smack in the middle of it with no place to hide! The scene between Henry de Bohun and Robert Bruce is brought to life there in all its grisly glory!

Behind two of these walls are corridors where you can "interact" with digital characters who were at the battle, both men and women.

The Battle Room houses the battle table where the movement of portions of each army and strategies are explained, detailing why the Scots were successful in defeating the far larger English army.

The last room shows a humorous movie with strange puppet-like animated characters, going into uncomplimentary detail about Edward II. Quite wickedly fun!

To have been part of this celebration, when I was such a "newbie" to my own Scottish heritage, had a dream-like quality about it. Was this real or was I imagining it all? I was grateful for the invention of the camera, to prove to myself that I truly had been there, that the emotions bubbling up inside me were justified by real experiences. Even though I kept a daily journal throughout my 6-week trip, the memories from eight years ago have remained vivid enough without it as a reference.

So many people I have talked to who have visited Scotland have fallen in love with that wee country. I am just another lucky victim. I know I haven't seen all the statues of Robert the Bruce in Scotland yet, but my favorite thus far is the one at Bannockburn. He sits upon his horse, armored, his favorite weapon, the battle axe, in hand. You know the one.



Scotland having an unprecedented summer of golf.

For the first time Scotland will host the R&A's three major championships alongside Scotland's two opens. ... "In the same year as we celebrate the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews it's fitting that we underline Scotland's status as the home of golf and a global leader in golf tourism by hosting an unprecedented series of tournaments which will showcase Scotland and our top courses to a worldwide audience. <https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-golf-backed-by-gbp-3m-funding/>



Upcoming Scottish Events



Loon Mountain Games September 16-18 2022

60 Loon Mountain Rd, Lincoln, NH

<https://nhscot.org/events/46th-nh-highland-games-festival/>

Scotland Games October 9, 2022

Waldo House, 96 Waldo Road, Scotland, CT

<https://scotlandgames.org/>

Other Connecticut Fairs

FAIR SEASON IS HERE!

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| Aug 19-21 Bridgewater County Fair | Sept 15-18 Four Town Fair |
| Aug 19-21 Hamburg Fair (Lyme) | Sept 16-18 Guilford Fair |
| Aug 19-21 Hartford County 4-H Fair | Sept 16-Oct 2 The Big E |
| Aug 20 Milford Oyster Festival | Sept 17 Watertown Fall Festival |
| Aug 25-28 Brooklyn Fair | Sept 17-18 Orange Country Fair |
| Aug 26-28 Chester Fair | Sept 17-18 Simsbury Arts & Crafts |
| Aug 26-28 Terryville Lions Fair | Sept 22-25 Durham Fair |
| Aug 27 Bridgeport Jazz Festival | Sept 23-25 Bristol Mum Festival |
| Sept 2-5 Haddam Neck Fair | Sept 23-25 Wolcott Country Fair |
| Sept 2-5 Woodstock Fair | Sept 24 Latino Fest Willimantic |
| Sept 3-5 Goshen Fair | Sept 24-25 Bridgeport Sound on Sound |
| Sept 3-Oct 16 Lebanon Renaissance Fair | Sept 30-Oct 2 Harwinton Fair |
| Sept 8-11 Hebron Harvest Fair | Sept 30-Oct 2 Southington Apple Fest |
| Sept 8-11 North Haven Fair | Oct 1 South Windsor Apple Festival |
| Sept 8-11 Wapping Fair | Oct 2 Shelton Day |
| Sept 9-11 Bethlehem Fair | Oct 7-9 Southington Apple Fest |
| Sept 9-11 Norwalk Oyster Festival | Oct 7-9 Portland Fair |
| Sept 10-11 Monroe Apple Festival | Oct 7-9 Riverton Fair |
| Sept 15-18 Berlin Lions Agricultural | Oct 8-9 CT Garlic & Harvest Festival |



What interests you about Scotland, Scottish culture, your heritage connection?
Send an email or talk at the picnic. PMunro at sbcglobal.net