



The Spectator

The Quarterly Newsletter of Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

Spring 2022

President's Message

Lassies and Lads,

Since last I wrote you it's been a fast moving few months for our St Andrew's Society with plenty of opportunities for members to experience the traditions and culture that unite us in our enjoyment of Scottish heritage.

We vigorously cocked a snook at Omicron as we celebrated the birth of The Bard albeit at a delayed end of February date. But we made up for that with a great turnout of members who brought a record number of guests, all of us itching to have Burns' inspiration chase away Covid woes. That was achieved with traditional Burns Supper fare, welcoming the Honored Guest, enthusiastic toasts, Scottish songs and dancing, and finally a rousing Auld Lang Syne.

The spectacular success of our Tartan Day celebrations was due to Michael Thompson's hard working *ad hoc* committee, resulting firstly in our traditional donations of food, surpassing last year's healthy quantity, to Grove Christian Outreach Center on April 6 itself. The following Saturday, for the first time, and with permission of City of Williamsburg, the Society, led by the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums, paraded with flags and tartan banners flying, from Palace Green and up DOG Street with then a band concert to the delight of visitors.. This was a great opportunity for a fine showing to the public of the spirit and worth of our Society. Following lunch, the well-researched history talks by John Scott and Jerry Lelansky, and the entertainment by Scottish fiddler David Gardner and the Williamsburg Scottish Country Dancers eventually closed a memorable Society day.

But April wasn't over; members were double booked on the 24th! Spring Kirking at Christ Church, Kilmarnock came first, when on a glorious Spring day our Society was led into the beautiful 18th century church by our good friends of the Kilmarnock and District Pipe Band. During the service our various tartans received the traditional blessing. Later that afternoon many members were thrilled to hear a concert at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church by the renowned duo Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser and cellist Natalie Haas.

We are indeed fortunate to be able to hear details of the history of the founding of our Society from someone who was there at the beginning; that's Howard Topp, who regaled a rapt audience on Founders' Day with tales from the early Society. Thanks to MC Bruce Schoch we first heard a humorously engaging presentation about the mysteries of bagpiping from the Williamsburg Pipes and Drums Band leader Lynn Newcomer. As always at our gatherings, he had led the band in enlivening the start of proceedings with a rousing concert.

The opportunity was also taken on Founders' Day to welcome some new members and to present their membership certificates and badges. And here I might stress that we have been fortunate to welcome several new members of late, witness to the enthusiasm being portrayed by our current membership. Which leads me to pub nights. Thanks to the efforts of Mary and Jim Murphy, who have spearheaded these events this year, the kilted gatherings on each month's fourth Thursday have proven eminently successful and a fine way to boost member interaction.

Stepped up publicity has also been a feature of the last month or three. That pictures of Society events quite regularly now grace the pages of the local press is due to the work of our photographer and webmaster Marshall Thomas, now very ably assisted by the skillful camera work of Terri Cordle. This is a very important part of the public perception of our Society.

That leads me to the great work of our Scholarship Committee, ably chaired by Clay McEldowney. The basic reason for the founding of St Andrew's Societies like ours, in addition to promoting Scottish culture and

traditions, was to help indigent Scots. Although this need has faded, the requirement by students of funding for their studies strongly remains. This is where our Ken Graham Scholarship Fund comes in. The Scholarship Committee, which includes Kathryn Blue, Wayne Glass, Bruce Schoch and John Scott, has put in a lot of work, carefully analyzing several applications, some from the joint W&M / St Andrew's University program, others from elsewhere. The Committee is also administering the granting of those scholarships recommended to, and agreed to, by the Board.

Before I close – a quick word for our Quartermaster Russ Madigan. Most of our events demand some Society gear – flags, banners, easels, poles, etc., etc. Russ not only turns up with whatever is needed, but manages our storage unit and inventories everything. Thank you Russ !

Now as I write, the Queen's Jubilee Day is almost upon us when our Society is scheduled to play a significant part in the Williamsburg celebrations. More of that later.

Meanwhile, Yours Aye

Douglas Boller

Burns Supper February 2022

On 26 February St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg held its gala Burns Supper at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton. This was the Society's yearly celebration of the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's revered poet and lover. The traditional Scottish program was dazzling and attendance was 92. Events included the pipe band concert by Williamsburg Pipes and Drums and the transfer of leadership from Society President Ed Matheson to new President Douglas Boller.

Our new President addressed and toasted the haggis, and then cut it up to meet its fate. It was delicious. Ed Matheson proposed the Immortal Memory while Poisoned Dwarf hypnotized the audience with their haunting Scottish tunes. Dinner featured Scottish delicacies. There were numerous tributes to Robert Burns, the President, the Queen, the troops, and others.

Baritone Chris Mooney sang some excellent Scottish songs. The Toast to the Lassies was by Harley Stewart and the reply to the Lads was by Holly Yohe. The dance floor filled up for the Scottish waltz and the evening ended with the songs Scotland the Brave and Auld Lang Syne.

A good time was had by all! Following are a few photos. Please see them all on the website gallery.



Poisoned Dwarf



The crook of leadership is handed to Douglas Boller



Douglas slices into the haggis



Happy Lassies

Lassies and lads



More happy guests



Distinguished Scots



Tartan Day April 6 2022 – Food for the Needy

On April 6, 2022, Tartan Day, Society members gathered at Grove Christian Outreach Center to donate food items for those in need. Attendance was heavy, and our membership was generous. The Society contributed 655 pounds of groceries/pantry items, which bettered last year's donation. The Outreach Center staff was appreciative and helpful.





Tartan Day April 9 Parade and Celebration

On April 9 the Society celebrated Tartan Day with a parade through the palace green and along DOG Street followed with a sidewalk concert by Williamsburg Pipes and Drums. The streets were crowded with interested tourists and a good time was had by all. After the concert, Society members met at Lewis Hall for a light lunch and a Tartan Day program highlighting the history of Tartan Day. Scottish fiddler Dave Gardner

played magnificent Scottish fiddle tunes and the Williamsburg Scottish Country Dancers dazzled us with traditional Scottish dance.







Kirking of the Tartans at Historic Christ Church, 24 April 2022

A beautifully sunny and warm Spring day saw our St Andrew's Society members much in evidence at the Kirking of the Tartans at Historic Christ Church, Kilmarnock. The Procession was led by the pipes and drums of The Kilmarnock and District Pipe band lustily playing "High Road to Gairloch", while following behind with colors bravely flying came the St Andrew's color guard and Society members.

The worship service included blessing of the various Society tartans by the Reverends Kimberly Glenn and Scott Parnell, while members declared "On behalf of all Scots away from Scotland, we present these tartans before Almighty God and ask his blessings on these his servants".

The Recessional featured the stirring bagpipe strains of "Scotland the Brave" and the band then greeted the glorious sunshine with a spirited concert. Some members then managed to hasten back to Williamsburg in time for the Alasdair Fraser / Natalie Haas concert at the Presbyterian Church. Photos by Terri Cordle.





Pub Night at Revolution Golf and Grille

On April 28 an enthusiastic group of SASW Scots attended the always-popular Pub Night at Revolution Golf and Grille. Please see the photos below, which tell the story. Photos by Terri Cordle.





Founders' Day

On May 15 the Society celebrated Founders' Day with a luncheon at the Colonial Heritage Country Club. Founder's Day was the annual birthday of the founding of the Society in 1968. This festive luncheon was well attended and the main speaker, Howard Topp, was the last surviving founding member. He spoke on the early days of the Society and it was funny, revealing and inspiring. Five new members were welcomed to the Society on this occasion. The Williamsburg Pipes and Drums serenaded us.



**Williamsburg Pipes
And Drums**





Howard
Topp



New Members



Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg

PO Box 533, Williamsburg, VA 23187

Application for Membership

Full Name: _____

Are you applying as a new Active Member, or as a Spouse, Son, Daughter, in the same household of a current Active Member, (check one)?

(Active membership is limited to individuals who were born in Scotland or who are lineally descended from a native of Scotland. This is not required for Associate membership.)

Active Member's Name if you are a spouse/son/daughter: _____

Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Date and Place of Birth: _____

Schools/Colleges: _____

Business or Profession: _____

Spouse's Name (if not a member): _____

Names and Ages of Children: _____

Nature of Scottish Ancestry: (Not required for Associate Membership.)

Clan Affiliation or Membership: (Not required for Associate Membership.)

Scottish Interests: (History, Literature, Arts, Clan Affiliation, etc.)

Date: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

To the best of our knowledge, the above applicant is of sound character, over the age of 18 years, and is entirely suitable to membership in the Society. Applicant will actively participate in the functions of the Society as circumstances allow and will perform conscientiously any duties undertaken.

Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Co-Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Checklist for Membership:

Initial Individual Active Membership in a Household – Initiation Fee (\$20.00)
plus First Year's Dues (\$45.00), Total of \$65.00.

Additional Active Membership within same household – Initiation Fee (\$20.00)
plus First Year's Dues (\$25.00), Total of \$45.00.

Individual Associate Membership – Initiation Fee (\$20.00)
plus First Year's Dues (\$45.00), Total of \$65.00.

NOTE: All memberships are individual and only one applicant per application.

Submit your completed application with address, phone number, and e-mail address to your sponsor or the address above. Include your check made out to "St. Andrews' Society of Williamsburg", as well as a small photograph of yourself suitable for digitization.