



June 2005

Saltire Sentinel

Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.
PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058, www.standrewssociety.org

Calendar

Jun. 4 Ashland Strawberry Faire

Come have fun and work our tent! Enjoy fresh picked strawberries, or enjoy them in one of the delicious recipes cooked up by the food vendors. Strawberry shortcake, hundreds of booths, arts & crafts and entertainment. 10 am to 5 pm on the Randolph-Macon Campus. Admission is free. For more information please call (804) 798-9219 or visit our website www.ashlandstrawberryfaire.com.

Jun. 8 St. Andrew's Society of Richmond Business Meeting

at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal) on Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd. We gather to socialize at 6:30pm and the meeting begins at 7pm. **Program: 1. Our annual ELECTION** of officers and board members; **2. Book & Music Sale** (See details below, same page.) **Celtic Buffet:** If you would like, please bring desserts, munchies or beverages to share. **Please note:** This is our last meeting for the membership year. There are no meetings in July or August. We will start back up in September with our usual second Wednesday of the month meeting day, unless a change is announced.

Book Fair June 8th

The St. Andrew's Society is pleased to announce its first book fair will be held at its June regular meeting on June 8th. This is a fundraising event for the Society with all the proceeds going into the Charitable and Educational fund. Even though it is called a "book fair" it will actually involve books, maps, pamphlets, magazines, records, CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and cassettes tapes (no 8

tracks tapes, please).

You can help in three ways: donating, buying, and volunteering to help with the sale.



All items will be assigned a flat price as follows:

Hard back books	\$5
Soft back books	\$2
Maps	\$2
Pamphlets	\$1
Magazines	\$1
Records	\$2
VHS tapes	\$5
CDs	\$5
Cassette tapes	\$2

Donations:

Please bring your books to the Donations table at the Book Fair. If an item of yours does not sell and you want it back, then you will have to buy it back.

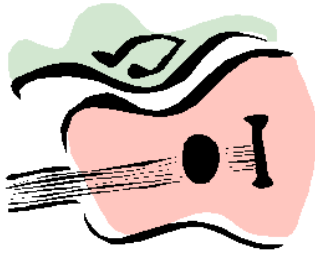
Buying:

The items will be distributed on tables around the room. You just walk around, look at the items, select what you want, and then go to the check out table. Another volunteer there will take your money (cash or checks made out to "St. Andrew's Society").

Reminders:

Any items not sold will be donated to the Richmond Public Library for their use or

sale at their semi-annual book sale (also helping to fulfill the Society's Charitable and Educational goals).



Concert Series

I'm trying to get the word out about a new concert series in Richmond, called "[Folk in the Grove](#)". It will feature traditional folk, American and Celtic and hopefully expanding from there to include a wide variety of folk music. Brian Sumner (a chess teacher), Maria Fakhoury (a massage therapist) and myself decided to start the series because there just didn't seem to be enough places in Richmond where you could relax and hear nice acoustic music that didn't blast your ears out. We wanted to create something along the lines of the old coffeehouses of the sixties (minus the illegal substances that were sometimes consumed at those places back in the good old days!). However, the venue, Grove Avenue Coffee and Tea on the corner of Libbie and Grove, does serve excellent coffee, tea and homemade pastries.

We already have a pretty interesting schedule lined up – I did the inaugural concert on May 21st (actually it was a benefit concert to help fund the series and get it going) and for our next concerts we have a traditional Yiddish singer (Art Todras), an evening of Scottish fiddling with Keadron Higgs, Sheryl Warner and the Southside Homewreckers (old time blues) and in October Jim Malcolm from Scotland (lead singer of the group Old Blind Dogs) The website is great - you can listen to sound clips for a preview.

Please tell your friends, and I hope to see

some of you at our upcoming concerts. Folks can sign up for the mailing list at www.richmondfolkmusic.org <<http://www.richmondfolkmusic.org/>> .

All the best,
Mary Smith

Some other places in Scotland you've probably never been to but ought to visit

I love the A-9. from Stirling to Thurso. There are castles, battlefields, mountains, the northern coast, and prehistoric sites. I suppose that one could spend two weeks just driving and of course stopping along the A-9 and have a great vacation. For the adventurous, and those on the road to Orkney, the A-9 between Golspie and Wick has some great 'off-the-beaten-track' sites. There are the Gray Cairns of Camster..... two Iron Age burial mounds.... one round, the other oblong. The cairns are situated on a boggy piece of ground (peat is still cut there) but can be easily reached by following the wooden pathways. Each cairn has a metal gate but they aren't locked. A sign advises that the gates must be shut when leaving to keep the sheep out. Crawling in through the tiny openings is rewarded by the burial chambers inside, where you can stand up. There are no attendants and no tourists and if communing with The Ancients is your thing, here's a great place to do so.

And then there is The Hill of Many Stanes (stones), aptly named as there are over 200 stones (about two feet tall) arranged in a fan shape on top of this hill. It is believed that there was an astrological reason for the formation of the rocks but who knows? Later on, the site was used to castrate some bandits captured by Clan Sutherland. The villains leaving their 'stones' on the ground with the others.

The area has a few Clearance Villages scattered about but one of the 'best' is Badbea, near Berriedale. When we visited (along time ago), the walk to the site was pretty cool... through foot and a half high

blooming heather. The village was erected by a Sinclair when he removed some of his people from inland to make way for sheep. The site is on a cliff overlooking the North Sea (Moray Firth) and life for the inhabitants was hard... the children having to be tethered to keep them from 'blowing away' onto the rocks below. Most of the village eventually migrated to New Zealand and one of the grandchildren returned and built a small monument in their memory. This, like all Clearance Village sites is a sad place.

-- **Gordon D. Duffus**



June in History

2nd, 1588: James Douglas, Scotland's inventor of the guillotine (The Maiden) was... well, guillotined.

5th, 1723: Adam Smith, the Scottish author of "A Wealth of Nations" was born.

7th, 1329: King Robert I ("The Bruce") died... some say of Leprosy.

8th, 1333: Edward I of England ("The Hammer of the Scots") seizes the Isle of Mann from the Scots

11th, 1297: William Wallace defeats (with a little help from his friends) the English at Stirling Bridge.

12th, 1298: Wallace (& Company) defeat the English at The Battle of Black Ironside.

14th, 1946: John Logie Baird, the Scottish inventor of TV died. I love this guy. He gave me, ultimately, NFL Sunday Ticket!

18th, 1639: Charles I of England was forced to withdraw from Scotland and to recognize an independent Scottish Parliament ("The Pacification of Berwick")

19th, 1566: James VI of Scotland was born. Lovely kid... ask his mom (Mary, Queen of Scots).

23rd: Mid Summer's Eve: An ancient Solar Festival, celebrated with bonfires throughout the Celtic lands.

1725: The Malt Riots in Glasgow... against a higher malt tax. The price of 'grog' goes up.

24th, 1314: Bruce's victory at Bannockburn!!! Good day to stage a Malt Riot.... or some such.

28th, 1746: Charles Edward Stuart ("Bonnie Prince Charlie") escapes, with the help of Flora MacDonald, "Over the sea to Skye".... feel free to sing along as I hum the tune.

Slow month for Scottish History..... therefore, we must celebrate those 'celebratable' things all the harder

-- **Gordon D. Duffus**



Contributions?

Please send any articles, music/book reviews or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Lennie Geipel** at geipel@mac.com or PO Box 2663, Glen Allen VA 23058 by the beginning of August.

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