



November 2005

Saltire Sentinel

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

Calendar

Nov. 9 St. Andrew's Society Meeting at North Park Branch Library, 8508 Franconia Road. The library is located at the intersection of Parham and Franconia Roads. It is situated two blocks east of I-95 on Parham Road in Henrico County. People can start arriving at 6:30 PM with the business meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. We can have our normal Celtic Buffet but *please no alcohol.*

www.co.henrico.va.us/library/NPdir.htm

Our program will be on Scots in the Civil War; presented by Jim Cochrane and Tim Batten.

Dec. 14 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting details TBA.



Richmond Celtic Christmas Show December 10 & 11

On December 10 and 11, 2005 there will be a Celtic Christmas show at the Richmond Raceway Complex. This is an inside event which will take place in the buildings adjacent to the exhibition hall. Times are 10am to 7pm on Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sunday. Bring out the whole for family for a day full of shopping, food, music and Irish and Scottish dancing. Music will be provided by Seven Nations, Iona, Tinker's Dam and Andy & Then Some. A Celtic Santa complete with a kilt and his own Christmas village will be available for the kids. One-day passes are \$15. Weekend passes are \$20. Save \$3.00 by purchasing

tickets in advance at Celtic Colours. Children 9 and under are free. For additional information check out the website: www.celticchristmasshow.com.



St. Andrew's will have a table at this event. *We are currently looking for eight highly enthusiastic individuals to work the table.* All volunteers will receive free admission. The event's primary sponsor, Celtic Colours, is looking volunteers for a variety of positions. All volunteers will receive free passes. Contact Troy or Bobbi Suggs at 804-740-6112 for additional information. Tell them St. Andrew's sent you.

-- Steve Bruce

Olde Towne Scottish Walk

Come to the eight annual "Olde Towne Scottish Walk" in Portsmouth, Virginia. This year it is on Saturday, December 31st; with assembly starting at 3:30 PM. Meeting-up place is the corner of Queen and Washington Streets. I know, that is New Year's Eve, but it is a good time in a great little city. Anyway, it's over by 6-6:30 PM & there are great taverns and restaurants nearby.

For more information contact Susan Heely Cocks, 757-650-3052 susancocke@cox.net
Throw on your Tartan, take a hearty shot of *uisage beath*, light your *clavie* and join us.

I will have some copies of the organizer's handout at the next meeting.

-- John LoRe

Thanks for being a part of the 11th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival

It's over for another year.. or in my case..a couple of weeks. The 11th Annual Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival was a big success and it was all due to you. The Festival might bill itself as "Music, Food and Large Men Throwing Stuff" but it is really about people. You are what made it a success.

I doubt if anyone who visited and was not a part of a Clan or Society has any idea of how much preparation and hard work goes into putting together a tent and a display. I am proud of every group that took part this year.

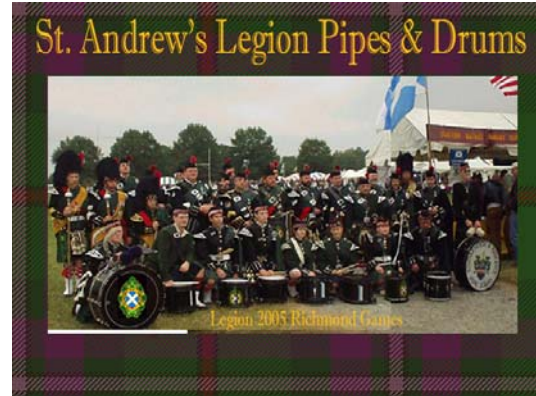
I appreciate the fact that the St. Andrew's Society has never assumed the role of "just another tent" among many other tents. You folks were out there on Friday and then bright (well it wasn't all that bright) on Saturday morning making sure things were just right.

It won't be long before we are right into the planning for next year. We will have more information before the end of November and will pass it along as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts on how we can make it even better, please let me know.

We have gotten many compliments on how well the Games came off and I would like to "Tip my Tam" to all of you who helped

make it possible. I'll see you at the November Meeting. Aye!

-- Dick Harman



The St. Andrew's Legion put on a fabulous display at the Richmond Highland Games this year. The band has accelerated in growth over the last month to now over 54 members.

Many new things are happening for the "Legion." The St. Andrew's Legion has formed an alliance with several other bands from across North America.

When the SALPD stepped out on the field at RHGCF this year, some of the new faces had come all the way from Maxville, Ontario.

The band is excited that in January and February, Sandy Jones and Burt Mitchell will be holding workshops with the group.

When asked about what else is in the near future for the band, the Pipe and Drum Majors are grinning about something else in the works, but will not comment any further. "Keep yer eyes open and powder dry lads."

-- Heather Gibson

SALPD Administrative Assistant

Black 47 Concert Nov. 8

There is a free concert at VCU by Black 47 on Tuesday, November 8th at 8pm. It is in the University Student Commons, Commonwealth Ballroom. They are not to be confused with some of the more traditional bands, but like all Irish... they have a story to tell and a certain way to tell it. What follows was found on the Internet on the group (whose name is a reference to the worst year of the famine).

Black 47 got its start in 1989, rockin' the Irish pubs of the Bronx and Manhattan. Informed by an intense but humorous lust for life, the tales the group tells are about living in America, playing in a band, political passion, lingering racism and romantic bawdiness. They're about commonplace joy and extraordinary sorrow; about being delirious and desperate; about making history and having a laugh.

Black 47's songs have a deep and serious undercurrent. Their lyrics have attracted interest from high school and college educators who have incorporated the songs into their Irish cultural and political studies. The group is as committed to social change and political awareness as it is to giving fans a no-holds-barred show.

Throughout their 10-year career, Black 47's artists have had their share of trials. They've been dogged by controversy due to the political content of some of their lyrics; they've endured personal tragedy with the loss of a few close friends; and they've crawled out of a serious post-show van crash. Yet they continue to inspire new audiences and have lived to tell an amazing saga which they update with hard-won wisdom and self-deprecating humor in their album "Trouble in the Land."

www.black47.com

Rhiannon Giddens "Folk in the Grove Concert" Nov. 19



Rhiannon Giddens will perform an eclectic mix of American and Celtic folk music at the upcoming "Folk in the Grove" concert on Saturday November 19th. This multitalented young woman, (who also sings opera and plays several instruments) is one of the foremost black banjo players in the country, but she is also a performer of Scottish music. Rhiannon's interest in the songs, tunes and ballads of her native North Carolina led to explore the music of Scotland - from the old gaelic songs and airs, to the rollicking ballads of the Lowlands. She performed in Scotland in 2004 at the Hebridean Celtic Festival at Stornoway, Isle of Lewis as part of "Highland Voices: Shared, Mingled and Lost – an exploration of the ways in which Scottish Highland Immigrants have made cultural contributions to America". She a member of two Celtic groups (Gaelwynd and Snapdragon) and regularly fiddles and calls at contra dances. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance, 12:00 at the door. The concert will be held at Grove Avenue Coffee and Tea, corner of Libbie and Grove. For more information and tickets, visit www.richmondfolkmusic.org/calendar.htm or call 647-7856.

-- Mary Smith

November in History

1st, SAMHAIN: The beginning (New Year's Day) of the Celtic year. This is the most important day in the Celtic calendar and the day for which Alka-Seltzer was invented.

2nd, 1853: The Association for the Vindication of Scottish Rights (a Home Rule organization) was founded. How's it goin' so far, mates?

4th, 1698: The founding of Darien (Panama), Scotland's only colony... destroyed by the Spanish, the English, and the mosquito. This venture 'broke' Scotland financially and led to The Union.

7th, 1974: Eric Linlater, Scottish novelist (& a great one), died.

8th, 1745: Yet another Stuart blunder... Bonnie Prince Charlie 'leads' the invasion of England.

11th: The 'Closing' of SAMHAIN, with animal sacrifices to do away with the ever-present 'evil spirits'. It was later Christianized into Martinmas.

13th, 1850: We all should 'do something' to commemorate this date..... Robert Louis Stevenson was born. He did, after all, give the world the present 'tartan colored view' of Olde Scotia and is responsible for how many of us view Scotland today. Good Lad!

16th, 1745: One of the three Hanoverian armies seeking to cut off the Jacobite invasion of England leaves Newcastle...but poops along. Newcastle ale being a factor?

17th, 1745: James VIII of Scotland is proclaimed king for the 1st time on English soil, as James III. This 'proclamation' and \$1.50 (inflation) will get ya a cup of coffee.

26th, 1836: John Louden McAdam, the Scottish engineer who developed the

macadam road (and a whole bunch of outdoor basketball courts), died. The Inner City mourns ... & VDOT (the Virginia Dept. of Transportation) continues to deny his existence!

30th, St. ANDREW'S DAY: The feast day for the Patron St. of Scotland! Eat a haggis! Eat an Englishman!

-- Gordon Duffus



Sons of Scotland Ride

On Sunday Oct 16th, the Sons of Scotland rode their annual Fall Foliage Ride to Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, VA. Members attending were John Scott, John LoRe, David Hinton, Mike and Lorraine Trent, and new member John Ross. A good time was had by all, even though the foliage left something to be desired. New member, John Ross, was inducted in a ceremony involving cigars and highland beverages. We even found our way back home.

-- John Scott

Newsletter Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, recipes 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 end of November.