



December 2008

# Saltire Sentinel

The Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.  
PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058, [www.standrewssociety.org](http://www.standrewssociety.org)



*"If you are receiving this newsletter through the United States Postal Service, it means we do not have an accurate or valid email address. Please email us at*

[Board@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:Board@StAndrewsSociety.org) with your correct address so that we may save money on postage.

**Membership renewal for 2008/2009 is in full swing. Please mail checks to our post office box, or present to a Board member at our next general membership meeting (see calendar). Thanks and we hope to see you at our meetings and fun filled events through out the new season!!**

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take time to send one card to the 'below address'. By each of us doing this, think of how many cards these wonderfully special people, who have sacrificed so much, would get. When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include a card to the following:

A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20307-5001

## Calendar



**NOTE:** St. Patrick's Church is making plans to celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2009.

They would like to be in touch with all the alumni of St. Patrick's School. Please let them know your name and address. Drop them a note at 213 N. 25th St. Richmond VA 23223, or call 804-648-0504 or email at [st.patrickric@aol.com](mailto:st.patrickric@aol.com).

**December 10 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.) We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

We will have a **white elephant gift exchange**. The idea is to not buy a gift, but to find something around the house. It should only be valued at a couple dollars. The more humorous the better. **Please bring a wrapped gift to exchange**

**December 12** Holidays with Irish Crossroads Dance Troupe. This group prides itself on combining an exciting blend of both traditional Irish step and the present day "Riverdance" style. They continue to captivate audiences with both the gracefulness and complexity of Irish dance. The times will be 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Location: Henrico Theatre. Cost: free. Call for reservations: 328-4491.

**December 13** A Celtic Christmas Party

Don't miss it! It's the First Annual Celtic Christmas Party being presented in cooperation with the Irish-American Society, the Scottish Society and our own St. Andrew's Society of Richmond.

It all takes place on Saturday, December 13, starting at 7:00 p.m. The location is St. Edward Epiphany School on Huguenot Road in Chesterfield. There is no admission charge, although you are asked to bring a covered dish to share with our Celtic Friends. Soft drinks will be provided. However, Bring Your Our Beer or Liquor.

Let's all turn out and celebrate the Holiday Season and the spirit of cooperation with good friends and good fun. That's the First Annual Celtic Christmas Party, Saturday, December 13, starting at 7:00 p.m., at St. Edward Epiphany School. See you there!

**December 19** The Hunt Family Fiddlers. Come see Virginia's own Hunt Family Fiddlers. Their holiday show keeps everyone entertained with great diversity, featuring fiery Celtic dancing and fast fiddling. The time will be 6:30 p.m. Location: Henrico Theatre. Cost: free. Call for reservations: 328-4491.

**Jan. 2009 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** will not be held, as on January 3, 2009, we will celebrate Hogmanay. The event will take place at the Virginia Crossings Resort. **See the end of the newsletter for more details and forms.**

**Feb. 11 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.) We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

This month the presentation will be a **collection of members' favorite stories from their trips to Scotland.** I have several volunteers but need several more. The story should last anywhere from 1-10 minutes. Anything from heart warming to gut wrenching.

**Mar. 11 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.) We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

A speaker will be featured.

**Apr. 8 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** will be a dinner meeting. The location will be announced. We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

**May 13 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.) We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

Presentation to be announced.

**Jun. 10 St. Andrew's Society Business Meeting** at The Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.) We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *Celtic Buffet, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

**This will be our annual Election meeting.**

**The Prez Sez!**

### It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

Turn on your radio, take a look at the stores, check out the all the ads and the TV Specials! There's no doubt that it's Christmas Time. As I get older, I always have to ask myself, "Where has the year gone?" It seems like only yesterday we were at the Hogmanay and now we're almost to next year.

How was your 2008? Was it all you expected? Did you accomplish all you set out to do? I must say mine was interesting. No, I didn't accomplish all I intended and I am not surprised. It started with a new adventure for me. It's called retirement or, in my case, it was more like semi-retirement. But, as is often the case, I'm busier now than I was when I was working fulltime.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to the Officers and Board Members for their hard work. Also, a big THANK YOU to Stephanie and Rose and their committee for a great Hogmanay last year and their dedication to making the 2009 Event even better. THANK YOU to Analee Evans for producing the monthly Saltire and to everyone who has been a part of all we have done this past year.

We had a sad note this year with the untimely passing of Will Wilson. Will was a tireless worker in everything he attempted. He was always willing to lend a hand and his smile was always a welcome sight at meetings and events. He will be missed.

But before we get to the New Year, we still have a Meeting and a Party to think about. Chris Rapp has set up an interesting program for our Meeting on December 10. There's more on that elsewhere in this issue. Also, there is the First Annual Celtic Christmas Party with the Irish-American Society and the Scottish Society on Saturday December 13 at St. Edward-Epiphany School. It starts at 7-P.M. and is free. Just bring a covered dish and your own bottle. Set-ups and soft drinks will be provided. This is a joint effort of the three organizations and is happening for the first time. You are encouraged to attend and have some fun with our Celtic Friends.

Then, of course, there is Christmas and I want to wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas. May the Season be one of Happiness and Love. May we all know the true 'Reason For The Season.'

So, enjoy this time of year. Think of loved ones. Pray for Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all. Take time to think of others who are less fortunate. Thank you, again, for all you do to make the St.

Andrew's Society of Richmond the great organization it is.

Aye, Dick

## **It's Hogmanay time!**

The days have dwindled down to a precious few before we get together and celebrate the New Year with the Annual St. Andrew's Society of Richmond Hogmanay. Stephanie and Rose and their committee have been very busy making sure this one will even top last year's event.

The date is Saturday, January 3, and the location is the Virginia Crossings. If you haven't sent in your reservations yet, now is the time to do so. The cost is \$55 per person and you should have received an order form via internet. We will also have them at our General Meeting on December 10. We need to know how many folks will be attending as the Crossings needs a head count to make sure there is enough food to go around.

Send in your reservations and checks to our P. O. Box or give them to any Board Member at the meeting. You don't want to miss this Event. It is the Highlight of Year, complete with Buffet, Music, and the Silent Auction. What a great way to welcome in the New Year! Don't miss it!

## **December Wednesdays In Scots History**

### *3 December*

His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened this day in 1906 and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment.

### *10 December*

1747 saw the death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. In this sense he was at least partly responsible for the failure of the Jacobite Rising. However Forbes was a fair-minded man who tried his best to mitigate the terrible reprisals following the Battle of Culloden.

### 17 December

On 17 December 1956 petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal.

### 24 December

On this day in 1165 William I, "The Lion," was crowned at Scone. He was known as 'The Lion' because of his standard, a red lion rampant on a yellow background, which remains Scotland's royal standard today. His 50-year reign was initially marked by conflicts with Henry II of England, during which William was captured and had to pay homage to Henry in exchange for his release, and sign the humiliating Treaty of Falaise. The Scottish subjects were taxed heavily to cover the cost of the English forces' occupation of their country. 15 years later Richard I, seeking funds for his crusades, released Scotland from this treaty in exchange for a huge sum of money.

### 31 December

The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender on this day in 1960.

*Thanks to John Scott, Clan Scott, and BBC Scotland (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/history/onthisday/>), and Scotsman.com (<http://heritage.scotsman.com/>), About.com, and other miscellaneous sources.*



## Scottish Christmas Traditions

Not doing something for about four hundred years would generally suffice to make you forget about how exactly it was you did that thing again, right? Well yes, and unfortunately, such is the case for the Scottish Christmas celebrations...

Somewhere in the middle of the sixteenth century, Christmas was banned in Scotland. The country being Anglican (i.e. part of the Church of

England), Christmas was seen in Scotland as a Roman Catholic holiday - and celebrating it was obviously unacceptable. The banning of Christmas was a very serious affair: there were plenty of legal repercussions for people who celebrated the birth of Christ anyway.

Only in the 1950s was the ban lifted, and Christmas became a national holiday in 1958, though many Scots still think it is highly unacceptable to make a big production out of the occasion. Before the 1950s, the Scottish used to celebrate New Year - a holiday they call "Hogmanay". Linguists point out that this word may actually derive from the French expression "un homme est né" (meaning "a man is born"), which would then link their celebrations to Christmas after all.

### Keep the Elves out

This charged history obviously had its repercussions on the way the Scottish celebrate Christmas. For one, there used to be a long standing superstition that one absolutely had to keep the fire going in the fireplace on Christmas Eve. If not, the elves that were roaming around outside would climb down the chimney - and apparently, you didn't want that to happen. It is worth noting at this point that pagan traditions are still very much a part of popular Scottish culture.

Having been deprived of Christmas celebrations until a time when the mass media were already firmly in place has also caused the Scottish holiday customs to become heavily influenced by foreign traditions. That's why the Scots now eat a turkey dinner on Christmas Eve. Exchanging gifts has become customary, too, just like visiting friends and relatives. And of course, there are Christmas trees (most likely Scots pines), adorned with all kinds of shiny and twinkling stuff.

### Skirting the issue

But the Scottish (who are notoriously described as a very stubborn people fiercely fond of their - if not political, then at least mental - independence) wouldn't be the Scottish if they didn't have a few traditions of their own anyway. This is why it's not altogether uncommon to find men in skirts dancing around bonfires on Christmas day - obviously strutting their stuff to the tunes of bagpipe players.

Another (once clandestine) custom is the burning of the Yule log: a log of birch wood is cut by the end of the summer and left to dry. It is then ceremoniously brought inside the house on Christmas Eve, paraded around the kitchen three times, toasted to and finally burned in the fireplace. And the Scottish even have their own Christmas dessert, though it's highly unlikely the tradition will catch on in the rest of the world. Their beloved Bannock cakes are made of oatmeal - not exactly marzipan.

*Information provided by Google - Internet*

You can email the Officers and Board at [Board@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:Board@StAndrewsSociety.org). Each of the officers can be directly emailed at [President@...](mailto:President@...), [VicePresident@...](mailto:VicePresident@...), [Secretary@...](mailto:Secretary@...) and [Treasurer@...](mailto:Treasurer@...).

## **Contributions Please!**

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, jokes, recipes or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Analee Evans** at [analee\\_e@hotmail.com](mailto:analee_e@hotmail.com) or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of November**. **This is *your* St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!



# ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF RICHMOND 2009 HOGMANAY CELEBRATION

Date: 01/03/2009

Cost: \$55 per person. The price is the same for members and non-member guests

Location: Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center  
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059  
Phone: 804-727-1478

Time: 6:00 p.m. -11:00 p.m.:

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.: Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: Silent Auction

7:00 p.m.: Ode to the Haggis

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: Dinner Buffet

8:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.: Music and dancing

Hotel Rates: \$119 + tax - Single/Double

Reservations: 888-444-6553 for 804-727-1478

When calling, ask for "Room Reservations", then request the group rate for the St. Andrews Hogmanay Banquet.

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Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_  
(*\$55 per person*)

*Please make your check payable to St. Andrews Society of Richmond. You may pay at the November or December meetings or mail your check to P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058.*

**Virginia Crossing Resort has asked for a final head-count by December 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Therefore, confirmation of your attendance and payment are due by 12/18/08.**