



May 2010

Saltire Sentinel

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

Calendar

May 12, Wednesday

SASR Regular Meeting

We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *The Celtic Buffet will be there, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share but note that no alcoholic beverages are allowed at the church.*

Please note that we will be meeting at a new location, the [Gayton Kirk](#), 11421 Gayton Road; the church is on Gayton Road between Pump Road and John Rolfe Parkway in western Henrico County. Directions can be had by clicking on this [Yahoo map link](#).

The program will be the Scottish Drumming presentation that was originally scheduled for our February meeting.

June 5, Saturday

Ashland Strawberry Festival

We will again have a tent at the Strawberry Festival from 10:00am until 5:00pm. More information about the Festival is available at their [web site](#).

June 9, Wednesday

SASR Annual Meeting

This meeting will be held at the Gayton Kirk and is our Annual Business meeting where we will elect new Board members.

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

'It was like this,' said Donald. 'I was teaching the wife to drive, and the brakes failed when we came down the hill.'
'What did you tell her?'
'Try and hit something cheap!'

President's Notes

In April we had a good attendance at our pub night where 25% of the food bill will be donated back to the society by Capital Ale House as part of their community chest month. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and supported the society. We do not have the final month end community chest figure yet but I will try to have this for our May business meeting.

A thank you also to new member Lynne Harrison who responded to our request in last month's newsletter for a flat screen monitor. Lynne donated a high quality Sony monitor as well as a large number of books of varying themes on Scotland.

It seems that May is to be a quiet month in our calendar with a few events being removed. The Celtic Cans event was cancelled for various reasons, but we look forward to supporting it again next year. We will not be attending the Strawberry Hill Races event as a Society. The organizers have priced their skyboxes "out of our not-for-profit society's reach" as they now target corporate customers. So please take note and do not leave it too late to make your own

arrangements if you want to attend the event on 15th May.

For June, we will be attending the Ashland Strawberry Faire on the 5th and will look for volunteers for this chill-out fun day.

I look forward to seeing you at our business meeting on Wednesday 12th May for the first meeting at a new venue - The Gayton Kirk.

Aye for Scotland,

Bill Cooper

Then there was the Inverness man who bought his mother-in-law a chair but had to send it back. He had nowhere to plug it in.

Would you believe it? First Minister Alex Salmond backs England for the World Cup

By Tim Cornwell

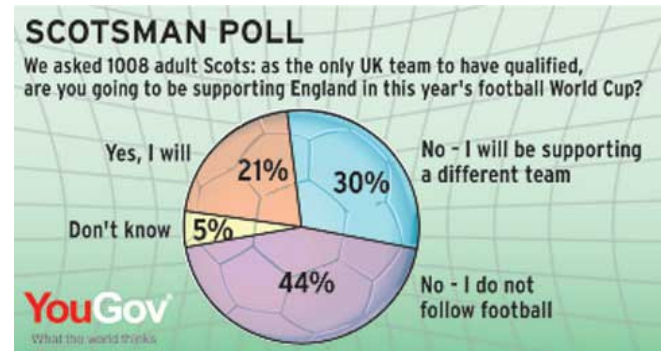
SOME are more enthusiastic than others, but Scotland's political leaders are rallying behind England's football team in the World Cup. However, ordinary punters still cannot stomach supporting their southern neighbour.

Just one in five Scottish people will back England in South Africa this summer after Scotland failed to qualify, a YouGov poll for The Scotsman shows. Far more, 30 per cent, will support a different country.

In a display of unity with the rest of the UK, both Scottish Tory leader Annabel Goldie and Scottish Labour leader Iain Gray said they would be cheering on the England squad.

Perhaps the most surprising response came from First Minister Alex Salmond whose spokesman, when pushed, admitted he too would be backing the Auld Enemy.

Those responding "no" were strongest in the age 18 to 34 group, falling to just 19 per cent among those aged 55 plus.



Although it's hugely disappointing Scotland didn't qualify, I'm looking forward to the World Cup," said Mr Salmond in a statement issued by his spokesman. "It's great for African football that it's being held there for the first time and it would be terrific for the tournament if South Africa reach the latter stages. Pushed as to whether or not he would back England his spokesman said: "Yes he will".

The Scottish Labour leader Mr Gray, said: "I hope that England win and also play well, although I've always had a soft spot for Brazil."

Tory leader Ms Goldie, said: "There is only one team from the four home nations, that's England, that's who I'll be backing." Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Tavish Scott will be supporting Liverpool players whoever they play for, his office said. What would happen in a "face-off" was not clear.

If Scottish politicians are carefully saying the sensible thing, Tam Ferry of the Association of Tartan Army Clubs did not mince his words yesterday. "Football is all about rivalries and I'm not surprised fans won't be supporting England," he said. "There's nothing xenophobic about it, it's purely about football. That's the nature of the beast. "If they were playing table- tennis against the Congo, I'd wear my Congo T-shirt."

It was cold on the upper deck and the captain was concerned for the comfort of his passengers.

He called down: 'Is there a mackintosh down there big enough to keep two young lassies warm?'

'No, skipper,' came the reply, 'but there's a MacPherson willing to try.'

SASR 15th Year Anniversary Bumper Sticker

Proudly display our society and your "Scottishness"



Measures 3.5" x 7.5"

Price **\$4.50** each available at our meetings or events.
\$5.00 each available by Post on receipt of your check at SASR mailbox.

Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, jokes, recipes or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Editor** at News@StAndrewsSociety.org or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of April for the May issue. This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!

Spring Cleaning?

Here are a few things we are looking to pick up rather than spend on. So, we'll be glad to take them off your hands.

Canvas or Plastic carry holders/bags that will hold our Tartan Display Flags (6ft.). These

could have been old Ski Carriers, Deck Umbrella holders or anything.

After the success of introducing the computer to our "tools" in the tent we are looking for a small battery-based power generator so that we can run a laptop with information about us and Scottish heritage.

A Portable Color Printer would also be an asset which accommodates the on-site printing of what we find on the web for visitors perhaps then facilitating a donation.

A small (~2-1/2 foot by 4 foot) folding plastic table is needed for the renovation of our tent setup.

The content below is a paid advertisement.

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Hector Russell	\$500	Scotland Forever	\$485
O'Kane Outfitters	\$450	Kinloch Anderson	\$775
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Devolution: A beginner's guide

Since 1999, the way the United Kingdom is run has been transformed by devolution - a process designed to decentralise government and give more powers to the three nations which, together with England, make up the UK.

The United Kingdom is made up of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Devolution essentially means the transfer of powers from the UK parliament in London to assemblies in Cardiff and Belfast, and the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

When did it begin?

Public votes were held in 1997 in Scotland and Wales, and a year later in both parts of Ireland.

This resulted in the creation of the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Devolution applied in different ways in each nation due to historical and administrative differences.

What powers are devolved?

The table below gives an overview of the main powers given to the Northern Irish and Welsh assemblies, and the Scottish Parliament.

What powers are not devolved?

The UK government is responsible for national policy on all powers which have not been devolved.

These are known usually as "reserved powers" and include foreign affairs, defence, international relations and economic policy.

This table gives an overview of the main non-devolved powers.

The Westminster Parliament is technically still able to pass laws for any part of the UK, but in practice only deals with devolved matters with the agreement of the devolved governments.

Devolution in Northern Ireland

Devolution here is slightly different to Scotland and Wales, with government powers divided into three categories: transferred, reserved and excepted.

The power-sharing agreement between the Nationalist and Unionist communities in Northern Ireland is critical to the functioning of the assembly; devolution of powers has been suspended and reinstated several times since its inception in 1998.

In addition to the main devolved powers shown in the table, the assembly can also legislate on culture, arts and leisure, learning and employment and regional and social development.

In March 2010, an agreement was passed to transfer powers of justice and policing to Northern Ireland.

Reserved powers - which could be transferred in the future with cross-community consent - include prisons and civil defence.

A third category - excepted powers - includes matters such as parliamentary and assembly elections, international relations and defence.

These cannot be transferred without primary legislation from Westminster.

Devolution in Scotland

Scotland has a "parliament" as opposed to an "assembly" - the crucial difference being that Holyrood is a legislation-making body, passing bills in various areas of its many devolved responsibilities.

The Scottish parliament also has the power to raise or lower the basic rate of income tax by 3p in the pound - although this so-called "Tartan Tax" has never been used.

In addition to the main devolved powers shown in the table, the parliament can legislate on tourism, economic development, planning, natural and built heritage, sport and the arts, as well as statistics, public registers and records.

The primary powers retained by Westminster include foreign policy, defence and trade and industry.

Devolution in Wales

The Government of Wales Act of 2006 gives the Welsh assembly powers to make its own laws, but limits its scope to defined "fields"; a broad subject area such as education or health.

Within these fields, the assembly is able to enact its own laws, known as measures. The major areas in which the assembly can legislate are listed in the table above.

In addition, the assembly can make laws relating to ancient monuments and historic buildings, public administration, sport and recreation, tourism, town and country planning, flood defences, the assembly itself, and the Welsh language.

By omission, anything not contained in the current list of measures remains under the control of the Parliament in Westminster.

The assembly is split into executive and legislative branches: the Welsh assembly government controls day-to-day running of devolved policy areas within the country, while the National Assembly for Wales scrutinises and debates the assembly government's work.

The assembly could increase its powers in the future and may one day evolve into a body similar to the Scottish Parliament.

In February 2010, assembly members voted in favour of holding a referendum on devolving further powers from Westminster. This motion must now gain approval from both Houses of Parliament.

Why is there not an 'English parliament'?

The UK government is responsible for all matters in England which have been devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

However devolution has caused some tensions, particularly over public spending.

The new powers of the Scottish Parliament have allowed it to abolish university tuition fees and prescription charges. These services are not free in England.

However Scotland's public services are still paid for by all UK taxpayers under the terms of the Barnett formula, which allocates funding around different parts of the country.

Some in England are increasingly unhappy, seeing this as English taxpayers subsidising free services in Scotland.

A recent survey of 980 people by the left-leaning think tank the Institute for Public Policy Research suggested 40% of those questioned believe this situation unfair, compared with 22% in 2003.

Delivering the report, Professor John Curtice said if the trends continued, politicians "may no longer be able to safely assume that England can be ignored in the devolution debate".

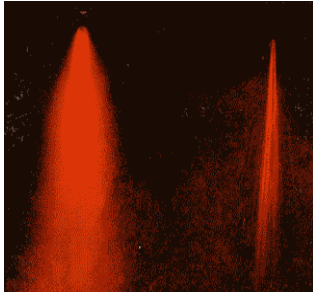
Story from [BBC NEWS](#):

Published: 2010/04/29 17:21:25 GMT

Why Clean your Car's Fuel System?

Optimal fuel economy requires a clean fuel system.

Fuel injectors must spray a fine mist of fuel to optimize the efficiency of the combustion process. Over time, deposits, gums and varnishes can form in the injector tips causing irregular spray patterns that result in decreased fuel economy, hard starting and – potentially – surges and misfires. Moisture build-up in the system can also cause problems such as “knocking.”



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First Queen of Scots stamp issued

The first stamp featuring Mary Queen of Scots has been unveiled by Royal Mail.

It is one of a series showing the seven Stewart kings and queens who ruled Scotland from 1406 until the Union of the Crowns with England in 1603.



The stamp set features seven monarchs from the house of Stewart

TV historian Neil Oliver launched the stamp series at Stirling Castle, the historical home of the Stewarts.

He said the Stewart monarchy was a fascinating period of Scottish history, with "many dramatic characters and events".

The house of Stewart stamps include portraits of James I to VI, as well as Scotland's most famous Queen.

It is the first time Mary, who was executed in 1587 at the age of 44, has appeared on a Royal Mail stamp.

The Stewart kings and queens after the Union of the Crowns, by which time the dynasty had also adopted the Stuart version of the name, are not shown in the stamps.

The stamp series is the latest commemorating the royal dynasties of the UK, which has previously featured the houses of Lancaster and York and the house of Tudor.

Colourful monarch

Mr Oliver added: "Mary Queen of Scots is obviously the most famous and colourful of

the Stewart monarchs and it is wonderful to see her represented on a stamp.

"I'm delighted that Royal Mail is helping bring history to life through its series of stamps celebrating the history of Britain's Kings and Queens."

Stamps marking significant events and figures during the age of the Stewarts are also being issued.

These include the foundation of St Andrews University in 1413, the foundation of the Court of Session in 1532 and the religious reformer John Knox.

Ian McKay, director of Scottish affairs at Royal Mail Group, said: "These stamps will be popular with anyone who is interested in Scottish history and I hope they can add to the good work done by places like Stirling Castle to preserve and pass on Scotland's heritage."

Story from BBC NEWS:
Published: 2010/03/23 07:08:29 GMT

Advertize in the Saltire Sentinel

We now offer our members (and others) a chance to advertize in the *Saltire Sentinel*. This will benefit members who have businesses and the Society through generated revenue.

The rates shown below are for 3-month blocks (that is three consecutive months). The ads must be submitted to the Editor (news@StAndrewsSociety.org) via email in digital format or by USP mail (PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058) in camera-ready form. The half page size can be either vertical or horizontal half page. The business card does not have to be an exact business card; the idea is to have just the essential.

RATES:

Full Page	\$100
Half Page	\$50
Quarter Page	\$25
Business Card	\$10

Below is a rough drawing of the proposed layout for our booth at future events. Your comments are welcomed.

