Smuggled and bootlegged, it has been the cause of transatlantic tensions for more than two decades. But after 21 years in exile, the haggis is to be allowed back into the United States.

The “great chieftan o’ the puddin-race” was one of earliest casualties of the BSE crisis of the 1980s-90s, banned on health grounds by the US authorities in 1989 because they feared its main ingredient, minced sheep offal, could prove lethal.

Some refined foodies might insist it always has been and always will be: in the words of Robert Burns, in his Ode to a Haggis, looking “down wi’ sneering, scornfu’ view on sic a dinner”. But now, as millions of Scots around the world celebrate Burns’s legacy with an elaborate, whisky-fuelled pageant to a boiled bag of sheep innards, oatmeal, suet and pepper, its reputation has been restored, on health grounds at least.

For the past two decades, Americans of Scottish descent, of whom there are at least 6 million, have been forced to celebrate Burns’ night without a true haggis, much to their distress.

There are stories of Scots smuggling in a haggis for their starving cousins, risking deportation in the process. Others are said to have secretly

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**US Lifts 21-Year Ban on Haggis**

From the guardian.co.uk, 24 January 2010

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**Burns Night 2010**

Hosted by the St. Andrews Society of Tidewater

Photos courtesy of Lynnette Fitch Brash

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Ham Hamilton received the “Scot of the Year” award for his many years of service and dedication to celebration of Scottish-American culture.

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SST member & Gaelic student Cheryl Brown, right, and her sister Heidi enjoyed their first Burns Night experience.
The Scottish Society of Tidewater exists to promote the preservation and study of Scottish culture, including music, language, art, history, folklore, dance, literature, athletics, and all other things distinctively Scottish among interested persons in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area and to cooperate with like-minded persons, groups and organizations here and abroad.

A meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Church of Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446. Social time begins at 7:00pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and history is invited to attend.

A Few Words from the President

It’s hard to believe that this is my last letter to you as President of The Scottish Society of Tidewater. As I write these lines we are in the midst of “The Blizzard of 2010.” What a great and spectacular way to begin 2010 and end this Scottish Society year.

On behalf of your entire 2009-2010 Board of Directors, I thank you all for your confidence and for allowing us to be your leaders. I hope that you will support the 2010-2011 Society officers as well as you did your 2009-2010 officers. I also hope that they have a very successful term of office.

On March 3, we will hold our Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers. Please consider getting involved, either by running for an office, by serving on a committee, or even by giving a presentation at a meeting. The four Officers are up for election, as well as three Directors. Since I am not running for re-election, I will serve as the Nomination Committee Chair, so if you’re interested please let me know. They say that you only get as much out of an organization as you put into it. Actually, you get much more out than you put in.

This has been a year of positives and negatives. We lost several special members this year but we gained several new members. We moved our meeting place; something that had been discussed by the Board for several years. By all accounts, it has been a very positive move.

We were not able to march in the Ocean View Saint Patrick’s Day Parade in March because of the cancellation of the parade due to weather. The April Tartan Day and August William Wallace Day events, however, were very successful. The July and August Pub Nights brought out lots of folks for fun, food, and fellowship, not to mention a few libations. They were also great opportunities to just sit and chat with folks; something we don’t often get to do.

We have had excellent monthly programs given by some very knowledgeable members. We’ve learned about everything from sheepherding to the preservation of the wreckage of the USS Monitor to Scottish food and drink. Quite a range of information, indeed! Many thanks to those who have given of their time and energy to present these superb programs.

Once again, my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to lead the Scottish Society this year. Thanks, also, to my Officers and Board of Directors for your good counsel and support.

Yours Aye for Scotland,

Rob

About the Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.

The Scottish Society of Tidewater exists to promote the preservation and study of Scottish culture, including music, language, art, history, folklore, dance, literature, athletics, and all other things distinctively Scottish among interested persons in the Hampton Roads, Virginia area and to cooperate with like-minded persons, groups and organizations here and abroad.

A meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Church of Ascension Community Center, 4853 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4446. Social time begins at 7:00pm, and the meeting starts at 7:30pm. Anyone interested in Scottish culture and history is invited to attend.

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www.tidewaterscots.org

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marcey9@cox.net
Looking For a Few Good Candidates: SST Elections to be Held in March

The SST will be electing a new slate of officers at the Annual Meeting in March. Now is your chance to be part of the SST leadership. We are looking for enthusiastic candidates who are willing to bring forward some new ideas and new energy for the coming year.

Up for election this year will be the one-year terms of the president, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer and the two-year terms of three (3) positions on the Board of Directors.

As of the February meeting, the slate of candidates is as follows:
- President - John McGlynn
- Vice President - Tricia Young
- Treasurer - Jeanne Rider
- Secretary - Lucy Withington
- Board of Directors - Tom Crouch, Randy Dedrickson, George Phillips, and Bob Rider.

Any member who is in good standing is eligible to run for office and vote at the Annual Meeting. A member in good standing is one whose membership is current and dues are paid to date.

Interested? Contact Rob Lockwood at 473-0784 or piobmor@juno.com

REMINDER: Membership Dues 2010

Annual membership dues for the Scottish Society of Tidewater need to be paid NOW. If you choose to receive the Thistledown Newsletter electronically, family membership is $25, and individual membership is $15. If you choose to receive a hard copy of the newsletter via US Mail, family membership is $30, and individual membership is $20.

You should have received an application in the mail. If you did not, or if you’ve misplaced it, you can either download it from our website www.tidewaterscots.org, or contact Marcey Hunter.

You may mail your application and payment directly to Marcey Hunter, membership chair, or just bring it with you to the next meeting.

Marcey Hunter
301 E. Randall Ave.
Norfolk, VA 23503
marcey9@cox.net 757-480-4217

Call for Applications:
Richard & Olive Baird Scholarship

It’s that time again! The deadline to apply for the Scottish Society of Tidewater’s Richard & Olive Baird Memorial Scholarship is fast approaching. All scholarship applications must be postmarked by March 1.

The purpose of the Baird Scholarship is to provide financial support toward the study of Scottish culture. This includes, but is not limited to, Scottish music, dance, language, literature, history, genealogy, politics and religion. Only applications relevant to Scottish culture will be considered.

Applicants must be at least 12 years of age; there is no upper age limit. Preference will be given to residents of Hampton Roads, however all interested students are encouraged to apply.

If you would like to submit an application, please visit the SST website at www.tidewaterscots.org, or contact Nancy & Dave Montgomery at 463-1108 or davemontg@aol.com nancymontg@aol.com
Portsmouth Hogmanay 2010

A hardy and enthusiastic group of SST members prepares to step off.

Charles Murla, left, and Skip Hunter helped ring in the new year in Olde Town Portsmouth.

SST members Jack & Betsy Kennedy, right, with Irish Society president Mike Bromley.

“For Auld Lang Syne...”

The event also celebrates Colonial history in Portsmouth.

Portsmouth Hogmanay organizer, Susan Cocke (center), celebrates another New Year, Scottish style.
The Scottish Society of Tidewater will be hosting a Tartan Day Ceilidh on Friday, April 9, 2010 at the Church of the Ascension Community Center from 7PM - 11PM. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for active duty military and $12 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased at the March Scottish Society meeting or by contacting:

* Linda Lucas, ticket coordinator (ljlucas@gmail.com)  
* Donna Looney, Tartan Day Committee Chairman (loontoon@msn.com)  
* Tricia Young, Tartan Day Committee Chairman (ynggal@aol.com)

The menu will consist of traditional Scottish fare and will likely include shepherd’s pie, curried chicken, meat pies, and neeps and tatties. And of course it wouldn’t be Tartan Day without haggis! Soft drinks, water, tea, coffee, and dessert will be included with the meal. Beer and wine may be purchased separately.

There will be plenty of music and dancing on hand so don't forget your dancing shoes! Attendees can expect special performances by area musicians and dancers. The evening's entertainment will also include door prizes, raffles, and possibly a game or two to test the wit and intellect! At previous Tartan Day celebrations, themed gift baskets have served as door prizes. Themes from prior years have included the Tastiest, the Zaniest, and the most Scottish. If you'd like to contribute a basket, please contact Donna or Tricia.

Highland formal attire or American evening wear is suggested, but not required.

“For as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom — for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.”

From The Declaration of Arbroath 1320.

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scotland - its people, its heritage, its history, its culture and its amazing legacy to the world. In the United States, April 6, the date of the signing of the 1320 Declaration of Arbroath, has been established as National Tartan Day, to recognize “The outstanding contribution and achievements made by Scottish Americans to the United States”. From the April 6, 1320 signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, which would later become a model for the U.S. Declaration of Independence, to the immense contributions made by Scots and descendants of Scots to science, culture, sport, the economy and almost every other aspect of the modern world, Scotland has an incredible amount to be proud of.

Americans of Scottish descent have played a vibrant and influential role in the development of the United States. From the framers of the Declaration of Independence to the first man on the moon, Scottish-Americans have contributed mightily to the fields of the arts, science, politics, law, and more. Today, over eleven million Americans claim Scottish roots. These are the people and accomplishments that are honored on National Tartan Day, April 6th.

Sources:
www.scotlandstartanday.com  
www.tartanday.org
The music at this year’s Festival did not disappoint. World-renowned Celtic bands pack the house every year.

Lynnette Fitch Brash is invited back every year to the Festival to teach Scottish Step Dancing. Her classes are always full!

SST members and friends enjoy the awesome music and good times.

Sarah and Olivia Brash, looking pretty as pictures, had a great time at the Festival.

Our local session musicians Edward Brash, far left, and John McGlynn, far right, join in the playing of traditional Celtic music.
Flowers of the Forest

James Adams McCaig
Whitestone, Virginia
Former Member
Scottish Society of Tidewater

David R. Ross
Glasgow, Scotland
Friend and Champion of Scottish Culture

William Melmouth McCarson, Jr
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Step Father of Margaret Anthony

Andrew James Woodward
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania
Nephew of Terri Woodward

A Scots Farewell
When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no tears in a gloom-filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little but not for long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me but let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone
It’s all a part of the master plan
A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick of heart
Go to the friend we know
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds
Miss me ... but let me go.
Continued from Page 1

HAGGIS, continued from page 1

tried to create homemade, bootleg haggis, desperate to sample that particularly peppery concoction.

Meanwhile, butchers in the US have tried, and failed, to make their own versions of the pudding without using the vital ingredient: sheep. "It was a silly ban which meant a lot of people have never tasted the real thing," said Margaret Frost, of the Scottish American Society in Ohio. "We have had to put up with the US version, which is made from beef and is bloody awful."

The long-running campaign by Scottish ministers to reverse the ban has been reinvigorated by Alex Salmond, the Scottish National party leader, since he became first minister, privately lobbying US officials during his visits there. The reverse in policy from the US department of agriculture is now expected by Salmond's government after the World Organisation for Animal Health decided that sheep lungs no longer carry a risk of contamination by scrapie, a close variant of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy. The latest sales figures suggest haggis is more popular now than ever.

Nearly £9m worth were sold in the UK alone last year, the 250th anniversary of Burns' birth, up by 19% on 2008. Richard Lochhead, the Scottish environment secretary, was delighted. "I am greatly encouraged to hear that the US authorities are planning a review of the unfair ban on haggis imports," he said. "We believe that reversing the ban would deliver a vote of confidence in Scottish producers, and allow American consumers to sample our world-renowned national dish."

Piping in the haggis for the 2010 St. Andrews Society Burns Night.

The Brash Family at Burns Night. Lynnette gave the Toast to the Lads, Edward toasted the Scottish Parliament, and Sarah performed a Highland Fling.

There were many wonderful donated items to this year’s Burns Night Silent Auction.
Top o’ the mornin’ to ya! The SST will be marching in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 13. Don’t miss all the fun!

Marchers should gather at Northside Middle School (8720 Granby St) at 9:00 a.m., and the parade will step off at 10:00 a.m.

This is Norfolk’s 43rd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade. There will be lots of pipe bands, Celtic dancers, music and Ocean View revelry. There’s a party at the Knights of Columbus Council 3548 immediately following the parade.

In addition, there will be a pre-parade “Nessie Make-Over Party,” to help our Nessie float to look her best. Date TBD.

If you need more information, visit the parade website at http://www.norfolkparade.com/.

Don’t miss the fun!

How You Can Help in the Fight Against Children’s Cancer

Once again this year, Scott MacGregor will be a “shavee” in support of the St. Baldrick’s efforts to raise money for children’s cancer research. Activities will take place at the Waterside Festival Marketplace from on Saturday, March 13 at 9:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Many of you know that Scott has been doing this for several years, having been inspired by the courage shown by our Nessie Ambassador, Jose Andre Hernandez. Sadly, Jose lost his fight against cancer last year. The courage and strength of Jose and his family continues to inspire Scott and many others in the Yes Way, Jose! initiative.

Please help Scott raise funds for children’s cancer research. He has issued a “Clan Challenge” to members of the SST. To participate, contact Scott at mcgregr@verizon.net, or go to the SST website www.tidewaterscots.org. To learn more about the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, please visit their website at http://www.stbaldricks.org/.

Jose Hernandez and his family
USNS Big Horn Aids in Haiti Relief Effort

In response to the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, many Norfolk-based ships aided in relief efforts, including the USNS Big Horn. Our own Skip Hunter is the Officer in Charge of the Big Horn. While at anchor in Port Au Prince, the Big Horn conducted a Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) with the USNS Comfort.

The Sailors and Civilian Mariners of USNS Big Horn delivered more than 240 tons of medical supplies, food and bottled water to the Hospital Ship Comfort with the help of two helicopters from Helicopter Combat Squadron 22. The Big Horn also took the Salvage Ship USNS Grasp alongside to pass 35,000 gallons of fresh water.

Clan Gregor is Honored Clan at Florida Scottish Highland Games

Scott MacGregor traveled to Florida in mid-January to attend the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, in Winter Springs, Florida. Clan Gregor was the honored clan of the games, and Sir Malcolm & Lady MacGregor were in attendance. Scott had a great time reconnecting with fellow clansmen, and even attended a Whisky Tasting. While at the games, he ran into John Wallace, who now lives in South Carolina.
The Gaelic Corner

The Gaelic renaissance: Gaelic is (literally) being put back on the map.
Meet the laird behind its revival.

by Clive Aslet. From Telegraph.co.uk - Jan 21, 2010

A
nd now, after the kilt-swirling and Auld Lang Syne-ing of Hogmanay, comes Burns Night, not only a festival in Robert Burns’s native land, but one of Scotland’s most successful exports, inflicting bagpipes, mashed neeps and the poet’s Address to a Haggis on the baffled peoples of the world. Time to brush up one’s Gaelic? Not necessarily: Burns himself never spoke it. His language was Scots, though he made an effort to master parts of the Gaelic wedding ceremony when chasing his “Highland lassie”, the pretty servant girl Mary Campbell.

Gaelic, soft as the beating of doves’ wings, used to be the medium of the Highlanders and Islands – and 30 years ago you would have thought it was dying out even there. But not any more: its popularity has been steadily growing. Soon the Ordnance Survey will be printing place names in their Gaelic, not English, form. Goodbye Stornoway, welcome Steòrnabhagh. The language has been put, literally, back on the map.

Nobody has done more to bring this about than Sir Iain Noble. And yet, amazingly, the family into which he was born 74 years ago did not speak a word of it. As can be seen from the Lennox trews he wears at dinner, the Nobles were, though Scottish, far from being wild Highlanders. Sir Iain’s diplomat father spoke several languages, but Gaelic was not one of them. His mother was Norwegian. At Eton, Gaelic was not on the curriculum. Instead, Sir Iain’s interest was stirred by hearing ghillies speaking among themselves. From them he learnt a few basic words. Then a minister in Edinburgh taught him from a Gaelic Bible, with the pronouncement: “It won’t do you any harm and it may do you some good.”

Today, Sir Iain prefers to speak only Gaelic, if he is in the company of others who know it, who include his wife Lucilla; having married him in 1990, she has had to learn it, too. It is the first language of their Eilean larmain Hotel on Skye, spoken even by the Polish woman who manages the restaurant. The college for Gaelic studies, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, which Sir Iain established down the road in 1973 (he had a farm building that “was really far too good for a farm” to make use of), remains the world’s only higher education institute to teach exclusively in Gaelic. According to its new director, Professor Boyd Robertson, it has played a “critical role” in changing attitudes.

Gaelic was what brought Sir Iain to Skye in the first place. An Oxford-educated 3rd baronet, he is not, despite his credentials, a conformist. As a toddler, he spent nine months imprisoned in a Shanghai hotel, his father being the British ambassador to China at the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937. It provided a rare chance to see something of his parents, his upbringing being otherwise consigned to nannies and governesses. In 1969, he co-founded a bank, Noble Grossart, which became the Noble Group. During the 1970s, he was in the right place to take an entrepreneurial stake in the North Sea Oil bonanza.

Descending on the 21,000 acres of Eilean larmain during a snowstorm in 1972, he only had time to make a cursory tour, during which the car had to be pushed up a hill, before buying the estate. He did not even know there was a hotel.

Soon, though, he had created his own Gaelic whisky, Mac Na Mara: typically, he rejected the standard practice of removing sediment by chilling, refusing to bow to what he considered to be an American taste.

Whereas other lairds might have been attracted by woods bursting with woodcock and lochs leaping with fish, Sir Iain had different interests. He was thrilled to own the ruins of the castle, on a spur of rock, onto which the 3rd-century hero Cuchulain leapt, when conducting his ungentlemanly courtship of the witch Scaothath (having slaughtered all her retinue, he wrestled her to the ground “by the breasts”, as Sir Iain tells it). A vivid storyteller, he can move audiences to tears with his account of the death of Cuchulain’s son, accidentally slain by his own father who only recognised the young warrior after battle, by his ring.

Well, Sir Iain is a romantic. But that is not the main reason that he wants Gaelic to survive. “If you revive your language,” he declares, “you have a greater chance of reviving your community.” His experience on southern Skye proves the point.

Once, Gaelic was regarded as an agricultural language, spoken only by poor, ignorant people who had not been schooled properly. In Eilean larmain, it has been an engine of economic regeneration. Academics from around the world come here; the college has brought opportunity and hope. Result: there is no unemployment in the parish. Like Cuchulain, Sir Iain has fought and won.
NEW SCOTTISH BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUALS
At the Virginia Beach Public Library

ADULT NON-FICTION BOOKS:


ADULT FICTION:


AUDIOBOOKS:


- Submitted by Nancy Miller, MSLS, Virginia Beach Public Library

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**At Your Service**

**MUSIC**

Newport News Police Pipe & Drum Corps
Tom Crouch waylon23703@aol.com
http://newportnewspolicepipe.homestead.com

**Pipers For Hire**
Rob Lockwood piobmor@juno.com
http://www.roblockwood.com

**Harper**
Rita Hamilton celticharp@cox.net

Scottish Gaelic Song Performances
Edward Brash brash99@hotmail.com

**CELTIC DANCE**

Scottish Highland Dancing
Scottish Ceilidh (Social) Dancing, & Scottish Step Dancing
Lynnette Fitch Brash l.fitch.brash@gmail.com

Southside Ceili(dh) Class & Irish Ceili Dancing
Lisa Hunt lhunt23@cox.net

**MISC.**

Kilts, Alterations
Christine Lawler vakilter@juno.com

Photography - British Isles
Manny Willis robinandmanny@cox.net

Photography - Scotland
Linda Lucas ljlucas@cox.net

Scottish Gaelic Lessons
Scots Gaelic Society of Tidewater
Marcey Hunter marcey9@cox.net

Travel in Scotland
Highland Ways
Arthur & Anne Korff 757-596-6063

Scotch Whisky Tasting
Mike Lawler william.lawler@verizon.net

**- Submitted by Nancy Miller, MSLS, Virginia Beach Public Library**
My husband Arthur and I went to an OUTDOOR WEDDING IN SCOTLAND LAST NOVEMBER and had a sensational time!

The bride was a long-standing friend named Andrea, aka “Andy.” She was marrying her soul-mate Jason Cameron, whom she met when both worked aboard the Hebridean Princess cruise ship.

Glenfinnan Monument was meaningful to both bride and groom because that was where the Clan Cameron swore allegiance to Bonnie Prince Charlie. Their Clan affiliation is important to them – Jason had proposed to Andy beside the Cameron cairn on Culloden Field.

The wedding was scheduled for November because it was the only month both could get leave time. Andy planned for the gentlemen in kilts to form an aisle for her to walk down and meet Jason and the minister beneath a decorated canopy beside the monument.

She arranged for a charter bus to pick up her kith and kin from Edinburgh and Dunblane and transport us to Ben Nevis Hotel in Ft. William for the weekend. Arthur and I had arrived in Scotland several days ahead and marveled at the great weather. It was sunny and chilly.

Our busload of family and friends was filled with laughter as we traveled to the hotel. When we arrived, the atmosphere at the hotel was even livelier. Everyone there was IN great spirits and CONSUMING great spirits. New family members kept joining the party and the excitement was palpable.

Robert Burns was right, however, when he warned about the “best laid plans.” The wedding day was heavy with rain and the temperatures fell steadily.

The bus transported us to the site of the ceremony and the gentlemen lined up as instructed. Arthur wore an Inverness cape, most of the others had brollies. Then the wind began to whip damp kilts around chilly knees.

Just as Andy arrived in a decorated antique car, the canopy blew away. Her bridesmaids in strapless dresses shivered and stuffed their hands into white fur muffs. Andy started down the aisle laughing with her dad about how daft we all looked standing in our puddles.

The minister began a much-rehearsed and long narrative about the history of Glenfinnan while onlookers beat their hands together for warmth. The women in high heels were sinking in the mud and the tide was coming in when a youngster spoke, “Could you speed this up? It’s cold out here!”

Shrugging, the disappointed minister did so and bride and groom hastily exchanged vows and raced for the shelter of their car. The rest of us boarded the bus, soon redolent with the aroma of wet wool. We didn’t care, as the reception was to be indoors, warm and dry.

At the reception, we were greeted with glasses of mulled wine. At the dinner table, each of us had a name plate and a scroll, which gave a detailed layout of the dinner tables including the names of the celebrants and their relationship to the bride or groom. Great conversation starter that was. In addition, we each had a lottery ticket for the evening’s drawing.

Following dinner, and long and short toasts, Andy thanked everyone for coming, raised both arms joyfully and said, “Now, let’s all get p---ed!” We did.

The dancing to a local Ceilidh band was a marvel to behold. Although I know the steps, their tempo was such that I only watched from the sidelines. They started out moderately, but gradually danced faster and faster, whirling and twirling and shouting with abandon. Toddlers were held on the shoulder of their dancing dads, boys and girls joined the merry circle and the bride’s mom and dad danced every dance.

People moved from table to table between dances talking to one another and making new acquaintances. Arthur had such a grand time he ended up wearing the hat discarded after the ceremony by the mother of the bride. Our bus brought us back to the hotel by 11 pm but we understand many of the revelers were there well past 2 am.

The next morning, we checked the lottery numbers - none of us would be getting rich that day. A bleary-eyed crew boarded the bus for home and a surprisingly chipper Andy and Jason hugged each of us and thanked us for coming.

An outdoor wedding in Scotland in mid-November may not sound like it, but it was more continuous fun than Arthur and I have had in ages.
Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 26
Pints, Pairings, and Poisoned Dwarf
Williamsburg Lodge Colony Room, 7pm
Presented by the Virginia Arts Festival
Time: 7:00PM
Enjoy a four-course menu paired with artisan beers. Music by Poisoned Dwarf.
$39.50 per person (includes tax and gratuity)
Reservations are required, call 1-800-447-8679

March 3
SST Annual Meeting
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road. Social time 7:00pm,
meeting starts at 7:30pm.
Program: annual meeting and elections.

March 13
Ocean View St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Norfolk, Virginia
Parade steps off at 10 am. See page 9 for more information.

March 13
St. Baldrick’s Day Fundraiser
Waterside Festival Marketplace, Norfolk
Our own Scott MacGregor will be a “shavee” for this event, in memory of our Nessie Ambassador Jose Hernandez. For more information, see page nine of the Thistledown.

April 9
SST Tartan Day Ceilidh
Church of Ascension Community Center
7PM - 11PM. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for active duty military and $12 for children under 12.
Tickets may be purchased at the March Scottish Society meeting. For more information, see page five of the Thistledown.
Come out and celebrate your Scottish-American Heritage!

April 25
Kirkin’ o’ th Tartan at Historic Christ Church
Irvington, VA 11:30am
For information, contact Jaime at jardgriffin@cox.net

April 30 - May 2
Virginia International Tattoo
The SST has purchased discounted tickets to the Saturday, May 1 performance.
For tickets, contact George Phillips at Gpphish@aol.com

May 5
SST Meeting
Church of the Ascension Community Center
7pm social visiting, 7:30 meeting and program
Program: TBD
Please bring a snack to share.

NOTE: In lieu of our Tartan Day Ceilidh, there will be NO SST MEETING IN APRIL.

The Virginia International Tattoo - Don’t Miss It!

The SST will soon be purchasing a block of tickets for the Saturday, May 1st performance of the Virginia International Tattoo. The show will be at the Norfolk Scope, and begins at 7:30 p.m.
The cost is $29.75 per ticket for members.
To purchase your tickets, send your request, via e-mail, to George Phillips at gpphish@aol.com.
Tickets can also be purchased at the society March meeting.
Don’t miss this electrifying performance!
Laphroaig Sponsors US Curling Team

From CNNMoney.com - January 13, 2010
Laphroaig Islay Single Malt Scotch, the most richly flavored of all Scotch whiskies, is proud to announce its 2010 official sponsorship of the United States Curling Association (USCA) just in time for the 2010 winter games. The sponsorship kicks off a year-long celebration of Scottish heritage by one of the world’s most popular single malt Scotch whiskies.

“We’re excited Laphroaig has been named the official scotch of the United States Curling Association,” said Michael Cockram, senior director, Laphroaig. “We look forward to sharing the rich, flavorful taste and history of our classic whisky with curling fans.”

“There are few brands out there that have as deep a Scottish history as Laphroaig,” said USCA President Leland Rich. “We are honored to have such a respected brand sponsor the United States Curling Association. This truly brings the spirit of the winter games to new heights.”

“This sponsorship gives new meaning to the phrase ‘scotch on ice,’” said Scotch Malt Master Simon Brooking. “It is always a pleasure seeing two grand traditions from my homeland, Laphroaig and curling, enjoyed in America.”

Often referred to as “chess on ice” or “winter golf,” curling originated in Scotland in the 16th century and has recently gained a significant following in the United States. During the past two Winter Olympic Games, curling led television ratings for all Winter Olympic sports.

The Friends of Laphroaig began in 1994 as a way to communicate news about the distillery and connect with other Laphroaig lovers around the world. Today it has grown to more than 150 countries. Each fan receives a lifetime lease on a square foot of land next to the distillery that they can visit, view online and collect a dram of rent for, should they ever visit the island. Membership is free with proof of purchase of 10 Year Old, 18 Year Old, 25 Year Old, 30 Year Old, Quarter Cask or Cask Strength Laphroaig. For more information, visit www.Laphroaig.com.

The United States Curling Association (USCA) is the National Governing Body for this Olympic sport. The USCA’s mission is “to grow the sport and win medals in world championships and Olympic Games.” The USCA is headquartered in Stevens Point, Wis., and has nine regions and 145 member clubs across the nation. For more information, visit www.USACurl.org.
Remember, the SST monthly meetings are now held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach VA

Please note:

The Annual General Meeting of the SST will take place on Wednesday, March 3 at the Church of the Ascension Community Center. Please come out and vote for 2010 SST Officers.
For more information about our candidates, please visit the SST website at www.tidewaterscots.org