Lots of SST activities this summer...Don’t miss out!

**SST Brunch and Hurling Demonstration**  
**Sunday, July 22**

You are invited to an SST brunch on **Sunday, July 22** at the Park Lane Tavern, Peninsula Town Center, 4200 Kilgore Ave., Hampton. It begins at 11:30 am.

The Park Lane Tavern has received great reviews, has a European/American themed menu, and an incredible beer and spirits selection. You can check out their menu at [http://parklanetavern.com/](http://parklanetavern.com/)

If you can come early, there will be a hurling demonstration by our own Hampton Roads Hurling Club (HRHC), 10:00 am, at the Thomas Eaton Middle School, 2108 Cunningham Drive, Hampton. The school is conveniently close to the restaurant.

Established in 2009, the HRHC consists of many members of the SST and the Tidewater Irish American Society. Their numbers continue to increase, and they will soon be ready for competitive play.

Come out and show your support!

**SST William Wallace Commemoration**  
**Wednesday, August 1**

At our monthly meeting on **Wednesday, August 1**, the SST will celebrate our annual William Wallace Night. This commemoration will mark the 707th anniversary of his murder.

We will watch a screening of *William Wallace: The True Story of Braveheart* (History Channel, 2005). This is a factual depiction of his life, not the Hollywood version. It is a fascinating account of Scotland’s greatest hero.

This will be a pot luck affair, so please bring a tasty dish to share. The SST will provide soft drinks, ice and beer.

There will also be a raffle item or two, so bring some cash!

**Annual SST Picnic**  
**Saturday, September 8**

Get ready for the SST annual picnic on **Saturday, September 8**, 1 pm - 4 pm. It will be at the Church of the Ascension picnic shelter.

This is always a fun and enjoyable event. Children and dogs are welcome!

The SST will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and fixings, as well as soft drinks. We ask that you bring your favorite picnic dish to share.

You may also BYOB.

We are hoping our session musicians can join us and play their toe-tapping Celtic tunes. All are free to bring an instrument and join in.

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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.

301 E. Randall Ave., Norfolk, VA 23503
tidewaterscots.org

SST Executive Board

President: Skip Hunter
Vice President: Manny Willis
Secretary: Marcey Hunter
Treasurer: Ruth Fraser

Board of Directors:
Stacy Apelt
Donna Looney
John Maxwell
Nancy McKay
John Miles
Connie Smith

A Few Words from the President

First let me say that it is truly an honor to serve as the SST president. I have been a member for 12 years, so this job will be very important to me. Thanks to the outgoing officers, specifically John McGlynn, for your unwavering service to the SST.

Already we are off to a great summer full of events and activities!

Though I was out of town, I understand that the June meeting program by Kathryn Peterson Lambert on medicinal herbs in Scotland was one of the best programs we’ve had in a while! Thanks, Kathryn!

In May, we were also well represented at the US Navy’s Diversity Day Celebration at Naval Support Activity Norfolk. Our Diversity Day crew was headed up by John Miles, with Manny and Robin Willis, Cat Dunphy, James Taylor and Highland Dancers Maggie Boyle and Lizzy McKenzie in support!

We also had a special SST Screening of Disney-Pixar’s new Animated Future “BRAVE”. I am happy to say we had more than 30 Tartan-clad SST members, young and young at heart, descend on the Regal Cinema at MacArthur Mall to see “BRAVE”! From all accounts and reviews it is a MUST SEE movie for every Scot! A big thanks to Lynette Crouch for organizing that “BRAVE” event!

I recently spent about a month in San Antonio, and I had the opportunity to represent the SST and the Tidewater Scottish Community in South Central Texas. In early June I attended the Texas Festival of Cultures and met members of the Scottish Society of San Antonio and the Bluebell Scottish Country Dancers. It was a lot of fun dancing in the Texas heat and sharing our Scottish Heritage with so many wonderful people! It was also great to see how another Scottish organization supports the greater community and their members.

The SSSA would like to extend an invitation to any SST member to visit them when in the San Antonio area!

For July the SST will be having a Sunday Brunch following a Hampton Roads Hurling Club Scrimmage on Sunday, July 22nd! All the SST is invited to come on out and watch the HRHC’s Sunday Practice and Scrimmage (or join in if you’d like—we always have extra sticks!) at Thomas Eaton Middle School in Hampton at 10am. Immediately following the Scrimmage we’ll have a Scottish Society Brunch right around the corner from the Pitch at the Park Lane Tavern in Hampton Center at 11:30 am.

Also, Wallace Day and our Picnic are coming up, so be sure to check out the Calendar on page 17.

Slainte mhah!

Josiah "Skip" Hunter
This and That

- **Lynette Crouch** continues to recover and try to find answers to why she has painful infections of the stomach. She has been hospitalized recently, and is scheduled for further exploratory surgery in mid-August. She says she is ready to get it over with. Please keep the Crouch family in your prayers.

- Add **Nancy Weller** to the list of new knee replacement recipients. She underwent surgery in late June, so hopefully she will be up and moving about very soon. This is the 2nd knee replacement for Nancy, so she knows the physical therapy drill. Here’s hoping for a speedy recovery, Nancy!

- It’s been tough going for **Don Forsyth** as he recovers from two recent ankle surgeries. He’s on the mend and under good medical care. Wishing you a full recovery soon, Don!

- Congratulations to **Sarah Brash** who graduated from Kempsville HS this June. Sarah is the daughter of SST Past President Dr. Edward Brash and the stepdaughter of current Irish Society President Lynnette Fitch Brash. Sarah graduated with honors, and also graduated from the Vocal Music Dept. of the Governor’s School for the Arts. Beginning this August, Sarah will be studying Vocal Music at Christopher Newport University, where she was awarded a voice lesson scholarship. Best of luck, Sarah!

- **Marcy and Skip Hunter** have Skip’s nephew Gage Hunter visiting with them this summer from Indianapolis. So far he’s attended hurling practice, a Tides game, went fishing in Ocean View, and is making some righteous bucks with chores around the house. He wants to buy a skate board and ramp. Ah, youth...

- The **Highlander Restaurant** was recently reviewed in the Virginian Pilot. It was a rave! Hopefully this will spark interest in the eatery, located on Witchduck Rd. If you haven’t been there yet, the fish and chips are amazing.

*Have news to share? Contact Marcey Hunter at 480-4217 or marcey9@cox.net*

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**EDITORS NOTE**

Please accept my apologies for the tardiness of this newsletter. As some of you may know, I had knee replacement surgery this spring. I am already dancing jigs, but it’s been a wild ride with recovery and physical therapy. I hope you like this newsletter, tardy as it is.

As we are in the throws of our Virginia summer, there probably won’t be another newsletter until fall. But please keep tabs on our various activities on the SST website (www.tidewaterscots.org) as well as on Facebook.

A special thanks goes out to all the contributors of the *Thistledown* this past year. I’m always looking for a good ideas for newsletter articles, and it’s gratifying to know that people want to contribute. THANK YOU!

I hope to see you around the games and other upcoming events, including the Wallace Day Commemoration and the SST picnic in September. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

- Marcey Hunter, Editor

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**SST Election Results**

At the May Annual Meeting of the Scottish Society of Tidewater, the following officers were elected:

- President - Skip Hunter, one-year term
- Vice President - Manny Willis, one-year term
- Treasurer - Ruth Fraser, one-year term
- Secretary - Marcey Hunter, one-year term
- Director - Nancy McKay, two-year term
- Director - John Miles, two-year term
- Director - Connie Smith, two-year term

Congratulations to the new officers! Thanks to all the candidates who offered their service. And thanks to all the SST members who came out and voted.
It was another sell-out crowd at our annual Tartan Day Ceilidh, held this year on April 14th. The Church of the Ascension Community Center was decorated with lots of tartan, fresh flowers and Scottish flags. We enjoyed a delicious meal, prepared by the church staff, of shepherd’s pie, neeps and tatties, curried chicken and salad, and of course Skip Hunter’s yummy haggis (it’s true!). There was lots of music, which of course meant lots of dancing. We made many new friends and partied well into the night.

Next year’s Ceilidh will be on April 6th, the ACTUAL date of Tartan Day, as proclaimed by the U.S. Congress in 1998. So save the date, you won’t want to miss it!

We are fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated Celtic musicians in our area. They played lively dance music and meaningful Scottish ballads, with lovely Gaelic songs thrown in for good measure. As always, thanks to our gifted musicians for sharing the event with us.

Above, it was a real Ceilidh with lots of dancing. At right, John McGlynn recites, “To a Haggis...” in honor of the featured dish.
Clan McKay was well represented at the Ceilidh. From left, Sam McKay, Jr., Elizabeth McKay Goodwin, and Tony Goodwin. Sam and Elizabeth are the children of Sam and Nancy McKay, founding members of the SST.

Laurie MacPherson and her friend Robert Stokes.

Baird Scholarship recipient Erin Powers danced as part of the Scottish Dance Theatre of Virginia.

Hey, girls just wanna have fun! At left, Erin Morrissey with Lynnette Fitch Brash.
At the Tartan Day Ceilidh, the SST recognized three exceptional performers as recipients of the 2012 Baird Memorial Scholarship. Erin Powers, a Highland Dancer, received $300 to help offset costs associated with dancing, such as costumes and shoes. Marlon Evasco, a student of the Highland Bagpipes, received $200, which he will use to attend a piping camp this summer. And Charles Murla, an award-winning fiddler, received $100, to be used to attend the Jink and Diddle Fiddle Camp in North Carolina.

The purpose of the Richard & Olive Baird Memorial Scholarship is to provide financial support toward the study of an element of Scottish culture. This includes, but is not limited to, Scottish music, dance, language, literature, history, genealogy, politics and religion.

The scholarship was established in memory of Richard “Dick” Baird and his wife Olive. Dick served as the president of the Scottish Society of Tidewater from 1984-1991. Both Olive and Dick were very proud of their Scottish Heritage. They devoted much of their lives to the promotion and celebration of Scottish-American culture.

Please know that your generosity over the past year helped to make these scholarship awards possible. Every time you purchased a raffle ticket at our monthly meetings, or bought something at the Silent Auction at Christmas, you were helping to support this important scholarship fund. Thank you!
Joint picnic with SST and St. Andrew’s Society

On Mother’s Day weekend, Stacy and Judith Apelt hosted a joint picnic between the SST and the St. Andrew’s Society of Tidewater in their lovely garden. We enjoyed scrumptious picnic fare, had a fine selection of ice cold beverages, and spent a lovely afternoon catching up with old and new friends. Thanks to Stacy and Judith for making us feel so welcome!

It was a real garden party at the home of Stacy and Judith Apelt. Thanks for being such gracious hosts!

Newly elected SST president Skip Hunter, left, and just-elected Vice President Manny Willis, right, present to outgoing President John McGlynn, center, an engraved (and full!) flask in appreciation of his two years as president. Many thanks for your service, John!

Many members of both SST and SAS came out and enjoyed the lovely spring weather and the fellowship.

Edward Brash, left, and Brenden McSweeney, wearing their patriotic Scottish garb, came out for a few burgers and beers.
U.S. Navy’s Mid-Atlantic Diversity Day

Scotland was well represented at the U.S. Navy’s Mid-Atlantic Diversity Day celebration. Manny Willis, left, Jerry McDowell, center and Robin Willis did a great job manning the SST tent. Also on hand were John Miles, Cat Dunphy, and James Taylor. Members of the Scottish Dance Theatre of Virginia, right, also participated. The crowd was very appreciative.

SST President Skip Hunter, left, was recently in San Antonio on navy business. He attended the Texas Festival of Cultures, where he met up with members of the Scottish Society of San Antonio. They are an active group, and Skip had a great time visiting with them. He is pictured here with SSSA President David Sutherland.
SST and TIAS members come out big for a screening of Disney’s “Brave”

A great crowd turned out for a recent screening of “Brave,” the story of a young Highlander lass. Movie reviews for this film are all great, and the animated Scottish scenery is reported to be “stunning.” Thanks to Lynette Crouch for organizing this fun event!

Photo by Aimee Crabtree Musican Corbitt

SPECIAL NOTE: SST members and owners of Pixie Treasures Celtic Store at MacArthur Center, Bob and Jeanne Rider, have generously offered a 5% discount on their Celtic goods while the movie is showing at the mall. Just bring your ticket stub with you and shop to your heart’s content!

From left, Eadlyn Crouch, Colin McGlynn and Eilidh Crouch just couldn’t miss the screening of “Brave.”

Photo by Lynette Gilmour Crouch
ST Webmaster and longtime member Scott MacGregor is preparing for the homecoming of his daughter Jamie, her husband Donny, and their children Logan and Brennen. Donny has served overseas in the Army and was wounded in Iraq. Jamie waited out his deployments in Kansas. Now they are coming home! Scott and members of his family have spent months and months building a home in Norfolk that is specially equipped to accommodate them. It’s been a hard job, but no doubt a labor of love. Congratulations to all of you, and welcome home!

At right, the new house in progress.

Many students currently studying Scots Gaelic in the area met at the Highlander Restaurant for an end-of-the-school year get-together. Gaelic classes will start up again in October and run through next May. Interested? Contact Marcey Hunter at marcey9@cox.net.
SST Board member Donna Looney volunteered with Op-Sail and served as the Division Lead Liaison in charge of the ships at MHI (West Ghent) and the Lead Liasion for the RFA ship ARGUS. Donna is a retired Navy commander, so she was perfect for this job! She reports that it was “great fun”! She is pictured here with SST member Tom Crouch.

Photo courtesy of Lynette Gilmour Crouch

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**News from the 76th Regiment of Foot, McDonald’s Highlanders**

The lads and lassies of the 76th Regiment of Foot have been busy of late. They had their annual meeting in June, at the new Dog Street Pub in Williamsburg. They elected their officers for the year, and made many plans for recruiting additional members.

The 76th was well received at the Yorktown Victory Center for the celebrations on July 3rd and 4th. Their display/presentation was admired by other reenactors, and John Giere was kept very active on both days interacting with Victory Center visitors who came from all over the U.S. and from Canada, France, and other countries as well. A few visitors even remembered John from earlier in the week as interpreter in the Indian Village at the Jamestown site.

Former SST Vice President James Taylor and John Giere represented the 76th Regiment of Foot at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum in early July. The Museum Curator said the heat index was 114 degrees, but a few hardy souls attended and expressed pleasure and gratitude for the 76th’s presentation and the Museum made a donation to the Regiment’s coffers. James and John then retreated to Baron’s Pub after the event for giant mugs of ice water (and a gin and tonic - there’s a reason this is a popular drink in the Tropics - and not just to ward off the symptoms of malaria) and to cool off in the air conditioning to recover before heading home.

Future plans for the regiment include participation in the Yorktown Victory March, the Battle of Great Bridge, and the Portsmouth Scottish Hogmanay Walk.

Their aim is to reenact the 76th Regiment of Foot, which was a regiment raised in the Isle of Skye to fight for the crown in the American Revolution. The regiment was made up almost entirely of Gaelic speakers. They occupied the city of Portsmouth, and were participants in the Battle of Yorktown, where they surrendered with Lord Cornwallis.
All of Scotland captivates and pulls me back time and again to observe its beauty and enjoy being with its people. It would be difficult to identify any one place as my favorite. However, the Orkney Islands has always promised a special touch of magic for both my husband Arthur and me.

We had been there twice before when we decided to offer our friends the opportunity to visit with us this year during the St. Magnus Festival in June. For most of our friends it was to be their first visit to Scotland and proved to be an excellent first choice. They, too, got caught up in the spell of the Orkneys and perhaps even more so because of our adventures on the way to the Islands...

We left the U.S. in High spirits—the 22 of us on a roasting but 97 degree day in mid-June. We arrived in the U.K. a day later and temperatures closer to 50 than 90 and shrouded in fine mist. We landed in Edinburgh. The first unusual sight to greet us on arrival to the modernized Apex city Hotel was a multi-colored lion in the lobby. An engraved plaque above its head informed us that our hotel chain was committed to saving the earth and its inhabitants through conservation of resources and respect for nature.

We thought this might mean Spartan accommodations, but the rooms proved to be spacious, comfortable and equipped with the usual tea making and ironing capabilities.

We reset our body clocks, strolled about Old Town, rode the hop-on-hop-off city tour bus or took naps before attending the Taste of Scotland Dinner and Show at Prestonfield House. The elegant dinner was delicious and offered a tiny taste of Haggis for a starter. Even those who once turned their noses at the thought of Haggis tasted, smiled and tasted again.

The show that followed was lively and enjoyable with dancers, accordion and fiddle players, a piper, comedians and a master of ceremonies who knew how to keep the crowd entertained. Speaking of crowds, there were several tables of Australian visitors who were there because of the Olympics scheduled for this summer in England.

At one point in the show, professional dancers demonstrated several Scottish country dances then moved in the crowd to select visiting partners. No one in our group was chosen even though they demonstrated what they called an authentic Virginia Reel.

Although the main focus of our trip was the Orkneys, we did not plunge immediately into that culture but rather moved at a leisurely pace toward our destination so we could enjoy the visits to castles, distilleries, and tea shops that many of our visitors came to see.

Our second day in Edinburgh dawned bright but drizzly. Indeed the TV news reported numbers of flooded homes and towns mostly in England (referred to by most Scots as down South). Donning rain gear, we headed for the Royal Highland Agricultural Show at Ingliston near the Edinburgh airport. This is a premier annual event across the U.K. and it attracts thousands of visitors from the continent as well as the U.K. during its four-day run.

It was impossible to see and do everything there in one day. Our group members disbursed to shop at colorful commercial tents, watch the farm animals, sample Scottish-made products, listen to music or just enjoy sights, sounds and tastes. The International Visitors Center near the equestrian field offered free coffee, tea and directions.

At one tent, Arthur found a remarkably good buy on a pair of spectacular binoculars. I myself purchased the most comfortable shoes imaginable. They are called muck-about band are a low-quarter, lightweight but waterproof version of traditional Wellies. This made traversing the rain and mud-soaked paths much easier and also gave me a practical souvenir of the visit.
One can only absorb so much excitement in one day, so we finished our afternoon with a soothing two-hour barge ride along the Union Canal. We were joined aboard by several of Arthur’s and my Scottish friends and had our afternoon tea (and whisky) along the way.

It was time to leave Edinburgh the next day and head north. It was drizzly with a stormy sky and at first I thought our next attraction would have to be canceled. Not so. Our sturdy group boarded several wee boats for a visit to the Loch Leven Castle. This was the site of Mary Queen of Scots’s abdication of the throne. She was held prisoner there for more than a year before escaping to England and betrayal by her cousin Elizabeth.

Everyone came back with moist faces and broad smiles so off we went to Pitlochry for lunch. Pitlochry is often voted the “prettiest small town” in Scotland.

We had checked off our requirements for a castle visit so next came a distillery. Blair Atholl was our choice. Warmed by stories about the great beverage and generous samples of same, we later arrived at our lovely hotel on the Ness River Bank.

To illustrate once again how small the world really is, Arthur walked up the stairs to the Palace Hotel and was immediately enveloped in the embrace of a fellow piper from the U.S. The piper had married a Scottish lass and immigrated. He said on a whim that day he and his wife stopped at the hotel for tea then in walked Arthur.

Naturally, since we were so close by we visited Cawdor Castle the next day to enjoy the magnificent gardens and of course the castle itself. One of our group remarked, “You know, I could live in a place like this quite comfortably.”

We left soon afterwards and visited Clava Cairns and Culloden battlefield. If you are a fan of Diana Gabaldon’s books, you can related to Clava Cairns.

Culloden battlefield is one of the places that touches the heart whether or not one has Scottish ancestry. Its story is graphically told in the sparkling new visitors center. I thought the old center was enjoyable but the new on took our breath away. Panels along the walls depicted events from the viewpoint of various people—soldiers, wives, other folk. By touching the screen you could listen to their recitals in your choice of languages, including the Gaelic.

The main rotunda placed you in the center of the battlefield itself so that you actually saw the soldiers coming toward you; you could even hear the cries and feel the sadness. It was a muddy day and even with my muck-abouts so I decided not to walk the battlefield again but rather stay in the visitors center.

We finished our days travels with an unscheduled trip to Drumnadrochit where “Nessie” has been sighted. It was just a quick photo stop with the ruins of Urquart Castle in the background, but excitement ran high among our group members. Only the thought of another delicious dinner and a few wee drammies of single malt lured them away.

Castle Mey was along the way so we sojourned there for a while. The Queen Mum bought Castle Mey when it was a derelict ruin and restored it by installing plumbing and electricity. She loved visiting there and today it is a favorite place for Prince Charles. The manicured gardens and well-kept home are open to the public in summer and maintained as a private residence in winter. Only local residents are employed there and a staff of approximately 55 people keep the grounds and buildings beautiful and habitable.

Boarding the bus once more, we traveled through magnificent and breath-taking twists and turns and reached the ferry docks at Scrabster where our Orkney adventure was to begin. That is a story for next time...
**Flowers of the Forest**

**Ruby Knapp Boal**
Seeley’s Bay, Ontario, Canada
Aunt of Dr. Edward Brash and great aunt of Sarah and Olivia Brash

**Luther A. Hobbs, Jr.**
Chesapeake, Virginia
Father of Mark Hobbs

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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

Scottish Gaelic Song Performances
Edward Brash brash99@hotmail.com
Connie Smith caus10smith@hotmail.com

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**CELTIC DANCE**

Scottish Highland Dancing
Scottish Dance Theatre of Virginia
Eleanor Unger SDTOFVA@aol.com

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

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**Southside Ceilidh Class & Irish Ceilidh Dancing**
Lisa Hunt lhunt23@cox.net

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**MISC.**

Kilts, Alterations
Christine Lawler vakilter@juno.com

Photography - British Isles
Manny Willis mannyandrobin@gmail.com

Photography - Scotland
Linda Lucas lj lucas@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
acorff32@mycidco.com

Scotch Whisky Tasting
Mike Lawler william.lawler@verizon.net
NEW SCOTTISH BOOKS AND AUDIOVISUALS
At the Virginia Beach Public Library

ADULT NON-FICTION BOOKS:


ADULT FICTION BOOKS:


CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH BOOKS:


MUSIC:


Submitted by Nancy Miller, MSLS, Virginia Beach Public Library
The Hampton Roads Hurling Club (HRHC) has new jerseys! Are you interested in supporting the team by purchasing one, customized with your name on it? If so, contact Skip Hunter at 480-4217 or jwhunter2@cox.net

And don’t forget to join the HRHC for a hurling demonstration on Sunday, July 22 at the Thomas Eaton Middle School, 2108 Cunningham Drive, Hampton, at 10 am. Immediately following is an SST brunch at the Park Lane Tavern, Peninsula Town Center, 4200 Kilgore Ave., Hampton at 11:30 am. See you there!

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**Fresh from the Garden...enjoy this summer recipe**

**Peach Scones**

2 cups All-Purpose Flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon nutmeg  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
6 tablespoons cold butter, cut into pieces  
2 large eggs  
1/3 cup vanilla yogurt or sour cream  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1 cup diced peaches, fresh or canned  
2 tablespoons coarse sugar

Preheat your oven to 375°F. Lightly grease a divided scone pan, a 12-cup muffin pan, or a baking sheet.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, sugar, nutmeg, and baking powder. Cut in the butter, using your fingertips, a fork or a pastry blender.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, yogurt or sour cream, and the almond extract. Stir this mixture into the dry ingredients. Add the peaches and stir just until everything is well-combined. This is a wet, sticky dough, good for drop scones.

Divide the dough among the compartments of the scone pan, or drop by the scant 1/4 cupful into the cups of a muffin pan or onto a baking sheet. Sprinkle the scones with coarse sugar, and bake them until they’re golden brown, 15 to 18 minutes (on a baking sheet), or 18 to 20 minutes (in a pan). Yield: 8 to 12 scones.
Crowds flock to see Prince William become Knight of the Thistle

by David O’Leary, Scotsman.com, July 6, 2012

The weather may have been overcast but the atmosphere was jubilant as royal watchers flocked in their thousands to watch Prince William receive the highest honour in Scotland.

This historic event saw the prince receive his 30th birthday present from his grandmother – being installed as a Knight of the Thistle in the city’s St Giles’ Cathedral.

Thousands crowded on to the Royal Mile to catch a glimpse of William and Kate – known as the Earl and Countess of Strathearn while in Scotland – and other royals as they made their way from the Signet Library, across Parliament Square and into the cathedral.

Among the spectators was Marie Harkness, 26, from the Meadows.

She said: “It’s a great spectacle and adds so much to the city. It really does make you think about Edinburgh’s rich history.”

Hugh David, 60, from Sighthill, added: “William and Kate have helped modernise the royal family and both seem to have that common touch.”

The short ceremony took place within the internal Thistle Chapel and was broadcast through speakers to the hundreds of invited guests in the cathedral.

Following the ceremony, a lunch was held in the Signet Library while 400 pipers, drummers and dancers led a parade down the Royal Mile to Holyrood.

Many members of the crowd had waited for more than two hours, since the end of the Thistle service, to catch a further glimpse of them, many waving Union flags and Saltires as the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, as well as William and Kate, passed by in their official cars.

The Order of the Thistle, motto Nemo Me Impune Lacesit (No One Provokes Me With Impunity), is said in some accounts to have been founded by Achaius, King of Scots. He is said to have established the order in 786. Previously, the only women members were the Queen, who is head of the order, and the Queen Mother. Former Christian Aid chair Lady Marion Fraser of Gifford then became the first woman from outside the royal family to be appointed. The Princess Royal was conferred with the Order in 2001.
Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 22
Hampton Roads Hurling Club Demonstration
Thomas Eaton Middle School
2108 Cunningham Drive, Hampton, 10 am.

July 22
SST Sunday Brunch
11:30 am at the Park Lane Tavern
Peninsula Town Center, 4200 Kilgore Ave., Hampton

August 1
SST Monthly Meeting & William Wallace Night Celebration
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, 7 pm.
This is a POT LUCK affair, so please bring a tasty dish to share and/or an item for the Church’s food kitchen.

September 8
SST Annual Picnic
Church of the Ascension Picnic Shelter
1 pm to 4 pm
The SST will provide hotdogs, hamburgers and soda. Please bring a dish to share.

October 6
Virginia Celtic Gathering and Highland Games
Lanexa, Virginia
http://www.wsfonline.org/
For more information, contact Terri Woodward at crittercrazyone@verizon.net

October 19
Yorktown Victory March
Yorktown, Virginia
This all-day event and short parade commemorates our victory over the British in the American Revolutionary War.
For more information, contact Al Cowan at scottishrebel@att.net

October 20-21
Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games
(Formerly Richmond Games)
Richmond Raceway Complex
http://vacelticfestival.com/

November 7
SST Monthly Meeting
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach
7 pm social hour, 7:30 program.
Scotch Whisky Tasting, conducted by Skip Hunter.
Learn about Scotch Whisky’s influence on American Bourbon.
Please bring a tasty dish to share and/or an item for the Church’s food kitchen.

November 10
St. Andrew’s Day Dinner
Princess Anne Country Club. 3800 Pacific Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA
Hosted by the St. Andrews Society of Tidewater.
Honoring the Patron Saint of Scotland
For more information, contact Bob Felty at bfelty@aol.com

November 11
Kirking o’ the Tartan
Knox Presbyterian Church
427 West 37th Street (Corner of 37th Street & Colonial Avenue)
10:30 A.M., followed by a reception at 12:15 pm
For more information, contact Nancy McKay at nancymck1@gmail.com

December 1
42nd Annual Scottish Christmas Walk
Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
We may charter a bus to go up. Contact Manny Willis if you are interested at mannyandrobin@cox.net

December 5
SST Silent Auction and Christmas Ceilidh
Church of the Ascension Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, 7 pm.
This is a POT LUCK affair, so please bring a tasty dish to share and/or an item for the Church’s food kitchen.

December 31
Scottish Hogmanay Walk
Old Towne Portsmouth
AN ANCIENT claymore belonging to Clan Maclean was stolen just two weeks before a huge clan gathering.

The 300-year-old sword, thought to be worth at least £2,500, was stolen from Duart Castle, the clan’s stronghold on the Isle of Mull, in early June.

It had stood proudly on a shelf in the castle’s banquet room, but a security check found it was missing.

The Claymore, a two-handed sword more than 3ft long, was wielded to horrifying effect in battles between 1400 and around 1750.

The castle, which is open to the public, has been flooded with tourists recently.

More than 1,000 Macleans from around the world arrived for the clan gathering on June 23. The claymore was to be featured in the clan gathering.

The event was a special centenary celebration of the castle returning to Maclean ownership after 221 years, during which time it had been taken over by Campbells, used as government barracks and become a ruin.

Chief Inspector Brian Auld, from Oban police station, appealed for anyone dealing in historical artefacts or who sees it for sale to contact the police.

He said: “We don’t know much about the claymore but it looks as if it dates from a period around the 18th century, we think around 1745.

There is not a lot known about it but we believe it to be a historical artefact. It will require a historian to provide us with further information. It is very distinctive in appearance and clearly has historical value. We would like to reunite it with the Clan Maclean.”

The missing claymore, belongs to the clan chief Sir Lachlan Maclean, who said: “I have absolutely no comment to make. It is a private matter.”

A 17th Century claymore was recently sold in Australia for £2,500.

UPDATE: as of print time for the Thistledown, the claymore had not yet been recovered. However, the Scottish Daily Record reported on June 22 that it is believed the same thieves who stole the claymore also absconded with two coins — one from Spain and one from Bolivia — and a barnacle-covered scabbard from Mull Museum in Tobermory. These items were believed to come from a Spanish ship that wrecked in Tobermory Bay in 1588.

What scoundrels are stealing Scotland’s treasures???
Scottish Society of Tidewater, Inc.  
c/o Marcey Hunter  
301 E. Randall Ave.  
Norfolk, VA 23503  

www.tidewaterscots.org  

Pixie Treasures Celtic Shoppe  
MacArthur Center  
300 Monticello Ave, Ste 104  
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