Tartan Ball Issue. October, 2016

Scots Traditions Criticized

A popular serial drama airing on Scottish television has been criticized for hampering recruitment of medical personnel. "Dr Finlay's Casebook," which portrays realistic cases in the practice of a Scottish General Practicioner from a half century ago, has been a very popular TV drama, and widely viewed in Continental Europe.

But according to a paper issued by Head Medical, a group charged with recruiting physicians to work in Scottish National Health practices, the "Dr Finlay" image of GP work has stifled recruitment. The number of GP's at work in Scotland has fallen, and is insufficient in nearly 25% of practices. The number of posts still vacant after 6 months stands at 80, nearly double the number a year ago. The agency stated that the TV portrayal of rural General Practice was badly outdated.

Probably Inevitable

According to a recent report in the Herald of Glasgow, Scotland's "Other National Drink" is under assault. A leading Glasgow University researcher, along with Cancer Research UK and Obesity Action Scotland, hopes to make Irn-Bru as unacceptable as smoking. These groups claim that a UK tax on sugary drinks slated to commence in 2018 does not go nearly far enough. The group wishes to ban all billboard advertising, and to block sponsorship deals.

Prof. Linda Bauld of U. of Stirling claimed that "the unfortunate sponsorship of the Commonwealth Games by Irn-Bru sent absolutely the wrong message to the public at large. The groups are calling on the Scottish Government to ban sugary drinks from all hospitals and schools as well..

Our National Poets: Walter Kennedy

Alexander Pope remarks in one of his satires that certain writers are, like flies embedded in amber, only preserved because they are mentioned by other more famous authors. Walter Kennedy was not one of Pope's trivial flies, but it is true that any modern stu

dent of Scottish literature will only hear his name because of the famous slanging match he conducted with William Dunbar, one of the best known poets of the Older Scottish Language. Kennedy came from one of the great baronial families of South West Ayrshire the estate at Culyean derives from some of their holdings. Born in 1455, he attended university at Glasgow, earning the BA in 1476 and MA 1478. Though his family held a number of high church posts (an uncle was bishop of St Andrews), Walter appears to have worked in administrative roles. He was a respected poet, though few of his writings have survived. His family held Carrick in Ayrshire, suggesting that he was probably fluent in Gaelic as well as in English. His best remembered work is the "Flyting" [aka screaming match] with William Dunbar.

Scots Names: Ferguson/Fergusson

It is considered (by Donald Whyte) impossible that all Scots families named Ferguson have a common ancestor. The name is recorded in wide-spread regions from as early as the 11th century. There was a very early Fergus, lord of Galloway who died 1161. A widely distributed West Country family claim descent from Fergus MacErc, king of Dalriada (1503). Anna, daughter of Robert Laurie of Maxwellton and famous in song, married Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch. Possibly 20 families hold coats of arms, including families in Peebleshire, Ayr, Fife & Angus, Argyle, and Balquhidder.

Scots Tongue

- spankers (n pl) long skinny legs
- span-new (a) brand new, completely new.
- spanyeart (n) = spaniel dog.
- spanys (v) of a flower, to open completely.
- spar (adv) diametrically opposed.
- spare (n) gap or opening in clothing, as a fly.
- spare (a) bare, thin, lean, meagre.
- spark (n) a spot; (v) to speckle or spatter.
- sparkle (n) a spark or ember.
- spark lit, sprutillit (a) speckled, bespattered.
- sparlin (n) the smelt
- sparple (v) to disperse.

GML Editor Bruce Shields (802) 888-5165 -- < bshields@pwshift.com > St. Andrews Society of VT website use < www.SASVT.org > or < www.standrewssocietyofvermont.org >

SCOTS CASTLES: Rothesay, on the Isle of Bute in the Firth of Clyde

In 1401, King Robert III created the Royal Burgh of Rothesay [meaning Corn Island in Gaelic], indicating how important this fertile land was. Some form of castle existed on this spot for more than 1000



years. King Hakon of Norway captured a castle in 1263. The castle as rebuilt following the later expulsion of Hakon is of a design unique in the United Kingdom. The modern view presents a combination of rebuilt and stabilized ruins, from the near complete destruction by Argyle's Highlanders during Monmouth's Rebellion in 1685. From early in the 19th century, the Marquess of Bute and his descendents gradually restored the ruins to its present condition. The site may be visited by day-trip from Glasgow for most of the year.

https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/rothesay-castle/history/

Miscellaneous Society News

A Scottish festival was held at Quechee this August, under the auspices of the New Hampshire School of Scottish Arts directed by Lezlie Webster. We have not yet received a report on how the effort succeeded, other than that those who attended had a good time. We do not know at this moment if the effort will be extended again for the 2017 season.

Richard MacLay has urged the Society to hold some cultural events which will make use of content from contemporary Scottish television. He has secured copies of "Taggart," a police drama set in the Glasgow area, featuring fictionalized case files from the Glasgow Metropolitan police department. Richard's proposal is to have three public airings of episodes, in the Barre area in February, May, and September. The plan is to have a brief discussion of Scottish customs and traditions as evidenced in these action episodes.

After considerable hesitation, St. Andrew's Society has developed a FaceBook page, of which Bret MacLay is the monitor. Here is the address: https://www.facebook.com/vtsaintandrews/. We are also examining the use of a closed group Facebook page to improve communications among the Officers and Directors. It will be open by invitation. https://www.facebook.com/groups/575290872653373/>

Note: The St. Andrews web site has a short URL, <www.SASVT.org> which takes you to the same website as thee longer version.

41st ANNUAL TARTAN BALL ST ANDREWS SOCIETY OF VERMONT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016 5:00 PM at Doubletree Hotel 1117 Williston Rd, South Burlington, VT

- Doors open at 5:00 P.M. Seating at 5:30 P.M.
- Choice of three dinners (circle choices below)
- S) Bellissimo Grilled Sirloin: 8oz boneless marinated in olive oil w/ herbs, Bearnaise sauce.
- C) Sugar House Chicken: sautéed breast of chicken, topped w/ apples, Cabot cheese, demi-glace.
- VM) Vegetarian Stuffed Portobello Mushroom

All with tossed garden salad, warm apple crisp dessert, with coffee, tea or water

• Tartan Ball and Dinner Tickets \$41.00 each for Adults

CF) Children age 12 or younger Chicken w/ french fries and vegetable.— \$20 Chicken Fingers

Name:		Phone No:
Address:		
E-Mail:		
Name Attending	Clan (optional)	Meal Choice \$ (circle one per person) S C VM CF
Total Enclosed	med tables Indicate below	w preference with whom you would like to

MEAL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS November 1, 2016

Make checks payable to St. Andrew's Society of Vermont mail with form to Cedric Farrow, 92 Tracy Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482 < cfarrow@ieee.org or (802) 985-3832 • For event information contact Pres Allison Menday Norton (603) 938-2736

Room Reservations (\$109 in SAS block) direct with Doubletree (802) 658-0250 or FAX (802) 660-6533.

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At Large: Cass Wright, Jonathan Park,
Nancy Chase
Karen Fay (SAS Pipe)
Tain McHarg (Catamount)

Correct your address promptly to <<<u>cfar-row@ieee.org</u>>>

KIrsten Gretkowski, Dancers

Darryl Calkins, Foundation Chair

Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker

SCHEDULE OF Coming EVENTS

- 5 Nov, 2016 Tartan Ball, So. Burlington
- 27 Jan, 2017 Burns Day, Barre
- 29 April, 2017 Annual meeting, Barre
- 16 July, 2017 Kirking of Tartan
- 19 August, 2017 Vermont Highland game

Bring friends to these events. We have good food, good company, and a great introduction to Scottish heritage and culture.

In This Issue:

- P. 1 Notes & News
- P. 2 castle & activity report Insert: Tartan Ball Flyer
- P. 3 Tartan Ball Reservation
- P. 4 Masthead