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Salmond & SNP Big Winners

Last Thursday, May 5th, the Scottish National Party (SNP) stunned opponents in their landslide win in the Scottish national elections.

First Minister Alex Salmond's SNP picked up 32 seats in parliament for a majority total of 69. Prior to the election it was rumored that the SNP would have to form a coalition government with Annabel Goldie's Conservative Party but the SNP easily passed the 63 seats required to form a majority government..

Scottish television (STV) termed the win a "seismic shift in Scottish politics" with Iain Gray's Labour Party



Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland

taking the biggest hit losing 20 seats. Even Glasgow, the Labour stronghold now holds an SNP majority.

The Liberal Democrats, headed up by Tavish

Scott, also took significant losses probably due to suggestions of their too close association with the Westminster LD/Tory coalition.



<u>PARTY</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>Total Seats</u>
SNP	+32	69
Labour	-20	37
Conservative	-3	15
Liberal Dem.	-9	5
Other	0	3

Membership Dues Changes

At the recent Annual Meeting at Piney-Z members voted to implement an increase in our dues beginning with the 2011-12 fiscal year. Annual *Individual* Dues will be \$25. Dues for a *Family Membership* will be

\$35. *Lifetime - Single* increases to \$500. *Lifetime - Family* will be \$700.

Membership Chairwoman Babs Stewart will be sending your dues renewal letter in June. Please make every effort

to pay it by the end of the month.

Your dues make up our operating budget. No dues - no operating! We can no longer wait until a Fall event to receive your check.

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Mark Your Calendar

- Sept. - Covered Dish Dinner
- Oct. - New Members Reception
- Nov. - St. Andrew's Day Dinner
- Jan. - Burns Supper

President's Message



Okay, so here is the message from your Pres who writes only with not-so-gentle nudges from your newsletter editor.

I do want to thank all those members (you know who you are) who provided desserts for our annual meeting/fish-fry at Piney-Z. Once again, we all enjoyed the fruits of your labors. And heartfelt thanks to Nan Currence for showing us that we could take direction as well as a two year old and to everyone who stayed after the dancing to help with the clean up. It seemed to me that everything ran so smoothly with so many hands involved that we all left in record time. Thank you so much.

Many of our new board members were unable to be present at the

meeting but we will all learn their faces and in which position they agreed to serve very shortly.

From all of our society members, thank you Eric King and Nick Baldwin for your tireless efforts in securing nominees for the vacant board positions. A nominating committee member has one of the hardest tasks in our society that of "persuading" (i.e. arm twisting and Eric does it so well) someone to accept a position.

Our present board and our newly elected board will meet together on June 7. For some of these positions, the torch will be passed along and I hope every board member will be able to attend this last meeting before the start of our new fiscal year and our summer hiatus. As usual,

any society member is invited to attend the June 7 meeting, 6:30 pm, at Fellowship Presbyterian Church in the Philios classroom.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer whether it be here in Tallahassee or in cooler climes. My "little bit of heaven" in Maine awaits.

Stay safe and we'll see you all in September.



Name Tags - Membership Badges - Tartan Banners

We are proud of the Tallahassee St. Andrew Society and our membership in it. If you haven't already done so, express that pride by ordering your SAS Name Tag and Membership Badge today.

Name Tags may be ordered from Nick Baldwin at 877.0249. Name tags with magnetic backs can be

purchased for \$10.25. Tags with pin backs are \$8.25.



Tartan Banners may be purchased by calling *Dunedin Scottish* at 800.237.5836 and asking for Daryl MacDonald. Be sure to mention you are a member of the Tallahassee St. Andrew

Society. You can also call Eric King at 894.8955 for more information or he can order it for you saving sales tax.

Membership badges (seen below.) may be purchased from Babs Stewart at 385.3037 for \$5.00 each.





Notes from the Editor

Society Members Now Residents of Auld Reekie

Fellow Tallahassee SAS members Mark and Andrea Michael are now residents of Edinburgh, Scotland. Along with children Jordan and Ashlyn, the Michael family have joined the *Greater Europe Mission* and are setting out as missionaries in Scotland.

I was amazed when Mark told me they were going to Scotland as missionaries...the home of John Knox?...the Presbyterian church?? I was even further amazed when he explained that only 2% of the population of Europe (I guess, by extension, Scotland) attend church; and that nearly two entire generations (20 to 45 year olds) have essentially gone missing from religion.

Mark's apparent calling is as a "Church Planter" as he did here in Tallahassee by founding Cross-bridge Christian Church. After much soul-searching and prayer the decision and commitment was



Andrea, Mark, Ashlyn & Jordan Michael

made; and on April 5th they found themselves at their new flat in Edinburgh.

If you wish, you can view their website at www.michaelfamilyuk.com. Their first newsletter from Scotland is also attached to the email sending this issue of *The Cross*?

Old Wounds Slow to Heal...

Especially when they are continually poked by a football rivalry that is as rabid as any on earth. For nearly one hundred years Glasgow's Ranger and Celtic Football Clubs' enmity has gone far beyond everyday hatred to decades of violence.



Alex Massie of *Foreignpolicy.com* says that last February's match was attended by 229 arrests, with police reporting a 172% increase in violent crime and 140% in domestic violence. Recently, Celtic's senior figures including manager Neil Lennon, were sent letter bombs.

The acrimony between the two teams is said to date back to the late 1800's. Celtic was formed by Marist International in 1887 as a sporting club for Irish immigrants who came to Glasgow to escape the potato famine. Rangers was started by Glasgow rowers looking for a winter sport.

While at first it was no doubt related to religion, it fairly soon became more sectarian. As *Foreignpolicy.com* writes: "The Rangers club came to be seen as a cultural and political badge of identity sported by working-class, 'indigenous' Scots defin-



ing themselves against the Irish invaders. Celtic, by contrast, still see themselves as outsiders and underdogs struggling against an establishment prejudiced against them."

Celtic and Rangers have won the Scottish Championship 80% of the time. Massie says the rivalry is like the Yankees and the Red Sox playing eight other *minor* league teams year after year.

Ed. Note: It is interesting to read about "sectarian" violence in sport that had it's beginnings in religious differences. Read previous article—is this part of an enlightened evolution? Religion apparently, is no longer the culprit.

For more, read the entire *Foreignpolicy.com* article at: www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/04/22/bloody_Sunday

This article was suggested by member Evan Hume.



Flowers of the Forest



MARY PATRICIA HERRELL

FEBRUARY 23, 2011

SAS Spotlight on Champion Scottish Fiddler AISHA IVEY

by Jay Breeze

Many St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee members first became acquainted with champion Scottish fiddler Aisha Ivey at the Society's January 2011 Robert Burns Supper. At that event, Aisha performed a rousing set with the Black Velvet Band. Afterwards, Society President Doris Henderson very eloquently summed up audience reaction, noting "Another time, I would really enjoy Aisha being turned loose and really show us some of that championship fiddling," a suggestion which SAS membership seconds with a resounding "Aye!"

Since performing at the Burns Supper, Aisha has added additional laurels to her virtuoso crown. Most recently, she won first place for the sixth consecutive year in the Open division at this year's Southeastern United States Scottish Fiddle Championship in Jacksonville.

When she isn't competing, conducting fiddling workshops or working toward her Master of Music Education degree at Florida State University, Aisha enjoys performing for appreciative audiences (like SAS!). She recently performed her own music at the 2011 Florida Folk Festival in White Springs. Despite her busy schedule, Aisha graciously took the time to grant SAS this interview.

SAS: Aisha, thank you for giving SAS membership this opportunity to get better acquainted with you and your music. And congratulations on your most recent win in Jacksonville. I'd like to start things off with the question you are probably asked the most...how and when did you get interested in Scottish fiddling?

Aisha: First, I just wanted to say how honored I am to be interviewed for the St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee newsletter. It was really fun to play at

the Burns supper and I enjoyed meeting different SAS members! My interest in Scottish fiddling developed gradually. I started playing the violin at age 8, but my lessons were strictly classical. At age ten, a friend of my mother's taught me the fiddle tune "Devil's Dream" which I remembered for years, after learning it only by ear.



SAS: Is that a traditional Scottish tune?

Aisha: It was the American Bluegrass version of the traditional Scottish tune "Devil Among the Tailors."

SAS: What subsequently led you to make the transition from the classical tradition to Scottish fiddling?

Aisha: While a Music major at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, I was still thinking of music in classical terms. I began to experience an identity crisis when I found myself unable to play the violin by ear with friends in informal jam sessions. My classical training emphasized reading music, and I felt like I could play almost anything as long as I had sheet music. Without music I was at a complete loss, which was frustrating. I felt like I was missing some sort of link between the written music and the ability to improvise and just play what was in my own head. A turning point for

me was when a college friend loaned me a book of Celtic fiddle tunes. As I learned more and more tunes, I felt more comfortable making up my own variations and then eventually, my own tunes.

SAS: Did you have a mentor or other influential person who encouraged you to pursue your art?

Aisha: Fiddlers Bonnie Rideout, Johnny Cunningham, Mark O'Connor, Crystal Plohman and many others have been very inspiring, influential and supportive, encouraging me to teach, study and perform. Johnny Cunningham suggested that I attend the Swannanoa Gathering, a program of summer folk arts workshops held on the Warren Wilson College campus near Asheville, North Carolina. My first summer there I had the memorable experience of studying with Scottish fiddler Bonnie Rideout. Another teacher that I was lucky enough to study with was Mark O'Connor. He had just started a traditional fiddling program at Vanderbilt University in Nashville when I was finishing my undergraduate studies. I auditioned for, and was accepted into, the class, and I made the tedious but rewarding commute to Nashville during my senior year at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. I also had the pleasure of receiving private fiddling lessons in the Cape Breton style from Mark's assistant Crystal Plohman, who is a renowned virtuoso in that style. The Southeast U.S. Scottish Fiddle Competition, part of the Northeast Florida Highland Games, has brought in many renowned fiddlers to lead workshops at this annual event. I have taken workshops there with Elke Baker, Ed Perlman, Melinda Crawford, and Laura Risk – some of the best Scottish fiddlers in the country. Also, while living in Asheville, North Carolina years ago, I made the acquaintance

of many accomplished Scottish and Irish fiddlers. Asheville was full of musicians!

SAS: You have really been blessed with many distinguished mentors. Is there a particular Scottish or Celtic musician on either side of the Atlantic whom you admire or whom you feel has particularly influenced your own artistry?

Aisha: Bonnie Rideout really influenced my interest in Scottish fiddling. We met again most recently in October 2010 at the National Scottish Fiddle Competition in Williamsburg, Virginia. After so many years, she nevertheless warmly greeted me, and I even got a chance to jam with her – a truly wonderful experience for me!

SAS: Clearly, meeting up again with Bonnie was a high point of the 2010 National Competition for you. But you also won an award at that event. Would you talk a little about that experience?

Aisha: Yes, I was delighted to win the award for Best March. The march I played was “The Burning of the Piper’s Hut.” Everyone is so good at the National Competition. To even compete in Nationals you have to win a regional competition, so it’s really the best of the best. The judges, who are themselves famous fiddlers, have contestants play a tune from each of the following categories in quick succession: slow air, march, Strathspey and reel. In addition to the quality of playing, judges rate how well fiddlers transition from tune to tune. The judges write comments on the score sheets and are a great source of feedback for improving my playing. I also enjoy the opportunity to socialize and jam with other players. I’m not a competitive person by nature, but I do enjoy the social aspect of competitions and the fact that the competitions do so much to help promote the tradition and keep it alive.

SAS: Moving on to a related subject, do you have any favorite selections in your repertoire?

Aisha: Ooh, that’s like asking a mother who her favorite child is. They are like my children – I love them all.

SAS: You are currently pursuing a Master of Music Education degree at the FSU School of Music. What has that experience been like in light of your background in Scottish fiddling? Are professors supportive of your efforts and achievements in this musical genre?

Aisha: The FSU School of Music encourages a very diverse musical scene and, as a result, has provided a very supportive atmosphere for my studies. Faculty has a genuine interest in making students better musicians. Since my Master’s program is focused on Music Education, most of my classes are focused on teaching methods and philosophies. The School of Music has been supportive of my fiddling too, though. In January 2011, I started a fiddle orchestra for which I do the orchestration using computer music software. The fiddle orchestra is a community group, and it has about 20 members ranging in age from 14 to 75! We perform all styles of traditional fiddle music. In addition, I will be teaching an Old-Time fiddle ensemble at FSU starting in the fall. We will be studying traditional American music, deeply rooted in the Scottish and Irish traditions. I’m really excited about the class, and I already have several people signed up for it.

SAS: All these activities must make for a very busy schedule. When you complete your Master’s degree program, do you plan any changes to your current endeavors or career goals?

Aisha: Yes, I have more than enough to do, but, in terms of a career, I am currently “living the dream” at FSU with my studies and teaching. I am also working in the Undergraduate Mu-

sic office, helping incoming students and prospective students. In terms of future career goals, I would like to teach full-time at the elementary, high school or college level, in a classroom or one-on-one setting. The classroom is definitely the more challenging option but has the potential of reaching many more students. I really like teaching a combination of both private lessons and group classes. I’m really happy right now doing what I’m doing!

SAS: I understand you will perform some of your own compositions at the 2011 Florida Folk Festival. Would you talk a little about your original work and what inspires it?

Aisha: Most of my original compositions are in the style of traditional fiddle music. So, it may sound like an Irish jig or a Scottish reel or an Old-Time tune, but it’s a tune I’ve written. A lot of performers of traditional music write tunes in the traditional style. I think that it keeps the traditions new in a unique way. And it’s fun!

SAS: Is any of your fiddle music currently available on recordings or online?

Aisha: Yes, I have recorded six CDs, one solo album with a book of sheet music for students, and five albums with various artists on banjo, guitar, mandolin, piano and drums. The recordings are mostly instrumentals and feature a mix of Scottish, Irish, Cape Breton, Scandinavian, and Old Time American/Bluegrass along with some of my originals. My first fiddle recording was a bit unusual – background music for a documentary on beekeeping, with piano, guitar and banjo accompaniment. The CDs are available for sale at my performances.

SAS: In all the teaching, studying and performing you have done to date, I’m guessing there have been many memorable moments...good, bad or otherwise. Would you share some of those moments? (page 6)

Jamming with Bonnie Rideout at the 2010 National Scottish Fiddle Competition was definitely one of the greatest moments. Also, I was very proud when my student Marie Donnelly won first place in the Novice division at the 2011 Southeastern U.S. Scottish Fiddle Championship in Jacksonville. Some of my other students have won awards at different fiddle contests too, and that makes me feel the proudest, I think. I'm even more excited when they win than when I win, because it means that I am passing on the tradition, and that makes me feel like a good teacher. I've had some really embarrassing moments too, but we don't really need to go into that....

SAS: Do you have any words of advice for young people who are interested in Scottish fiddling, or performing Celtic music in general, but aren't sure how to pursue that interest?

Aisha: Keep taking lessons and practicing no matter what. Don't just drop out. Even if you fall behind in your practice, keep doing it!

SAS: Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts today with the SAS membership. We hope to lure you back to a Society function in the very near future to perform for us. Do you have any closing thoughts you would like to share with Society members?

Aisha: Orchestras, competitions and concert events are always in need of volunteer organizers. Volunteers can make the difference in supporting activities that encourage young musicians in particular to participate, compete and develop their talents. If any SAS members are interested in music and have a desire to help budding musicians, young and older, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for you here in the community! Music has the potential to improve the lives of so many people and is such a nice way of exploring and celebrating our traditions and heritage!



Newest Newly Weds

By Jean Holzapfel

If you noticed two of our members at the SAS Fish Fry who were just "GLOWING", then it was our newly married couple, the former Julie Harris and Rod Letchworth. The happy couple were married at the Burleigh Law Chapel of St. Paul's United Methodist Church by Rev. Dr. Sally Campbell-Evans on April 9th. They honeymooned in North Carolina and Georgia.



Rod & Julie Letchworth

Julie and Rod have been longtime friends in the St. Andrew Society and are both members of the Burleigh Law Sunday School Class at St. Paul's. All of their friends wish them many happy years together!

Nick Baldwin Becomes Lifetime Member

Since 1997, we have often seen this upright figure wondering among us with a camera securely attached to his face. Many long-time members might even be hard-pressed to identify him were he to pass by on the street. Fewer still could recognize his lovely wife Lorina. That probably is because Nick Baldwin has been Society "Historian" - Photographer since that first year and has photographed virtually every event and celebration since that time.



Daughter Kimberley and son Brett flanking new Lifetime member Nick Baldwin

That probably amounts to thousands of photos for the St. Andrew Society. Recently, Nick's daughter Kimberley has "pinch-hit" and carried on the family photographic contributions to the Society at a number of events.

Nick says he decided to become a "Lifetime Member": "...to avoid paying the extra \$100 (Membership prices increase as of June 1st). Why lie about it, I was *Scottish* (by) nature before I joined."

Nick joined when, "...Joyce (Oakley) was President and invited me-heck she more or less dragged me to a meeting and said I needed to join and they made me Historian that very night."

Daughter Kimberley who is a Highland Athletics official and son Brett whose daughter and son are learning Celtic dancing, too, are celebrating their Clan Henderson and Scottish heritage.

Thank you Nick. We are grateful for all the contributions to our Society the Baldwin family has made.





Call this war by whatever name you may, only call it not an American rebellion; it is nothing more or less than a Scotch Irish Presbyterian rebellion.
 -Hessian Officer on American War of Independence - 1778

Popular Sovereignty, Liberty & Common Sense

Soon after 1570, George Buchanan, Scotland's leading humanist, became tutor to Mary's son James (James VI/I). Buchanan believed that political power was ordained by God, and that power was not vested in kings or nobles or even the clergy, but by the people. Indeed, it was the Presbyterian Covenant to defend against that usurpation of power.

This new vision of politics had never before been seen. Buchanan turned it into a full-fledged doctrine of *Popular Sovereignty*, the first in Europe.



George Buchanan

His greatest achievement was his book: *The Law of Government Among the Scots*, which essentially dealt with the nature of political authority. In it, he explained that: "The *people* have the right to confer the royal authority upon whomever they wish". While many credit the orig-

ination of this view to John Locke, in fact, it belongs to a Presbyterian Scot from Stirlingshire, more than one hundred years earlier than Locke.

Buchanan pressed the point by writing that when a ruler failed to act in the people's interest, the citizens had the "sacred right and duty to resist that tyrant," even to the point of killing him. (Pretty incendiary stuff for 1579!)

The first glimmer of the Scottish Golden Age became visible at the beginning of the 18th Century. *Popular Sovereignty* was evolving with Francis Hutcheson's "Moral Philosophy" and its concept of *Liberty*. Hutcheson, often called the *Father of the Scottish Enlightenment*, endorsed Locke's ideas of free speech and freedom of religion; but his new political and social vision was of a free society. He defined liberty's ultimate goal as *happiness* resulting from helping others to be *happy*.



Francis Hutcheson

Duncan Bruce, in his book *The Mark of the Scots* wrote: "And in keeping with the era and...Scottish

traditions there was the *Practical Philosophy* of Thomas Reid, Adam Ferguson, and Dugal Stewart called *Common Sense*." This philosophy proceeds from the common sense of ordinary people: that the world, as we experience it, exists, and that hot and cold, color, sound and so forth are real and need no proof". They are "self-evident". As we will see, this Common Sense philosophy takes root and grows in the fertile soil of America.

Francis Hutcheson suggested that "...unalienable rights are essential limitations in all governments". Thomas Reid said that certain moral "truths" were "self-evident. Adam Ferguson voiced the opinion that Great Britain's subjects in the America colonies: "...were endowed with the same 'natural rights' enjoyed by Englishman". And finally, Adam Smith, another Scottish philosopher of the time, argued that Britain would be more profitable if the American colonies were independent.



Thomas Reid



Adam Ferguson



Dugal Stewart

Next Issue: ***Declarations***



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Help us stay in touch!
 Send us your address change, or for others,
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May 2011



Return Service Requested



Scottish Trivia: General Knowledge

1. Where does Glasgow's water supply come from?
2. Where did the poet Robert Burns intend on migrating to in 1786?
3. In earlier times granite used to manufacture curling stones was quarried where?
4. What burn (creek) runs through the old golf course at St. Andrews?
5. What is the approximate

population of Scotland?

6. What county is the town of Paisley in?
7. The Movie 'Whisky Galore' was based on the sinking of what vessel in 1941?
8. How many children did Jean Armour have with the poet Robert Burns?
9. Which one of these Scottish golf courses is not a current 'British Open' venue?
10. In 1839 what sport did the 'Eglington Tournament' involve?

1. Loch Katrine. Located in the heart of the Trossachs Loch Katrine is just over nine miles long and one mile wide.
2. West Indies. Praise and revenue from his Kilmarnock Edition of poetry is said to have persuaded him to abandon his plans to migrate to the West Indies.
3. Ailsa Craig. Ailsa Craig, locally known as Paddy's Milestone, is a volcanic island off the Ayrshire coast. It's home to the Blue Hole granite used to make curling stones for centuries in Scotland.
4. Swilken Burn. Swilken Burn meanders across the first and 18th fairways at St. Andrews.
5. Five Million. The annual report from the Registrar General shows that the population of Scotland fell in 1999 to 5,119,200.
6. Renfrewshire. Folks from Paisley near Glasgow are known as 'Buddies'.
7. S.S. Politician. Whisky Galore - a comic masterpiece based on events when the S.S. Politician ran aground with 50,000 cases of whisky on board.
8. Nine. Their first five children were born at Mauchline in Ayrshire while the remaining four were born in Dumfrieshire.
9. Prestwick. The first open golf tournament ever 'The Open' was first held in 1860 at Prestwick.
10. Jousting. The medieval tournament at the Earl's castle on the outskirts of Kilwinning was largely rendered farcical by heavy rain.

Answers