

The Whistlin' Thistle

Newsletter of the Scottish Society of Wilmington, NC Founded in 1993



March 2017

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Be sure to check out
our Website at
www.wilmingtonscots.org
for event updates and
membership
information.

Editor: Ron McCord

***Come Celebrate Spring with a
Scottish Ceilidh in the Garden***

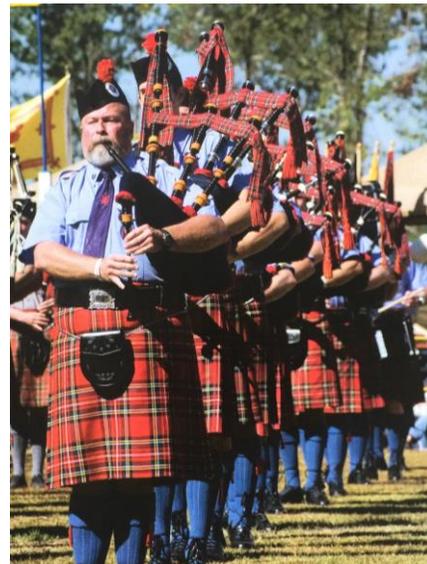
Saturday, April 29, 2017 7:00 pm

Wrightsville Beach Brewery's Beer Garden

6201 Oleander at Greenville Ave ♦ Wilmington, NC

(If rain, Ceilidh will be held in the indoor special event room)

***Featuring the Port City Pipe and Drum Band and
the traditional Celtic Band Barrowburn***



Craft beer, soft drinks and food will be available for purchase.

***This is a fundraiser for a Port City Pipe & Drum Band
Donations are requested in lieu of a cover charge.***

Free parking is available in the Brewery's lot as well as on
neighboring streets.

Open to the general public so bring your friends!

Some Scottish Trivia

A Digital Tour of Scotland's Largest Preserve

The 4000 acre preserve, the Great Trossachs Forest is a wildlife haven of lochs, high peaks, moorlands, pastures, and wooded glens. These great landscapes can now be explored in the comfort of your home through an online virtual tour. To take the tour, go to www.thegreattrossachsforest.co.uk/trossachs/virtual-trossachs-tour. It includes 360 degree views of a dozen locales from Loch Lomond in the west to Loch Venachar in the east.

700TH Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath

In 1320 Scotland's nobles eloquently declared their independence from England and freedom for all peoples of Scotland in the Declaration of Arbroath. It was in a letter written to Pope John XXII. Many have traced a direct line from those ancient cries for freedom to our Declaration of Independence-half of whose signatories were Scottish. The document was signed on April 6th, the date chosen by modern North American Scots to celebrate National Tartan Day. Arbroath 2020 will be a world class celebration. More information to follow as plans are finalized and announced. This might be a good time for a visit to Scotland.

ScotlandsPeople Website Revamped and Improved

If you are interested in exploring your Scottish Ancestry, you need to visit this website which was much improved in 2016. One feature of the new website is its simplicity. On the site, the button "what records are on the site" leads to a page of clear explanations of the main categories of records with hyperlinks to pages of detailed lists. The "Scottish Registrar Generals" index would probably be your first call. This includes the registration of births, marriages, and deaths since 1855. The indexes are free to search. Check out www.scotlandspeople.gov.UK.

Stone of Destiny

The Stone of Destiny, also known as The Stone of Scone is a red sandstone block used for the coronation of monarchs in Scotland for centuries. It was captured by Edward I, (the hammer of the Scots) in 1296 as a spoil of war and taken to Westminster Abbey. It was fitted in a wooden chair and has been used for most coronations. On Christmas Day, 1950, four Scottish Nationalist students broke into the Abbey, removed the stone, brought it back to Scotland and left it in the Arbroath Abbey. It was later seized by London police and returned to Westminster. In 1996, Britain's government decided the Stone should reside in Scotland when not being used for coronations and it is now housed in Edinburgh Castle.

Explore Scottish History through University of Aberdeen

The last SSOW newsletter contained an article about this subject but the referenced website for information was not working. If you are interested in additional information about their Research Masters Degree or a PHD Degree in Scottish History through a special program for North American Scots, email the university's School of Divinity, History and Philosophy: history-ug@abdn.ac.uk.