

## The Celts

The racial heritage of Scots has since the middle of the 19th century been termed Celtic. Never mind that no historical source prior to the 19th century ever used the term. Whole academic careers have been built on detailing the distinct features of Celtic culture, language, and inherited temperament and attitude to civilization. But in the past 150 years, immense advances have been made in archeology which call into question all of elaborate distinctions of the recent past.

A unique exposition will be on display at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh from 10 March to 25 September. The display showcases dozens of uniquely beautiful artifacts uncovered in Scotland in recent years — and in England, Denmark, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Turkey. For anthropologists, these are the early Iron-age people of Europe,

On display is the Gundestrup cauldron, a stunning silver bowl from the first century BC which is on a rare loan to the UK from the National Museum of Denmark. The beaten and moulded plates on its sides show recognisably Celtic animal forms and carnyx-blowers alongside Indian elephants and figures who might have come from the Near East. “It’s the perfect example as to why only talking about Celts is too limited,” says Museum Director, Hunter. “It was made most likely in Bulgaria, it shows influences from Western Europe, the Near East, India, and it ends up in a Danish bog. If that doesn’t show an internationally connected world, I’m not sure what does. It lifts our horizons beyond simple ideas about Celts and shows what a complicated, intertwined world we’re dealing with.”

• Celts: Art and Identity, National Museum of Scotland, sponsored by Baillie Gifford Investment Managers, 10 March 10-25 September, <http://www.nms.ac.uk/>>

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## Our National Poets: JK Rowling

Again, not a poet in modern usage, but a Makar. JK Rowling has lived a “rags to riches” life, going from welfare queen to the world’s best selling author in just 5 years. Her Harry Potter books have been translated into many languages, earning her a fortune just shy of \$1 Billion — now placing her among the 25 richest

women in the UK. Rowling’s grandfather was Scots, and she was living in Edinburgh when the first of the Potter novels came out.

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## Scots Names: Nimmo

Until recently, the family held that the name was Huguenot, but current research shows it in Scotland from long before the expulsion of Protestants from France in 1572. The earliest occurrence is of a Johannes Newmoch at Kirkliston, West Lothian. James Nimmo fought as a Covenanter at Bothwell Brig. Alexander Nemo received an inheritance at Kylestewart in 1616. Many farms in West Lothian in the 18th century were held by people of the name — variously Nimmo, Nemo, Nimmill, Nemock and other variants. The most famous of the name was the early 19th century designer of bridges, harbors, railways and canals Alexander Nimmo who was born at Kirkcaldy in 1783.

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## Modern Edinburgh street slang

- Embra - Edinburgh
  - Baffies - slipper
  - Barry - fantastic or great
  - Bunker - worktop, kitchen counter
  - Chum - join on a journey (Chumming a friend doon the road)
  - Cludgie - toilet
  - Deek - look at
  - Dinnae - don’t
  - Feart - afraid of
  - Foostie - stale
  - Radge - crazy or uncontrollable (A person can either be a radge, or ‘go radge’)
  - Reeking - drunk
  - Scoobied - clueless (Scooby Doo is rhyming slang for clue)
  - Shan - a shame, or disappointing (A bad day at work could be ‘well shan’)
- [from Scots Language Centre].

<<http://www.scotslanguage.com/>>

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## Castle Doune

Though decommissioned by the English following 1745, this castle was never dilapidated. When the old Gallows Tree blew down in 1879, the 14th Earl of Moray decided to stabilize the fabric and re-roof the buildings which were last used by Prince Charles Edward to house prisoners from the Battle of Falkirk in 1746.

Located a few miles west of Stirling, the castle covered a key road both accessing the midlands of Scotland and covering a main highland

route in Perthshire. The spectacular 100 foot tall gate house, the setting on a steep knob, and the high walls surrounding the court yard make this among the most pictured castles in Scotland. It featured in Monty Python films, and more recently in Game of Thrones. The Great Hall is among the most spectacular settings in all of Scotland, with a grand fireplace, carved oak beams and tall windows.

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The St. Andrew's Society of Vermont Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

### **Announces its 2016 Academic Scholarships and Cultural Grants Academic Scholarships**

Eligibility: Any resident of Vermont for an academic program at an accredited degree-granting institution. For the full set of rules, application process and our deadlines, connect to our website as noted below. The grants are for \$1000. We anticipate making four grants in 2016.

### **Cultural Grants**

Eligibility: Vermont residents or St. Andrew's Society of Vermont members and their families, regardless of residency, who will enroll or who are enrolled in studying Scottish history, language, arts, literature, dance and/or music. The guideline is \$500 maximum per year, with limited repeats. We hope to use the cultural grants to help enrich both the recipients and the wider audience of Scots in Vermont with a deeper set of skills or understanding of our Scottish heritage. We anticipate disbursing \$1500 in 2016. See our URL below for full details, rules, and application process.

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The Quechee Festival and Highland Games has been discontinued. As many readers know, Don Ransom has sponsored these games as an adjunct of his business, Scotland By the Yard in Woodstock, VT, not far from the Polo Field where the games have taken place for many years. When Don, who has reached an age where many of us wish to retire from daily business, sought to sell his business, he did not find any buyer willing to also undertake putting on the Highland Games. The St. Andrew's Society met and carefully considered whether we could take over the games. The combination of up-front cost and uncertainty related to weather conspired with a total gate receipt which would not cover the risk. Undertaking the Games would require an ample storage building in the vicinity, and the full time service of a director for about half of each year. And so with great sadness we have discontinued a long and proud tradition. Do not despair: the excellent Loon Mountain games continue in their 3 day format, just one hour south of St. Johnsbury. <https://nhscot.org/> Sept. 16-18, 2016

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Note: The St. Andrews web site has a short URL, [www.SASVT.org](http://www.SASVT.org) which takes you to the same website you are familiar with.

# Annual General Membership DINNER & Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 22d, 2016  
At the Barre Masonic Lodge  
2 Academy Street (just off Rte 302)  
in Downtown Barre, beside the Burns Monument

5:00 Social Gathering (BYOB — set-ups provided)

6:00 Buffet style chicken or pasta with grated cheese, salad, rolls, dessert and coffee/tea provided.

7:00 Business Meeting with reports and elections.

Price \$20.00 per person

## RESERVATION DEADLINE, Saturday, April 16, 2016

Please send your check (payable to the St. Andrew's Society of Vermont) and reservation form to:

Tom Johnston  
533 Staples Rd.  
Danby, VT 05739

For more information, please call Tom at (802)-770-2234 or email [<t4jovt@vermontel.net>](mailto:t4jovt@vermontel.net)

### RESERVATION FORM;

]The following persons will be attending the AGM Meeting:

Name	on	Ticket	Dinner w/Price
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Contact for the party is:

Phone #

A total of \_\_\_\_ will be attending. Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## 2015 Contacts for St Andrews Society:

President - Thomas Johnston IV 802-293-5386  
Vice Pres -Allison M. Norton (603)863-0907  
Secretary - Margaret Shields 802 584-4755  
Treasurer - Cedric H. Farrow 802-985-3832  
Historian - Bruce Shields 802-888-5165  
Chaplain - Theodore Faris 802-592-3908  
Newsletter Editor -Bruce Shields 802-888-5165  
Archivist Pro Tem - Bruce Shields  
Webmaster - David Campbell 802-878-8663  
<<[campbell@together.net](mailto:campbell@together.net)>>  
Others [managers and representatives]  
Kirsten K. Gretkowski Jonathan Park  
Karen Fay (SAS Pipe)  
Cass Wright Nancy Chase  
Iain McHarg (Catamount)  
Kirsten Gretkowski, Dancers  
Darryl Calkins, Foundation Chair  
Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker

*Correct your address promptly to Tom*  
<<[t4jovt@vermontel.net](mailto:t4jovt@vermontel.net)>>

## SCHEDULE OF 2016 EVENTS

- - *22 April, 2016 Annual General Meeting  
Masonic Hall, Barre*
  - *17 July, 2016 Kirking of Tartan, Barnet.*
  - *Quechee [discontinued]*
  - *Sept 16-18 Loon Mtn*
  - *Nov 5 Tartan Ball*
- Bring friends to these events. We have good food, good company, and a great introduction to Scottish heritage and culture.*

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*Thomas Johnston, President  
St Andrews Society of Vermont  
533 Staples Rd. Danby, VT 05739*