

Scotland and Polar Vortex

Scotland has experienced extremely variable weather this year. The result has been spells of a week or more with pouring rain, followed by temperatures plunging to -10C [about 20° F] for several days at a time. Heavy snow has fallen at higher elevations

Most winter storms exiting the US have been steered into the UK by extremely strong winds: many airlines have set new cross-Atlantic records flying East this year, with Jet Streams logging speeds up to 250 MPH.

The cause is a highly stable Polar Vortex, which has captured bitterly cold air near the Arctic Circle. The extent of polar ice this year is greatest in ten years, reversing what appeared to be a long term shrinkage. The result, when some of the air trapped by the Vortex near Greenland escapes, it creates record cold weather in Scotland.

House of Bruar

The Scottish Tourist Office is highlighting a retail destination they cite as "The Harrod's of The North." Looking at the House of Bruar web site, it is perhaps more familiar to New Englanders as the "LL Bean of Scotland." It is located in Perthshire 10 miles from Pitlochrie.

At the heart of the apparel offering is the House of Bruar's long-established own brand of Scottish country clothing, including jackets, moleskin jeans and lambswool jumpers. Many other top designer labels have been hand-picked for discerning shoppers, too, such as Barbour, Gant, Betty Barclay, Marble, Dubarry, Schoffel and Levi.

Few can resist a stroll through the confectionary department with speciality Scottish gems and sugary delights, including fudge, toffee, nougat and chocolate. There is also a delicatessen with cheeses, a charcuterie, smoked meats and smoked fish, among many other tempting treats.

www.houseofbruar.com

Our National Poets: Elizabeth Melville

She lived from 1578 - 1640. She was active in the Presbyterian resistance to the ecclesiastical aggression of James VI and his son Charles I. She wrote poems which could be sung to the tunes of the Scots Psalter. Obscure for years, manuscript copies of her letters and writings began to surface about 50 years ago. As her writings have become known again, she is celebrated as one of Scotland's leading female poets.

In June 2014, the famous feminist Germaine Greer was master of ceremonies unveiling a stone to Melville's memory at Makar's Court in Edinburgh, quoting her 1603 poem of defiance to England:
*Though tyrants threat, though Lyons rage and rore/
Defy them all, and feare not to win out.*

Scots Names: Ogilvy

The name first derives from Gilliebride, Earl of Angus. The Normans pronounced this Gilbert. From the earliest Gilbert, his third son received extensive lands in Angus, as well as Aberdeen and Banff. Among those lands was Ochil Fa (high plain) In 1296, Patrick de Ogilvy signed the Ragman Roll. The line shifted several times over the years. A Baronetcy is possessed by the Inverquharinity branch.

A famous Ogilvy was Clementine Ogilvy Hozier, who in 1928 married Sir Winston Churchill.

Scots Tongue

From the Dictionary of the Scots Language.

The word reek or reik (noun) means smoke or something resembling smoke.

[from Gavin Douglas: "Neither black fire brand, or reeky flames spreading".

Best known is the name of the old city of Edinburgh, when every apartment had its own coal fire. The city was known as Auld Reikie. —

\ dsl.ac.uk

Travels into Historic Scotland.

An excellent on-line tool for planning and daydreaming is Historic Scotland. Many of Scotland's premier sites — famous castles, battlefield, archeological displays, museums and other spots have collected in a trust now known as Historic Scotland. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot>

An allied but distinct operation is the National Trust For Scotland, which has preserved such properties as Glencoe's quarter million acres. Here is link to the NT's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalTrustforScotland>

St Andrew's Society Scholarship Foundation

This year the St. Andrew's Society must nominate persons to serve on the board of the Scholarship Foundation. The Foundation is a "captive" charity organized under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c(3)). Board members are appointed by SAS at the Annual General Membership meeting. The Foundation Board meets separately to elect its own officers.

Present Foundation Board consists of Darryl Calkins (President), Patricia Smith (VP), Bruce Shields (Sec/ Treas), and Carolyn Adams, Russell Slora, and Scott Blanchard. The Board traditionally had its organizational meeting during the Quechee games. There is no record of an organizational meeting for the past two years.

The Bylaws require the terms of two directors to expire each year, and two nominations from St. Andrew's Society at the AGM to renominate or replace them. Additional Foundation members may be nominated at the option of the Pipes & Drums of St. Andrew's Society, and by the Vermont Highland Dancers Association. We apparently have no representative of those organizations serving at present.

The Foundation for many years received the net proceeds of the Quechee Games, in return for staffing many functions of the Games. We have had no new donations (save for some individual donations) for at least three years. The Foundation carefully invested its gains for 25 years in a Vanguard index fund, from which we can draw monies for grants and scholarships.

To satisfy IRC guidelines, we give scholarships to any qualified applicant using at least half of our resource, and Cultural Grants to advance study of Scottish music, culture, or history.

Please join us at the St Andrew's Society annual meeting.

St Andrew's Society of Vermont Annual General Membership Meeting

Elections, reports, committee appointments, plans

Saturday, April 4th from 1PM to 5PM

At Barre Elks Club member's pub

(Downstairs - use side entrance)

10 Jefferson St, Barre, VT

We will be able to order a meal from the Pub menu, or drinks from the bar

Respond to Pauline Kirkpatrick <pnwkirksa@gmail.com>



2019 Contacts for St Andrews

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Iain McHarg (Catamount)
Kirstin Gretkowski, Dancers
Darryl Calkins, Foundation Chair

Correct your address promptly to

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SCHEDULE OF Coming EVENTS

- *July 19, Kirkin o'th Tartan, Mosquitoville*
- *Aug 22 Quechee Games*
- *Sept 18-20, NH Highland Games, Loon*
- *Mid Sept, Fall Picnic at Murray's*
- *Nov 7, Tartan Ball, Delta Marriot*
- *Jan 23 2021 Burns' Night, Barre*

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

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