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PAY YOUR DUES!
Don’t forget to pay your current dues.
The Caledonian Society of Cincinnati,
Mike Brooks, Secretary
4028 Grove Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45212-4036
If you have any questions please contact Mike at:
739-3326 or 7393326@gmail.com

Issue Deadlines
If you have something you want to put in The Gazette, your materials must be received by:
Summer June 15th
Fall September 1st
Winter December 1st

We solicit any and all articles about the Scottish Culture and Organizations

BURNS* IS GROWING-$uccessful Event!

For those that missed this Burns Night Dinner and Celebration, guess you missed out this year, better make plans for 2014! We had a wonderful evening of food, fun, entertainment, dancing and drink! Receptions in Loveland was beautifully decorated and the attentive staff took very good care of all our guests. The food was delicious and plentiful and the bar reasonably priced. The entertainment for the evening was outstanding (as always from our local Scottish groups) Kicking off the evening with the posting of the colors by the Losantiville Highlanders and the anthems by Katelyn Wilshire, she also sang the all-time favored, My Hearts in the Highland. We also had an informative, ‘The Immoral Memory’ to give a little back ground on Burns, plus the ‘Toast to the Lassies’ and the ‘Lassies Reply’ which were done in the most entertaining way, by a great couple (Louise and myself!) The Cincinnati Scots and the Cincinnati Highland Dancers both put on excellent performances of both traditional and choreographed Highland Dancing. Susan McLennen lead some group country dancing and everyone did surprisingly well, not a turned ankle or bruised toe in the house. Lady Gwlenys Reid recited some wonderful poems while Lyle Reid accompanied on the flute. The Cincinnati Caledonian Pipes and Drums topped of the evening with a heart pounding performance, then the end of the evening saw the breath taking haggis toss, followed by the mostly eye averting Bonnie Knee Contest, both of which had some 20 contestants. Everyone went home happy, although I’m sure some were even happier than others as we had a great assortment of raffle prizes given out, everything from casual kilts to a bottle of Scotch to a stained glass window. So all in all a wonderfully successful evening, plus the Society made some money! Make plans to attend next year, we had the whole building this year and we still have plenty of room to grow.

by Robert C.W. Reid, Vice President

“We offer many thanks to Gwlenys Reid, Robert Reid, Louise Reid, Chris McLennan, Scotty and Barbara Muir, and Billie Andrews. These people were indispensable to the evening’s success. The Society owes them our deepest gratitude!”
The 2013 Annual General Meeting was held at the Great Scott Restaurant on Madison Road in Oakley. It is an interesting place that was formerly known as Nick’s Chops and Chasers. We had 48 members return their RSVP for the meeting and had several more join us. I believe the total count was 55.

We reserved the basement party room for the event so the servers had to run up and down the stairs to bring our fare. Needless to say, that slowed things down. The dinner portions were huge. The fish and chips were very nice. The Shepherd’s Pie, however, was met with mixed reviews.

The meeting was called to order by the outgoing president, Rex Wolfgang. Ken Ankenbaur was appointed as Sargent-at-Arms. After close inspection of the crowd, only $1 was levied in “tartan fines”. Thirteen new members were voted on and accepted into the Society. Each committee gave their report for the year.

Rex then congratulated, Randy Clipson, James Trumble, & Edward Thomas on their new Lifetime Membership Status. He then took a few minutes reflect on his term(s) as president of the Society. He thanked all those present for their support. He specifically mentioned Lenora Gilmour and Celtic Corner shop, Joy Galbriath of the Costume Gallery, Eve Brooks for her photography of the Society’s gatherings, and Mark and Carol Stephenson for their contributions and support.

Jesse Andrews, gave the custodian’s report, and thanked Chaplain Gwynne Gabbard, for her painstaking attention to the care and preservation of the Society’s tartan banners. He called her, “another Howard Miller”. Reportedly Howard supervised the rolling and storage of the banners with an eagle eye to insure that the banners were handled with great care.

The auditor’s position has been vacant for a while. Fortunately we have a very well qualified volunteer to assume the duties this year. Mrs. Trish Meek. Mrs. Meek is not only a CPA but is also an attorney. We are so happy to have her onboard!

The pipe band president, Jeff Craig, gave a brief report of the bands accomplishments for the previous year including winning first place, Grade 5, at the Ohio highland games. The Drum major, Robert Reid, reported that the Society’s set of pipes is being well taken care of and being played regularly by one of the new pipe students.

Duncan Moir, chairman of the nominating committee, then introduce the new slate of officers for 2014. President- Bob Collins, Vice President- Robert Reid, Treasurer- Dan Bowen, Secretary-Mike Brooks, Trustees- Rex Wolfgang, Jesse Andrews, & Duncan himself. Without objection from the floor the slate was approved.

The new president Bob Collins then announce the honoraria to be granted this year: $1500 to the Pipe Band, $400 each to OVO, Cincinnati Scots, and Cincinnati Highland Dancers. $250 to the Grandfather Mountain Games.

Under new business, Duncan Moir proposed that Betty Whitaker, Cass Ott, and Billie Andrews should be awarded honorary Lifetime memberships for their many years of service to the Society. Motioned and unanimously seconded by the membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20. Several members retired to the upstairs pub to continue to socialize.

Overall there was a great turnout and a good time was had by all.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Brooks, Secretary

*For more information contact Mike Brooks, Secretary.
Mr. Howard A. Miller correctly supposes that the Caledonian Society of Cincinnati (founded 1827) is the oldest of the name in the United States, at least the oldest in continuous existence. Although there appears to have been, briefly, a Caledonian Society in New York in 1803, the Cincinnati Society was the only active one from 1827 until 1853 when others were organized in Boston and St. Louis. After that came New York (1856), Philadelphia (1859), and many others in the 1860's and later.

Rowland Berthoff
Professor of History
Washington University

The Great Kilt is known in Gaelic as the feileadh beag (little wrap) to distinguish it from the feileadh mór (big wrap), the belted plaid. There is some debate about exactly when the kilt was first worn and who created it. There has been much written about a 1725 Englishman named Thomas Rawlinson, owner of an iron works in Glengarie and Lochaber, as being the the ‘abbreviator of the feileadh mór to the feileadh beag. And many Englishmen have been proud to boast that it was Rawlinson who invented the modern kilt. But not so fast. The Armorial Bearings of the Chief of the Skenes (1692) clearly shows a man wearing a feileadh beag. The story of Rawlinson has since been disproven by scholars to the great delight of Highlanders.

Through the works and efforts of historical scholars we can find the first known reference to the kilt as a mode of dress in 1594, in “The Life of Red Hugh O’Donnell”. O’Donnell was in some distress and an Irish Corps of Hebrideans came to his aid. In his account of the event, he provides the following description of his rescuers:

“They were recognized among the Irish soldiers by the distinction of their arms and clothing, their habits and language, for their exterior dress was mottled cloaks of many colours with a fringe to their shins and calves, their belts were over their loins outside their cloaks.”

The feileadh mór has become known as “The Great Kilt”. It was made from wool, often grown on one’s own sheep. It could take a year to shear and spin enough wool to make one kilt. The yarn would then be taken to the local weaver to weave into cloth.

Wool, then and now, is not very different. Most lengths of wool ended up being about 9 ells long (just over 9 yards) and sometimes as much as 12. Any more would be too much to work with, not to mention extremely cumbersome to wear. So a man wanting a Great Kilt would ask for “The Whole 9 Yards”, or 9 ells as the case may be, introducing the concept that a man must have 9 yards of cloth to make a Great Kilt. However, remember one thing: the tartan of ancient times was 27”-30” wide, which is the width provided by ancient looms. To make a Great Kilt, the 9 ells would be cut in half to create 2 pieces of tartan, single width (27”-30”) wide and 4.5 ells long. These two pieces would then be stitched together to make 1 Kilt, 54”-60” wide and 4.5 ells long. Today’s looms can weave cloth to a double width, 54”-61” wide, eliminating the extra step of buying 9 ells. But the concept of 9 yards for a Great Kilt is still practiced and favored by many reenactors.
On a Different Note:

Buy tickets for the Cincinnati Caledonian Pipes & Drums Ceilidh!!!

The 2013, Caledonian Pipe & Drum Band Ceilidh is April 13th order your tickets now go to www.cincypipesanddrums.com or ticket presale information is in this feature.

Our first performance of 2013 was the annual Robert Burns Dinner held by the Society. It was an honor to have the large and appreciative crowd. Our usual sets of tunes were complimented with a new tribute set for two of our late members, Rose Ramsey and Les Gabbard. We always appreciate hearing from band alumni in the crowd. Former pipe band member, Bob Economou, a drum major for twenty-some years was very complimentary of the band sound. He was reminded as everyone should be, that our weekly Thursday night practices are open to anyone who wishes to stop by to listen to the band or participate. We are now practicing at the Thomas H. Kidd Adult Center at 9910 Reading Rd in Evendale. Chanter and drum pad lessons are free to anyone wishing to learn from 6-7pm. Then the full band plays from 7-8pm with sectionals following as needed.

CEILIDH !!!
The annual ceilidh held by the pipe band as our primary fundraiser will be held again at the Sycamore Senior Center, 4455 Carver Woods Dr in Blue Ash on Saturday, April 13th. Doors open at 5:30 with activities beginning at 6pm non-stop until about 11pm.

Our line-up this year is stellar. We have a mini band of band alumni playing for us early in the night. Highland and Country dancers from Cincinnati will perform throughout the night. Special guest this year is Richard Hensold, a multi-instrumentalist from Minnesota. Hensold is the leading Northumbrian smallpiper in North America, and for the past 20 years has performed and taught around the world. We will feature him on Northumbrian smallpipes (a quiet bagpipe from N.E. England), reed pipes (an indoor version of the Scottish Highland pipes intended for Scottish dance music), seljefløyte (Norwegian willow-flute), säckpipa (Swedish bagpipes), pibgorn (Welsh hornpipe), and several other instruments. He will play music in several traditional and historical styles, with particular emphasis on Cape Breton, early Scottish, and Northumbrian, but also including Scandinavian, medieval, and original music. The program also includes a couple of songs, neither of them smallpipes (a quiet bagpipe from N.E. England), reel pipes (an indoor version of the Scottish Highland pipes intended for Scottish dance music), seljefløyte (Norwegian willow-flute), säckpipa (Swedish bagpipes), pibgorn (Welsh hornpipe), and several other instruments. He will play music in several traditional and historical styles, with particular emphasis on Cape Breton, early Scottish, and Northumbrian, but also including Scandinavian, medieval, and original music. The program also includes a couple of songs, neither of them traditional and historical styles.

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Cincinnati Caledonian Pipes and Drums

Annual Tartan Day Ceilidh 2013
Featuring: Marys Lane
Special Guest: Richard Hensold
Saturday, April 13th 6-10 pm
Doors Open 5:30

North American Haggis Eating Contest
Guinness & Smithwick's on Tap
Traditional Scottish Food
Tea Room
Scotch Tasting
The Friendly Sons of St Patrick Glee Club
Cincinnati Highland Dancers
Cincinnati Scots Highland Dancers
Royal Scottish Country Dancers
McGing Irish Dancers
...And Much More

Sycamore Senior Center
4455 Carver Woods Drive
Blue Ash, OH 45242

Admission $10
12 & under FREE

For Information:
Call 513-829-2850 or go to www.CincyPipesAndDrums.org

Cincinnati Indoor Highland Dance Competition
Admission $3 for non-competitors
Doors open 8 am for the competition
Dancers can register at www.OVSS.org

Preorder $8
SASE to: CCP&D, 5626 Monica Dr
Fairfield, OH 45014
Agnes "Nora" Kindness was born in Scotland, in Dunfermline, Fife, on October 23, 1920. One might choose to call this a fitting omen, as Dunfermline, a historic town in the Kingdom of Fife, is the ancient capital of Scotland, and also the birthplace of philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. In her lifetime, Nora chose to participate in and dedicate her efforts to affecting history, rather than watching it roll by. Sometimes with tongue in cheek, sometimes with serious intensity, but ultimately with great success, she chose "...to preserve and promote Scottish heritage and encourage appreciation of Scotland's culture..." (1) And as you will see, she had more in common with Carnegie than place of birth.

Nora's Mother, also named Agnes Kindness, was known as Ness, or Nessie. Nora's Father, George, like so many Scots before him, had lived and worked abroad in his youth. His experience included working in an opal mine in Australia. Nora also had family in the U.S., and it should not have been surprising that, in time, George and Ness decided to make their lives in the New World.

When they arrived in the U.S., Nora and her parents first went to live with Ness' brother and his family near the small Ohio river town of Portsmouth. Nora had already been in school a year in Scotland and was placed in 2nd grade. George later found work in Newport and the Kindness family moved to northern Kentucky. There they settled and soon would have many stories to tell of the impact of the historic Flood of 1937.

After a number of years, the family moved to Norwood, Ohio, where Nora completed high school. There she met and formed a lifelong friendship with Martha Olson, a classmate who shared Nora's interest in art and who later worked as an artist at Gibson Greeting Card Co. Nora's own artistic talent was well demonstrated—privately in her sketchbooks and publicly in projects which included over twenty years of helping to design Scottish Cultural displays for Cincinnati's International Folk Festival.

The lifelong friendship from high school was typical of the many, many friendships that Nora formed and sustained with attention and caring.
Nora took the time to maintain ties over the years and over the miles.

When Britain entered WWII, Nora felt pulled toward the war effort, so when The Women’s Royal Canadian Naval Service as a division of the Royal Canadian Navy was created by Order in Council on July 31, 1942, Nora was among the many young female British subjects (over 6,700) who signed up, putting the rest of their lives on the back burner in order to serve.

Nora trained in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was stationed in Vancouver and also served in Great Britain. During her time in the WRCNS (known as the Wrens), Nora filled the roles of office worker and driver.

Dedicated to the important work at hand, Nora also formed many friendships among the Wrens, and, after the war, many urged her to make her life among them in western Canada.

Instead she returned to live and work in Cincinnati, while maintaining friendships through faithful correspondence and the Wren reunions, which she attended as long as she was able. (2)

Back at home, Nora found work as a secretary at Hilton-Davis Chemical Company, where she continued until retirement, when she was honored at the retirement luncheon at the Maketawah Country Club, October 10th 1985. There, again, she had made many friendships and maintained them in many ways, including attendance to the call to serve, she was ordained as Elder in 1987 and as Deacon in 1997. She also served the needy of the greater community through her attention to the Church’s Food Pantry, where she volunteered on a regular basis.

Together with, or because of her parents’ association, Nora became—and continued in her own right—a member of the Cincinnati Orchid Society, TBPA (Transatlantic Brides and Parents Assn), and the Caledonian Society of Cincinnati.

In addition, Nora, Doris Adams and other members of the Scottish Country Dance Society of Cincinnati were encouraged to join the English-Speaking Union, and did so. For many, Nora is remembered above all, and with great appreciation and affection, for her contributions to The Scottish Country Dance Society of Cincinnati, of which she was founding member, stalwart supporter, and determined standard bearer.

At the August 13, 1958, meeting to form the club, Nora was included in the committee to draw up rules. The club was to offer classes, which were to be open to anyone desiring to learn the Scottish Country Dances. The resulting Constitution and Bylaws were discussed at length and accepted on September 30, 1959, and officers elected, including Nora as Treasurer. Nora taught the group until Don Stevenson and later Jim Valanti agreed to instruct. In 1962 Nora again became the instructor.

Once more in the vanguard for improvement, Nora soon suggested applying for admittance to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) in Edinburgh, Scotland, as an Affiliate member. The RSCDS provides resources (and standards) worldwide to those who wish to enjoy Scottish Country Dance. To bolster her point, “Nora Kindness rented a film called ‘Scotland Dances’ and was (sic) shown one evening along with a film taken …of the group dancing in the park that summer. What a comparison!” (3) The next year Nora was able to announce that the group had become an Affiliate member of the RSCDS.

Like so many groups, young or old, The Scottish Country Dance Society of Cincinnati needed more members. So Nora sent a press release to the Norwood News in hopes of drawing new members. And a co-worker from Hilton-Davis, Lois Bartels, (later von Preissig) was one of many who heard Nora speak glowingly of the group and decided to join. A board member since 1961 and later historian and librarian, Lois’ hard work and attention to detail made her an invaluable resource to the group. That is another story, yet speaks to how Nora helped the group grow.

Evelyn Maerz remembers fondly that Nora wanted to make The Scottish Country Dance Society of Cincinnati very inclusive and tried to put new dancers at ease. Nora did not hesitate to reach out to newcomers. The Rev. Robert League volunteers with heartfelt appreciation that Nora was most appropriately named. Kindness itself, she was very encouraging and helpful, making beginners feel welcome to the dance. In addition, Charles von D. Knighton recalls that whenever dancers visited Nora at home, they always found her welcoming and ready to put the kettle on.

Editor’s Note: If you are receiving the Gazette via the mail and wish to read the rest of the article about Nora Kindness—please contact Secretary Mike Brooks. Mike can place you on the email list to receive The Gazette in PDF form to view in full color at your leisure, with additional features and sections. Contact Mike at 739-3326 or 7393326@gmail.com

Picture of Nora with her parents and a group of dancers who went to a SCD Weekend in Richmond, KY in 1980
T.A.C., which also includes RSCDS teachers in the U.S., and she served as Area Rep for twenty years. She attended the T.A.C. Summer School for dance experience and teacher training. She also continued attending the Hamilton, Ontario, and other area SCD events and was well known and well received. The Rev. Robert League says that he had no trouble being in a new place if Nora was known there. He had an “in.” The understanding was “if you are a friend of Nora’s, you are okay.”

In 2003, accompanied by Susan McLennan, Nora travelled to Edinburgh to receive the Scroll of Honour conferred upon her by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society “in recognition of her many years of service and outstanding loyalty to the RSCDS, for her contributions in preserving the standards and traditions of Scottish country dancing, and for her joyous encouragement of young and old alike to increase their knowledge and enjoyment of Scotland’s heritage of dance and music.” (4)

The Caledonian Society of Cincinnati also recognized Nora for this and for other contributions to their mutual goal—“...to preserve and promote Scottish heritage and encourage appreciation of Scotland’s culture ...(5) The Society and the Cincinnati Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society have worked toward this end over the years; and since 1968, the Scottish Country Dancers have appeared at Caledonian Society gatherings with beautiful demonstrations of Scottish reels and other traditional dance patterns. The Caledonian Society of Cincinnati had also awarded Nora the Order of St Margaret in recognition of her significant contributions in loyal support of the Society.

Those who knew Nora speak of her loyalty and caring. She was loyal to her church, to her family, to her friends. The Rev. Chris White, former pastor of the Norwood Presbyterian Church, speaks of how Nora cared so diligently for her parents. She visited family in Scotland as often as possible. She welcomed the visits of Godsons Carl and Tony, encouraged them and spoke proudly of their achievements. When her cousin Davalene lost her parents, Nora took her into her heart and home and cared for her until Davalene was able to live away, then maintained a caring connection thereafter.

To Nora, friendship and loyalty were important and she relished visits and phone calls from family and friends. Evidence of her caring and the esteem in which she was held surrounded her: letters, cards, pictures of dancers’ growing kids, a Jazz CD just released by a Japanese musician, homemade trinkets and culinary treats.

Although not quite in Andrew Carnegie’s tax bracket, Nora was living proof that the term “generous Scot” is not an oxymoron. When a friend tried to tease her by saying that Scots were cheap, Nora retorted that Scots were frugal. Which meant that they never wasted money, but always spent enough to have a good time! Or to promote worthy causes. Her Scottish-heritage contributions ranged from snacks for a dance class to ghillies for a penny-pinching student to patronage of events. And her purse was also open to the Church and to other organizations.

Nora passed away at her home Friday July 18, 2008 at the age of 87. She left a cultural legacy created over a lifetime of loyalty and hardwork. In addition she left funds to carry on the work of organizations she cared about, including the Caledonian Society of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Notes—
November 1st, 1997, Articles of Incorporation, Code of Regulations, and By-Laws. Caledonian Society of Cincinnati
Today she would wish to join the WRCNS Navy Ladies in celebrating their 70th anniversary.

Saturday, April 27th, 2013
Terrace Park Country Club
5341 South Milford Road
Milford, Oh 45150 — 513-831-3384
Cocktails:  5:30     Dinner:  6:30      Meeting:  7:30

$28 per person for Buffet dinner including, Beef, Chicken, and a Fish Choice of Entree.
This dinner/meeting will be open to everyone to attend.

Send reservations to:
Secretary, Mike Brooks
4028 Grove Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45212-4036
Make checks payable to: Caledonian Society of Cincinnati

DETACH and mail with your check to confirm your reservations.

Number of  Persons attending

Scholarship Donation

Total enclosed

Remember to make sure your dues are current. We encourage you send in your dues or pay them at the meeting. Please check with Mike Brooks to check your dues status, or to enroll a new member.
**Views of the Kilted:**

**Glasgow, World War II— The Greatest Generation**

“Everyone was ‘in it together’.”

By Caledonian Member, Bruce A. Healey

One of the best-kept secrets of World War II was the heavy bombing of Glasgow and Clydebank during World War II. Documents have, in the last 10 years, come to light showing that Clydebank in particular was poorly prepared for the bombing. I should know, my Father was in Glasgow during the war and recounted to me some of the horrors and the charms of living there at the time. Let me share some of it with you.

My father lived in a tenement in Pollockshields (Glasgow) – Keir Street to be exact. Last year I went and revisited the building, which still stands and is occupied. When I first went there in the 1960’s to visit my Grandmother (who lived at the same address until 1983 when she died), it was unchanged from the war. The central stairwell had a glass skylight to the ceiling and an open archway to the street. The “air raid shelter” if you can call it that, was under the stairs. It was not walled, it was just an open area under the stairs. Children were placed as far under the stairs as they could go. A bomb that shattered the glass skylight, or fell in the street outside would have been fatal. In Clydebank, many died when bombs fell outside in the street and the effect of the blast alternately sucked the air from the shelter and then sent a shock wave into the building through the open archways.

Shortly before my Father died in 2011, I was commenting in a documentary on the TV about the Blitz in London. His eyes lit up and he started telling me about his wartime memories of the bombing. “We all knew that for some reason, the German bombers that came to Glasgow had sticks of five bombs. When you heard the first one you tensed up. Then, if the second was further away, you relaxed. If it was closer, you waited for the next one. Bruce, by the fourth bomb, there were no atheists under the stairs”. He then went on to tell me that “there were fire bombs too. They were dropped by parachute. You could hear the “whoosh” of the wind in the parachute, as it got closer. Then silence. If you could hear a kind of “whoomp” you knew it had gone off somewhere nearby.”

On the way to school the morning after such a raid, he and his pals would have competitions to see how many bullet and shell casings they could collect and take into school. I presume these were collected and recycled. Sometimes an empty desk would tell its own story of what had happened last night. When he passed away, I inherited a bronze model of a Spitfire, made from those casings, which a neighbor’s son, who was in the RAF, gave him after the war. It sits as a poignant reminder of that time and of his memories.

Food was obviously scarce. My Grandmother who was French, was very resourceful. At one point she discovered that there was no rationing on horse blood, but protein was in critically short supply, especially for a growing adolescent. The solution was for my father to drink a glass of horse blood when the butcher could find it. Disgusting? Nothing is disgusting if you are hungry enough. Food remained scarce long after the war. One of the things my Father remembered about moving back to Brazil (where he had been born) in 1956 was the abundance of meat and fresh fruit. It was paradise for a man who had not seen such plenty since 1939 – if then.

The one thing my Father loved about the hard times in Glasgow during the war was the amazing camaraderie that developed. Everyone was “in it together”. In his neighborhood there was no class distinctions and they shared what they had, be that property or supplies, happiness or grief. And there was plenty of grief, which made the happy moments all the more memorable. The experiences did, however, propel him to seek some way to defend his country. At 15 he lied about his age and joined the Home Guard. At 17 he lied again, and joined the Royal Marines. “Everyone did that”, he told me once. “All they wanted was a warm body, and they weren’t particular about the paperwork”.

He finished training just as the war was ending, but still managed to be on the first allied ship into Copenhagen, as well as doing tours of duty on Gibraltar and in Africa. I once asked him if he hated the Germans after the war. “No”, he replied, “if you look at pictures of a lot of them, they were just young lads like us. They were following orders, just like we were, and were doing things to us, which we would have gladly done to them – and did in the case of the bombing. Once the war was over, we had won, there didn’t seem to be any point in more hate. Their government was to blame, the Nazis. But we got rid of them and it was over”.

I know that in his mind, the war was never over, in as much that he indelible memories of the horrors of what happened. But they don’t call them “The Greatest Generation” for nothing. They did not want to be heroes. They did “what they had to do”. No more no less. But Britain halted Hitler in his tracks long enough for the Japanese to attack Pearl Harbor and Hitler to open a second, fatal, front in Russia. Once the US joined the war and the Germans were bogged down in Russia, a difficult victory was assured. We should never forget that between 1939 and 1942 an island people built a wall against Hitler (with many bricks from the Lend Lease Act, it must be said) and snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. I sometimes wonder what it must have been like in those dark days of 1940 and 41, wondering if the future held anything at all, but subjugation. And it is impossible to me, thanks to Father and millions like him that, from working class Glasgow to wealthy London, joined together with Winston Churchill in saying “We will never surrender”. ■

by Bruce Healey

Bruce graduated from the American School of Rio de Janeiro, and went on to attend Colgate University, where he earned his BA in Psychology. Upon moving to the United States, Bruce concentrated on his writing, producing columns and even a children’s book, “The Day Dad Ran out of Kisses”, in 2008. Samples of his work can be found on this web page.—http://brucehealey.com/about.html
Out of the Sporran:
Swanky Scotland Bars for Scotch or Cocktails

by Laurie Jo Miller Farr, Yahoo, Visit Britain

Up and down Scotland, the finest single-malt Scotch whisky distillers and ale brewers are found everywhere from big cities to villages and into the countryside. This means an abundance of excellent spots to try a new beverage. Here are six of Scotland’s hottest cocktail bars.

**Balmoral Bar**
1 Princes Street, Edinburgh
The classy Balmoral Bar is in the hotel of the same name. If you’re looking for five-star service in an equally upscale setting, this is the place. Despite its posh reputation, the bar is not stuffy. Expect classics with surprising twists, like a citrus cosmopolitan with blueberry juice. Sample the Cocktail Tasting Menu at £25 ($40). Perhaps your idea of a hot bar is champagne or a single-malt whisky served up and accompanied by harp music from the balcony? Try Bollinger’s Bar in the hotel’s Palm Court.

**Dragonfly Cocktail Bar**
52 West Port, Edinburgh
The Dragonfly’s mixologists have a definite following, possibly because they’re right in the heart of Edinburgh’s Old Town district. Or could it be their unique creations? Here you may find a kumquat floating in your vodka, or maraschino and more with your 12-year-old Glenfiddich single-malt Scotch whisky. You can just imagine what’s in the “Guinness Daquiri,” which they claim takes exactly 119.5 seconds to make. If these concoctions sound odd to you, just stick to updated classics such as the Watermelon Martini, one of the staff picks. Cocktails range from £3.70 ($5.85) to £7.95 ($12.50), and the Dragonfly bartenders are mixing for the crowd every evening until 1 a.m.

**The Corinthian Club**
191 Ingram Street, Glasgow
The Corinthian Club is a “setting of the highest European standard,” in the words of The Herald Magazine. Housed in a stately 170-year-old former bank building, are more palatial than practical. I know people who say they could charge admission just to come and look at this place after a £5.7 million renovation in 2010. Choose from the cocktail menu featuring a “Perfect 10 Martini” at £6.75 ($10.70) or “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” at £6.25 ($9.90). If you’re in the mood to show off your moves, the dance club is downstairs. Celebrity spotting, anyone?

**Rogano**
11 Exchange Place, Glasgow
Imagine being aboard the Queen Mary but without the motion sickness. After all, the famous Cunard ocean liner was built here in 1935 at the This landmark is the oldest continually operating restaurant in Scotland; think Duke and Duchess of Windsor mixed with “Mad Men,” all set in bustling Glasgow.

**The Bar at Gleneagles**
Auchterader, Perth
Gleneagles is a world-famous five-star hotel, spa and golf resort considered one of the best in Scotland. This country-house resort is in Perthshire. Here is the place for sampling the best and widest array of single-malt Scotch whiskies in the perfect setting. Condé Nast Traveler’s “Best Whisky Bars” list notes that this bar serves 120 malts. Gentlemen, grab your finest dress kilt. If you don’t fancy a whisky, there’s vintage champagne, excellent wines and the very best ales and stouts on draught into the wee hours. The Blue Bar is a cozy showcase for Johnnie Walker Blue Label, with heated leather sofas around the fire pit. The Dormy Clubhouse Bar & Grill has a tandoor open-fire oven and views over the 18th holes of the King’s and Queen’s golf courses.

**Soul Bar**
333 Union Street, Aberdeen
Soul Bar is housed in a former church resplendent with stained glass windows and vaulted ceilings. This hotspot’s garden has heat lamps, an absolute essential to keep Aberdonians happy and warm. The bartenders run a mixology school which includes a “Bloody Mary Red Snapper”; the twist is a balsamic glaze. The “Garden Martini” uses only Scottish ingredients. Cocktails from £6.50 ($11), non-alcoholic drinks from £3.50 ($5.50).

For anyone wanting a night on the town in the UK, DrinkAware.co.uk is a handy guide to facts about drink units and measures for informed, responsible handling of alcohol. Fortunately, taxis and public transportation are widespread in Scottish cities.


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**Ethnic Day...**

**DUNCAN THE SCOT AT CITY HALL**

Trustee Duncan Moir

Ethnic day went great, I had just the right amount of food, it all went except one quarter egg and two morsels of shortbread. One person asked for Haggis and one for Jesse (“Why isn’t Jesse here he should be!” said Vera).

Dan, thanks so much for the scotch eggs everyone thought they were great. A couple of people asked what kind of meat was in them, and I just said whatever kind of meat you like that’s what’s in them. Robert, thanks for all the paraphernalia, several people took the swords out and brandished them in the air. Returned everything to lenore on my way home.
If you go into Target... “maybe you’ll see our granddaughter London in the girls’ section. She’s the girl in the middle, wearing sunglasses”, according to proud grandmother Gwlenys Reid. Evidently, London is becoming more successful as a model. Congratulations are in order for London and The Reid Clan! She will not be breaking any cameras... but maybe a few of the laddies hearts.

The Caledonian Society of Cincinnati Outreach Project at the Shriners Burn Center 2013

A few years ago Rex set up a day during Easter for the Society to go to the Shriners Burn Center and provide some Easter Baskets and entertainment for the children that were there getting medical attention. We all went dressed in our kilts, along with some bagpiping and Highland dancers. We gave them a little taste of Scotland, and a huge distraction from their current situation. Also, just for fun we had a Magician (and I use that term lightly) which was very entertaining and provided a laugh or two (not always at the intended moment) but the most important part of the event was the fact that these kids, who by no fault of their own had wound up in a very painful and lonely place, were getting some high spirited entertainment. I’ve played many events in my time and none have been as rewarding as this one. As a side note, I have a neighbor that volunteers at the center and she said the kids talked about it for months afterward.

This event is one that cuts to the core roots of the society and helping others, they may not have all been Scottish, but for a bit they felt it. Last year with the harsh flu season we had, we were unable to put the event on, but just delivered baskets. This is something I hope the Society continues and grow.

If anyone is interested in donating time or money, anything would be greatly appreciated. We get a head count and purchase baskets and gifts; spend an evening putting the baskets together then all meet and the burn center to provide the entertainment.* This year we have scheduled the event for March 23.

by Robert C. W. Reid, Vice President, *Please contact Rex to volunteer or with questions at RAwolfgan@aol.com.

Cincinnati Caledonian Pipes and Drums Annual Tartan Day Ceilidh 2013

Admission $10 12 and under FREE

Featuring: Marys Lane Special Guest: Richard Hensold

Saturday, April 13th 6-10 pm