

Annual General Membership Meeting This issue has reservations for AGM.

Cash Crisis forces Closings

: 07 March 2009 By **Jenny Haworth**

UP TO 11 properties run by the National Trust for Scotland will close their doors to the public in the latest cost-cutting measures announced by the cash-strapped charity.

The Hill of Tarvit Mansion House, Kellie Castle and Inveresk Garden, could all close, NTS said yesterday. Others that will be affected are Leith Hall, Hutchesons' Hall, Haddo House, Barry Mill, Hugh Miller's Cottage, Arduaine, the David Livingstone House and Ben Lawers Mountain Visitor Centre. Kate Mavor, chief executive of the National Trust for Scotland, said in a statement that they were making "some difficult decisions" about properties that were making a loss "as part of our overall cost-saving programme".

She added: "Our members and supporters can rest assured that we will only propose closure, or in the case of the David Livingstone Centre, relinquish management of a property, if it is absolutely necessary. "However, the trust is firm in its belief that doing nothing about the affects of the economic downturn is simply not an option." NTS, Scotland's biggest conservation organisation, has a three-year plan to try to improve its financial position by £3 million.

Mary Queen of Scots Letters

17 January 2009 By **BRIAN FERGUSON**

[From the Daily Scotsman]

DEEP in an archive, more than two dozen letters written by Mary, Queen of Scots, lie largely unseen for centuries. Many are written in a secret code as Mary fought to preserve and protect the Catholic faith in Scotland after the 1560 Reformation which saw the country break with Rome. But soon the letters, which in recent years have only been seen by a select group of historians, will be available to view on-line. Visitors to the Scottish Catholic Archives website will be able to examine the letters, which also contain details of Mary's power struggle with her Protestant cousin, Queen Elizabeth, who was on the throne in England. The struggle eventually led to Mary's execution in 1587.

The letters, written in French and often penned by her staff but signed by Mary, also express her concerns over the growing political turmoil in Scotland in the wake of the Reformation, which led to the celebration of Mass being declared illegal.

The letters are part of a treasure trove of 250,000 items on the origins and history of the Catholic Church in Scotland. Andrew Nicoll, keeper of the huge collection of the Scottish

Catholic Archives, has spent the past six years transferring handwritten records from 180 binders into a vast electronic library which should be ready by mid-summer.

The archive, based in Edinburgh since 1958, contains the largest body of material relating to the Catholic Church anywhere in the UK and one of the most comprehensive outside the Vatican.

Viewers will be able to browse through records of everything from the historic archives of individual churches around Scotland to collections devoted to landmark occasions such as Pope John Paul II's visit in the early 1980s.

Our National Poets: John Barbour

Every nation of the Old World has heroic poetry regarding its origins. Scotland has two such: Blind Harry's "Wallace" and John Barbour's "Bruce." Blind Harry is known mainly from his poem. John Barbour, however, was a well known person, Archdeacon of Aberdeen from 1357 to 1396. Some scholars have asserted that Barbour wrote at request of King David, Robert's son. But it is more likely that Robert II made the request, for Robert II granted to John Barbour a pension for life as reward.

Not as lively or engaging a stylist as Blind Harry, Barbour nevertheless created a work whose popularity from the 14th down through the 19th centuries defined Scottishness. Barbour's version of Bruce's life, while not glossing over his faults, rather simplifies the complicated shifting loyalties of the Scots before finally they united under Robert to defy King Edward of England, who was grimly determined to rule Scotland as well as England.

Scots Names: Budge

A name found in the Western Isles, including Orkney, Caithness, & Skye. The Sennachie of Skye, Hugh MacDonald states that when Angus Og of Islay (who assisted the Bruce on numerous occasions) married Margaret O'Cathlan of Ulster, she brought enough retainers in her dowry to man one large galley. Angus, having lost many ships harrassing the English, was grateful and treated them well. They were referred to as the Chattanaich; descendants of several brothers formed a clan Butike, in English Budge. One family centered on South Ronaldsay supplied many crew to the Hudson's Bay Company. Other families settled on Skye at Dunvegan and Lyndale. The connection of the most famous bearer of the name, Egyptologist E.A. Wallace Budge, is not known.

Web Site. GML Editor Bruce Shields (802) 888-5165 or <bshields@pwshift.com>

St. Andrews Society of VT website
<www.standrewssocietyofvermont.org>

**Notice of the 2009 Eighteenth Annual Meeting
of the
St. Andrew's Society of Vermont Scholarship Foundation, Inc.**

Friday April 24, 2009 Hilltop Restaurant, Barre, VT 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. President's Report (Printed)
2. Treasurer's Report (Printed)
3. Discussion of VSAC proposal
4. Election of Officers
 - a. President [is Richard N. Downer]
 - b. Vice-President [open]
- c. Treasurer [is Bruce Shields]
[+Fredrick Noble, George Silver, Colin Tindall; & Duncan Macaulay ex off]
7. Old Business
8. New business

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

President's Report 2008-09

The Foundation has been without leadership for nearly three years. The President was elected in absentia. The Post Office box was discontinued. The connection to VSAC was lost. The availability of Scholarships was never advertised. At least one student complained that his completed application was lost. No scholarship or cultural grants were awarded in 2008. Only the Treasurer continued to faithfully serve, never neglecting his duties to the Foundation and the Internal Revenue Service.

The good news is that this year the Foundation sent out scholarship applications to all Vermont high school principals and we have received 19 applications for the three \$500 scholarships to be awarded this spring. An awards committee is meeting April 2 and we will announce the winners at the Annual Meeting.

We have continued our conservative growth policy by investing in Vanguard Star Portfolio. Although our principal has shrunk, we are not in the terrible straits that other philanthropies find themselves. An exact break-down can be found in the Treasurer's Report.

Not having been able to find members willing to take an active role in leading and managing the Foundation, I propose the following:

“That the St. Andrew's Society of Vermont Scholarship Foundation, Inc. delegate responsibility for advertising, reviewing and awarding of its academic scholarships to the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC).”

This change would free the Foundation of its greatest time and manpower burdens. VSAC would do all the work of publishing the notices, collecting the applications and choosing the awardees. Currently, the Foundation does not collect family income information and therefore its awards do not strictly follow financial need.

VSAC does not collect any fees for this service, but does ask that the minimum award be \$1,000. The Foundation still would be able to set the award criteria. Following a phone call to VSAC, Mary Weltz and I corresponded by email as follows.

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard N. Downer [<mailto:richard.downer@verizon.net>]

Sent: Monday, January 05, 2009 6:20 PM

To: Mary Welz
Subject: St. Andrew's Scholarships
Mary Welz:

Thank you for returning my call. I like the concept of having VSAC administer the selection process as it would take a heavy load off our volunteers. I think we could reduce the number of applicants by tighten up the eligibility requirements and at the same time please many of our members. I am sure we can meet the June 1 deadline for a revised application.

I have attached the Applications and Handbill that were sent out this year, one of which relates to our Cultural Grants. I expect we will continue to administer the Cultural Grants as they are directly related to our mission to further an appreciation of Scottish culture.

Also attached is a copy of our Bylaws. As I mentioned, some members of the Society feel the scholarship eligibility requirements are too broad and should be narrowed to better further our Scottish heritage. Not fully understanding the 503(c) requirements, we may have erred on the side of being too encompassing. Maybe you can advise us.

I have been deployed by FEMA to Texas until February 14. Please respond by email.

Thank you, Richard

-----Mary Welz wrote:-----

Hi Richard:

I hope you are doing well down there in Texas. It's a place that I always wanted to visit (although I have no idea why). I'm from Idaho originally and I guess it's that expanse of land that appeals. That and the cowboys J.

I read over the materials you sent me and have been giving this scholarship a lot of consideration. I was particularly intrigued with the 2.2 section of your bylaws which reads:

The purpose of said corporation is to offer scholarships and collect funds for scholarships for students who are residents of Vermont for education or technical training beyond the secondary level or to further the studies of Celtic music, art and culture to preserve that heritage for future generations.

What interested me is that your flyer suggests that your scholarships are open to anyone enrolled in an associate or bachelor degree program...and your cultural grants are awarded to residents of society and their families for studying of Scottish history, language, arts, etc.

Is there a reason that you haven't designated the scholarships in your flyer with what appears in your bylaws? Did you ever try this? 'Cause I think we could do take on that language and open up the scholarship to students interested in Celtic studies, including Celtic music, art, literature, culture, Celtic history, etc. It's possible that the pool would be narrow...but then again, it might be broader than we think since it is open to the whole state – including current students and graduating high school seniors. We could try it for a year or two??

What say you?

Mary L. Welz
Director of Development Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
P.O. Box 2000 Winooski, VT 05404-2601 ph: 802/654-3753 (direct) ph: 800-660-3561 x 753 (toll-free)
welz@vsac.org

Reply-----

January 11, 2009

Mary:

Currently, we offer the (3) academic scholarships which can be used for any subject area.

We also offer \$1,000 annually for Cultural Grants. These monies are usually for Highland Dance lessons, learning how to judge Highland Dance competitions, learning to play the bagpipe, learning Gaelic, support of Scottish cultural events. We usually try to help many students with grants of \$50-\$100. We have occasionally give one large grant to a band or to support an event.

Frankly, we did not think we could be as restrictive as you suggest. The pool of Vermont residents interested in pursuing college level Scottish related studies is probably very small (10 or less). I recall only one student that wanted to study in Scotland. He planned on taking Scottish History as a Liberal Arts requirement for a degree in another field, which I do not recall.

Some of our members are from out of state or have grandchildren who live out of state. By including members' relatives we felt we were increasing the pool and rewarding our members for their fund raising efforts.

Many UVM students study abroad in Scotland because English is spoken there. Some UVM students qualify to vote in Burlington. Does that make them Vermont residents and thus eligible for our scholarships? UVM's criteria for in-state tuition are much more stringent.

I am personally intrigued by your idea. I will have to run it by the Board. Can you send a suggested wording for a future flyer?

Richard

While only the five Members of the Foundation can vote on this suggestion, I implore the good council of the Members of the Society, as it is through their efforts that the Foundation has funds to give out.

Finally, having served the Foundation as its President since its inception in 1990, I thought I had been relieved of my duties when Donald Murray took over. This was not the case. When I did not attend an Annual Meeting, I found myself re-elected President of the Foundation. I ignored the duties for a year hoping someone would step forward. But, having invested too much time and effort into the Foundation over the years, I relented because I could not bear to see it lose its tax exempt status. The St. Andrew's Society of Vermont Scholarship Foundation, Inc. is a Tax Deductible, Tax Exempt 501(c) (3) Corporation.

I believe it is now *really* time for me to step aside and allow others to lead this organization. The above suggestion is my escape route. If adopted, a new president will not have to contend with nearly as many tasks. The Foundation Board would still be responsible for administering the Cultural Grants.

Respectfully,

Richard N. Downer, President

Foundation Treasurer's Report (as of 2/28/2009)

Assets

Cash and Bank Accounts

Chitten Check	1,647.57
Chitten Savings	5,350.90

Total Cash and Bank Accounts	6,998.47
------------------------------	----------

Investment

Vanguard	51,135.53
----------	-----------

Total Investments	51,135.53
-------------------	-----------

Total Assets	58,134.00
--------------	-----------

Liabilities	0.00
-------------	------

Because events like Quechee are not doing well in recent years, and since Quechee is our primary source of new funds, we may in the future need to develop other fund raising ideas. We need much broader promotion and participation in Quechee to make our premier event a success.



Reservation Form
St. Andrew's Society of Vermont
Annual Meeting

New Members Welcome

Hilltop Restaurant
Quarry Hill, Barre VT
Friday, April 24th, 2009
Social time: 5:30pm
Buffet Dinner at 6:00pm
Meeting following dinner
\$19.00 per person

Please send reservation form with check payable to
St. Andrew's Society of Vermont by April 21st to
Duncan Macaulay
172 Oustinoff Rd
Cambridge, VT 05444

For information contact Duncan at 802-849-6996, e-mail hylandr3@juno.com

Annual Meeting Reservation

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Number attending: _____ Total enclosed \$ _____
E-mail address: _____

Your St. Andrew's Society asks for your advice

Please take a few minutes and help guide your board of managers and the society as a whole. Keeping in mind part of the Society's objective is to help perpetuate Scottish culture in Vermont,

- What can we as a society do to further that goal?

- What kind of event or seminar would you like added to the calendar?

- Might you help set it up?

- Burns Night: - What do you think needs to be added?
 - What do you think needs changing?
 - Why do you think fewer people attended these last 2 or 3 years?

- Tartan Ball: What do you think needs to be added?
 - What do you think needs changing?
 - Why do you think fewer people attended these last 2 or 3 years?

- Kirkin o the Tartan: Do you attend? What do you think should be changed?

- Quechee Scottish Festival: - What should be altered to give a better experience?
 - What should not be altered no matter what?
 - Are you aware of the Ceilidh Friday night?

- Are you receiving your copy of the *Green Mountain Lion*?

Please return this questionnaire with your Annual Meeting registration form or mail it to Duncan if unable to attend the meeting. You may also e-mail me at hylandr3@juno.com with comments and suggestions.

Duncan Macaulay
172 Oustinoff Rd
Cambridge, VT 05444

Robbie Burns and Stream bank restoration. Many of our readers are engaged with conservation organizations such as Resource Conservation Districts in efforts to restore trees and bushes to the banks of streams in order to enhance fish habitat. It may be interesting therefore to see Burns's opinion on the same subject in a poem of about 1787. The Bruar Water falls into the Garry, which feeds into Loch Tay. Burns's prescription nearly matches recommendations of the Vermont Streambanks Initiative.

**Humble petition of Bruar Water
to the Noble Duke of Atholl.**

My Lord, I know your noble ear
Woe ne'er assails in vain;
Embolden'd thus, I beg you'll hear
Your humble slave complain,
How saucy Phoebus' scorching beams
In flaming summer-pride,
Dry-withering, waste my foamy streams
And drink my crystal tide.

The lightly-jumping glowrin' trouts,
That thro' my waters play,
If, in their random wanton spouts,
They near the margin stray;
If, hapless chance! they linger lang,
I'm scorching up so shallow,
They're left the whitening stanes amang,
In gasping death to wallow.

...

Here, foaming down the shelvy rocks,
In twisting strength I rin;
There high my boiling torrent smokes,
Wild-roaring o'er a linn:
Enjoying large each spring and well
As Nature gave them me,
I am, altho' I say't mysel,
Worth gaun a mile to see.

Would then my noble master please
To grant my highest wishes,

He'll shade my banks wi' towering trees,
And bonnie spreading bushes,
Delighted doubly then, my Lord,
You'll wander on my banks,
And listen mony a grateful bird
Return you tuneful thanks.

...

This, too, a covert shall ensure,
To shield them from the storm;
And coward maukin sleep secure.

Low in her grassy form:
Here shall the shepherd make his seat,
To weave his crown of flow'rs'
Or find a sheltering safe retreat
From prone-descending show'rs.

...

Let lofty firs, and ashes cool,
My lowly banks o'erspread,
And view, deep-bending in the pool,
Their shadows' wat'ry bed!
Let fragrant birks in woodbines drest
My craggy cliffs adorn;
And, for the little songster's nest,
The close embow'ring thorn.

...So may thro' Albion's farthest ken,
To social-flowing flasses
The grace be--"Athole's honest men,
And Athole's bonnie lasses!

Craigie Castle

Part of the interest of a heritage visitor to Scotland is the tremendous wealth of ancient structures. These were all occupied and used by our ancestors in a time from which very little written history survives. When visiting on a farm where an ever so great grandfather may have darged, the farmer showed me a beautifully polished stone axe. "Our old ones were no sluggards," he said.

Craigie Castle occupies a prominent knowe south of Kilmarnock. The main hall is probably 15th Century, but may cover defensive structures at least 2000 years old. The remnants of the hall display unusual magnificance of structure and decoration, and probably was first built when associates of William of Normandy took charge of the ancient Kingdom of Strathclyde. Walter Hose held the fief of Craigie from Walter fitz Alan in 1155. It was later held by Lindsays, then (upon coronation of Robert II [Bruce] who was a Stewart descendent of fitz Alan) to John Wallace of Riccarton. Wallaces abandoned the site until the 17th Century when they moved their seat to Newton-on-Ayr.

2008 Officers and Board Of St Andrews Society:

President - Duncan Macaulay 802 849 6996
Vice Pres - John Dennis 802-233-4934
Secretary - Peggy Moon 802 223 5748
Treasurer - Cedric H. Farrow 802-985-3832
Historian - Bruce Shields 802-888-5165
Chaplain - Dr. Dwight A. White 802-584-3520
Newsletter Editor - Bruce Shields 802-888-5165
Dancers - Lauren Starkey 802-878-7767
Archivist - T. Stephen Turnbull 802-485-8378
Webmaster - David Campbell 802-878-8663
<<campbell@together.net>>

Directors

Dale Stafford Kate Davie
Keefe Healy Ann Lanzet
Lucille Aja Russ Slora
Arthur McNeill Richard Blake
Frederick Noble Stephen Looke
Colin Tindall Richard Downer, Found.
Storekeepers: Al & Jackie Walker

Peggy Moon's Address: 544 East Rd.
(Berlin) Barre, VT 05641-5369

Correct your address promptly to

<<pmoon123@pshift.com>>

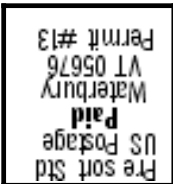
SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

-
- April 6, 2009 Tartan Day
- April 24th- Annual Meeting
- June 20th Scots Day at Ticonderoga
- July 19, 2009 Kirkin' o'the Tartan
- August 22, Quechee

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

In This Issue:

- P. 1 - Notes & News
- P. 2-4 - Foundation Report
- P. 5-6 - Annual meeting Reserve
- P. 7 - Burns & streambanks.
- P. 8 Masthead



Duncan Macaulay President
St Andrews Society of Vermont
172 Orinoff Road
Cambridge VT 05444