



The Saltyre

October 2021

Message From The President

Hello,

It looks like we're sliding into autumn. The days are getting shorter, nights are cooling off, and soon it will be Halloween. By then we should finally be into Apple Hill weather. Let me know if there's any interest in group trip to Apple Hill. If so I'll contact them and ask if they mind a little bagpiping and men in kilts. Right now I have every Saturday off that month and I think the 13th and the 20th are good options. Please send me some feedback on this.

The Investiture is only about six (6) weeks away. We have two members to install. Their installation as new members has been delayed by COVID. Let's have a big turnout to welcome them to the club. Please register as soon as you can. Doug Walters needs to notify the Hilton of our attendance by November 20th.

I'd like to leap ahead to the Burns supper and get some feedback from the membership. I am thinking of simplifying this coming Burns supper by not having an auction. As it's late in the year and I am still trying to find people to deliver the various speeches and provide entertainment, it would simplify the event for everyone if we skip the auction. Please let me know your thoughts on this.

Don't forget the Society when you're shopping online. You can do this by signing up at **smile.amazon.com**. Pick Sacramento St Andrews Society as your charity of choice. One half of one percent of your purchase will be donated to the Society.

Here's to better days, all the best,

Bruce Locken





Samhain

Samhain is a pagan religious festival originating from an ancient Celtic spiritual tradition. In modern times, Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "SAH-win") is usually celebrated from October 31 to November 1 to welcome in the harvest and usher in "the dark half of the year." Celebrants believe that the barriers between the physical world and the spirit world break down during Samhain, allowing more interaction between humans and denizens of the Otherworld.



Ancient Celts marked Samhain as the most significant of the four quarterly fire festivals, taking place at the midpoint between the fall equinox and the winter solstice. During this time of year, hearth fires in family homes were left to burn out while the harvest was gathered.

After the harvest work was complete, celebrants joined with Druid priests to light a community fire using a wheel that would cause friction and spark flames. The wheel was considered a representation of the sun and used along with prayers. Cattle were sacrificed, and participants took a flame from the communal bonfire back to their home to relight the hearth.

Because the Celts believed that the barrier between worlds was breachable during Samhain, they prepared offerings that were left outside villages and fields for fairies, or Sidhs.

It was expected that ancestors might cross over during this time as well, and Celts would dress as animals and monsters so that fairies were not tempted to kidnap them.



Some specific monsters were associated with the mythology surrounding Samhain, including a shape-shifting creature called a Pukah that receives harvest offerings from the field. The Lady Gwyn is a headless woman dressed in white who chases night wanderers and was accompanied by a black pig.

The Dullahan sometimes appeared as impish creatures, sometimes headless men on horses who carried their heads. Riding flame-eyed horses, their appearance was a death omen to anyone who encountered them.

A group of hunters known as the Faery Host might also haunt Samhain and kidnap people. Similar are the Sluagh, who would come from the west to enter houses and steal souls.

One of the most popular Samhain stories told during the festival was of "The Second Battle of Mag Tuired," which portrays the final conflict between the Celtic pantheon known as the Tuatha de Danann and evil oppressors known as the Fomor. The myths state that the battle unfolded over the period of Samhain.



One of the most famous Samhain-related stories is "The Adventures of Nera," in which the hero Nera encounters a corpse and fairies and enter into the Otherworld.

Samhain figured into the adventures of mythological Celtic hero Fionn mac Cumhaill when he faced the fire-breathing underworld dweller Aillen, who would burn down the Hall of Tara every Samhain.

Samhain also figures into another Fionn mac Cumhaill legend, where the hero is sent to the Land Beneath the Wave. As well as taking place on Samhain, it features descriptions of the hero's holiday gatherings.

As the Middle Ages progressed, so did the celebrations of the fire festivals. Bonfires known as Samghnagans, which were more personal Samhain fires nearer the farms, became a tradition, purportedly to protect families from fairies and witches.

Carved turnips called jack-o-lanterns began to appear, attached by strings to sticks and embedded with coal. Later Irish tradition switched to pumpkins. In Wales, men tossed burning wood at each other in violent games and set off fireworks. In Northern England, men paraded with noisemakers.



The tradition of “dumb supper” began during this time, in which food was consumed by celebrants but only after inviting ancestors to join in, giving the families a chance to interact with the spirits until they left following dinner. Children would play games to entertain the dead, while adults would update the dead on the past year’s news. That night, doors and windows might be left open for the dead to come in and eat cakes that had been left for them.

Neither new holiday did away with the pagan aspects of the celebration. October 31 became known as All Hallows Eve, or Halloween, and contained much of the traditional pagan practices before being adopted in 19th-century America through Irish immigrants bringing their traditions across the ocean.

Trick-or-treating is said to have been derived from ancient Irish and Scottish practices in the nights leading up to Samhain. In Ireland, mumming was the practice of putting on costumes, going door to door and singing songs to the dead. Cakes were given as payment.



Halloween pranks also have a tradition in Samhain, though in the ancient celebration, tricks were typically blamed on fairies.

As Christianity gained a foothold in pagan communities, church leaders attempted to reframe Samhain as a Christian celebration.

The first attempt was by Pope Boniface in the 5th century. He moved the celebration to May 13 and specified it as a day celebrating saints and martyrs. The fire festivals of October and November, however, did not end with this decree. In the 9th century, Pope Gregory moved the celebration back to the time of the fire festivals, but declared it All Saints’ Day, on November 1. All Souls’ Day would follow on November 2.

Courtesy of History.com



October in Scottish History

October 1st

- On this day in 1763 the contract to build Edinburgh's North Bridge was signed.

October 2nd

- Today in 1854 the pioneer of modern urban sociology, Patrick Geddes, was born in Ballater. Along with Adam Ferguson, Geddes founded modern sociology and urban planning.
- On this day in 1947 the paddle steamer Waverley was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. The Waverley is the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world.

October 3rd

- On this day in 1357, the Treaty of Berwick was signed, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. The son and heir of Robert the Bruce, David's reign was plagued by misfortune.

October 4th

- Today in 1821 saw the death of John Rennie, the famous engineer who constructed the Crinan Canal. Apart from Crinan Canal, he was responsible for designing a host of great civil works, from London Bridge to Leith Docks.

October 7th

- On this day in 1796 Thomas Reid, Scottish philosopher, died. An important Enlightenment figure, Reid founded the Scottish school of "commonsense philosophy", a reaction against the sceptical empiricism of David Hume.

October 8th

- Today in 1515 saw the birth of Margaret Douglas, countess of Lennox. Granddaughter of King Henry VII of England, niece of Henry VIII, and cousin of Queen Elizabeth I, Margaret was a leading Roman Catholic and an inveterate intriguer during the reign of Elizabeth.

October 10th

- On this day in 1802 writer and geologist Hugh Miller was born on the Black Isle. His work on fossils found in Devonian strata gave the era its other name of the "age of fishes".
- October 11th
Today in 1297 was the date of the letter from William Wallace to the mayor of Lubeck. One of the few relics remaining of Scotland's great hero, the letter followed victory over the English at the battle of Stirling Bridge, and invited German merchants to begin trading directly with Scotland



October 14th

- Today in 1788 the first steamboat experiment was held on Dalswinton Loch. Robert Burns was farming at Ellisland, just outside Dumfries, when he was invited by his landlord, Patrick Miller, to go out in a small experimental steamboat. The boat, which was fitted with an engine designed by William Symington, was the first paddle-propelled steamboat in the world, and Robert Burns was one of its first passengers.
- Today in 1285 Yolande, the youngest daughter of France's Robert IV, married Alexander III, King of Scots, in Jedburgh.

October 15th

- On this day in 1880 Dr Marie Stopes, founder of first modern birth control clinic, was born in Edinburgh. Stopes was originally a palaeontologist of some renown, but it was in the field of family planning that she became a somewhat controversial public figure.

October 16th

- Today in 1430 King James II was born. Another of Scotland's boy kings, he was crowned aged only 6, and, after a quite horrific childhood at the hands of various scheming nobles and regents, at the age of 19 James took control of the country.

October 17th

- On this day in 1995 the bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Though it remains controversial, there is no doubt that the graceful bridge from Kyle of Lochalsh to Skye is more convenient than the ferries it replaces. The resulting increase in traffic to the island has been beneficial to inhabitants, both by increasing the amount of money coming in and by allowing them easier access to the mainland.

October 18th

- Today in 1541 saw the death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I.

October 23rd

- On October 23 1295 the 'Auld Alliance' treaty was signed between John Balliol, King of Scots, and Philippe IV of France. Promising mutual military help against the English, the treaty was renewed by Robert The Bruce in 1326. It guaranteed response to English aggression against either party. Primarily it was a military and diplomatic alliance but for most of the population the treaty brought tangible benefits, through pay as mercenaries in France's armies and trade links bringing the finest French wines to Scotland.



October 25th

- On this day in 1960 Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick airport, his only visit to Scotland. He spent an hour at the airport on his way home to be demobbed from the army.

October 28th

- On this day in 1794 Robert Liston, the first surgeon to use general anaesthetic, was born in Linlithgow. In 1827, he became a Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Liston moved to University College London in 1835 as Professor of Clinical Surgery.

October 29th

- On this day in 1740 James Boswell, the biographer, diarist and travel writer was born in Edinburgh. James Boswell's name is rarely heard separately from that of Dr Samuel Johnson whose biography he wrote. The two writers travelled through the west of Scotland in a journey famously recorded by Boswell in his published journals "A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland" and "The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides".

October 30th

- On this day in 1959 Scottish aviator, Jim Mollison, died. Mollison held many individual records for distance, endurance, and speed flying, and jointly set several others with his wife, the aviatrix Amy Johnson. In 1932, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. In the same year, his wife broke his record for the fastest flight from London to Cape Town. With their dashing looks and daring exploits, they were the celebrity couple of their time.

October 31st

- Today in 1860 saw the death of Thomas Cochrane, Earl of Dundonald, Scottish sailor, MP, and eccentric. In his first 10 years in the navy, Cochrane led a series of successful missions against the French. As an MP, he was an enthusiastic reformer and thorn in the side of the Tory and naval establishments. When his uncle was found guilty of fraud, this was used as an excuse to imprison him and to expel him from both Parliament and the navy. After his release he left Britain and took command of the Chilean navy in their battle against the Spanish, in which he was successful. He then repeated this feat for the Brazilians. Eventually, changes in government allowed him to return home where he became an admiral. His daring exploits at sea earned him the nickname, 'Sea Wolf'. A plaque commemorates Cochrane in Anstruther, Fife.

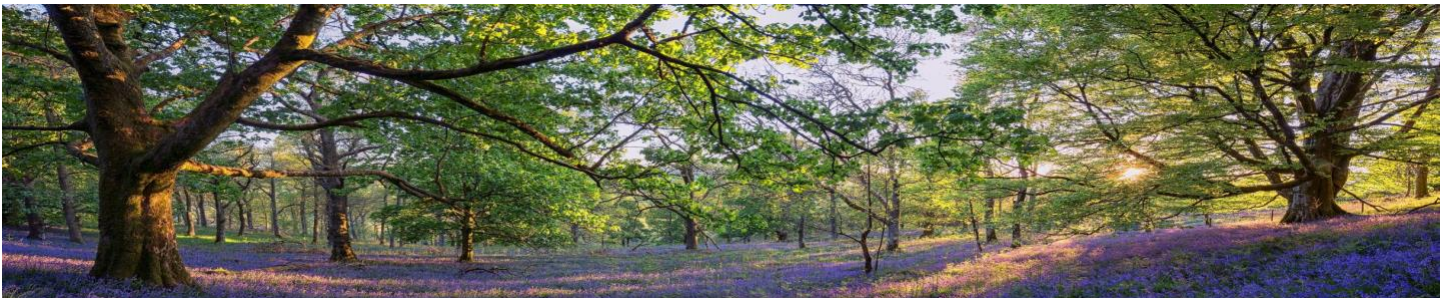


Flowers of the Forest

Herman Chambers	1930-2020	Felix D. Othon	1929-2007
Clyde Le Roy Scott	1938-2019	William Arnold Butler	1943-2006
Malcolm MacClenaghan.	1924-2019	George Santrizos	1914-2005
Alex Doig	1938-2019	Daniel Stephens	1911-2003
Gordon Scott	1946-2019	David F. McGeary	1940-2002
Alasdair Harding.	2018	Leroy Coulter Pierson	1913-1999
Walter (Skip) W. Hastings	1945-2018	Rev. J.P. Edwards III	1925-1997
Calvert Lawton Crawford	1933-2018	Watson Burns	1996
William Leroy Wilson	1929-2017	James McCracken	1920-1994
Gary D. Stevenson	1949-2017	Alexander W. McTavish	1906-1992
David Mercer	1935-2016	Rev. Howard Perry	1921-1989
Charles Preston Thomson	1940-2015	Wallace Gibson Holt	1919-1989
Donald Calavan-MacRae	1932-2013	James C. C. Wallace.	1926-1989
Edison Alva McFarland II –	1925-2012	Angus Murray	1984
Moton Bryant Holt	1929-2012	Robert Jeffreys	
James C "Jim" Richey	1931-2009	Alec Cowan	
George W. Burns	1925-2008	Tom Ross	
George Eric Martin	1921-2008	Bob MacDonald	
BG Harry McIvor Nicolson	1920-2008	Larry Cameron	
		Shakey Johnson	
		Frank M. Clark	
		Richard Russo	

The Society plants trees in Scotland on behalf of departed brothers of the Society. This is done as a remembrance and contributes to the replanting of the Great Caledonian Forest. Any time you wish you may donate via this link:

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/plant-trees/grove/5067/>



Charitable giving may help you minimize taxes while supporting the causes that are meaningful to you. Please consider making a donation to the Society when estate planning.



<u>Society Board</u>	<u>Calendar</u>	<u>Society Finances</u>
<p><u>President</u> <u>Bruce Locken</u></p> <p><u>Vice President</u> <u>Travis Chatters</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> <u>Thomas Melton</u></p> <p><u>Secretary</u> <u>Chuck Jamison</u></p> <p><u>Directors of the Board</u> <u>Chuck Meng</u> <u>Doug Walters</u> <u>Ed Moore</u> <u>James Morgan</u></p>	<p>*****</p> <p>Fall Ceilidh October 16, Noon to 4:00 8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks</p> <p>Investiture November 30 Arden Hilton West</p> <p>Christmas Party December 11 Chuck Meng's home Elk Grove</p> <p>Burns Supper Jan. 15, 2022 North Ridge Country Club</p> <p>Spring Tea TBD AGM TBD ½ Way To Burns Day TBD</p> <p>Board meetings are currently being held at the VFW post on Kruitoff Way, Fair Oaks. The Board meets between 5:30 & 6:00 for dinner, RSVP required 5 days in advance. Third Monday of the month</p>	<p>Not updated this issue</p> <p>Checking - Savings - Scholarship - Total -</p>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org>

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