



St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks



September 2019

Fall 2019 Calendar

Aug. 31st (Sat): Capital District Scottish Games in Altamont. There will be lots of activities, music, athletics, vendors. It is a fun, fun day. There are solo instrument and band competitions, dance competitions, heavy athletics like tossing the caber and hammer throws, children's games. The beer tent will have music all day and there are plenty of places to buy Scottish themed items and refreshments. Stop by the SASA tent to see the raffle items and buy a few tickets. The winning ticket for the raffle basket will be drawn around 4 pm on Saturday.

Oct. 20: Kirking of the Tartan at St. Eustace Episcopal Church in Lake Placid at the 10 am service. Tartan attire is encouraged but not required. Lunch is on your own at one of the many nearby restaurants or picnic in one of the parks or behind the Public Library on Main St. Contact Peter Fish at **518-576-4405** or **carolyfish@outlook.com**.

The Annual General Meeting of SASA will be at the same location at 2 pm. There will be reports from the Secretary and Treasurer, updates on membership and scholarships, voting to fill some vacant board positions, and discussion of the 2020 calendar. Ideas for activities for next year and comment on past events would be helpful in planning.

Nov. 24th: In honor of the feast day of St. Andrew, patron saint of Scotland, SASA will have a **luncheon at Harvey's** in Saratoga, 14 Phila St. near Congress Park. We have a private room and there is a free parking garage next to the restaurant. Lunch can be ordered off the menu and there will be toasts to St. Andrew and Scotland. For information and reservations contact Cliff Parker at **518-331-6439** or **sfcparker@yahoo.com**

Mission Statement:

The Perpetuation of
Scottish Heritage,
Traditions, Culture,
Education and
Genealogy.

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Gristmill Distillery

SASA member John Mackey works full time at the Gristmill Distillery in Keene. Justin Bidelspaugh and Ethan Serjak do tastings and farmers markets off and on. John recently led St. Andrew's members on a tour of the small operation tucked away on a hill on Gristmill Road with no sign. Basically the new barn has three floors of one room each. Distilling is done on the center floor with barrels of finished products aging in the cool lower floor. The top level is a tasting room, which is a beautiful gathering place.

The distillery makes corn whiskey, bourbon, American whiskey (made from rye), maple whiskey and apple brandy. It is an amazing and time-consuming process involving vats, gauges, lots of pipes, and barrels. The still is built from copper, which plays an important role in distilling spirits. A great deal of time is spent nursing the ingredients along to the final finished products. All ingredients are locally sourced from Adirondack Organic Grains in Essex, NY and apples from Rolfe Orchards in Peru, NY. Water comes straight from a spring within a few feet of the distillery's front door. Barrels are made by U.S. Barrels in Wilmington. At the end of the distilling process the spent grains, called corn sludge, are brought to Adirondack Beef in Lewis as feed for their livestock.

A video produced by the Adirondack North Country Association and Josh Clement Productions can be found on the web: "A Day in the Life of an Adirondack Distiller", Photos show Keith Van Sise and Steph Hadik, owners of the business, talking about how their products are produced from beginning to end, and the company's commitment to working with fellow farmers and producers.

More information can be found at www.gristmilldistillers.com. A video of the distilling process is found at www.northcountrypublicradio.org narrated by Jack LaDuke, another SASA member. The liquors are sold at Cedar Run in Keene and Terry Robards Wines and Spirits in Lake Placid and some farmer's markets, see www.gristmilldistributors.com.

Kelvin Walkway

Kelvin Walkway, also called the **Kelvin Walking Path**, is a point-to-point trail located near Glasgow. On the web these two titles bring up quite a number of entries. It will take you from the center of Glasgow to the start of the West Highland Way in Milngavie. As much as possible the walk follows the watercourses Allander, Kelvin, and Clyde. It was created to form a green link between the countryside to the many parks, museums, art galleries, and other places of historical and cultural interest. The path is described as moderate walking with signposts all along the way. The length is variously given as 18 kilometers, 19 kilometers, and 66 miles,

Guidebooks and maps are available at amazon.com. Two that look very useful are **West Highland Way**, and **Rough Guide to the Scottish Highlands and Islands**.

Scots In Space

During July 2019 the achievement of landing a spacecraft on the moon, U.S. Apollo 11, was celebrated around the world. On July 21st, 1969 Neil Armstrong climbed out of a fragile landing craft called The Eagle and became the first human to set foot on another celestial body. 20 minutes later fellow astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin also stepped onto the lunar surface. Together they deployed several pieces of scientific equipment, conducted some experiments, and planted a U.S. flag. They also gathered some moon rocks and moon dust samples which had to be declared on a Customs and Immigration form when they returned to earth.

The celebrations were viewed by million of television viewers, and the scientists at Cape Canaveral were jubilant. Although the joy was international, there was one small town in Scotland that was equally jubilant. A fairly unknown town called Langholm in what is now known as Dumfries and Galloway is the traditional seat and stronghold of Clan Armstrong. The residents claimed the long-lost descendant Neil Armstrong as one of their own.

At the time of the moon landing the town clerk was also an Armstrong by the name of Eddie. Buoyed by the excitement of the landing, Eddie wrote to Neil explaining the connection and issuing an invitation for Neil to become the town's first Freeman and Honorary Burgess.. Neil accepted. Almost three years later, while on a world tour, Neil Armstrong honored his promises to the people of Langholm and visited the land of his ancestors. He was presented with a scroll of the town mounted on a wooden carving of the original Armstrong stronghold, Gilrockie Tower.

In 2012 when Neil Armstrong passed away at age 82, a memorial service was held in the small Langholm parish church with representatives of British, Scottish, and American governments attending.

Other astronauts also had Scottish connections. Astronaut Alan Bean took two pieces of MacBean tartan on his Apollo 12 flight in November, 1969. He brought them back to earth and donated some of the material to the Clan MacBean and the St. Bean Chapel in the Trossachs. Canadian Chris Hadfield, commander of the International Space Station, traces his family roots back to the south of Scotland.

From The Scots Magazine



Wee Bits

Sheep Vs. Self-Driving Cars

Driverless vehicles are coming within a few years. Cars have already been tested in places. There are plans in place to have full-size buses driving a 14 mile route between Fife and Edinburgh as soon as 2021 according to Scottish officials. Transport Secretary Michael Matheson notes that the real test of driverless vehicles will take place further north in the rural areas of Scotland. Matheson says that wandering sheep, single-track roads, farm vehicles, old signs, potholes, and hikers pose much greater challenges than in city traffic.

The government is now working with technology providers on the next phase of development and testing.

From Scottish Life, Spring 2019

Electric Scooters

As electric scooters become more popular across Europe, cities are trying to regulate their use following many accidents and at least 11 deaths. The scooters travel at speeds of more than 30 mph. Regulators will decide whether the 2-wheeled vehicles with electric motors should be used on pavements, cycle paths, or roads.

Governments have been alerted to the need for regulation and better safety features. Laws in the UK and Ireland permit their use only on private land with the permission of the landowners. Riders using them in public places in the UK face a fine of £300 pounds and 6 points on their driving licence.

From BBC New, August 6, 2019

Colorful Scottish Words Added to the OED

The editors of the Oxford English Dictionary have added 40 new words to the new edition. Among the new entries are: "bampot" - a foolish, annoying or obnoxious person; "bauchle" - old shoe; "bealach" - narrow mountain pass; "eeksie-peeksie" - evenly balanced; "Weegie" - derogatory term for Glaswegian; "rooked" - penniless.

A senior editor said they had been inundated with Scottish terms since launching their Free the Word appeal in 2017 to uncover more regional words.

Youngest Woman to South Pole

Edinburgh resident Mollie Hughes has announced a bid to become the youngest woman ever to ski solo and unsupported to the South Pole. The 29-year-old mountaineer will begin her 702-mile journey in mid-November and hopes to finish by New Year's Day. She has already become the youngest person to successfully climb both the north and south sides of Mount Everest,

From Scottish Life Summer 2019