

The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers

Review by David Campbell

At the May 2014 meeting of the St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco we enjoyed the privilege of hosting the renowned—and well known to us: The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers. Society member Shauna Pickett-Gordon and two-time winner of the U.S. Open Scottish Fiddling champion Colyn Fischer led an ensemble of nine through a most delightful set of Strathspeys, Jigs, and Reels. The evening, however, would not have been complete without the expertly directed tuto-



19 May 2014: A few of the Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers take the members on a musical tour around the Scottish lands.

rial...dancing The Gay Gordons. We are better prepared & equipped, and will be lighter on our feet come this November when we hit the floor at the annual Banquet & Ball.

The players brought a full spectrum of traditional sound ...from the Highlands to the Borders ...from the Gaelic and island musicians of the west to the 18th-century fiddle masters of the northeast ...from the rocky Shetlands to faraway Cape Breton and eastern Canada where the Caledonian culture still holds sway.

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GUEST SPEAKER Donald E. Wilson

By David Campbell

It is with honor and great anticipation that I introduce this month's speaker: Donald E. Wilson. As mentioned in last month's newsletter and also by announcement—I had the good fortune at the recent Woodland Highland Games, of becoming acquainted with Mr. Wilson's book: *St. Andrew's American Revolution: The Story of Scotland and Her Sons & the Genius of American Government*. In the run-up to Scotland's Referendum on Independence in September, we look forward to a stirring presentation from Mr. Wilson—followed by a spirited discussion and opportunity for Q&A.



Mr. Wilson is a native Californian. He was conferred a Master's Degree in Government with a specialization in political theory from California State University Sacramento.

In his first work, *St. Andrew's American Revolution*, he explains the true ideas and nature of the Founders' Whig philosophy. Mr. Wilson is descended from several revolutionary families including the Scotch-Irish (not Scots-Irish) Norvell family of the Old Bruton Church in Colonial Williamsburg. His 5th Great Grandfather Norvell was one of General Washington's officers and served at Trenton, Monmouth, Brandywine, and Valley Forge before he was taken a Prisoner of War at the fall of Charleston. Mr. Wilson is a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian Whig like his ancestors.

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President's Letter – June 2014

Dear members and friends:

We're having another beautiful early summer and it's the start of the Scottish Highland Games season.

June will be our last meeting before our summer hiatus. Before we reconvene, the society will be at the Scottish Games once more in Pleasanton over Labor Day weekend. This is the premier Scottish event on the West Coast and we're proud to be a part of it once more. Details of our booth and location will be forthcoming nearer the time and posted on the website.

With our sister Scottish organizations in the Bay Area, we are helping plan a summer ceilidh scheduled for July 19th (this fun event was run for many years until 2011)—details to be finalized and announced on the website, but likely in Alameda at the Encinal Yacht Club.

Two other important pieces of news. Firstly, we are proud to announce three scholarships

awarded in May, thanks to the generosity of the St. Andrew's Foundation and the society. Full details are in a separate article in the newsletter.

Secondly, it's now just 100 days and counting till the Scottish independence referendum. We have an update on latest happenings across the ocean in a newsletter article and look forward to our Scottish Independence members' event at the September meeting—September 15th, 2014.

I look forward to seeing you at some or all of our busy program of events in the next three months!

Yours for Scotland,

David McCrossan
President

100 days and counting until Scotland's big decision

By David McCrossan

As the countdown passes the 100 day mark until Scotland's historic independence referendum on September 18th, here's a flavor of the current debate:

From the "Yes" campaign that supports independence:

Editor of the Glasgow's Sunday Herald, Richard Walker: "We've got the opportunity to reshape the country in a way that's more in line with Scotland's attitude to politics. It's not a two fingers to Westminster, it's not a case of 'we hate the English.' It's about taking responsibility to decide how to spend our money and how we go forward as a country. I don't think that's too much to ask for."

From the Better Together Campaign, which supports continuing the Union:

JK Rowling the Harry Potter author who donated \$1.5 million to the campaign: "By residence, marriage, and out of gratitude for what this country has given me, my allegiance is wholly to Scotland and it is in that spirit that I have been listening to the months of arguments and counter-arguments..."

"If we leave, there will be no going back. This separation will not be quick and clean: it will take microsurgery to disentangle three centuries of close interdependence, after which we will have to deal with three bitter neighbours."



In a measure of how seriously the international outcome of the vote is being taken, President Obama even made a rare foray into the domestic Scottish debate with a statement in support of the Union.

Standing alongside Prime Minister David Cameron in June, he said: "I would say that the United Kingdom has been an extraordinary partner to us. From the outside at least, it looks like things have worked pretty well," he said.

"And we obviously have a deep interest in making sure that one of the closest allies that we will ever have remains a strong, robust, united and effective partner. But ultimately these

are decisions that are to be made by the folks there."

First Minister Alex Salmond responded: "Obama hopes that the UK will be strong and united as an ally. Well, if Scotland becomes independent, America will have two allies in these islands, not one."

We reconvene at our September meeting just three days until the final vote. Come hear what both sides have to say at our September 15th meeting and have all your questions answered.

Whatever the outcome, the prediction from all sides is that Scotland—and its relationship with the UK—either within or outside—will be forever changed.

Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers

Their repertoire included other Celtic influences—Welsh and Irish, for example as well as tunes that crossed the Atlantic two hundred years ago and took root in the mountains and valleys of eastern America.

These players are trained and coached meticulously by the two-time winner of the U.S. national championship in Scottish fiddling (Colyn). Solos and small groups are encouraged, and excellence is the goal. Their authentic style and solid technique show a deep respect for hundreds of years of tradition as well as an ardent love of Scottish melody.

An excellent description of the history and scope of the fiddle and fiddle music can be found at the PSF website (www.thefiddlers.com). Accordingly, the word “fiddle” is derived from the old Scots “fedyl” or “fetthill”, a three-stringed bowed instrument popular in the 16th century, at the time of Mary, Queen of Scots. According to contemporary reports, the sound of the fedyl was not pleasant. A French historian, a member of Mary’s Court, described the sound as “vile” and “so wretchedly out of tune and concord that nothing could be worse.” By the end of the 17th century the violin as we know it today had supplanted the fedyl. Scottish fiddle makers enthusiastically and diligently started copying the designs of famous Italian models by violin makers such as Amati and Guarnerius of Cremona. Although the folk instrument is still called the fiddle, it is identical in all respects to the classical violin. Since that time, the violin has become, with the bagpipe, one of Scotland’s two national instruments. The earliest written records of Scottish fiddle music date back to about 1700 and many of the tunes written down by itinerant fiddlers and others, are still played. Among the most famous of the early published collections are those by Niel Gow, Nathaniel Gow, Robert Mackintosh, William Marshall and Captain Simon Fraser. These collections date from the period 1780 to 1820 and, again, many (if not most) of the tunes still appear in the repertoires of modern Scottish fiddlers. It is interesting to note that the aristocracy and landed gentry of Scotland contributed heavily to the cost of these publications. Scottish fiddle music was not looked down upon by the upper classes; it was afforded as much honor as that paid to music “imported” from Europe. Since these early days the Scots have continued to compose and perform fiddle music, often for dancing, sometimes to express sorrow, love, or wonder. The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), founded in

1923, has revitalized the popularity of country dancing and encouraged the composition of new dance music, much of which has augmented the fiddler’s repertoire of tunes. Fiddlers and non-fiddlers alike, wherever in the world they may be, should seek out the nearest RSCDS branch and participate as either dancers or players. Yes, there is even a branch in Japan!

The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers were founded by Colin Gordon (1934-2005), and co-founded by pianist Shauna Pickett-Gordon in Northern California in 1990. Shauna currently co-directs and

manages the Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers and writes and arranges music for them. She has accompanied many of the great fiddlers in North America, and is featured in the annual concerts of the Scottish Fiddlers of Los Angeles. She teaches piano, voice, and general music privately. She is the pianist half of the duo Peat-Fire Flame, performing a wide range of Celtic-based music both traditional and original with virtuoso fiddler Colyn Fischer.

Co-director and fiddler Colyn Fischer has twice won the U.S. Open Scottish Fiddling championship. He teaches music in middle school and Summer fiddle camp, violin and fiddle privately, and workshops in Scottish fiddling to students of all ages and levels. He also plays jazz, and composes music in various genres.

He is the violinist half of the duo Peat-Fire Flame.

For CDs, go to www.CDBaby.com or contact Shauna directly (shauna0829@hotmail.com).

Co-directed by master fiddler Colyn Fischer and pianist-arranger Shauna Pickett-Gordon, the Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers appear around the Bay area and beyond. They perform full-length concerts, they take part in festivals and fairs, and they furnish the entertainment for events such as receptions, parties, weddings, and Scottish society dinners.

At the crossroads of Celtic folk music and the high Scottish baroque, you have found the home of Scottish fiddle music in the Bay area! Please consider having them play for your special Celtic occasion!

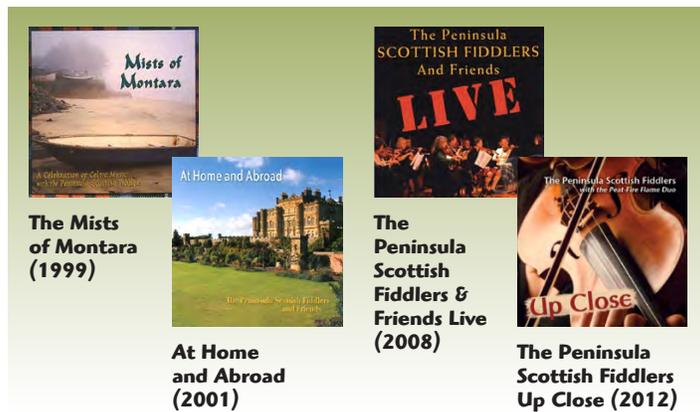
See the PSF website (www.thefiddlers.com) for additional content and information regarding PSF, and other links. Also, see www.thescotsduo.com for more information about Shauna & Colyn’s musical duo: Peat-Fire Flame.



Colyn Fischer



Shauna Pickett-Gordon



Summer Ceilidh

July 19, 2014 • 6:30–11:30 PM
Encinal Yacht Club, Alameda

The Bay Area Scottish Community is coming together to celebrate Summer. Enjoy Whisky Tasting, Dinner, Ceilidh Music and Dancing with the Crooked Road Ceili Band from Boulder Creek. An evening of food, friends and fun at the Encinal Yacht Club in Alameda. More details to come. Organized by PBFSCO, St. Andrew's Society of San Francisco, Caledonian Club of San Francisco, St. Andrew's Society of Oakland.



Calasaig

Scots music and poetry

We always try to keep members informed all new releases in Scottish music and tradition (without endorsing any commercial entity). Here's another artist to add to your collection.



2014 Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
Mon. Jan. 20	Inauguration of 2014 Office Bearers	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Feb. 17	Scottish Olympians (Olympian Brenda Villa)	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 17	Scottish Music & Culture St.. Patrick's Day (emphasis on Scots-Irish culture)	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 5	17th Annual Tartan Day Faire *PSF (Shauna Pickett-Gordon & Colyn Fischer)	Ardenwood, Fremont
Mon. April 21	Veteran's Administration (Fisher House)	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 26	John Muir Assn. / Earth Day celebration *PSF (Shauna Pickett-Gordon & Colyn Fischer)	Martinez
Mon. May 19	Scottish Music & Culture *Featuring: Shauna Pickett-Gordon & Colyn Fischer	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 16	St. Andrew's American Revolution: The Story of Scotland and Her Sons & the Genius of American Government Speaker: Donald E. Wilson	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. July 19	SF Bay Area Summer Ceilidh (PBFSCO/Caledonian Club SF/SASSF/SA Oakland)	Encinal Yacht Club
Mon. July 21	Summer break – no meeting	
Mon. August 18	Summer break – no meeting	
Sat. August 30	149th Highland Games & Gathering *PSF (Shauna Pickett-Gordon & Colyn Fischer)	Pleasanton
Sun. August 31	149th Highland Games & Gathering *PSF (Shauna Pickett-Gordon & Colyn Fischer)	Pleasanton
Mon. Sept. 15	Member's Dinner Scottish Referendum 2014: Independence?	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 20	Samhain: Traditional Celtic Festivals Speaker: Juliet Davoren (to be confirmed)	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 9	Remembrance Day Service	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 17	Scottish Music & Culture	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Nov. 29	151st Annual Banquet & Ball	Marine's Memorial
Mon. Dec. 15	No meeting due to Hogmanay potluck (see 12/31)	
Wed. Dec. 31	Hogmanay potluck *PSF (Jim & Christy Tillotson) to be confirmed	1088 Green St., SF



Until Then



Near & Far



Merchants' City



Making for the Shore

48 State Cycle World Record Attempt

48 State Cycle is an attempt by 4 boys from Scotland to break the World Record for cycling the Lower 48 States. The attempt began on May 19th. Euan Hunter (22) from Edinburgh is the cyclist, with a support team of 3 friends—Duane, Kenny and Iain.

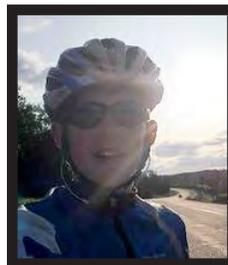
5 years ago (when he left school aged 17) Euan used his savings to cycle across Canada alone and unsupported to raise awareness and money for Mary's Meals (then a small relatively unknown charity).

The team are once again trying to raise funds for

Mary's Meals through a link to the charity on their website. They're trying to meet their target of funding 10 children per year for each state they complete.

Mary's Meals is a registered Scottish Charity which provides a daily meal for children who attend school in some of the worlds poorest developing countries. Amazingly they can feed a child for a year for around \$18.

Follow their progress at: www.48statecycle.com



Euan Hunter



Route completed as of June 8, 2014

From Front Cover

Donald E. Wilson

When not reading theory, Mr. Wilson enjoys football, baseball, coaching his kids, playing with his dogs, genealogy, and experimenting with growing new things in his garden. In keeping with the Whig spirit of civic republicanism, he serves on the board of the St. Andrew's Society of Sacramento, coaches little league, and serves in various local positions both appointed and elected.

Donald E. Wilson is a veteran of the United States Navy and a member of the American Legion.

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

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Membership Meetings

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, at 7:30 P.M. Light refreshments served after the meeting. (Free valet parking is provided for members' meetings. MUNI: one block east of Hyde St. cable car).

Officers of the Society

David McCrossan, President
Jaeme I. Koyil, First VP
David Campbell, Second VP
Ian Baird, Treasurer
Tom Kasinger, Secretary
Roger Weed, Librarian
Charles Syers DDS, Physician
Marilyn Van Story, Chaplain
Marjory Matic, Bard
Jack Cunningham, Piper
Thomas E. Kasinger, Historian

Trustees

Gene McCracken, Chairman
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Stewart Hume
James Robertson, AIA
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Board of Student Assistance

J. Robert Logan, Chairman
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Fiona Allan



**The Saint Andrew's Society
of San Francisco**
1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94133-3604

Recipient

SUMMER CEILIDH

FEATURING
CROOKED ROAD CEILI BAND

Encinal Yacht Club, 1251 Pacific Marina, Alameda



JULY 19, 2014

6:30 pm - Registration - No Host Bar
6:30 pm - Scotch Whisky Tasting
7:00 pm - Buffet Dinner
8:30 pm - Ceilidh Dancing



Ceilidh \$20.00 • Scotch Whisky Tasting \$10.00 • Dinner \$20.00
Buffet Dinner with choice fish/chips or bangers/mash, fruit and salads

Sorry, no outside alcohol allowed - please leave your flask behind

Advanced Reservations required by July 15, 2014

Please drink responsibly

A block of 10 rooms are reserved at Extended Stay America, 1350 Marina Village Parkway, Alameda at a discounted rate of \$125, including grab & go breakfast. To reserve, call 510-864-1333, specify 'Scottish Event'. The block of rooms are available through June 28th.

Name	Ceilidh only	x \$20	
	#		
Street	Whisky	x \$10	
	#		
City, State, Zip	Dinner & Ceilidh	x \$40	
	#		
e-mail / phone	Total		

Send your check payable to: David Campbell, 743 Oakland Ave, #6, Oakland CA 94611

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope to receive your tickets.

For more information, contact David at 415-225-9307 or daviddoncampbell@netscape.net