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July 2011

Serving the Celtic Communities of: Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall (England), Galicia (Spain), Brittany (France), Scotland and Ireland



Mark those calendars

Upcoming Events

- July 19th. Regular Member Meeting. BBC Video on Celtic History. "The Man With the Golden Shoes." Raben Real Estate. 02 Main St. Rapid City, SD. Use the side entrance.
- July 30th Celtic Street Festival. Downtown by the Celtic Connection on 6th Street.
- Aug. 2nd Board Meeting.
- Aug. 20th. SIS Picnic at the Burke's House.
- Sept. 6th. Board Meeting.
- Sept. 20th. Regular Membership Meeting. RC Society for Genealogical Research.



President Pat Hamilton

President's Message

President's Letter – July 2011 – Pat Hamilton

Memories & Emotions

June provided us with wonderful memories and mixed emotions. Saturday evening, June 25th, was our Annual, much anticipated, Midsummer's Eve celebration at Bill & Sally Knight's house. It was preceded by Helen

Magnusson's funeral earlier that day. She was a long-time member of the Scottish & Irish Society. Look for some remembrances and photos of her later in this newsletter

Celtic Street Festival – Saturday, July 30th – DOWNTOWN Rapid City – Volunteers needed

This is the 1st time this event has been tried, and the Gathering of the Clans hopes to make it an annual affair. The Gathering of the Clans group is an organization established a few years ago for the express purpose of putting on a Community-wide Celtic event and providing a mechanism for a multitude of groups to get involved and support such efforts.

The Celtic Street Festival will be from 2-10:00 p.m. on 6th St between Main & St Joe. The Scottish & Irish Society will be hosting one of the food booths. We will be serving some fine Beef & Guinness Stout Pub Sandwiches and Irish Coleslaw. We will also sell some Haggis for those brave souls who dare to taste it (at least that's what our stickers will proclaim = "I survived the Haggis!"). There will be a stage with musical entertainment including a variety of Singers & Pipers. The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) will be doing some light & heavy fighting demonstrations. The SCA is an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating pre-17th-century European history. And of course, there will be a beer tent to help quench your thirst.

To make this event a success, we need your participation in volunteering to put in a couple hours helping us at our booth. Please contact John Burke (342-4226, jburke67@rap.midco.net) or Pat Hamilton (716-7186, path@rushmore.com) to volunteer. We also want you and your friends to attend the

festivities, so get the word out on this fun-filled day!

Midsummer's Eve

Bill & Sally Knight continue to 'keep that bar high' when it comes to this annual celebration! Food was magnificent. Sally and Bill provided some smoked turkey & ham and members provided a wealth of traditional and non-traditional foods. Music was flowing both inside and out, as well as strains of laughter and conversation with friends new and old. Also flowing was the water! A torrential rainfall forced the group to gather temporarily in the garage. As the water level continued to rise (yes – IN the garage), John Burke served as the Celtic Water Monitor, 'deplugging' the drain as warranted, while also allowing for some 'foot splashing' when someone wanted to 'emphasize' a point or two. 😊

Well laid plans had to be modified because of the rain. Sally & Carole's carefully laid Celtic hints throughout the yard were replaced with a drawing for some crafted prizes made by these talented ladies. Siaryn & Heather Duggan, along with a guest, sung a favorite Celtic tune of Helen Magnusson's in partial tribute to a promise made to Helen. 'Tis only fitting that the SIS provided its own 'Irish Wake Moment' for this fine lady.

Once the rain stopped, the evening adjourned to the backyard where our chairs encircled the fire, we enjoyed some excellent piping from Susan Peterson, and Celtic music & conversation filled the rest of the evening. THANK YOU BILL & SALLY!

Member Picnic – Saturday, August 20th

John & Nancy Burke are hosting our annual Society picnic at their house at 922 South St,

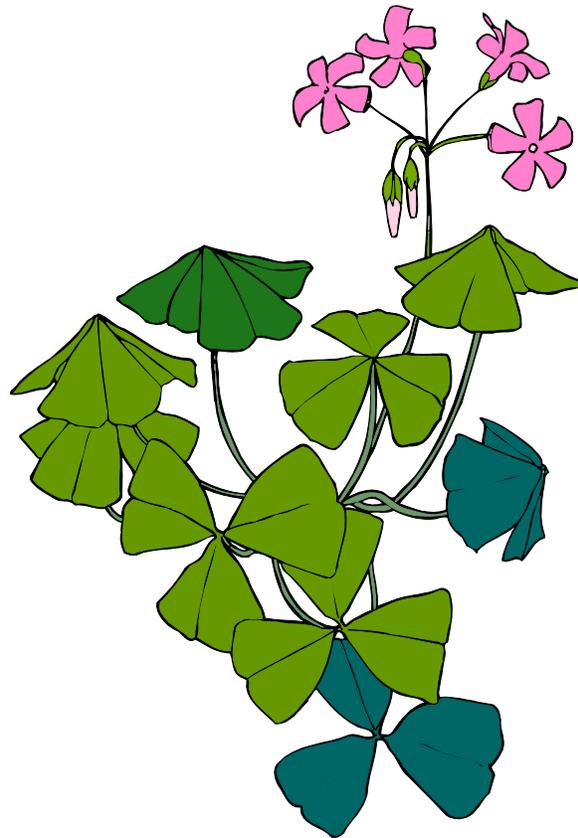
not far from downtown Rapid City. John & Nancy are excellent cooks and provide the main dish. Members are asked to bring a dish to share and your own beverages. You don't want to miss out on this enjoyable and relaxing event and the chance to mingle with Celtic friends, both old and new.

Helen Magnusson remembered

We were saddened indeed to learn of the death of one of our early founding members, Helen Magnusson. She passed away on June 19, after a valiant struggle with cancer. Many of the Scottish & Irish Society members were able to attend Helen's funeral in their Celtic finery as a tribute to a woman who can much to our group over the years. Helen could always be counted upon to come up with wonderful recipes for any event, coordinate the 'Haggis Toss' at our Labor Day Festivals, and bring the 'token Viking' (her husband Gordon) for the enjoyment of all.

For those of you who did not know Helen, she was one of the beginning members of SIS & was on the By-Laws committee who developed our by-laws; she had been a member since 1999. It was Helen who cooked the beef for most of our Burns dinners. (She was manager-spokesperson for the Beef Board of SD until two years ago.) Helen was instrumental in helping to coordinate the first Celtic New Year's celebration in coordination with the Symphony a few years ago. She was always a willing advocate for Society efforts and an articulate voice with the media in advertising our events. With her typical good humor and flair, she kept her Viking husband in check. Over the years, she routinely hosted a Boxing Day event at her house. Helen was rarely seen without a huge smile. She will be sorely missed by those of us who knew her.

Carole Conrad & Pat Hamilton



Meeting Notes

SIS Board Meeting 7/6/2011
Office of Dr. Jim Byrne

Members in attendance were Pat Hamilton, Susan Kains, Winnie Balster, Carole Conrad, Aliyah Sanders, Jim Byrne, and John Burke.

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Hamilton. John Burke volunteered to be the rotating secretary.

The minutes of the last Board Meeting were read by John Burke and approved.

Treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$2,016.29 in SIS's checking account.

Old Business: Jim Byrne will continue to pursue a contract for the storage area.

Cookbook Vol. 2 is continuing to request recipes. Please supply Sally Knight with recipes that would be appropriate for the new publication.

The Celtic Street Fair scheduled for July 30th was next on the agenda. SIS will have a food booth. John Burke will head the committee. A subcommittee meeting was held July 12th to discuss the menu, volunteers, etc.

A face painting area and a sword holding event are also possibilities.

New Business:

Ken Vogele's idea of a donation based dues structure was discussed. The Board will continue to discuss the idea.

Programs are always needed for regular meetings.

Susan Kains group that is exploring Celtic Spirituality will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. Contact Susan for more information.

Meeting was adjourned.

Irish Blessing

May your blessings outnumber
The shamrocks that grow
And may trouble avoid you
Wherever you go.

Officers

President Pat Hamilton
info@BlackHillsCelticEvents.org

Vice President Josh Ellis

Secretary Marlene Wilcox

Treasurer Carole Conrad

Board Members Susan Kains, Susan Peterson, Winnie Balster, John Burke

Past President Jim Byrne

Web Site Gary Hamilton

Newsletter John Burke
jburke67@rap.midco.net



Midsummer's Eve at the Knight's House





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