

Athens Scottish Heritage Festival

Saturday, January 24, 2009

10 am - 3 pm

Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, Georgia

A celebration of Scottish culture and heritage (music, literature/stories, food, history, dance, arts, genealogy, tartans, clans, and heraldry) with a special focus on the contribution of Scotland's most famous poet - Robert Burns.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009

10 am - 3 pm

Interactive Workshops, Displays, Demonstrations, and Participatory Events Open to the Community, Family-oriented, Free Admission

6 pm - 9 pm

Traditional Robert Burns Dinner and Entertainment, Ticketed Event

**All activities will take place at the Lyndon House Arts Center,
293 Hoyt Street in downtown Athens, GA**

The festival is a collaborative community program involving the Lyndon House Arts Center, the Athens Regional Library, and the Thistle & Kudzu Scottish Society of Athens. The purpose of the festival is to increase public awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of the contributions of all aspects of Scottish culture to American life and heritage in general, and to Georgia in particular. A traditional celebration of the life and literary works of Robert Burns is a theme of this event.

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

- **Scottish tartans and traditional clothing-** workshop on the origin and history of the Scottish tartans, clans, types of traditional Scottish attire; exhibits, pictures, and display of kilts, plaids, hose, sporran, dirks, etc worn by Scots as Highland Dress from the past through the present day; special session on creation of the official UGA tartan
- **Scottish heritage and genealogy:** Finding your Scottish ancestors - introductory genealogical presentation for those of Scottish ancestry or anyone with curiosity about Scottish clans and names, heraldry, family tartans and traditions; followed by a hands-on genealogy workshop in the Athens Regional Library Sat. Jan 31
- **Scottish Clan society representatives** from 13 different Scottish clans presenting information about their clan history, displaying their tartans, and discussing their clan family traditions and heritage;

- **Parade of tartans** - led by a bagpiper, clans will parade as a group through the center carrying their tartans and flags as a visual display of the Scottish clan heritage
- **History of the Scots in Georgia** -educational session on early Scottish settlers and their influence historically, socially, and culturally on Georgia and this region of the US
- **Stories and language of the Scots** - storytelling of traditional tales from old Scotland and discussion/examples of the various dialects and language of the common people during the 1700s when Robert Burns wrote his poetry
- **Robert Burns literary contributions** - informational session on Robert Burns life and times, his most popular writings, poems, and songs; why he is Scotland’s best-know poet
- **Scottish music on the Highland Bagpipes** - musical performance by individual pipers and the Thistle & Kudzu Pipes and Drums Band, interactive workshop session on the bagpipe as a unique Scottish instrument (everything you ever wanted to know about the bagpipes), how to play the bagpipe
- **Scottish songs** - performance of songs from the Scottish folk music heritage including music of Robert Burns and other traditional songs that illustrate the lifestyle and history of the Scots peoples; sing-along sessions
- **Scottish music on the harp** - national award-winning harpist will perform songs on the Scottish harp
- **Scottish Country Dancing** - demonstration, workshop, and audience participation of traditional social dances from the past and present
- **Children’s highland athletic games** - adapted versions of traditional athletic competitions from Highland gatherings, modified for indoor settings and children’s involvement (e.g., sheaf toss, small caber toss, hammer throw, etc)
- **Arts and crafts of Scotland** - hands-on crafts sessions for children in the Arts Center workshops to create simple Scottish artifacts, tartans, coat of arms, sporrans, and toys typical of the country
- **Traditional Scottish foods** - introduction to haggis and other traditional Scottish foods available to sample during the day, workshops on making haggis and Scottish shortbreads
- **Bonniest knees contest** - humorous competition for men in kilts judged on who has the “bonniest” knees of the day

Festival Schedule of Activities

10:00 am

- **The Great Highland Bagpipes**
- **Tracing your Scottish Ancestry**
- **Scottish Sing-along**
- **Traditional and Modern Scottish attire**

11:00 am

- **Scottish Country Dancing**
- **History of Scots in Georgia**
- **Scottish Tartan Heritage**
- **Storytelling: Scottish Tales**

NOON

- **Parade of Tartans by the Clans, Thistle & Kudzu pipes and drums band**
- **Cooking workshop - how to make a haggis**
- **Bonniest knees contest**
- **Sample Scottish foods**

1:00 pm

- **Scottish Country Dancing**
- **Creation of the Official UGA Tartan**
- **Tracing your Scottish Ancestry**
- **Scottish Musical Heritage in Song**

2:00 pm

- **Music on the Scottish Harp**
- **Robert Burns Poetry and Music**
- **Scottish Tartan Heritage**
- **History of Scots in Georgia**

Events throughout the day (10-3)

- **Scottish Arts and Crafts Workshop for Kids**
- **Scottish Athletic Games for Kids**
- **Weaving a Tartan**
- **Exhibits by 13 Scottish Clan Societies**

Description of Workshops, Demonstrations, and Performances

| EVENT | PRESENTER | DESCRIPTION |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Scottish Country Dancing | Jesse Behmke, experienced dancer and certified teacher of Royal Scottish Country Dancing; members of Athens Scottish Country Dance class and demo team | Explanation of the dance figures, steps, and origins of Scottish country dances from 17 th century to present day Scotland; demonstration of various traditional Scottish dances including jigs, reels, and strathspeys; these are social, group dances and the audience will be encouraged to try two simple Scottish dances |
| The Great Highland Bagpipes | Dan Wilson, bagpipe player, instructor, and pipe major of the Thistle & | Informational and interactive workshop on the bagpipe as a unique Scottish instrument; performance on the pipes to demonstrate how it |

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| | Kudzu Scottish Pipes and Drums band | is played (Everything you ever wanted to know about bagpipes and pipers, but didn't know who to ask) |
| Scottish Musical Traditions through Song | Lydia Craig, native of Scotland, UGA English Lit major | Performance of Scottish songs, ballads, and traditional folk tunes to illustrate the lifestyle and history of the Scots people |
| Scottish Music on the Harp | Tracie Brown, nationally renowned harpist, three-time winner of the National Scottish Harp Championship | Performance of Scottish music using traditional Scottish style, ornamentation, and arrangements; discussion of the history and traditions of the music and the Scottish harp as an instrument |
| Scottish Sing-along | Rick Abercrombie, Clan McDuff, Balladeer | Interactive session on Scottish ballads throughout Scotland's history; audience participation in singing Scottish tunes |
| Tracing your Scottish Ancestry through Genealogy | Laura W. Carter, genealogy specialist from the Athens Regional Library | Overview of Scottish genealogical resources and how to get started on researching your Scottish ancestors, finding family roots or clan connections in Scotland (a half-day follow-up hands-on workshop will be held Feb. 7 for those wanting to use genealogy resources and computers in the Athens Library Heritage Room). |
| The History of Scots in Georgia | Eve Mayes, historian, Athens Historical Society | Informational and visual presentation and discussion about early Scottish settlers in Georgia and the contributions of Scots to Georgia's history and culture |
| Creation of the Official Tartan of UGA | Walter Estes, originator of the UGA tartan, copyright holder for the registered design | Description of how and why an official Scottish tartan was created for UGA; the process of working with the Franklin Tartan Museum to design a unique UGA tartan and registering it with the Scottish Tartan Authority; the UGA tartan will be on display |
| Traditional Scottish Attire: Old and New | Joel Gunn, Clan Gunn Society; Angie Dachs, Clan Ross Society | Demonstration and discussion of old styles of Scottish attire, the great kilt - its purpose and how it is worn; the ladies tartan sash; current Scottish attire: kilt, sporran, dirk, bonnets, skene dhu, hose and flashes, gillies |
| Storytelling: Old Scottish Tales | Jackie Elsner, Children's Storyteller, Athens Regional Library | Stories and folk tales from Scotland, children's storytelling, and a discussion of the origins and meanings of traditional Scottish literature |
| Robert Burns Literary and | Lydia Craig, native of Scotland, Literature major | Informational session on Robert Burns' most popular writings, poems, and songs; presented |

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| Musical Heritage | at UGA | using the language of the common people during the 1700s when Burns wrote his poetry; translation of old Scottish terms |
| Scottish Tartans History and Heritage | James Al Bullman, Scottish Tartans Museum, Franklin, NC | Workshop on the origin and history of the Scottish tartans, clans, kilts, types of Scottish clothing at different times in history, and the design and meaning of a tartan plaid. |
| Weaving a Tartan | Weaving Guild | Demonstration of the creation of Scottish plaid design for tartans, using floor looms |
| How to Make a Haggis/ Scottish Foods | Lee Epting Catering | Interactive workshop on the ingredients and preparation of Scotland's most infamous food - the haggis |
| Scottish Clan Exhibits | Representatives from 13 different Scottish Clan Societies (see list of Clans below) | Representatives from each Scottish Clan will display their clan tartan plaids, heraldry, genealogy, and history; wear full Scottish attire; and discuss with individuals how to trace Scottish ancestry and find clan connections |
| Parade of Tartans and Bagpipe Performance | Scottish Clans; Dan Wilson, Thistle & Kudzu Pipes and Drums | Clans will gather at the entrance to the building and parade through the Center carrying their tartan and flags, led by the bagpipe band; information about each Clan will be presented |
| Bonniest Knees Contest | Judges: Claire Benson, Carry Slayton | Kilted men are invited to enter this fun contest to see who has the bonniest Scottish knees of the day |
| Scottish Arts and Crafts for Kids | Lyndon House Arts Center and Athens Regional Library personnel | Children can create their own Scottish coat of arms, learn to use a drop spindle for weaving wool, draw Scottish tartan designs, make a leather sporrán (purse), draw or make Scottish clothing to wear, etc. |
| Scottish Games for Kids | Lyndon House Arts Center and Athens Regional Library personnel | Children can take part in modified versions of Scottish athletic games such as the sheaf toss, caber toss, hammer throw, haggis toss, etc. |

Scottish Clan Societies who will have exhibit tables and representatives at the festival include:

| Scottish Clan Societies at the Festival | |
|---|-------------------|
| ❖ Clan Cochrane | ❖ Clan Keith |
| ❖ Clan Elliott | ❖ Clan Kennedy |
| ❖ Clan Forrester | ❖ Clan McDuff |
| ❖ Clan Gordon | ❖ Clan Moncreiffe |
| ❖ Clan Gunn | ❖ Clan Ross |
| ❖ Clan Irwin | ❖ Clan Wallace |
| ❖ Clan Johnston | |

The **Lyndon House Arts Center** facilities in Athens are the location for all festival activities. The venue includes the following areas:

- Lower and Upper Level Atrium Gallery for music and dance performance and workshops, Clan Society tables/tartan displays
- Art Workshops/Studios upper/lower floors: workshop sessions on Scottish tartans, history, and genealogy; hands-on classes for children; Scottish games and exhibits;
- Community Room and catering kitchen: food sampling, workshop

The Lyndon House Arts Center is a facility of the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Dept.

This project is sponsored by the **Georgia Humanities Council** and the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, and through appropriations from the **Georgia General Assembly**.

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