

Here are a few important things that all Scots need to know about...

A chance to learn Scottish Gaelic

Interested in Scottish Gaelic, the ancient and revered tongue of Scotland that's still spoken today? Please join us for the 15th Annual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Language and Song Week, July 7-12, 2013, at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC.

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (The American Scottish Gaelic Society, ACGA) brings you three distinguished Gaelic Instructors for a week of educational and fun-filled classes. James Graham and Kirsteen MacDonald are both Scottish Royal National Mòd gold medal winners for song. They will be teaching the intermediate and advanced classes. Dr. Jamie MacDonald, who was instrumental in founding the Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Language and Song Week and the NC Provincial Mòd, will be teaching the beginners' classes.

This year's instructors: James Graham is from Lochinver in the far Northwest corner of Sutherland. In 2004, James won the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year Award – the first male and first Gaelic singer to do so. In 2007, James won the gold medal in Gaelic singing at the Royal National Mòd in Lochaber. James is a talented singer as well as an accomplished piper and he has released two acclaimed solo albums. Here's a sample:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm-UhubHMZw> James works with many artists in the Gaelic music scene, including Mary Anne Kennedy, Fiona Mackenzie, Brian Ó hEadhra, and Rachel Walker.

*Kirsteen MacDonald is an award-winning singer and is a well-known BBC Gaelic television broadcaster. She has worked on the children's show *Dè a-nis?* and is now BBC's first ever Gaelic weather reporter. Kirsteen also presents the weekly news review programme, *Seachd Là*. In addition to teaching language and song, Kirsteen will also be covering the week's activities and the Highland Games for the BBC. Here's a sample of Kirsteen's music:*

http://www.musicinscotland.com/acatalog/MP3_Kirsteen_MacDonald_CDs.html.

North Carolina's own Dr. Jamie MacDonald will be teaching the beginners' classes this year. Jamie holds a Ph.D. in Scottish Studies from the University of Edinburgh and a DipHE in Gaelic and Related Studies from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in the Isle of Skye. Jamie has taught Gaelic language and song in the U.S. and Scotland, and was Professor of Celtic Studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Canada.

Gaelic song and language classes will range from absolute beginners to advanced, so everyone can join in the fun. Every afternoon there will be additional activities, such as special topic workshops and hikes along the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain Trails.

For those who choose to stay on for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the following weekend, there will be plenty of Gaelic heard at the Gaelic Tent, including the Gaelic sing-alongs. The 17th Annual North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd will be held Saturday afternoon. The Mod is a Gaelic song competition that is open for anyone who wishes to take part.

More detailed information, including cost and registration form, will be available soon at <http://www.acgamerica.org/events/grandfather-mountain/>.

To find out more about the Gaelic Week, you can contact Dr. Jamie MacDonald at 902-386-2072 or John

Grimaldi at 917-756-3643. You may also contact us by email at gaelteach@gmail.com or jainmartainn@aol.com

A' cumail na Gàidhlig Beò – Keeping Gaelic Alive!

Bethabara Highland Games and Celtic Music Festival May 11, 2013

Bliadhna Mhath Ur!

Just for luck... join us for the Highland Games at Historic Bethabara Park. Reminiscent of the Scotch

Fairs that were held in the Carolinas in May in the late 1790s, the Bethabara Highland Games offers a relaxing day for family gatherings with congenial kinfolk, musical entertainment and the camaraderie of competition.

The 13th (do you see a theme developing here) Annual Bethabara Highland Games And Celtic Music Festival will begin with the Ceilidh (kay-lee) on Friday May 10 at the Community Arts

Café, 411 West Fourth Street from 7-11 pm. Bring your instrument and join in.

Admission to this event is \$10.00 (or \$5.00 if you bring an instrument). The new spontaneous concept has been a lot of fun and we look forward to seeing what will happen next.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

On Saturday May 11, 2013 the field at Historic Bethabara Park opens to the public at 10:00 am with some athletic events already underway. The Welcome Center and historic buildings open at 10:30 am. Admission to the event and access to the historic buildings is FREE.

Traditional Scottish athletic competitions are once again a highlight of this year's Games with tartan-clad athletes throwing the 56 lb and 28 lb weights for height and distance. We have invited a roster of amateur Scottish heavy athletes that are the names to watch for the future of this exciting sport. They come to test their skill by tossing the 100+ pound, 19+ foot caber end over end and with the Clachneart, the hammer and in the sheaf toss. Past Bethabara competitors include former World Champion

Larry Brock.

With our roots in Celtic music, we are proud to announce the **2nd Bethabara Scottish Fiddle Competition**. Melinda Crawford, a sanctioned Scottish F.I.R.E. judge and a former U.S. National Scottish Fiddling Champion will offer a seminar and judge the competition. The competition, sanctioned by Scottish FIRE, will offer competitors the privilege of competing in the National Scottish Fiddle Competition. We will continue our focus on traditional music as The Fiddle and Bow Society hosts entertainment on the Main Stage and pipe bands, The Triad Highlanders, NC State Pipe band, and Clan Lindsey Pipe Band perform throughout the day. Participation is a hallmark of Scottish Games. Your kinsmen may try their hand

at the Battle-axe competition. There are activities for the kids that include Colonial games and the children's Scottish athletic competition. Kilts will again be available for the children at NO charge.

SAVE THE DATES!

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games

HUNTERSVILLE, NC: The 20th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games are set for April 19 - 21, 2013. Save the dates and plan to join the celebration of Scottish music, dancing, competition and camaraderie. The Advance 2-day (Sat. & Sun.) discount ticket is \$25.00 and includes admission to the Saturday night concert. Complete information and advance ticket purchases are available online at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net.

Fun for the entire family, the Festival & Games weekend offers live traditional and Celtic rock music from seven national acts and a Saturday night Celtic Jam, genealogy search, over 30 Scottish clans and their representatives, Piping and Drumming with sanctioned competitions and massed band performances, highland dancing with sanctioned competitions, Scottish country dancing, an Ultra Trail 5K run, professional and amateur heavy athletics, long bow competition, battle axe competition, demonstrations, whiskey seminars, the "Kids' Zone" with children's activities, and Rural Hill's famous historic encampment.

Complete information and schedules for the 20th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games will be available at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net. Event will be held rain or shine!

Proceeds from all annual events are used for the preservation of historic Rural Hill and its educational programs. Rural Hill is a part of the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation program, and is open to all members of the community for their enjoyment.

Celebrating more than 250 years in history...Rural Hill is located at 4431 Neck Road (off Beatties Ford Road) in Huntersville, 28078. The former homestead of Major John and Violet Davidson, the 265 acre site is maintained and promoted by Historic Rural Hill Inc. and features annual events such as the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, the Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze, the Rural Hill Sheepdog Trials, and the NC Brewers and Music Festival. Historic Rural Hill Inc. is a non-profit organization supported through membership and donations, and with proceeds from its events utilized for the preservation of Historic Rural Hill and its education efforts. For more information on events or for financial support accepted securely online, please visit www.ruralhill.net.