

Francesca McCrossan, President

June 2020

President's Message

Dear St. Andrew's Society,

Since mid-March, when the COVID crisis began, for safety's sake, we have been told what we cannot do. We can't socialize with our friends, and even some family members, at all or without masks and 6 feet of space between us. We can't get our haircut, though with recent lifting of some restrictions, at least our dogs can get their hair cut! We can't make a quick trip to the grocery store because it's not quick anymore. Some of us can go to the beach and hike trails, some of us can't. There is a long list of what we haven't been able to do for almost four months now.

For Society members and friends, our monthly meetings are now held over Zoom. We are making community the only way we can in order to take care of our regular Society business and have lovely entertainment and community time together. For the larger Scottish Community in the Bay Area, all the large so-



cial gatherings that we all have come to depend on and enjoy cannot be held. Although it has not been officially cancelled, the loss of the Highland Gathering and Games over Labor Day weekend is the largest loss, not only for our social lives, but for the competitors in the athletic, music and dance communities along the entire west coast, including western Canada.

I don't usually focus on the negatives, and I don't want to wallow in them, but the dramatic change caused by the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted lives on a global scale, and given many of us a chance to reflect on what normal life means, what we get out of it, what we don't, and what we would like it to look like after the crisis is past, which still seems far on the horizon.

It has also given the officers and Trustees of the Society a chance to do some much needed organizing and updating of our processes, practices and policies. Most of this is taking place behind the scenes, but come fall, our Members will see and be able and participate in some of this change. I wouldn't call it a silver lining, but it will create a stronger and more robust Society in the long run.

We have also been able to increase our charitable giving since we are not covering the cost of our in-person meetings. The work of our Board of Relief has reached local, national and international organizations we haven't reached before. Our Scholarship Committee has made it's annual awards, helping financially support students with Scottish heritage whose educational lives are undergoing a huge upheaval as well.



The Firehouse.

President's Message, continued on page 2

JUNE 2020 ~ Vol. 157, NO. 5	
President's Message	2
Scotch Pie Champion	2
From the Bard - The Strike	2
A Caribbean Winter	3
Lockdown Doorstep Photos	4
Calendar of Events	6



Continued from page 1

President's Message

So, our good work continues, and our community remains connected while the world changes around us. At a time of so much uncertainty, these constants can bring a bit of comfort into our lives. I hope that you and your loved ones are staying happy and healthy, and will continue that way, crisis or not. I do look forward to seeing you all at meetings at the Firehouse again, enjoying each other's company in person. When that happens, raising a glass to our health and the health of our community will mean more than it ever has.

Warm regards,

Francesca M. McCrossan
President, St. Andrew's Society
of San Francisco

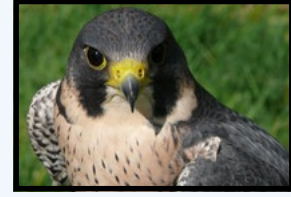
Scotch Pie Champion Named

Although Scotch pie is essentially a round shell of pie pastry filled with minced beef, lamb or mutton, plus seasonings, the devil is in the details. And at the end of last year, more than 75 professional pie-makers tried to prove their details were the best at the annual **World Championship Scotch Pie Awards**. Emerging as the winner for the second time in three years was **James Pirie & Sons** (www.pirieandson.co.uk) of Newtyle, 11 miles north of Dundee. After accepting the award Alan Pirie said, "I am so proud of what we make from scratch every day. Today is proof that all our hard work is worth it." Second and third places were taken by **Brownings the Bakers** in Kilmarnock (www.browningsbakers.com) and **Maclean's Highland Bakery** in Forres (www.macleansbakery.com).



This article was first published in the Summer 2020 edition of Scottish Life magazine.

From The Bard — Jek Cunningham



The Strike

His wild mate scolded across the sky in ever widening gyre.

Suddenly she stooped, the wind sussurating through her half closed wings.

There is a sound like ripping cloth as she opened them to break her decent,

Before punching the mallard from the sky.

Down, down she dropped, following her prey to the ground,

Where she mantled over it, glaring around with demon eyes;

Then she leaned forward to give the coup de grace.

In the mews, the Teircel bates from his perch,

Shrieking his frustration to the sky.

Historic Golf Club Steps Into 21st Century

Members of the oldest golf society in the world have voted to allow women to join for the first time in its 285-year history. **The Royal Burgess Golfing Society** in Edinburgh, founded in 1735, opened applications to women on April 1 after 83% of its members voted in favor of the change. "I'm glad to hear that and it's about time," said member Kenny Walker, a former world junior champion. "It was getting a bit embarrassing to be one of the only all-male clubs left." A similar motion was defeated six years ago when only a third of the members were in favor of admitting women.

This article was first published in the Summer 2020 edition of Scottish Life magazine.

A Caribbean Winter with Sea Turtles and Coral Reefs

By Kyle Currie

This winter break, I was fortunate enough to be accepted to a Marine Ecology program operating out of The University of Montana. The course, Ecosystem Field Studies (EcoFS) took place over 3 weeks in the beautiful Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico where I was able to study alongside likeminded peers and inspiring mentors that allowed me to experience what being at the front lines of conservation and marine sciences was like, pioneers in hands-on education and the field work of Marine Ecology. My 3 weeks of being fully thrown into the Caribbean ecosystem and Mayan culture allowed me to truly explore the expectations of my vocation as an aspiring Marine Biologist. I was able to take my academic learnings from the classroom and apply it to the field. I witnessed Hawksbill sea turtles with shells as large as coffee tables and beady eyes full of wisdom on daily SCUBA dives. Eagle rays that glide across sandy bottoms like extraterrestrial ships amongst a metropolis of spectacular multicolored coral and busy reef fish. The underwater world never ceases to amaze.

Our camp was set up next to one of the biggest turtle hatcheries along the Mayan Riviera, Specifically Xpu-Ha, where thousands of females will come ashore to lay their eggs along the sandy beaches. It is not hard to estimate the extent of this natural marvel by the extent of eggshells simply observed by a quick inspection by walking along the beach. Xpu-Ha is crucial site for nesting females and, therefore one of the most insightful areas of the world to study hawksbill, loggerhead and the gigantic leatherback sea turtle. Wherever there are sea turtles, there are sharks. Bull sharks make an annual migration specifically to sites around the surrounding islands and mainland coasts to congregate and breed. Unfortunately, bull sharks have not returned this year, a concerning occurrence due to their role as top predators and their role as balancing the marine food-chain.

Above all, I was able to share my ideas, thoughts and enthusiasm with peers from various backgrounds that all had the same interests and aspiration for the natural world. My reflections with my classmates have become an invaluable learning point in my academic career as a scientist and lifelong learner, beyond my



expectations. We learned from each other as much as we did from our professors and instructors, and we look forward to keeping connected along our paths and unite for the dire need of conservation and the sake of further scientific research in a rapidly changing world, with its bizarre political sentiments. Bringing awareness to the protection of the world's ecosystems, that in turn supports us as a humanity. Although we witnessed magnificent species of coral and fish, they were far from abundant. The deteriorating ecosystems observed whilst on our daily SCUBA excursions were a grim reminder that the world oceans are changing, and that the gargantuan influx of tourism in Cancun had taken its toll upon the local wildlife for the worse. Not only was I able to see a diversity of flora and fauna, but also the impacts of human encroachment onto once pristine underwater wilderness.



During my time in the Caribbean coast, I took the opportunity to conduct a study on the fragile ecosystem and behavioral interactions between

intra species communication. Specifically, the cleaning stations of juvenile bluehead wrasse and their client species. My study was conducted over a series of 2 weeks that harnessed multiple underwater visits to local diving sites where I was able to conduct research for my scientific report. The client species would frequent these stations to remove parasites from their bodies, in a type of symbiotic relationship. My research led me to discover that Juvenile Wrasse have a significant responsibility to maintain the health of a diversity of species that reside on the reef.

No doubt I came back from my trip a changed individual. The natural ecology around me had been my greatest educator and

Caribbean Winter continued on page 8

Lockdown Doorstep Photos



Famous photographer **Caroline Trotter** lives in Fife, Scotland. She has created a new project project “**Lock-down Doorstep Photos.**” It began when she put up a post on the Local Community Facebook page asking “Would anyone be interested in taking part in a photography project to record families in lockdown?”

The idea was that she would call round on her daily walk and take a quick photo of willing households on their doorstep or in their garden. Social distancing would not a problem, as she has a long lens! What a surprise—she was expecting and hoping for at least ten replies... what she received was over 140 responses.

She has taken some wonderful photos of the local community in Fife, and she also now knows a lot more lovely local people, but most importantly, she has a really good record of this extraordinary time in history.

To see more of her photos, [please visit her blog at Lock-down Photos.](#)



Caribbean Winter

guide to what drove my passions and sparked my interests. the most. I had been enlightened by the natural world and its calling for help. It needs scientists like myself and the bright minded peers around me that continue to bring awareness to its deleterious course, along with all its complicated beauty.

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." – John Muir

Kyle Currie, a student at San Jose State University, has been the recipient of the St. Andrew's Society of SF Student Assistance Scholarship for two years. His field of study is a Bachelor of Science in Marine and Freshwater Biology. Kyle has made an effort to attend St. Andrew's Society meetings and functions and is a talented young with a keen interest in international environmental issues.

Trusted Partners

A list of St. Andrew's Society's partner organizations, businesses and retailers.



The Caledonian Club of San Francisco

312 Maple Avenue
S. San Francisco, CA 94080
P: 415-885-6644

info@caledonian.org
caledonian.org



John Muir Association

P.O. Box 2433
Martinez, CA 94553
P: 925-229-3857

johnmuirassociation.org



British-American Business Council of Northern California

369 Pine Street, Suite 103
San Francisco, CA 94104

info@babcsf.org
babcsf.org



Robert Louis Stevenson Museum

1490 Library Lane
P.O. Box 23
St. Helena, CA 94574
P: 707-963-3757

info@stevensonmuseum.org
stevensonmuseum.org



AmeriCeltic

americeltic@gmail.com
americeltic.net



The Peninsula Scottish Fiddlers

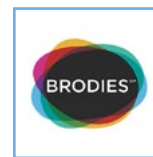
shauna0829@hotmail.com
thefiddlers.com



The University of Edinburgh

Old College
South Bridge
Edinburgh
EH8 9YL
Scotland
P: +44 (0)131 650 1000

www.ed.ac.uk



Brodies LLP Solicitors

Susanne Batchelor, Partner
P: +44 (0) 131 6560218
susanne.batchelor@brodies.com
brodies.com



The Erskine Home

Bishopton
Renfrewshire
PA7 5PU
Scotland
P: +44 (0)141 814 4569
www.erskine.org.uk



Grace Cathedral

1100 California St.
San Francisco, CA 94108
P: 415-749-6300

gracecathedral.org



University of Glasgow

Glasgow
G12 8QQ
Scotland
P: +44 (0)141 330 2000

www.gla.ac.uk

Meeting & Events Schedule

Date	Event / Topic	Location / Notes
2020		
Mon. July 20	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
Mon. Aug. 17	No Meeting (Summer Recess)	
TBD	Caledonian Club's 155th Highland Games & Gathering	Pleasanton, CA
Mon. Sept. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Oct. 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sun. Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Service.....	Grace Cathedral, SF
Mon. Nov. 16	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. Dec. 5	157th Annual St. Andrew's Banquet & Ball	Marines Memorial Club, SF
Mon. Dec. 21	No Meeting due to December 31st. Hogmanay Celebration	
Thur. Dec. 31	Hogmanay Celebration	1088 Green St., SF
2021		
Mon. Jan. 18	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD)	1088 Green St., SF
TBD	Annual Robert Burns Supper	TBD, SF
Mon. Feb. 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. Mar. 15	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Sat. April 3	Tartan Day Scottish Faire at Ardenwood	Fremont, CA
Sat. April 17	John Muir Day / Earth Day celebration.....	NPS - Martinez, CA
Mon. April 19	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. May 17	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF
Mon. June 21	Member Meeting (speaker/topic TBD).....	1088 Green St., SF

About Us

The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco

1088 Green Street
San Francisco, CA
94133-3604
415-885-6644

www.saintandrewsocietyofsanfrancisco.org

Gary Ketchen,
Newsletter Editor

Membership Meetings

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

Officers of the Society

Francesca McCrossan,
President
Irené Waldman Costello,
1st VP
Jek Cunningham, Bard
Kristy McKeating,
Secretary
Susan Goodier,
Executive Administrator
Roger Weed, Librarian
Laurien Fiddes, Chaplain
Brian Cooper, Piper
Bill Jagers, Herald
Fred Rutledge,
Foundation Chair

Trustees

David McCrossan,
Chairperson
Jaeame Koyil
David Campbell
Jean Allen
Brian Costello
Fred Rutledge

Board of Relief

Laurien Fiddes,
Chairperson
David Campbell
Jean Allen
Marilyn Van Story

Board of Student Assistance

Kitty Lenhart,
Chairperson
Kristen Ferguson
Marilyn Van Story
J. Robert Logan
William Cummings, Sr.
William Cummings, Jr.
Jean Allen

Envoys

Brian Costello, BABC
Roger Weed, Caledonian Club of SF
Roger Weed, John Muir Association
David Walker, University of Edinburgh



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

Recipient
