

# Grace Notes

*Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.*

Vol 40 No. 4 • April 2024

## President's Letter

Hope y'all had a happy Easter !

First, here's a website link listing future Celtic-related events throughout the USA:

<https://highlandgamesandfestivals.com/>

Some festivals and events on the list will have already occurred. You may have also received an email concerning Lyon College and their monthly publication, "The Tartan."

Please attend the Perkins Restaurant meeting on April 15 at 6:00 P.M., where the presentation will be "Castle Management – part II."

We are still discussing a possible future fishing ceilidh/ potluck (weather permitting, but before the summer heat sets in...fishing optional.)

In regard to monthly meetings at Perkins Restaurant, please watch for Wolf River bridge repair updates.

an rud as fheàrr dhut - the best for you,

- Debbie Sellmansberger

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**Note: South bound Germantown Road across the Wolf River Bridge will be closed between April 12-22.**

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## To Run A Castle, Part II. by Elaine Meece

A look at the staff employed to oversee and run the daily as well as long-term needs of the castle.



### Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. Board

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901-496-2193

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901-215-4839

# Where Olympic curling stones come from

Ten miles off the west coast of Scotland, the Firth of Clyde flows around a small island shaped like a sugar loaf called Ailsa Craig. In breadth, it's shy of a mile but rises steeply to more than 1,100 feet, carpeted with grass and heather. The island is for sale. Its owner—the Marquess of Ailsa—is asking 1.5 million pounds, or just under \$2.5 million. Whoever buys it will have the distinct honor of sharing a part of Winter Olympics history.



Ailsa Craig has been a source of granite used in every official Olympic curling event. Kay's of Scotland, a family-owned curling stone business that traces its origins back to 1851, has exclusive access to the island's quarries and makes the Olympic stones, according to Mark Callan, the company's field sales and service manager. For this winter's games, Kay's—which corners about 65 percent of the new curling stone market—crafted 80 stones and picked the best 66 to go to Sochi.

Just why Ailsa Craig granite is preferable for Olympic curling stones—as well as stones used in different competitions—over other materials seems to be a story steeped in tradition, necessity, and geological happenstance.

## Notice to Program Presenters:

John Schultz requests that 5-7 days before the meeting you e-mail a KeyNote or PowerPoint file to [jfschultz1948@yahoo.com](mailto:jfschultz1948@yahoo.com). This is to allow time to incorporate the presentation into a full meeting presentation and to check out any issues. Otherwise there won't be a projector.



*Grace Notes* is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the fourth week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

### Editorial Staff

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**Help Wanted**  
A new publisher for  
Grace Notes

Submissions  
[gracenotes@memphisscots.com](mailto:gracenotes@memphisscots.com)



*to foster education  
and promote understanding  
of things Scottish*

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## Calendar of Events

### Memphis Pipe Band

Mondays 6:00 - 9:30 pm

Kenny Hiner, Pipe Major

901-616-1564

[info@MemphisPipeBand.com](mailto:info@MemphisPipeBand.com)

[www.memphispipeband.com](http://www.memphispipeband.com)

### Phoenix Pipe Band

Douglas Dauson, Pipe Major

[ddauson@gmail.com](mailto:ddauson@gmail.com)

[www.phoenixpipeband.org](http://www.phoenixpipeband.org)

### Collierville Pipes and Drums

Aaron Lankford, Pipe Major

[dadpipes@gmail.com](mailto:dadpipes@gmail.com)

[www.colliervillepipesanddrums.com](http://www.colliervillepipesanddrums.com)

## Scottish - Celtic

### Radio Shows

#### *Strands of the Celtic Knot*

Robert Campbell, host

Saturday 10 am - 1 pm

WEVL-FM 89.9

#### *The Thistle and Shamrock*

Fiona Ritchie, host

Sunday 6 pm - 7 pm

WKNO-FM 91.1

and

Sunday 7 pm - 8 pm

WMAV-FM 90.3



### Memphis Scottish Society

#### General meeting

Third Monday of the month

6 pm to eat, 7 pm for meeting

Perkins Restaurant

1340 S. Germantown Pkwy.

#### Board Meeting

Last Monday of the month

at 7:30 pm

Via Zoom

### Memphis Scottish Country Dancers

Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Riveroaks Reformed

Presbyterian Church

1665 S. Germantown Road

Contact: John Schultz

901-359-4900



#### 4/7 **Take Flight**

As birds migrate in the spring and fall, so do songs and tunes travel far afield and find their way back home again. Fiona Ritchie explores tunes inspired by bird flight and the movement of music with Tim Cummings, Pete Sutherland, Brad Kolodner, Laurie Lewis, Jean Redpath and more.

#### 4/14 **New Sounds**

New music is as much of a springtime certainty as fresh buds on the trees. It's time to get out among it all and listen to recordings recently acquired, downloaded, and re-discovered.

#### 4/21 **Sea and Air**

This week we feature music from fiddler Duncan Chisholm inspired by a remote Scottish beach, and from Karine Polwart's *Wind Resistance*.

#### 4/28 **Tríona**

One of Ireland's leading interpreters of folk and traditional music, Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill is also a composer and songwriter of international renown. We mark her 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award at the RTÉ Radio 1 Folk Awards with a review of her influential career spanning more than fifty years in Skara Brae, The Bothy Band, Touchstone, Relativity, Nightnoise, and T With the Maggies.

#### 5/5 **Celtic Compilation I**

Head, heart, river and rose - Fiona Ritchie picks her way through a random assortment of themes in a selection of music from artists including Luka Bloom, Elephant Sessions, The Unwanted and Underhill Rose.

**Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, April 15, at 7:00  
Perkins Restaurant at the corner of Germantown Pkwy. and Wolf River Blvd.**

**MSSI Board Meeting - The last Monday of the Month, 7:30 pm via Zoom**

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