



An t-Albannach

NEW YORK CALEDONIAN CLUB

Promoting Scottish Heritage • Established 1856

NYCALEDONIAN.ORG

NEWSLETTER • FALL ISSUE 2018



THE NEW YORK CALEDONIAN CLUB GOES TO THE GAMES! 2018 Long Island Scottish Festival & Highland Games

PHOTOS BY MARTI DORAIS



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HAIL TO THE CHIEF



83RD CHIEF
SUE ANN MCDEVITT

Summer 2018

Dear Members

The “Scottie and Westie” days are upon us with the heat that seems to be staying. And staying! I hope you have all had a good spring and summer is going well. I just wish, that we could bottle some warmth for January and February when we will need it!

As you should have received your membership renewal already, you have also seen our new logo. The Board of Directors has worked for several years on a forward-looking design to go along with an overhaul of our website. The site should be launching at the end of August and will have several features that are inherent in virtually every other organization including a better membership portal where you can renew or join easily and when you indicate what committee or activity you are interested in participating in, we will be able to find you! But, if you are not a tech lover: no worries, we will still send communications by post.

Have you attended Pub Night yet? Or were you brave enough to give your vocal chords a workout at Karaoke night? (Your Chief was not – I don’t want to be responsible for medical expenses related to bleeding ears) Our fabulous Activities team of Marjorie Stewart and Steve McNally have more events in the planning and we remain committed to keep the cost low so everyone is able to join. Additionally, we have started cross-promoting events arranged by the Scots BarNY, as well as the American Scottish Foundation and the Saint Andrew’s Society of the State of New York, to bring you even more ways to network or just have fun.

This coming winter, we will also be partnering with Carnegie Hall to cross promote our NYCC music, dance and language classes in conjunction with their Migrations: The Making of America Festival. We anticipate, owing to the timing of the festival that our Spring season will be quite busy and are hoping that this will also raise interest in the club, the Ceilidh and the parade. **Carnegie Hall events will start March 9th, 2019** and continue through April 15th. For more information on the Carnegie Hall Festival, visit <https://www.carnegiehall.org/Events/Season-Highlights/Migrations/Scots-Irish-and-Irish-Migration>.

I would also remind you, that we would like to do a bit of a contest: submit your pictures of your trip to Scotland or a festival for publication in the Winter Edition of An T-Albannach. I know there are talented people out there – get some bragging rights! Also, Barbara, our wonderful newsletter editor can use your help. Please submit a write-up of a trip, a history or other interest piece (you must be getting tired of my medical pieces) or perhaps some poetry you may have written. If you have experience in proofreading or print layout, please let her know, too.

In closing, thank you for your continued support and I hope to see you all soon.

Latha sona is fallain dhuibh, agus dha ur cuideachd! (Happy and healthy days to you and yours.)

Sue Ann McDevitt
83rd Chief

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The New York Caledonian Club, Inc. (Est. 1856), is a 501(c)3 nonprofit,
charitable, educational and literary organization and is open to anyone
interested in Scotland and Scottish-Americans



ST. MAGNUS CATEDRAL

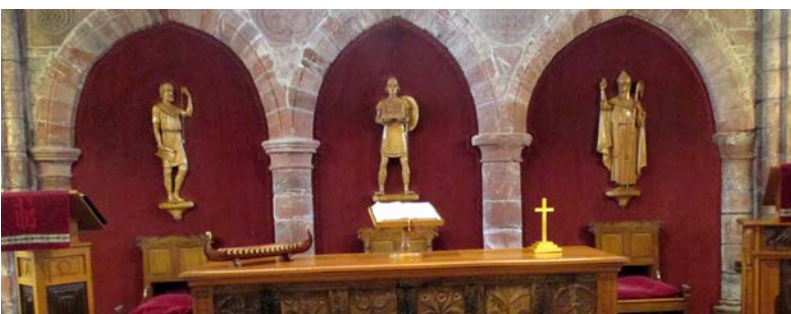
Kirkwall, Orkney

STORY & PHOTOS BY SUZANNE PRESENT

If you think that “St. Magnus” sounds like a Viking name, you wouldn’t be far wrong. The saint was born Magnus Erlendsson and was the son of Earl Erlend, co-earl of Orkney. Magnus grew up to be a co-earl himself but was killed in 1117 AD on the orders of his treacherous cousin, Earl Haakon, who was jealous of his popularity.

He was initially buried in Christ’s Church, Birsay where reports of miracle cures at the gravesite soon sprang up. In the year 1136, Bishop William of Orkney declared Magnus a Saint. His nephew, Earl Rögnvald, who eventually became a Saint himself, built St. Magnus Cathedral to house the remains of St. Magnus. The bones of both Saints still lie within pillars located in the choir.

Another person of note, buried in the Cathedral is 19th-century native Orcadian, **John Rae, the Arctic explorer** who discovered the last link of the Northwest Passage. His beautiful monument can be found in the St Rögnvald Chapel.



JOHN RAE
Arctic Explorer

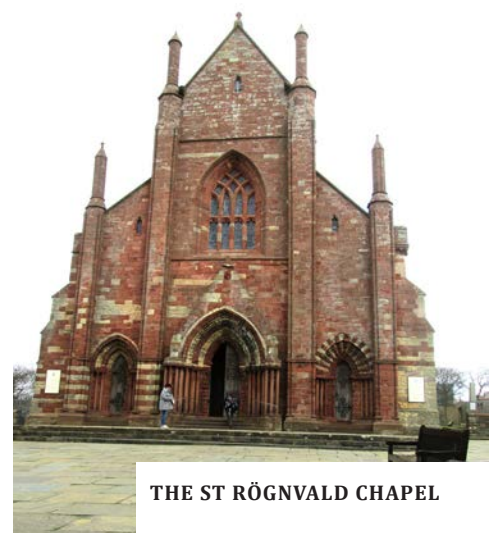


Most cathedrals can’t lay claim to having dungeons on their premises but St. Magnus can. Located on the south wall of the choir near the transept, it was in use until the 18th century. Among other things, people accused of witchcraft were held there.

For a 900-year-old church, St. Magnus is in remarkably good shape. Happily, it was pretty much left alone during the Reformation and has periodically undergone restoration, leaving it well-preserved.

While of course, the Cathedral started out as a Catholic Church, it is now owned by the people of Orkney. Services are held every Sunday and the worship style is described as “Contemporary Liturgical.” However, any denomination can make arrangements to use the Cathedral.

While knowledgeable Cathedral custodians are on hand to answer questions, the 45-minute guided tours are well-worth taking. Each intricate carving, stained glass window and headstone has a story of its own to tell.



THE ST RÖGNGVALD CHAPEL



SCOTTISH STUDIES

UPCOMING CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, October 2-December 4, 2018
Scottish Studies Classes Begin!

Beginning Scottish Gaelic 101 this fall will now feature both Conversation and Grammar, **taught by Don Ross and John Grimaldi**. Learn to speak a bit of Gaelic, as well as read and write it! Reading Gaelic for intermediate learners will be taught again by Don Ross.

Catch the Early Bird tuition by Sept. 25th: \$105 for members & \$125 for non-members; after Sept. 25th, tuition will be \$125 for members & \$150 for non-members.

Visit www.nycaledonian.org and click on Scottish Studies for forthcoming updates and info. Also check for upcoming workshops for this fall and 2019!



Saturday, October 6, 2018
Scottish Fiddle Workshop with Calum Pasqua

2-4PM, Studio #3, 353 West 48th Street (between 8th & 9th Ave), Manhattan.

Calum Pasqua is a Glenfiddich Fiddle Competition first place winner, and was the first American to be invited to the Competition. **Early Bird admission** until Oct. 1st, \$40; admission after Oct. 1st, \$45.

For more info, please visit weblink: <http://www.nycaledonian.org>