

# The SPECTATOR



Summer 2024

Dear SAS-W Members,

Presenting the Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg (SAS-W) newsletter for the months of April through August 2024.

Please add your voices to ours and write with news from around the Society, Williamsburg and its environs, Scotland – tidbits about clans, culture, history, whiskey, whatever! Send your missive via email to: [merryva@outlook.com](mailto:merryva@outlook.com)

Our goal is to communicate with our fellow SAS-W members — and if you have a Facebook account, please log in and join the Society's Facebook page at: [facebook.com/groups/1410543212957245](https://facebook.com/groups/1410543212957245). It has a new look and new location so check it out and let us hear from you.

This is YOUR newsletter and we continue to honor the tradition established by Marshal Thomas, over 22 years ago.

Yours Aye,

SAS-W Newsletter Team

Anna-Marie Cox

Martin Cox

Jan Hruz

*Russ Madigan*

*Tami Schumann*

*Vicki Scott*

*Donna Peak*

## EVENTS: Sep 2024 – Jan 2025

Unless otherwise indicated, email info request to:  
[secretary.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com)

### SEPTEMBER

#### 7-8 Unofficial SAS-W Event

British/Scottish military re-enactment of encampment for the Siege of Yorktown

SAS-W Contact Jerry Lelansky: [president.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com](mailto:president.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com)

#### 26 Pub Night – Anna's Brick Oven

### OCTOBER

#### 18 Unofficial SAS-W Event

Ceremony honoring fallen Scottish military regiments at Battle of Yorktown; 10:00a.m., Yorktown VA

SAS-W Contact Jerry Lelansky: [president.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com](mailto:president.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com)

#### 24 Pub Night — Anna's Brick Oven – Halloween Theme

### NOVEMBER

#### 2 SAS-W Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Potluck Lunch

Noon at Lewis Hall/Bruton Parish House

#### 10 Fall Kirkin' of the Tartans

10:30 a.m. Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

### DECEMBER

#### 6 Christmas Luncheon & Ceilidh

Noon at Ford's Colony Club

#### 8 Christmas Parade

5:00 p.m., Colonial Williamsburg

### JANUARY

#### 25 Burns' Night Celebration

5:30 p.m., Ballroom, Colonial Heritage Club

Welcome  
New  
MEMBERS

#### April 2024

*Mark Campbell*  
*Demetrius Hollis*  
*Pamela Leigh*

#### May 2024

*Don Morris*

#### July 2024

*Linda Eckard*

#### August 2024

*Jerry White*

# Enter Thomas Sheridan

By Tami Schumann

Many of us who have studied our own country's history have become accustomed to hearing our Founders referred to as "Men of The Enlightenment." A dictionary definition of The Enlightenment reads: "A European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries emphasizing reason and individualism rather than tradition. It was heavily influenced by 17th century philosophers such as Decartes, Locke, and Newton, and its prominent exponents include Kant, Goethe, Voltaire, Rousseau and Adam Smith."

But separate from The Enlightenment was the offshoot movement known as the Scottish Enlightenment, which took those principles of humanism and rationality and incorporated the values of practicality, personal improvement, virtue, and benefit for the individual and society as a whole. Some of the great Scottish thinkers of the time were James Boswell, Robert Burns, Adam Ferguson, David Hume, John Playfair, Adam Smith and Dugald Stewart. In Scotland, this intellectual life centered around clubs and books. Lots and LOTS of books. In 1763 Edinburgh had six printing houses and three paper mills; by 1783 there were 16 printing houses and ten paper mills!

The purpose of this essay is not to delve deeply into the Scottish Enlightenment, though it is a subject worth studying. It is to uncover the singular problem encountered by so many of the undisputed geniuses of the day. They just sounded so ... Scottish!

Broad Scots could be heard on the streets of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, and in the valleys of Clyde and Tweed. For centuries it served as the language of law, government, commerce, and the Kirk. But as the 18th century dawned, it seemed so ... second class.

For most Scots, learning to converse and write in English was the equivalent of taking on a second language. David Hume conversed in Broad Scots all his life and always regretted that he never learned to speak English as well as he wrote it. "Notwithstanding all the Pains which I have taken in the Study of the English Language, I am still jealous of my Pen. As to my Tongue, you have seen that I regard it as totally desperate and irreclaimable."



Enter Thomas Sheridan (1719-1788). Sheridan (a godson of Jonathan Swift) was an Anglo-Irish actor, educator, and major proponent of the elocution movement – a formal discipline on which he published two books: *Lectures on Elocution* (1762) and *Lectures on Reading* (1775). He earned a BA and an MA from Trinity College in Dublin, before hitting the boards as an actor, making his debut as Richard III. Before long he was considered Ireland's David Garrick.

In 1758 he gave up acting and moved to England to become an educator, author and lecturer. I must say that my favorite of his published works has to be *British Education: Or, The source of the Disorders of Great Britain. Being an Essay towards proving that the Immorality, Ignorance and false Taste which so generally prevail, are the natural and necessary Consequences of the present defective System of Education. With an attempt to shew that a revival of the Art of Speaking, and the Study of Our Own Language, might contribute in great measure to the Cure of Those Evils.* (1756) Yes, that's the full title.

Intellectuals in Edinburgh were thrilled in the summer of 1761 when Thomas Sheridan, orthoepist (pronunciation expert) arrived to deliver a series of lectures on English elocution. More than 300 gentlemen, "the most eminent in this country for their rank and abilities," attended Sheridan's lectures. They encouraged him to enlarge on those aspects of spoken English "with regard to which Scotsmen are

most ignorant, and the dialect of the country most imperfect,” and even to deliver a separate set of lectures for women. Sheridan sold places at the lectures for a guinea each (about \$100 in modern currency) and subscriptions to his upcoming book for a half-guinea. It was a remarkable season for Edinburgh's elite, who were eager to be schooled on good English from an Irish actor.

In effect, the Scots became English speakers and culture bearers but remained Scots. In no way did they view this concession as relinquishing their Scottishness, and they would ultimately reshape the dominant English culture so that both English and Scots could find a home in it.

In 1858, Horace Walpole (son of the Prime Minister) admitted that “Scotland is the most accomplished nation in Europe.” A central European observer stated that, “it is now an incontestable fact that the principle authors who have adorned British literature in these latter times, or do honour to it in the present days, have received their birth and education in Scotland.” And David Hume expressed his pleasure in the form of a paradox: “Is it not strange at a time when we have lost our Princes, our Parliament, our independent Government ... are unhappy in our accent ... and speak a very corrupt Dialect of the Tongue which we make use of, is it not strange, I say, that in these Circumstances we shou'd really be the People most distinguished for Literature in Europe?”

*(The primary resource for this article is How The Scots Invented The Modern World by Arthur Herman, a book I highly recommend.)*

## ~passages~

### Robert Flinn (1980-2024)

Robert was a Life Member and joined the Society in 1980. He proudly wore his kilt and was a booster for SAS-W. Robert resided in Richmond and passed away on April 18, 2024. [Obituary](#)

### Cathy Barron (2022-2024)

Cathy joined the Society in 2022 and was known for her spirited personality and interest in her Scottish heritage. Cathy passed away on June 20, 2024. [Obituary](#)

**Skara Brae**, on the island of Orkney, is the most complete Neolithic village in Europe. It's also the oldest building in Britain, dating from 3100 BCE.



## PUB NIGHTS By Jan Hruz

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of a successful 2024 Pub Night season! It's my pleasure to organize these get-togethers and I hope you enjoy these gatherings with our friends. June, July and August Pub Nights were all held at Anna's Brick Oven, as usual. Attendance has been good with 33 in June, 42 in July and 32 in August.



We were lucky to have members giving presentations. In June, Roger Gosden spoke about his life and experiences while living in Scotland; in July, Lianne Boller discussed her newly published book about Bruton Parish; and in August, Lynn Newcomer explained the relationship between SASW and the Williamsburg Pipes and Drum band. We were also lucky enough to be entertained by Michael Thompson, as he explained the meaning of a Ceilidh.

The 50/50 raffle continues to be popular each month and winners generously donated their winnings back to SASW. Thank you everyone for supporting our Pub Nights, let's keep them going!





## President's Message

### *Lassies and Lads,*

It looks like the heat and humidity of the summer is finally coming to an end. With the cooler weather, I hope to see more kilts and tartans at our events.

We had several great pub nights at Anna's Brick Oven. A big thank you to Tim Cordle on setting up our Tartan Day celebration on April 6th. About 16 members walked down the Duke of Gloucester Street and had a wonderful lunch at The Hounds Tale, which opened early just for the Society lunch!

We had a few members attend the Spring Kirkin' of the Tartans on Apr 14th at Historic Christ Church in Irvington. It's a bit of a drive, but always a nice event.

As part of the Virginia 250, our society was asked to attend the two day event "1781 Yorktown Before the Siege". This will take place on September 7-8. There will be three Scottish Regiments and they will give folks a chance to see and hear about the siege from the British perspective. This event provides an opportunity to see what life was like in the British camp before the arrival of the American and French forces on Sept 28, 1781. <https://va250.org> and <https://visityorktown.org>

Our society was asked to participate at a remembrance ceremony for Scottish military regiments/units that participated in the battle and surrender at Yorktown. This will start at 10:00AM on Oct 18th and will be a very small/semi private ceremony. The ceremony will start at the Nelson House garden at 10:00am with NATO representatives from Britain and Canada. Then proceed down Ballard Street to Water Street to the Queens Rangers Plaque, which is in front of the two story parking garage, for another short ceremony. Then walk down to the Carriage House behind the Watermen's Museum for a meet and greet with the NATO representatives. At noon the same day, Marquis de Lafayette will be arriving by ship at the Yorktown dock and the rest of the day will be dedicated to Lafayette. There is good parking in Yorktown public parking lots (i.e., Administration Building, Courthouse/Finance and York Hall), the two-level

garage at Riverwalk Landing and the National Park Service Visitor Center parking area.

Several society members asked about the Richmond Highland Games, which finally came back on November 4, 2023 after shutting down due to COVID. Unfortunately, it won't happen in 2024, but will return in the fall of 2025.

The society Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on Saturday November 2nd at the Bruton Parish's Lewis Hall. This is an important meeting as we will be voting on several new Board members and will also take nominations from the floor. More information will follow. The Fall Kirkin will be on November 10th at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. It proved impossible to schedule the AGM and Kirking on the same day this year. More information will follow.

Friday December 6th will be our Christmas Ceilidh at Ford's Colony. More information will follow.

On Sunday December 8th starting at 5:00PM is the Williamsburg Christmas Parade. The Williamsburg Pipes And Drums (WPAD) will be marching and society members are welcome to join them. We will have a society member coordinate with WPAD. More information will follow.

Burns Night will be on January 25th, 2025, at Colonial Heritage. More information will follow.

Please invite friends and family to join us in our gatherings and functions. This will increase interest and hopefully new members. With new members comes fresh ideas and energies that will strengthen our goal of preserving Scottish culture for future generations.

Yours Aye,  
Jerry Lelansky

President St Andrew's Society of Williamsburg  
*Maternal ancestry is Anstruther of that ilk*



## New fall items are now on the SAS-W webstore!



They include a soft shell jacket, micro fleece vests, micro fleece quarter zip pullover, micro fleece full-zip jacket, Oxford dress shirt, sweatshirt, and long sleeve polos.

These items come in both mens and ladies sizes, except for the 1/4-zip pullover and sweatshirt, which are unisex sizes. The micro fleece jacket also comes in youth sizes.

All items have a wide range of colors to compliment just about any color of tartan. Like the summer polos, you have the option to have your order shipped to your home for a shipping fee - or pickup at the local store and save shipping costs.

Follow the link to our webstore: [https://stores.inksoft.com/st\\_andrews\\_society](https://stores.inksoft.com/st_andrews_society)

A portion of your purchase will go toward our operating fund - so it's a win-win as you support SAS-W in style!

# The Proud History of CLAN DONALD

Clan Donald is one of the oldest, and probably the largest and most famous of all the Highland clans. Its Celtic heritage goes back into antiquity, beyond the 6th Century AD, to the great clans in what today is Ireland, Conn of the 100 Battles, Cairfre Raida, founder of Dal Raida in Antrim, Eire, and Colla Uathais. Our Viking heritage goes back to Ingjald "Ill-Ruler" and Olaf "Tree-Hewer" in 7th Century Sweden and Norway. All of these traditional blood lines came together in the 12th Century Somerled MacGillebride MacGilladamnan, the historic founder of Clann Domhnaill. Our ancestors were regarded as the heads of the ancient race of Conn, and the lineal heirs of the kings of the Dalriadic Scots.

The clan increased in numbers and territory, forming a number of branches who are, by seniority:

- *Clan Ruari, now part of Clanranald and Glengarry*
- *Clan Alasdair*
- *Ardnamurchan*
- *Glencoe*
- *Clanranald*
- *Clan Godfrey, now part of Clanranald and Sleat*
- *Glengarry*
- *Clan Donald South, also known as Dunnyveg and The Glens, or Clann Iain Mhor*
- *Keppoch*
- *Lochalsh, now part of Sleat*
- *Clan Donald North or Clan Uisdean, now Sleat*

Clan Donald, greatest and largest of the Highland Clans, begins its recorded history with Somerled, a descendant of Conn of the Hundred Battles and Clan Colla. Somerled's defeat of the Norse King of Man in 1156 gained independence for southwestern Scotland that survived for over four centuries.

The clan takes its name from Donald, the 3rd Lord of the Isles and grandson of Somerled who lived until 1269. Donald's son was the original "Mac" (meaning "son of"). It was Donald's great-grandson, Angus Og, the 6th Lord of the Isles who sheltered Robert the Bruce at the lowest ebb of his career. Later, leading a small band of Islemen, Angus Og was instrumental in Bruce's defeat of the English at Bannockburn. This battle won independence for Scotland. In recognition of Clan Donald's part in the victory Robert the

Bruce proclaimed that Clan Donald would forever occupy the honored position on the right wing of the Scottish Army.

Angus Og's grandson, Donald, the 8th Lord of the Isles, married the heiress of the Earldom of Ross and in 1411 fought the Battle of Harlaw to keep his wife's inheritance from being usurped by the Regent Duke of Albany. His army of 10,000 men included the forces of almost every clan of the Highlands and Isles. All these clans were willing vassals of the Lord of the Isles. They regarded the MacDonald Chiefs as the heads of the ancient "Race of Conn," and lineal heirs of the ancient Kings of the Dalriadic Scots, going back to the 6th century and beyond.

Donald of Harlaw's son and grandson were both Earls of Ross and Lords of the Isles, controlling not only the Hebrides from Islay and Kintyre to the Butt of Lewis, but most of Argyll and the modern County of Inverness, along with the County of Antrim in northern Ireland. The Earldom was lost in 1471, but the Lordship of the Isles was not absorbed by Scot-



*Donald, con't*

land until the middle of the 16th century. A MacDonnell (a variation of the surname MacDonald) is still Earl of Antrim.

The power of the clan survived and formed the backbone of the army of the Marquis of Montrose, fighting for the survival of the Stewarts in the 17th century, and, though divided, it was an important factor in the Jacobite Rebellions of the 1700s.

## CLAN DONALD TODAY

### Scotland



Although Clan Donald no longer controls the vast areas of Scotland that once formed the “Lordship of the Isles.” At the end of the 15th century Clan Donald lands were divided

among various Highland clans. Over the succeeding centuries many were sold or deeded to the government. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Lord Macdonald owned over 130,000 acres on the Sleat Peninsula on the Isle of Skye. Upon the death of the late Lord Alexander Macdonald in 1970, his son Godfrey inherited not only the peerage, but also the High Chiefship of Clan Donald and became the Right Honorable Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald, Lord Macdonald.

He also inherited the Highland estate on Skye on which is situated Armadale Castle, and the punishing “death duties” that could only be met by selling off the estate. The Clan Donald Lands Trust was formed to save part of the estate for use as a clan center for Clan Donald clansmen throughout the world. Although forced to sell some of the lands, Lord Macdonald with the generous financial support from a small group of clansmen in the United States and Canada was able to save over 18,000 acres of the original estate including Armadale Castle.

## United States

Clan Donald USA, Inc. is a family organization embracing the MacDonalds and all of the other surnames that are recognized as variants, branches or adherents of the greatest of the Highland clans. Unlike Clan Societies in Scotland and the Societies of several other clans in the US, Clan Donald USA has always considered itself an extension of the Clan across the sea.



Reginald H. Macdonald of Kingsburgh, OBE, the great, great grandson of Flora McDonald, upon being appointed High Commissioner by the late Lord Macdonald, established a United States extension of the Clan in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1956.

In 1976 Ellice McDonald, Jr, CBE of Delaware was appointed High Commissioner by Lord Godfrey Macdonald and with the assistance and cooperation of a few commissioners and clansmen, the clan began to prosper. He incorporated Clan Donald USA, Inc. in the State of Delaware, divided the country into 13 regions (since adjusted several times) and appointed regional and state commissioners. The national Clan Donald magazine, “By Sea By Land,” was published and regional and state newsletters were distributed. Over the next following years, Clan Donald USA grew from a handful of members to nearly 4,000 families today.

Today Clan Donald USA is the largest Clan organization in America. By participating in the Highland games throughout the United States and by sponsoring local gatherings and events, Clan Donald members are able to meet new “family” members and share traditions and a common heritage which has extended for almost a thousand years.

<https://clandonaldusa.org>



CLAN DONALD  
has nearly **100**  
recognized tartans!



The University of St. Andrews, founded in 1413, is the third oldest university in the UK after Oxford and Cambridge. It welcomed Britain's first female student in 1862, and it's here that the world's first student union came into existence in 1882. But the world's oldest student union *building* was the purpose-built Teviot Row at Edinburgh University (1889).



# Measuring and Wearing the Kilt (Men's)

By Russ Madigan

**W**earing the kilt is a wonderful, exhilarating feeling that every man should experience at least once in his life. Believe me, your lady will love it. Yes, there will be guys who may laugh or snicker at you, but their female partner will not. I have been wearing my kilt for over 30 years and I have never had a female do anything but smile. You will always be asked the usual question; What are you wearing under your kilt? I usually give the standard answer, 'Shoes and Socks'. I've had girls ask me that. (Why do they think that is appropriate and if I asked the same to them, I'd be thrown in jail.)

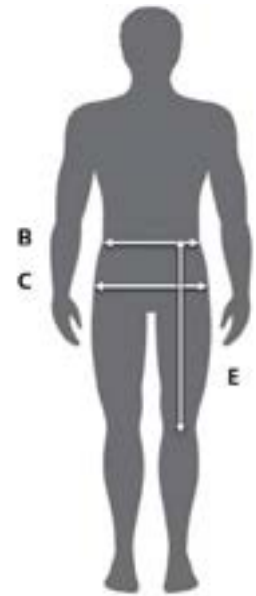
Back on point. NEVER call it a costume. Never wear it as a costume. Always remember to wear it properly and proudly. There are many, many years of kilt wearing men behind you.

A man's kilt should not be too long (below the knee) or too short (that just freaks me out). It should rest at the mid kneecap or maybe a tad higher. \*See the accompanying article about measuring for the kilt.

Personally, I hate to see flip flops and sandals under a kilt. Sneakers and short socks are about as casual as I go and that is only on certain occasions. Knee high hose and flashes are my usual very casual footwear. I remember my first time seeing loose laced high boots (Army boots) and slouchy socks under a kilt. I wasn't a fan. I guess I'm too much a traditionalist when it comes to kilt wearing.

In today's world, we see all different styles of kilts and "sort of" kilts. Wool, wool blend, plastic blend, flannel, other fabrics that make up a part of the Scottish fashion at highland games. All are acceptable.

So, in the end, wear your kilt correctly and proudly. If you have any questions about wearing your kilt, don't be afraid to ask. Do research online or buy the book, *So You're Going to Wear the Kilt!* It has lots and lots of info about wearing the kilt and other items. It even has a section for the ladies.



## Wearing the Kilt (Ladies')

I don't profess to be an expert, but I have spent half of my life looking at lady's kilts. I have learned the hard way that women don't normally wear a kilt. They wear what is called a Kilted Skirt. I was informed that the only time a woman wears a man's kilt is if she is a member of a pipe band. However, to my knowledge that is nothing that says she could not wear a kilted skirt as long

as it was cut to the same length as the man's kilt.

A kilted skirt is not cut like a man's kilt. It's because of one thing...hips. A man normally doesn't have large hips. We have something else...sometimes a larger front or a smaller behind. However you look at it, a man's kilt is cut for a man's body style and a kilted skirt is cut for a woman's body style.

The other difference between a man's kilt and a lady's kilted skirt is the length. Whereas a man should always wear it at his kneecap, a lady can wear her kilted skirt as a mini, knee length, mid-calf, or hostess length. All are perfectly acceptable. Although some are more age-appropriate than others.

The major difference between a man's kilt and a lady's kilted skirt is the way the front apron is made. On a man's kilt, the front apron lays from left to right. The kilt pin is always on the right side of the apron. The lady's kilted skirt apron lays from right to left. Their kilt pin is fastened on the left side of the apron. Usually, a lady's kilted skirt only has two straps, one on each side at the waist. A man's kilt has two on the right and one on the left. Some older men's kilts may have only one on each side.

Another style of lady's skirt is a Pleated Tartan skirt. It is made of various fabrics and is pleated all around the body. It may have a snap or velcro to hold the ends together. These are much more casual and are usually a longer length.



*Photo: The Scotland Kilt Company*

## SAS-W LEADERSHIP EXPLAINED

**D**o you know what “the Board” is — or its purpose? The board is a group of twelve Society members, who include four elected officers (President, Vice-president, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary).

A Board member commits to a service period of three years and may serve in a variety of positions, to include planning and leading a particular SAS-W event; managing the society web page or Facebook page, newsletter production, membership, sympathy & remembrance, or the scholarship committee.

Board members commit to serve a period of three (3) years. Our Board member positions turn-over at four (4) per year. Think about lending a hand!

Officers consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Society Secretary. They are elected yearly to one term and may be reelected for up to three successive

The Board of Directors meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from Sept thru June (with a break in July & August) to conduct business and vote on necessary issues.

Service on the Board provides members with an opportunity to: share their expertise on issues of interest to the organization, give back to the Society in ways that support their fellow members, and develop a greater understanding about SAS-W, how it works, and its role in the community.

## Quartermaster Needed

The Saint Andrew's Society of Williamsburg's Quartermaster maintains and controls all of the equipment and property of the Society. The position also delivers, helps set up, and returns any of property used for the Society's events such as Burns Night, the AGM, etc.

The Quartermaster also keeps records of all property and replenishes said property after each use. He/she also maintains the Storage Locker and documents any property/equipment taken out of the locker and its return.

Although not required, the Quartermaster should attend all monthly board/events/communications meetings. If unable to attend, he/she should be contacted and informed of all events that may require any of the Society's property.

The Quartermaster also should have a vehicle to haul all property to and from the events. In lieu of a vehicle, he/she should have a trailer or any other means of transporting the equipment/property to and from the event venue.

Interested? Please contact Russ Madigan at [RMADIGAN55@gmail.com](mailto:RMADIGAN55@gmail.com).

One thing is for sure - the Society needs volunteers most of the time!

Please note that SAS-W members are welcome to attend a monthly Board meeting.

If you are interested in attending a meeting — or serving on the Board — email Jerry Lelansky at [president.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com](mailto:president.standrewssociety.wbg@gmail.com)

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!

I recently took over administration of the SAS-W Facebook page and soon discovered that it was originally configured as a “business” page, rather than a “private” page. This was brought to my attention due to a lot of traffic that obviously wasn't based on an interest in our Society — other than trying to sell products or services.

As a result, it has been reconfigured as a “private” page to provide more security and only open for postings and feedback by those who join it. We can still be found by anyone interested; however, in order to join and contribute, they must qualify by answering two questions and be allowed entry. This is a simple step; however, it will help to deter those who are more interested in commerce. If you are a Facebook user, log on and join our new page at: [facebook.com/groups/1410543212957245](https://facebook.com/groups/1410543212957245)

When you receive admission, please post your comments, travel photos, announcements, jokes, stories, etc. that relate to our Scottish heritage. Sharing is caring! I welcome your suggestions and feedback.

Yours aye,  
Anna-Marie Cox | [Kamajors6366@gmail.com](mailto:Kamajors6366@gmail.com)  
SAS-W Facebook Administrator