den med påskkärringar anses komma från 1600-talets häxor. Vid slutet av 1600-talet var häxprocesserna som värst i Sverige och hundratals avrättades efter att de antagits ha åkt till djävulens gästabud. Gästabudet hölls i en praktfull gård på en plats som ofta, men långt ifrån alltid, kallades för Blåkulla.


Nu för tiden är det i Sverige och Svenskfinland vanligt att barn av båda könen klär ut sig till påskkärringar (Svenskfinland: påskhäxor) vid påsk. En påskkärring är traditionellt klädd i klänning, förkläde och sjal. Alternativt kan barnen klä ut sig till påsgubbar, med tidstypiska herrkläder, hatt och mustasch, eller till exempelvis katt, påskhare, påsktupp eller kyckling. Tillsammans går barnen runt bland bostadshusen i kvarteret, ringer eller knackar på, önskar glad påsk och överlämnar små gåvor.

Join us for The Society AGM
at the Edinburgh Society of Musicians
21st April, 11 AM-2.30 PM

The formal meeting will be followed by a some music provided by Madeleine and Mark, and then a sandwich lunch. We hope to see you there. It is usually an enjoyable occasion, and it is your opportunity to comment on the Society’s activities and to suggest how we should focus our activities in future.

For more information and to register for the lunch please log onto: http://www.scottishswedish.org/events
Would You like to Be the NEW Editor of the SSS?

The SSS newsletter comes out, on average, every three months to coincide with the major activities the society organises. During my time as the editor, there have been five main events organised by the society every calendar year; (January) Burn’s Night (April/May) the AGM (June) Midsummer Celebration, (October) Pea-soup Evening and (December) Advent/Lucia/Christmas celebration.

There is no set framework or structure, apart from the Society’s logo which I think should be on the first page. As the editor; it’s up to you to put together a newsletter as you like. However, I do recommend having a certain structure and using the same typeface throughout the newsletter, unless it’s for effect. I have experimented with a few different structures i.e.; articles on the main society event(-s) past or soon to be enjoyed, on the first page (if you have an article about it). Followed by headings such as: The Swedish School News/Book Clubs/Coffee Mornings & Get-togethers/ A Bulletin Board (to post curiosities; fun current events) and then whatever articles have been submitted in the months between newsletters. In the last year or so, I have had a little “blurb” or petition for member articles called “note from the editor” to remind our members to participate and put “pen to paper” and write something for the newsletter. This is usually echoed by our Committee a few weeks ahead of a newsletter reminding our members again.

I have tried to get our members to share their own experiences and come out with their own stories by asking them: “What brought you to Scotland?” (if you are Swedish) and/or: What makes you interested in Sweden?”. I know, from having spoken to many of members, that there are many very interesting (life) stories to be told, but I think only two persons came forward to tell their stories after that “drive” (both of which were very interesting- Thank you!

I have thoroughly enjoyed putting the newsletter together when there have been articles, drawings, photos, stories, news or interesting comments from our members or persons that share our interests. However, I have found myself asking my close friends, family and relatives for contributions or writing the newsletter articles myself, when there has been nothing or very little from out with the SSS Committee between newsletters. I also realise that I may have been over ambitious; it’s part of my nature and I set the target too high. There is no pro-forma, no template and no “musts” as far I know. All one must do, is work out the framework with our fantastic Committee and ask for contributions from our society members.

Out-going Editor: Carina Dahlström Mair
Thanks to partnership working an ancient runestone will soon be re-displayed in central Edinburgh for public viewing with new interpretation and opening events. The runestone is approx. 1000 years old, 1.8m high and originates from Lilla Ramsjö, Westmanland in Sweden.

Runestones typically date from the late Viking Age. Many were carved as memorials to the dead and were brightly coloured when first made. The runestone in Edinburgh is made of granite and has a runic message framed in a stylised serpent form surrounding a central cross whose stem is linked to the serpent’s head and tail by a collar. See photographs included below.

The runestone was donated to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1787 by Sir Alexander Seton of Preston and Ekolsund. Since the 1820s the runestone has been sited high up in Princes Street Gardens, hidden behind railings and largely unknown to the city’s residents and visitors. However, last year the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland joined forces with the City of Edinburgh Council, Historic Environment Scotland, the University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland to conserve and move the runestone to a safer location with public access all year round. It has since been accessioned into the National Museums Scotland collections and is now on long term loan to the University of Edinburgh.

This spring (2018) the runestone will be installed outside Edinburgh University’s Scandinavian Studies Department just off George Square (EH8), with new interpretation panels and signposting. This move and re-display has been made possible with grant funding from Heritage Lottery Fund and Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

Throughout this spring and summer several free public events will take place to mark the unveiling of the runestone in its new location. For more information and event details please visit the Society’s website www.socantscot.org.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Andrea Kaszewski
Fellowship and Development Manager
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
National Museums Scotland
Edinburgh, EH1 1JF
Monika Dowley

I was born in Stockholm where I was educated and from there I gained a degree in textile design. I married a Welshman and have lived in India, England and Scotland. While raising a family I had my own design studio but painting has always had strong allure. Started at Amersham college from where I gained a Degree in Fine Art painting BA Hons. My interest as a painter lies mainly in the landscape, but recently also in small domestic interiors.

Drawing it out
Extending it
Stripping the elements down to their bare structure
The extension of possibilities
Going round the edges
The contrast
Between
Hot and cold
And
The interlaying
The pattern that emerges
Is
The painting
For most members their annual subscription will become due on 1 April. Some members, notably life members, do not pay an annual subscription and some subscriptions expire at a different time of year. But 1 April is the date for the majority of us and those concerned should have received an email from the Society.

There are two changes to our rates this year. The main one is a reduction in the rate for Single Pensioners from £8.50 to £7.00. If you qualify for this new lower rate please let us know so that we can adjust our records. We have also decided that new Student Members should be asked for a modest contribution to the costs of the Society and their rate is now £5. Existing Student Members will continue to benefit from free membership until the end of their course. The other annual rates are unchanged and remain as follows: Single Member, £8.50, Family Membership, £15, Pensioner Couple £12.

You can renew your subscription using your credit or debit card, or a PayPal account, through the website. The relevant page is under the heading “Member Services”.

Our AGM this year will be held on Saturday 21 April at 11:00. We are once again pleased to be able to use the very pleasant rooms of the Edinburgh Society of Musicians, at 3 Belford Road, Edinburgh.

We shall start with the formal business of an Annual General Meeting. This should not take any longer than necessary!

After that, our members Madeleine and Mark have very kindly agreed to provide a light musical interlude with some cheerful tunes.

Then there will be a light lunch and an opportunity to get together with old friends and perhaps some new ones.

We do hope you can join us for what promises to be a very enjoyable occasion!

In order to ensure we judge the catering correctly, neither wasting food nor sending you home hungry, we should be really grateful if those planning to attend would register on the Events page of the website; http://www.scottishswedish.org/events/. Naturally there is no charge for this event.