

THE PITCAIRN HERITAGE SOCIETY

OUR AIMS ARE:

1. To extend the knowledge of our family history and make it available to members.
2. To promote the conservation of documents, monuments and other material of special significance to the Pitcairn Family.
3. To help members find their genealogical links between Pitcairns world-wide, and aid them in updating their family trees.
4. To publish a Newsletter twice a year; in which members will be able to exchange ideas and information.
5. To put members in touch with one another.
6. To act as a focal point for communication between members about:
 - * common ancestry and family history.
 - * possible business relationships.
 - * common professional interests.
 - * hobbies or other activities.
 - * social relationships.

Membership is open to anyone world-wide who has an interest in the Pitcairn Family.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$35/£23

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Pitcairn2004

Whenever you throw a party you always have that little bit of angst, worry, hope, excitement...that everyone will have a great time and be so glad they came. Judging by the comments we've received since this past August, we can safely say that Pitcairn2004 was indeed meaningful, and more importantly, memorable.

The clan gathering started off with Registration at Pollock Halls at the University of Edinburgh. It proved to be a great way to kickoff the weekend's events by giving everyone a chance to get acquainted or *re-acquainted*, get answers to any questions they may have had, and especially to sit down and relax after a long journey to Edinburgh.

Bright and early Thursday morning we boarded the bus with our Tour Guide Sheila Pitcairn of Dunfermline. Sheila took us over

the Forth Road Bridge into the Kingdom of Fife where we visited.....

Friday morning was the golf tournament hosted by Robert Pitcairn at his club Gullane, in East Lothian. Course #3 turned out to be the perfect venue, offering a challenge to all of us! The views across the Firth of Forth towards Edinburgh were absolutely beautiful. A warm thanks to Robert for his kind and generous hospitality!

Friday evening 85 of us gathered at the Corn Exchange in Edinburgh for the banquet and ceilidh. John Pitcairn did a superb job of organizing the menu and the staff of the Corn Exchange did the rest - delicious. After the appetizer a loud racket was heard (bagpiper) and we were treated to John Pitcairn's "Addressing the Haggis" which, if you were at Pitcairn2000 or 2002, you'll never forget! I'm absolutely certain that no one understood what he was saying! In 2008 we're going to ask John to hold a special seminar *Translating Robert Burn's 'Addressing the Haggis'* so we can learn exactly what he's talking about!

We sat down to the next course, after which the US Pitcairns sang "_____" led by Lachlan Pitcairn of the Bryn Athyn Pitcairns. Not to be out done, following the next course, the UK Pitcairns got up and gave us a rousing "O Flower of Scotland." If you're not familiar with it, some consider it to be the national anthem of Scotland - so it was delivered with much meaning!

Most of us at that point were feeling like the evening was quite the success. And then Elizabeth Pitcairn took the floor, violin in hand. You could have heard a pin drop. First she played "_____" and received such an ovation she played a second selection by _____, which was followed by even more applause. She seemed a bit surprised by the response and offered to play a third selection "_____" by _____. Wow. If you haven't heard her play, visit her website www.elizabethpitcairn.com and order her new CD. She makes her debut at Carnegie Hall in April of 2005. We're planning a huge roadtrip from Bryn Athyn to New York to hear her. Come join us - the more the merrier! Elizabeth, thanks so much for your generosity and sharing your talent with all of us!

Robert Pitcairn of New Zealand brought the banquet to conclusion with a Vote of Thanks. Robert has won the "Travelled the Farthest Award" in 2000, 2002, and 2004. Maybe one of these years we'll have a gathering in New

Zealand just to keep him from winning it *again!*

A brief intermission for the band to set up and the ceilidh was underway and everyone was dancing. Never have we seen so many smiles and heard so much laughter - mastering some of those dances is no easy trick!

Saturday morning we got together for a meeting of the Pitcairn Heritage Society where Sheila Pitcairn and her son Lloyd presented their new website www.familypitcairn.com - the result of many years of research. More on that and the minutes of the meeting later in the Newsletter.

Saturday night we all met at Edinburgh Castle for the 10:30pm edition of The Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It was a cool, damp, and foggy night....perfect for atmosphere but not for the fireworks! If you haven't seen it "Live" you don't know what you're missing. A special Thanks to John Pitcairn of Kirkintilloch and Kate Arnott for buying the tickets in advance and getting all of us organized. A tremendous evening we'll always remember.

By Sunday morning most of us were ready for a rest - But No! Once again we got on the bus with Sheila as our guide and off we went to the Johnstone/Paisley area near Glasgow. This is the area where John Pitcairn of Bryn Athyn and his brother Robert originated. We visited The New Jerusalem Church, ate lunch at the Old Mill in Paisley, and then had a private tour of Paisley Abbey, again specially arranged by Kate Arnott and John Pitcairn.

With that, the planned events for Pitcairn2004 came to an end. It's been said many times, but Kate Arnott and John Pitcairn deserve one last Thanks for all the time and effort they put into creating such a special event. Everyone has their personal memories - I'll never forget John R. Pitcairn of San Francisco telling me how special it was to see the farmhouse his great grandfather was born in, or for Robert Pitcairn of New Zealand to be able to spend the night there prior to the start of the gathering. That's why we do it.

Pitcairn2004 Group Photos

If you haven't ordered your group photographs taken just before the Banquet at the Corn Exchange in August, you still can.

Get in touch with Mr. Swanston of Photo Express, 7 Melville Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland EH9 1ND. Tel/Fax 0131-667-2164 or e-mail: photoexpress@madasafish.com

The Pitcairn Heritage Society Meeting

Sheila and Lloyd Pitcairn began the meeting with a presentation on their new website www.pitcairnfamily.com. They essentially have filled out the branches of the family tree with names and dates. It was and continues to be a daunting task. But as Sheila mentioned, her work is coming to an end and now it's our turn to finish what she's started. Where genealogy really comes to life is in the stories of these people. Names and dates are great – but who were they? What did they do?

So we know what we have to do. Go to the website, find your branch, and start to tell the stories. It could mean doing some research, but as we found with Constance's book [The Fife Pitcairns](#), it is almost priceless to have a better understanding of not only the names, but who they, our ancestors, were. Write it down in electronic format (Word, WordPro, WordPerfect, or even in a Notepad document for that matter!) and we'll add them onto PitcairnFamily.com!

At this point we felt it important to break for some tea, coffee, and cookies while looking at the tartans that Ken Dalgliesh brought up from Selkirk. If you haven't seen the Pitcairn Hunting Tartan, it's beautiful. On www.clanpitcairn.com you can see what it looks like – Jason Rhodes kilt is in the Pitcairn Hunting. We also had the opportunity to buy hats, fleeces, and golf shirts that John Pitcairn had embroidered with Pitcairn Crest complete with "Plena Refulget." Very sharp! Richard Pitcairn-Knowles was on-hand with copies of his book [The Edwardian Eye of Andrew Pitcairn-Knowles](#). If you'd like a preview, visit clanpitcairn.com. Deana Pitcairn Duncan generously made available for sale copies of her book, a collaboration of poetry with Deana providing the artwork. All proceeds of her book sales were donated to the Pitcairn Heritage Society! Thanks so much Deana for your generosity!

After the break we sat down to discuss the future of the Pitcairn Heritage Society. Among the issues discussed and the decisions we made:

The Newsletter & Subscriptions. We hear often that people miss getting the Newsletter, so we are re-dedicating ourselves to producing a newsletter that will go out 3 times a year to begin with. Richard Pitcairn-Knowles has volunteered to be our Editor-in-Chief responsible for putting it together, but is not solely responsible for writing it! That is our responsibility – we are looking to the members of the Pitcairn Heritage Society to contribute stories of interest, any genealogical tid-bits you've uncovered, historical content, and any Family News/Pictures you'd like published!

It is our plan that on a rotating basis, a member of the PHS will be responsible for gathering stories and information which will be forwarded to Richard. A representative from each continent will then be responsible for distribution to our subscribers, either through the post or via email. We sincerely need your help in making the Newsletter a lively and interesting document to keep us connected! Please don't be shy if there's something you'd like to contribute to the February 2005 edition!

The Annual Subscription will be £20 or \$35US which will be used for printing and postage. Any remaining funds will be saved for future events, i.e. any required pre-paid deposits for **Pitcairn2008**, or to purchase small stocks of sample merchandise for sale. See the attached Subscription Form.

Finally, it was decided to remove from www.clanpitcairn.com the Directory which removes the need for a password. Say a fond farewell to *CoffeeCup* (one word, case sensitive.) If only I had a nickel for every time I've written or said that! If you'd like a copy of the Directory, please contact Colin and he'll send you a copy, preferably via e-mail!

With that, we adjourned the Pitcairn2004 meeting of the Pitcairn Heritage Society!

Please take a moment to fill out and send in this form with your check! [Our sincere Thanks! in advance!](#)

THE PITCAIRN HERITAGE SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TEAR-OFF SLIP

I enclose \$35US/£20 for the calendar year 2005

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