

## President's Message

**D**ear Members,  
Well, we are near the end of our year. The only remaining function is our picnic which is right around the corner. It has been a fun year. Remember Pete Gowran at the Halloween night: she is nae the type of person you want to take into a dark alley - big tack-ity bits with the brick in her hand-bag! What about the



Christmas party, where did all those kids come from? And wasn't that Santa round and jolly - great fun. We had a good selection of cultural activities including a talk from the visiting Professor from Chirnside about the history of the Borders.

The St Andrews Night and the Burns Dinner were roaring successes. A great performance by Jim McLaren in his Immortal Memory, and our resident celebrity Alex Sutherland with his witty remarks as MC. My favorite is the Ceilidh where we all get a chance to let our hair down and have a bit of a wild time. Need to have more time for dancing next time though.

A big thank you to all members who helped during the monthly meetings, and functions, and especially to those who made a special effort to entertain us at these various events. I would also like to thank the Board members for another excellent years worth of hard graft to get this show on the road, and to make it such a great clan to belong to.

See you at the picnic: brush up on your three-legged racing technique, and no cheating at the egg and spoon race. Hope to see you there,

*Aw-ra-best, Keith*

### Back in the early days...

**F**ollowing the victory at Bannockburn, Robert the Bruce became the *de facto* King of Scots. While the local Church also recognised Bruce's status, official international acceptance required support from the Vatican. A document describing how Bruce had saved the Kingdom, and "fought for freedom alone" was drawn up by Bernard de Linton in 1320. Signed by 8 earls and 31 barons, this document was sent to Pope John XXII, and later it became known as the historic Declaration of Arbroath.

In 1327, The Treaty of Edinburgh was signed: renouncing all English claims to sovereignty and acknowledging that Bruce was King.

### inside...

*Events Program*

*Summer Souvenirs*

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*Toasts & Things*

*Other really good stuff!*

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# Events Program. Come along and enjoy...

**S**ince our previous newsletter we've had two super events. The Ceilidh at the end of April was another great night, and good fun was had by all. What a talented group we have here in our society. The May monthly meeting featured some humorous presentations on the history of Scotland (Tom Forrester) and the geography of Scotland (Jim McLaren). The evening closed with some super songs from Diane Ladendecker, accompanied by Alex Sutherland.

**Sunday June 25th:** Picnic and Scottish B-B-Q.

Starting around 3pm, BBQ'ing around 5pm, and finishing around 7pm.

SILVERMAN PARK, JEFFERSON BARRACKS

South on I-270 (changes into 255), then north on Telegraph Rd, to Kingston. Turn right and travel till Kingston and Broadway come together - then turn right into the park. This is the north gate entrance. The road then divides: take Gregg Rd, then second left to picnic site 1.

Games and entertainment will be organized, or at least arranged.

The Society will provide BBQ coals, paper plates, cups, etc.

You need to bring your own BBQ meat,  
other food and drinks for your self.

It's the last event of the year so come along and see everyone before the summer sun becomes so hot that we have to hibernate with an air-conditioner.

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**R**emember we had an article on the Gaelic in an earlier issue? I suppose you've all been practicing, so here's a couple of Gaelic proverbs for you:  
*"uaisle gun chuid, is maragan gun gheir"*

- gentility without wealth is like blood pudding without fat!

*"is sleanhain leac dorus an taigh mhoir"*

- slippery is the front-door step of the big house!

*"treabh an t-iomaire 'tha romhad"*

- plough the rigg that's before you!

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**S**PECIAL NOTE:  
Please make a point to say good-bye to two key members of our Board, Martha and Don Steinbreuck: they are moving to Kansas City over the summer, and we wish them well on their new adventure.

Anyone wishing to help with Board duties next year, please call me at 537 9463.  
Keith Parle.

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*Many thanks to  
Denise Duffy, and  
her various helpers,  
for making the  
events program  
lively and enjoyable  
throughout the year.*

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# Summer Souvenirs

**I**t's getting really close! The summer in Scotland is about to start. Remember all those bus trips in the Trossachs, and the train rides to Ayr, and the boat trips (doon the water) tae Dunoon, and Port Seton holiday camp. The seaside is great place if you can keep the sand from blowing into your thermos flask (hot tea is required) and stop the seagulls from stealing your jeelie piece (preserve sandwich). The salt air keeps the midges away, and you have to head for the western glens if you want to experience a really good midgy attack! Of course, the Tourist Board spends 90% of their budget on the annual revival of that critter in Loch Ness. They do keep a good list of the many B&B places who open their doors at this time of year. Whatever type of trip you take, and wherever the destination is, there's a commonly recognised rule in Scotland - you must buy some souvenirs, kind of akin to hunting trophies. It could be wally dugs, or seashell ornaments, or Edinburgh Rock (candy), or a grouse-foot claw, or a piece of white heather, or an engraved teaspoon, or a tartan something, or.....

*..wherever you  
are, you must  
buy some  
souvenirs...*

## ANNUAL SALE

*After the summer season, the Tartan Trinket Board announces a grand auction to clear the stocks. The main lots include:*

- 350,000 clan maps of Scotland with Campbell and MacGregor mistakenly transposed, and Forsyth in the North Sea.
- 40,000 small models of Scotsmen in kilts. The kilt can be raised to reveal tartan underpants, inscribed "Noo ye ken!"
- 5,000 Black Watch car rugs, as used at the Edinburgh tattoo.
- 40,000 flasks of ancient Celtic after-shave lotion, bottled by hand in remote factories on the outskirts of Paisley.
- 20,000 packets of shortbread, wrapped in Royal Stuart tartan and mistakenly labelled " A Gift Frae Auld Hong Kong!"
- 3,000 china haggis replica money boxes.
- 60,000 boxes of Edinburgh Rock in 64 different fluorescent colours. To be eaten before 2020, unless you have false teeth.
- 7,500 tartan-lined wooden boxes, decorated with a St Andrews cross, and a fibre-glass grouse claw. When the claymore handle is lifted it plays the Skye Boat Song.
- Assortment of great souvenirs from around the country: broken oatmeal biscuits, do-it-yourself buttery kits, key rings with miniature whisky bottles (empty), pieces of Arthur's Seat, sprigs of faded heather, tiny granite curling stones, and what appears to be miniature cabers.

# CALEDONIA CORNER

**T**he Scots are well known to themselves as being “canny” (responsible) with money, and to everyone else as being tight with money. How did all this come about? Some say it started in Aberdeen. Around 1795 the City decided to make it’s mark by having a magnificent main street. Thus, Union Street, a marvel of pure sparkling granite was created. Unfortunately, the cost was so high that Aberdeen had to declare itself bankrupt between 1817 and 1822 - starting a reputation about not paying for anything! Of course, the jokes and stories about Scots and their money are heard all over the world, and it is well worthwhile to know at least a few of these - and spread them around at appropriate moments....

They say you can tell a true Scot because they keep the Sabbath, and everything else they can get their hands on!

An American lady was in hospital and needed three pints of the right blood. On hearing about payment, a Scot rushed forward to donate the required amount. She paid the Scot \$50 for the first pint of blood, \$25 for the second and nothing for the third pint. You see, it’s obviously in the blood!

Not all Scots are so thrifty with their money. A Scot once offered to pay \$50,000 to anyone who could swim the Atlantic - wearing gumboots!

Then there was the Aberdonian who was very proud of his gold watch. After all, his father had offered it to him while lying on his death bed - and he had written his father a check!

An investigative reporter went to visit an old Highlander who had over \$2 million in the bank. The house was a small cottage out on the moors, and it was dusk before the reporter arrived. The old Scot answered the door holding a single candle, and invited the reporter in. The reporter: “I’m keen to find out the secret of how you made so much money.” The old Scot: “I’d be happy to tell you about it, but do you need to take notes?” The reporter: “No, I usually keep them in my head.” The old Scot: “Excellent! I can blow out the candle!”

Others say that the image of the mean Scot was a result of Harry Lauder who toured the world singing Scots songs and telling “thrifty” jokes. Yet, this image is in direct contrast to the famous hospitality of the Scots. Anyone who’s visited Scotland recognises the great hospitality found there. You only have to stand in a pub for a few moments to hear: “It’s ma roond!” or “Ye’re havin a double!”

Perhaps many confuse the pride and independence of the Scots with being mean with money. Keep up the rumors, tell the jokes, confuse everyone and laugh all the way to the bank! Here’s tae us.

**..laugh all the way  
to the bank....**

## Wha wad ken?

**S**ince this is the last newsletter for this year, then no questions. Answers to the previous quiz:

1. What’s the most western island?  
- St Kilda.
2. What is “Torness”?  
- a nuclear power station.
3. What are “Pool Ewe Gardens” well-known for?  
- semi-tropical plants.

Many thanks to everyone who participated by sending me answers, and congratulations again to our several winners this year. Study hard all summer and you’ll be ready for our return in the fall.

# CALEDONIA CORNER

*...a band of  
official cattle-  
stealers who  
operated across  
the border...*

**M**any have been to, or heard about the grandeur of the various Highland Games held throughout Scotland in the summer. However, this season also brings a series of colourful, exciting and traditional festivals in the Border towns. The "Borders" is taken as the Scottish side of the current boundary between England and Scotland: but years ago the boundary was not so fixed, and the area was called the "Marches". Centuries ago, two things were of significance in the Marches - 1) riding to the other side to rustle cattle, sheep and horses, and 2) riding the boundaries to check for encroachment. Today, along the Border towns from Langholm to Duns, these activities are celebrated (in ceremonial form) by festivals known variously as the "Common Riding", "Riding of the Marches", "Riding the Bounds", and the "Reivers Week". The common theme is for young lads and lassies, with appointed leaders, to ride around particular routes, visit specific places, and perform ages-old ceremonies with flags, banners, and song. A spectacular sight in any of the towns, and each has some local variation:

Hawick Common Riding (Friday and Saturday after the second Monday in June): the principals are the Cornet, the Right-Hand Man, and the Left-Hand Man. After various rideouts, the Cornet Lass re-decorates the burgh flag with gold and blue ribbons. All riders who complete the Moss-paul Rideout (around the burgh boundaries) become members of the Ancient Order of Mosstroopers. The original mosstroopers were a band of "official" cattle-stealers who operated across the border.

Selkirk Common Riding (same time as Hawick): the Standard Bearer must be unmarried, and a good native of Selkirk. Riding the Burgh Marches takes over 4 hours, and there are several additional processions. It is said that eighty Selkirk men went to fight at Flodden (1513), and only one returned but that he carried a captured English flag. At the end of the main rideout, there is a flag casting and the song "Flowers of the Forest" is sung in remembrance of the Flodden event.

Galashiels Gathering (end of June): the Braw Lad and Braw Lass are attended by two males and two females - the Bearer of the Sod, the Bearer of the Stone, the Bearer of the Red Roses, and the Bearer of the White Roses. The ceremonies last a week and include fancy dress parades, rideouts (crossing the Tweed river), a remembrance of the marriage of James IV to Margaret Tudor, and laying a bouquet at the town's war memorial by the Braw Lass.

Reivers Week (Duns, first full week of July): the Reiver with various attendants, leads the rideouts and displays the burgh flag on the boundaries. Several ceremonies, sporting events, and a fireworks display are usually part of the week. The special song for the week starts:

*Whae hasna read in Border lore  
That Duns o' ferlies hauds a store,  
Her Castle, Hen Poo', Bogs and Law -  
Whae disna ken that Duns dings a'.*

Others are in Melrose, Peebles, Kelso, Jedburgh, Langholm, Coldstream, Lauder..

# TOASTS & THINGS

**M**ost will have forgotten, and indeed it is no longer a well celebrated day in modern Scotland, but June 10 is "White Rose Day". Why? Well, it happens to be the birthday of Prince James Francis Edward Stuart. According to Jacobite legend, the rose badge, or "White Cockade", was derived from the bloom picked by Bonnie Prince Charlie (son of the above) at Fassifern, Loch Eil on his march to war after raising the Jacobite Standard at Glenfinnan in 1745. Following Prince Charlie's defeat at Culloden, the white rose became a legendary Jacobite symbol, as in the ballad:

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*... The rose  
badge, or White  
Cockade...*

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*White roses under the Moon  
For the King without lands to give;  
But he reigns with the reign of June  
With his rose and his blackbird's tune,  
And he lives while Faith may live!*

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In the US, the summer is traditionally a time for family picnics and B-B-Q's with friends and neighbours. In Scotland, there are similar events, and often these are formalized around the town gala, or other "gathering" days. For example, in Dumfries, they have a "good neighbours day" called Guid Nychburris Day.

*Frae faur an' near  
We gaiter here,  
A Loreburne's loyal blude,  
To keep wi' mirth an' graun' array  
Oor ain Dumfries Guid Nychburris Day  
Wi' richt guid nychburhude.*

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*Mist in May and heat in June,  
Mak the harvest richt soon.*

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## Thank you for your participation and help...

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*You all made  
a difference...*

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**H**ope you all enjoyed reading our newsletter, the Thistle Times? This is the last issue for the 1994-95 St Andrew Society year. Look out for stories and material as you travel around this summer: keep sending them to:  
Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017  
or call (314) 532-5986.

*Many thanks to those who contributed some excellent material, it all helps!  
Have a great summer - we'll be back in print in the fall.*

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