

# SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

## 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. Our profitable St Andrews Dance Night, the crazy Halloween party! What about the Christmas party, where did all those kids come from?...and wasn't Santa round and Jolly, great fun. We had another good selection of cultural activities, Bill Nicoll's insight into classical Scottish music brought a new perspective to many of us. Of course, our resident celebrity, Mr Alex Sutherland, also contributed time and talent to making our time at the meetings both humorous and Scottish.

The St. Andrews night and the Burns Night were roaring successes. A great performance by Bill Nicoll in his immortal memory. What about the Haggis that was abducted by some English mercenaries, what a story: I just told it at the DBE BBQ and got a lot of laughs. My favorite again this year was the ceilidh where we all get a chance to let our hair down and have a bit of a wild time.

Please take the time to say thanks to our board members for the good work for the year and remember we will have a new board next year which is bound to bring a renewed freshness to the society. Under Jim's leadership, we are sure to have great time.

A big thank you to all the members who helped during the monthly meetings and functions and especially those who made a special effort and entertained us at the monthly meetings. Thanks also to the members who sent in items for our Thistle Times.

For my own part I would like to thank all the board members for couple of great years, my special thanks to Denise for her leadership of the events and Jim's undying enthusiasm for the Thistle Times. I would also like to thank my wife, Kathleen for her love, support and patience throughout my two year term.

Brush up on your three legged racing techniques and no cheating at the egg and spoon race. See you on the 30th.

*Aw-ra-best, Keith*

## inside...

*Events Program*

*Sir William Wallace*

*Caledonia Corner*

*Toasts & Things*

*Other really good stuff!*



**See you at the picnic!**

Dunblane Contributions  
total \$645

We are sending a total of \$645 to the  
Dunblane Fund.

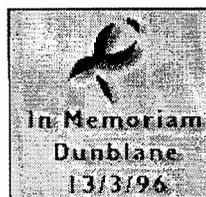
This money came from:

Ceilidh raffle: \$245

The Society: \$150

Individual donations: \$250

Many thanks to everyone for helping.



# THISTLE TIMES

June 1996  
ISSUE 4.5

# Events Program. Come along and enjoy...

**T**he Ceilidh was another smashing success - what a great night. The talent in our Society is truly astounding, and shows up in the best of ways. Followed up by a very interesting presentation on the history of Scottish music by Bill Nicoll, at the May meeting - he is a real expert on many types of music.

NEXT



EVENT

## SCOTTISH BBQ & PICNIC

**Sunday, June 30th:** at Faust Park, Olive Street Road, Chesterfield.

TIME: from 1:00pm to 7:00pm, with core activities between 2:00-5:00pm.  
Bring your own food/meat for BBQ, and beer. Soda and charcoal provided.

*Not so long ago in a land not so far away...*

*...the people worked hard to win a living from rugged soil, they fought hard to protect their Nation, and they played hard at annual gatherings to celebrate their delight in all aspects of life....*

***This is the last event  
of a super year.***

***MANY THANKS TO  
Denise Duffy, and her  
various helpers!***

We will have Scottish picnic games, for kids (of all ages!), pipes and other music, dancing, and other fun events.....

....and we will have a "BEST SHORTBREAD" competition, so fire up the stoves and bring your best.

### Faust Park

Take Hwy 40 west to the Chesterfield Mall exit. Go north on Olive Street Road for about 2 miles. The entrance to Faust Park is on the left. Drive to the main parking lot, and look for signs that Scots are around!

## **O**ut and about....

June 8th: **Kansas City Highland Games**, MO. call 913 341 4263. About 4 hours. Starts at 8:00am with Scottish athletics, pipebands, drum corps, Highland dancing... On the grounds of the Barstow School, at 115th Street & State Line St. The host hotel is the Drury Inn, which is located close to the Games location.

\* Every Wednesday night (except 4th Wed. of the month):  
Country Dance at the Focal Point. Starts 7:30pm.

\* Scottish Festivals and Games (we'll list them by month, ahead of time):  
June 15-16th: Illinois St Andrew Society Highland Games, Chicago, IL.  
Call 312 449 7268. About 5 hours driving time.  
July 20-21st: Rockford Highland Games, Rockford, IL.  
call 815 398 1281. About 5 hours driving time.

\* The Scottish Banner (A' Bhratach Albanach). \$1.75 per issue. Call 716 754 4507

# Sir William Wallace...

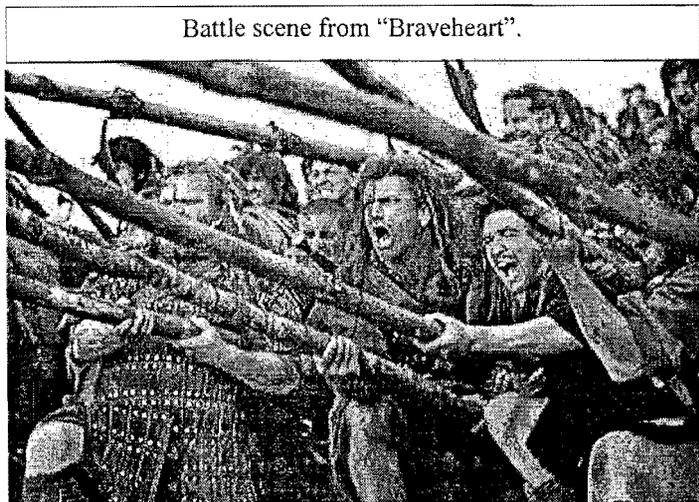
**S**ir William Wallace of Elerslie is one of history's greatest heroes, but also one of its greatest enigmas. The origins of the Wallace family have been a matter of speculation for centuries. *Wallensis*, in Latin, means a Briton of Strathclyde, which until 1018 remained a separate Kingdom. There are six main branches of the Clan Wallace, and one of the earliest can be traced to Richard Wallensis who acquired land in Ayrshire: becoming Wallace of Riccarton. This is the correct geographical location for the origin of our hero, and although there is a town called Elderslie in Renfrewshire, the historians point to Elerslie in Kilmarnock as the true place of origin. Wallace's father died fighting against the English, and Wallace was tortured to death without any immediate successors. The family line was apparently continued through various cousins.



Sir William Wallace of Elerslie, had a desire for peace and freedom, which gained him the loyalty of the people, and united the clans. Yet he is remembered more for his superb leadership, and tactic genius, in leading Scotland against a more powerful aggressor in the form of King Edward "Longshanks" Plantagenet I of England. Perhaps the most famous of the victories was the Battle of Stirling Bridge, in which Wallace led a smaller army against an invasion force led by Surrey and Cressingham, as they tried to cross the Forth. The Clan Wallace motto is "*Pro Libertate*", and Sir William took that family vision, "For Freedom" and gave it to his Nation. He defied the odds at every turn, and even 700 years later, the legend of his patriotism is a compelling tale.

Such a powerful legend that a major movie was made to depict the story. Called "Braveheart" it is truly a moving work, and recently was awarded several Oscars. While some artistic license was inserted, the movie does follow the facts as they have been told over the generations. Mel Gibson, as Director, and playing Wallace himself, is to be congratulated for bringing Scotland's greatest hero and patriot to the attention of a world-wide audience.

If you have not yet seen the movie, then make a point of going. If you wish to learn more about Wallace, there is a new book called "William Wallace" by James MacKay



which was released in March 1996, and is receiving good reviews. If you have access to the internet the Wallace site gives an opportunity to learn, buy the book, and even see clips from the movie (<http://www.catalyst-highlands.co.uk/wallace/home.htm>).

*Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,  
Scots wham Bruce has aften led;  
Welcome to your gory bed, Or to victorie!  
Wha for Scotland's king and law,  
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,  
Freeman stand or freeman fa',  
Let him follow me!*

# CALEDONIA CORNER

**T**he summer has come, and the kids will be out of school soon. Maybe you're thinking about taking a holiday trip to see some new sights. Or maybe you'll be lucky enough to make it back to Scotland this summer. If you are driving in the "auld country" please be aware that there has been a few changes in the road-signs since last year. To help you we have reproduced the more important indications here:



Haggis on road



Number of miles to next filling-station



Cealidh ahead



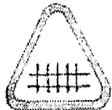
Straighter bit of road ahead



Tea Shoppe ahead



You are now crossing the Highland Fault



Tartan Mill Shop Ahead



Bagpipe practice area



Watch out for detachments of Japanese with guns

Tourist Board Emblem



Scottish Tourist Board,  
23 Ravelston Terrace,  
Edinburgh, Scotland, EH4 3EU  
Non-profit organization promoting Scotland,  
and assisting with travel/holiday information.

National Trust for Scotland,  
5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh,  
Scotland, EH2 4DU. (+44 131 226 5922)  
Owns 100,000 acres and over 100 properties,  
from castles to cottage gardens. Maintains  
these historical sites, and assists tourism.

## Wha wad ken?

**F**irst to answer all three wins a Society flag pin.

Since we're resting for the summer, there are no questions this month: ye'll no be thinking weel enough wi' the heat an that....

Congratulations to Agnes Stirrat who had all three correct last month:

1. Glorious 12th: Start of grouse shootin.
2. Many other "firths" eg Moray Firth.
3. Picture was the "Bonnie Prince Charlie" monument, Glenfinnan, Loch Sheil.

## THE CREATION

On the first day He created the light of the firmament, the air, and the sky.

On the second day He separated the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde from the Hebrides, and created the heather and thistle.

On the third day He created the sun, the moon, and the stars, and saw it was good.

On the fourth day He created the monsters in the lochs, the salmon and the grouse.

On the fifth day He created the scottie and the red deer, and he blessed them, saying "be fruitful and multiply"

On the sixth day in this idyllic land, He created man, and on the seventh day He rested.... while the Devil created golf!

# CALEDONIA CORNER

**I** received a nice letter from the Rev. George Grubb - you may remember he was a visiting Minister at Eden Seminary, and attended one of our monthly meetings. He's back in his home church of Craigsbank Corstorphine, and reports that his congregation said, "Been, gone, done it and wearing the tee-shirt", when he returned wearing a t-shirt from St. Louis. George recalled another time when he was overseas, and acting PR officer for a Base in Germany. He arranged for the pipeband to play in the local Recklinghausen Square, and a grand affair it was. Afterwards, the Director of the local brewery challenged the Scots band to drink his brewery dry - well, what a challenge! Unfortunately, for days, the Military police were picking up rather worse for the wear pipers and drummers all over the Ruhr! George recalls that he kept out of the way of the Station Commander for quite some time. He sends his thanks for our hospitality, and his blessings to all the members.

**W**ould you believe it, we have 344 members including the weans!

Family memberships is 78 accounting for 217 people.

Senior family membership is 24 accounting for 48 people

Single members account for 76 people, and we have three Honorary Members.

**A**ny day now and the St. Louis sun will be out for the season, bringing hot sticky days, crabgrass in the lawn, and swarms of mosquitoes that have learned to love those citronella candles! The one pest we seem to be lacking for our outdoor activities is the good old Scottish seagull.

On a recent conference trip to Jersey, the General Manager of a Scottish company, returned to his room to find it in complete disarray - with clear evidence of an intruder. Being somewhat concerned, he called the hotel management who came to investigate.

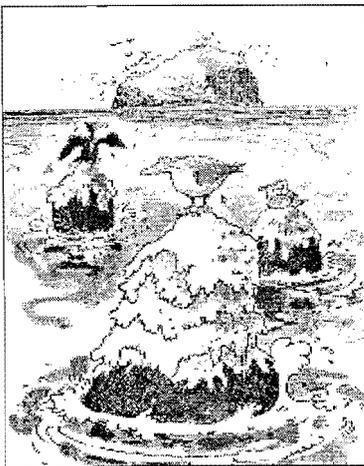
Eventually, it was concluded that he had left the balcony door open and at least one of the local seagulls had been the culprit.

At the end of the conference, our manager quickly put his things together and rushed to the airport. As always happens when you're late, the security people asked if they could check his bags. Of course, he said.

Well, while one of the lady security agents searched his briefcase, the other delved into his luggage. From among his dirty laundry, she promptly withdrew her hand covered in a wet, semi-solid, mud-colored, substance - and stared in disbelief!

Our travelling friend, being from Scotland recognized it immediately, and realized that the friendly seagull had left a wee present while visiting his room. However, the security agents were not entirely convinced by "Honestly, it was a seagull that did it"!

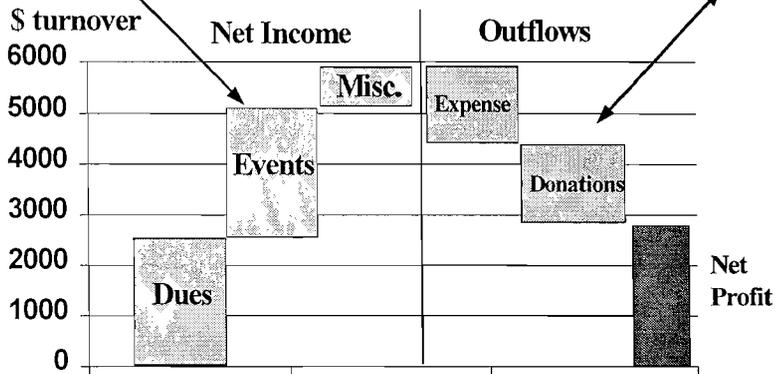
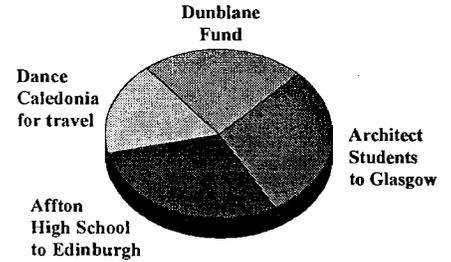
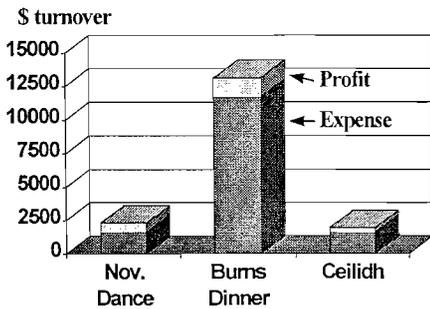
*We can be thankful that mosquitoes are a lot smaller than seagulls!*



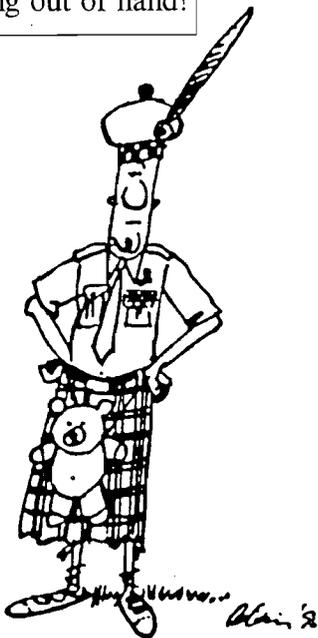
A recent theory about formation of the Bass Rock!

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

**B**y popular request we are providing some additional information about the Society. It's not quite the end of our year, with the BBQ/picnic remaining, but this will be the last Thistle Times until after the summer: so, the information is current as of today, but may change slightly prior to the official close of the year.



This fur sporran thing is getting out of hand!



**A** good year all round! We have had some great events, had a lot of fun, promoted the Scottish culture and heritage, attracted several new members, and made a small positive gain on the financial side. Having some working capital is important for the Society, and is used to support our main events and continue our traditions in the greater Metro area. For example, you can see above that while the Burns Dinner brings in some net income, the working expense for an event like this is around \$12,000. The Board is to be congratulated on a well run year, and the members should be thanked for their strong support.

Letters of thanks have been received for our donations (see chart above), which were focused on supporting travel for young people, associated with things Scottish. For example, Affton High School is sending 23 students to perform in the Edinburgh Festival, and they write: "We can't thank you and the members of the St Andrew Society enough for your contribution to our Scotland Fund....this will truly be a once in a lifetime experience for all of us".

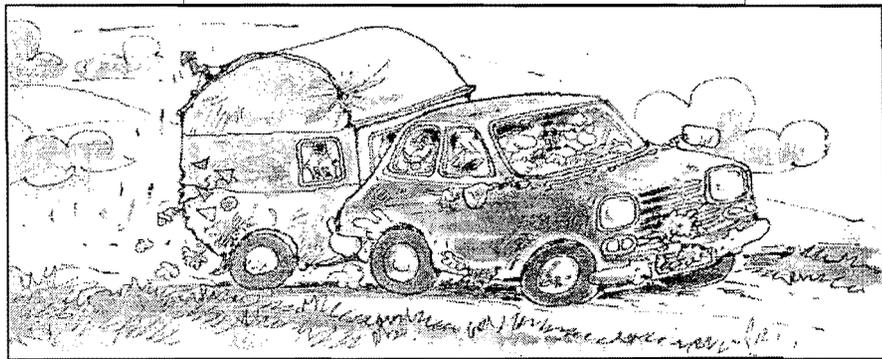
# TOASTS & THINGS

**B**rowsing through the shelves of Oddbin's the wine shop, a bottle was found which seemed appropriate for the bicentenary of Scotland's Bard. Called "Campbell's Bobbie Burns Shiraz", it is recommended as an "extravagantly peppery, soft, minty, oaky Shiraz from a producer best-known for his Rutherglen fortifieds". The Rutherglen fortifieds are not to be mistaken as another strong Lanarkshire drink, but rather originate in Rutherglen, Australia!

The new Board members were proposed by the Nominating Committee, and accepted by members at the May meeting. These people will be sworn-in at the first Fall meeting.

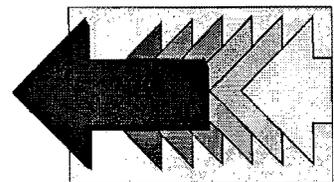
President: Jim McLaren, Vice-President: Denise Duffy, Past President: Keith Parle, Membership: Peter Geery, Treasurer: Anne McLaren, Programs: Marilyn Geery, Recording Sec.: Terri Gowran, Corres. Sec.: Carrie Sutherland, Attorney: Hal Hamilton, Chaplain: Rev. Thom Hunter, Historian: Tom Brennan, Pipeband: Vic Masterson, Planning: Bill Nicoll, Assoc. Program Coord.: Peter Gowran, Public Relations: Gigi Steadman, Entertainment: Alex Sutherland, Honorary Member: Agnes Stirrat.

Happy Summer Holidays! We'll be back!



Please try to find someone who may enjoy becoming a member, and encourage them to join, or come along and find out what we have to offer.

Enquiries to: Peter Geery, (314) 227 2785.



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

**H**ope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the Thistle Times.

Comments, and new material to the Editor:

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017  
or call (314) 532-5986, or e-mail: JamesM66@aol.com.*

*Many thanks to those who contributed all the excellent material, it does help!*

## Back in September!