



SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

I trust everyone had a good Thanksgiving with family and friends and that you celebrated St. Andrew's Day in good Scottish style. There were many kilts, sashes and Saltires in evidence at our Annual St. Andrew's Day Dinner Dance. This year's change of venue appeared to be a success, with everyone enjoying the "Old World" atmosphere of The Racquet Club. The innovation of a silent auction proved to be a financial success as well as creating fun and rivalry, so much so that the Board has decided to include it in the program next year. They also unanimously decided to have the Dinner Dance at the Racquet Club again next year. The display board that was purchased as a result of the motion at the AGM was on display at the Dinner Dance and was much admired. It will be a great asset.

We look forward to the next event, the Christmas Party where Santa will visit our children and grandchildren and Christmas Carols will ring in the holiday season.

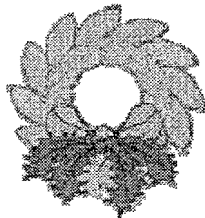
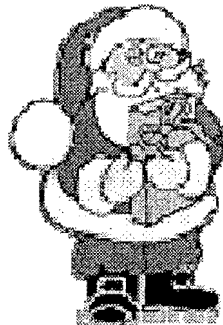
On January 21, 2006, (yes, we are almost in 2006!) we will celebrate Robert Burns birthday with our Annual Burns Dinner at the Frontenac Hilton (see attached form). This is always a very popular event and the capacity of the Frontenac Hilton is limited, so be sure to get your reservations in early so as not to be disappointed.

Best wishes to you and all your family, Yours Aye, Iona Baldwin

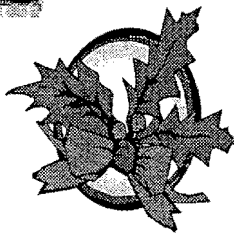
THIS TIMES

DEC 2005
ISSUE 14.3

Merry Christmas

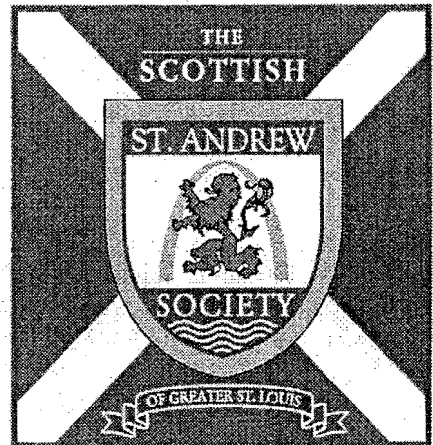


AND



A Happy New Year

Lang mae yer lum reek!



inside...

Upcoming Events

Scottish Holidays

Surf's Up & Nicklaus

Caledonia Corner

Toast an' Things

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next



Event

Saturday January 21st, 2006

Annual Robert Burns Dinner

At the Frontenac Hilton — see attached form — RESERVE NOW

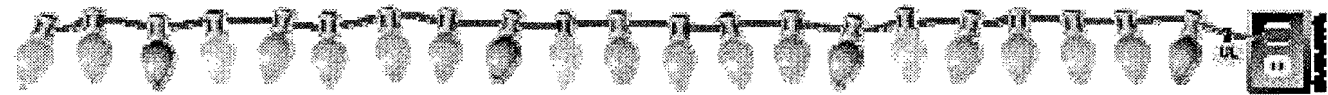
Other exciting events for this year....

The planning for several events is already underway, including

April — Ceilidh and Tartan Day events

May — Annual Kilted Golf — date TBD.

If you would like
to help out, please call
Anja Lodge
(314) 965 6077



**BULLETIN
BOARD**

ADDENDUM: In the past Thistle Times, The new Board members were listed but the name of **Bill Jack - Member at Large** was missing. Please welcome him to the Board.

Board meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. Please call Iona in advance: (314) 569 4225.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Roger Boyd	Ruthie Olson
Wayne & Suzanne Chapman	Angela Pataky
Theodore & Mary Coyle	Suzanne & David Richardson
Donald & Amy Cummings	Linda Roberts
Tracy Ehrhardt	Lynn Rose
Lucinda & Mark Gille-Rowley	Gerry Scott
Sheri Horton	Donald & Elizabeth Shaw
Christy James	Robert & Mary Smith
Anna Lee	Roger Weeks
Katherine & John Mathews	Alan Wheeler
Denny Means & Georgia-Ann Edwards	Stacey Wright



St Andrew's Day Dinner Dance

Ninety seven people enjoyed the camaraderie, music, dancing and the story of tartan history at our St. Andrew Day celebrations at The Racquet Club. A big thank you must go to the Program Committee, Anja Lodge, Aprille Winston and Norma Forrester for providing such a delightful evening. Thank you also to Dick Lodge for printing the lovely programs. As always the dancers of Dance Caledonia were a delight to watch. Thank you Sandy Brown and girls. We all could have listened to Alex, Carrie and Peter, our resident musicians for much longer. Thank you all for bringing the Scottish music and song to us. The new part of the program was the most interesting History of Tartan given by Karen Chartrand. Thank you Karen for that fascinating presentation.

Iona Baldwin.

Scottish Holidays

Christmas in Scotland — a recent holiday tradition

With all the Christmas lights, decorations, and shopping it is almost completely forgotten that Christmas has not always been a regular feature in the Scottish calendar.

Before the Reformation, Scotland had a version of Christmas, related to European festivals and, of course, the winter solstice celebrations. However, from the 16th century onwards Christmas was not a prominent nor traditional holiday in Scotland. Only 40 years ago, Christmas was just another day for most Scots. It wasn't even a school holiday, office work continued, and there was still a postal delivery on Christmas Day, until the 1960s. Any festivities had to wait until the main holiday on New Year's Day.

One theory on this situation is related to the fundamentalist view of Christianity which came in with the Reformation in 1560. Basically, if something wasn't in the Bible then it should not be celebrated. Of course, Christmas is not mentioned in the Bible and the only holy day that was kept was Sunday.

Individuals did, of course, continue to celebrate Christmas in their own way with their own families but despite December 25 being officially declared a bank holiday as early as 1871 it took almost another century to begin to rival the

New Year holiday. I recall as a kid on the farm back home — we sold as many Turkeys for New Year as we did for Christmas. However, as always, when Scots decide to do something they seldom do it half-heartily. Today, Christmas is a significant holiday in Scotland with all the trimmings that are common in most countries.

Hogmanay — the major Scottish Celebration

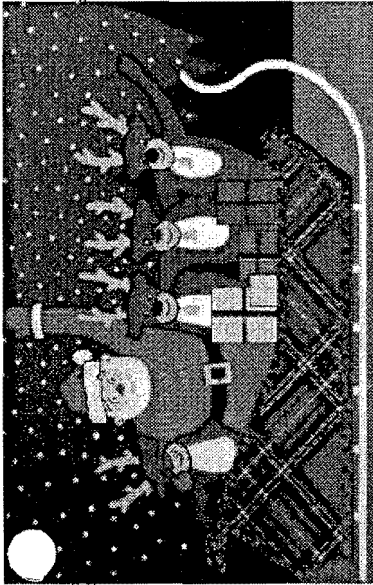
Hogmanay (December 31st) is the Scottish New Year and has been celebrated for centuries. The origins are lost in time but the event is present in many stories and legends. Marriage records from the 1940s and 50s show a surprising number of weddings on Hogmanay — because the following day was the only day off that a working couple could expect (see Christmas above).

Today, there are massive wild street parties in Edinburgh and Glasgow. All over Scotland there are traditional celebrations involving Ceilidhs (song and dance types), first footing, torchlight ceremonies, fireworks, and in some parts there is the swinging of special fireballs. The flame and fire at Hogmanay symbolizes many things. The bringing of the light of knowledge from one year to the next, lighting the way into the next uncharted period of time, putting behind you the darkness of the past, but carrying forward its sacred flame of hope and enlightenment to a better time ahead.

Throughout Scotland it is traditionally accepted that your new year will be a prosperous one if, at the strike of midnight, a "tall, dark-haired male" appears at your door with FIRE (a lump of coal for the fire), FOOD (shortbread or cake), DRINK (what else), and in some parts WEALTH (coins). In exchange, you offer him food, wine or a wee dram of whisky, or the traditional "Het Pint", which is a combination of ale, nutmeg and whisky. This cultural practice is called "first footing".

It is also traditional to convey good wishes for the coming year....

Wishing all our readers **A Very Happy New Year, or A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YIN AN' AW.**



Surf's Up

Forget California! We're talking brilliant surfing conditions and the fastest growing sport in Great Britain. These likely lads from Edinburgh are top surfers and are trying to bring some top world competitions to Scotland. This picture was taken recently and while the waves were good the air temperature was 2°C (36°F). One of them was quoted in the local paper as noting that it's not so cold if you stay in the water!



Just to prove that Scottish all-year surfing is real, this picture is taken on the edge of the North Sea near Dunbar and that is the Torness nuclear power station in the background. (They say it doesn't warm up the water much though!).

Amazingly, the statistics support the fact that certain parts of Scotland are right up there with the most famous beaches in the world when it comes to the quality of the waves. For the technical surfers among you, the area where the photograph was taken has an underlying reef structure that generates good surfing waves, making it possible to obtain 100-yard rides lasting over 15 seconds. The waves are often 12 feet high and the local rocky structure is an added exciting (i.e. dangerous) feature. Surfing in this area is for experts only.

	Swell size (average)	Wave height (typical Nov)	Wind speed (typical Nov)	Aver air temperature
Dunbar Scotland	6 ft	11.9 ft	29 mph	48 F
Bondi Beach Australia	4 ft	11.8 ft	22 mph	72 F
Waikiki Beach Oahu, Hawaii	5.5 ft	12.2 ft	8 mph	77 F

Hope you spotted the data column where you might feel a bit of a difference!



The 2005 OPEN at St Andrews was another historic occasion, and especially with Jack Nicklaus going to Scotland to participate again on the great course before he retired. Those who saw him stand on the Swilcan bridge, with tears in his eyes (and in those of other players), and the Scottish crowds roaring for the "Bear", will never forget. Irrespective of origin, Scotland wanted to remember the greatest golfer and this special five-pound note was issued.

Yes, I have mine. No it's not going on E-bay.

Caledonia Corner



Private Eye magazine has a "Dumb Britain" column and it recently published a collection of the stupidest answers given to quiz questions on radio and TV last year. Many of them were from the program called the "Weakest Link" — no doubt that Anne Robinson can make people more nervous than I do with "Wha wad ken." I thought a few examples would brighten up your Holiday spirit and have you trying out for the next series of "Mastermind" with Magnus Masterson.

Question: What "R" is the westernmost island of the British Isles?

Answer: Argyll!

Q: Vietnam borders Laos, Cambodia, and what other country?

A: America!

Q: Which activity has elementary, secondary, higher, and is conducted in schools and universities?

A: Pass

Q: In which city is the Scottish Parliament situated?

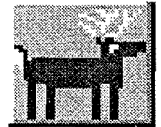
A: London

Q: What letter of the alphabet sounds exactly like the name of a female sheep?

A: Baa

Q: After Guernsey and Jersey what is the largest Channel Island?

A: Er... is England a channel island?



Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. When was the battle of Prestonpans?
2. What is the English equivalent of a Mavis?
3. In which Fife town would you find the Adam Smith Centre?

Congratulations to Pam Finch who won.

Answers:

1. Glengarry — type of cap
2. Granite City is Aberdeen
3. Scottish snakes: grass snake, smooth snake and the poisonous adder.

All replies to Jim McLaren Tel: 636-532-5986

Fast e-mail: mclaren@strathkirk.com

Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,
Chesterfield, MO 63017



Just in time for the January festivities, haggis hunting has been restored as a sanctioned sport at elevations above 4,000 feet all across Scotland.

A few Guid Words

(From the Auld Scots tongue, which is more widespread than Gaelic in Scotland)

HIRSEL = a flock (especially of sheep)

FUFFLE = dishevel (v) or messed-up (n)

CORRIE-FISTED = left-handed

TOASTS & THINGS

Here's tae oor ane Rabbie, The Bard, and Hero of Scotland
Born January 25th, 1759, in the Ayrshire village of Alloway.



Gie me ae spark o' nature's fire,
That's a' the learning I desire.

To those who bravely till the ground,
And those who make the wheels go round,
To those who dig the coal and shale,
Those who succeed and those who fail,
To weak or strong this word of cheer —
We wish you all a Good New Year.

John Black, 1909

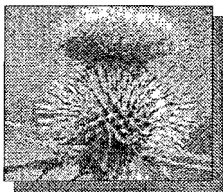
Then let us pray that come it may,
(As come it will for a' that),
That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,
Shall bear the gree, an' a' that.
For a' that, an' a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That man to man, the world o'er,
Shall brithers be for a' that.

But come, ye sons of Liberty,
Columbia's offspring, brave as free,
In danger's hour still flaming the van,
Ye know, and dare maintain, the Royalty of Man!

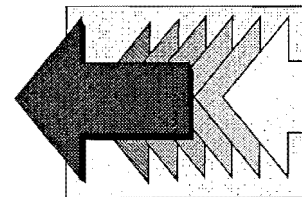
I'm truly sorry man's dominion,
Has broken nature's social union...

A last request permit me here,
When yearly ye assemble a'
One round, I ask it with a tear,
To him, The Bard, that's far awa'.

We hope to see ye assembled a',
at the Burns Dinner, January 21st



**Know anyone interested
In joining the Society
Call Alex Sutherland
At (636) 519 7979**



Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the *Thistle Times*. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. Please send comments, new material, and letters to the Editor:

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017
or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: mclaren@strathkirk.com.*

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>
The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979