

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS



PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Sorry I missed the last monthly meeting, but from what I heard it went very well. Karen Chartrand presented a very informative and educational talk about the history of Scottish tartan and clothing through the centuries. The "models" were Janet Moss, Marilyn and Peter Geery, and special thanks to Matt Geery for being one of our younger enthusiasts.



In this issue you can read about the Burns Dinner survey responses, and see if you thought the same or not about the evening. Thank you to all who sent the survey back. This will help direct us in the planning for next year.

I just couldn't let it go by without comment. The "Dolly" affair is just too important a breakthrough for science—and, once again, Scotland stands on the frontline. The popular press have presented one view, however, it may not be the best perspective for such a great discovery.

Look for our next event(s) details inside, including the indoor games night, and a celebration of "Tartan Day" on April 6th at Growlers Pub. Hope to see you at one of these events,

Aw ra' best, Jim

By Claire Whyte, Kinlochbervie School

Back in the Early Days

In the mid 1600's, many Scots left Scotland to find a new life in other parts of the world. At first, the paupers and vagrants were sent to the New World colonies as punishment for being poor. Soon others followed, often as "indentured laborers" — which mean they were bound to a master for a number of years, then free to make their own way.

The famous, and disastrous, Darien Scheme of 1695-1700 was a similar plan to establish a Scots colony in Panama. It failed financially and socially but, ever since, Scots having been making out all over the world.

Winter is...
Dark nights, cold and wet.
Inches of snow piling up at the door.
To be all wrapped up warm in woolly clothes.
Building snowmen in the neighbour's garden.
Sledging down a hill and falling off.
Getting half days off school.
Finding long gutter icicles.
It is always winter in Kinlochbervie.

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Event

Indoor Games Night

March 24th, 7:00pm. At Country Day/Mary Institute (Ladue and Old Warson)

— An exciting fun evening for adults and kids with all kinds of indoor games.



the program for the rest of the year is:

April 26th, 7:30-11:30am: **Ceilidh** at Whispering Hills Clubhouse

Tickets: \$15 regular member, \$10 seniors, \$5 children under 16.

Refreshments will include beer, wine, soda, and snack food (including some stovies)

Sunday May 18th, 1:00-7:00pm: Picnic & Scottish BBQ

To be held at Vlasis park in Ballwin (Manchester and Holloway Road)

We welcome
Ideas, Volunteers
Contact
Marilyn Geery
Tel: 314 227 2785

SPECIAL EVENT FOR TARTAN DAY



he official world tartan day has been fixed on April 6th, which marks the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320.

*“For we fight not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, but for freedom alone
which no good man gives up except with his life”*

Hundreds of Scottish American groups plan to celebrate tartan day, and our St Andrew Society plans to have an informal gathering on:

Sunday, April 6th, 3:00pm at Growlers Pub in St. Charles.

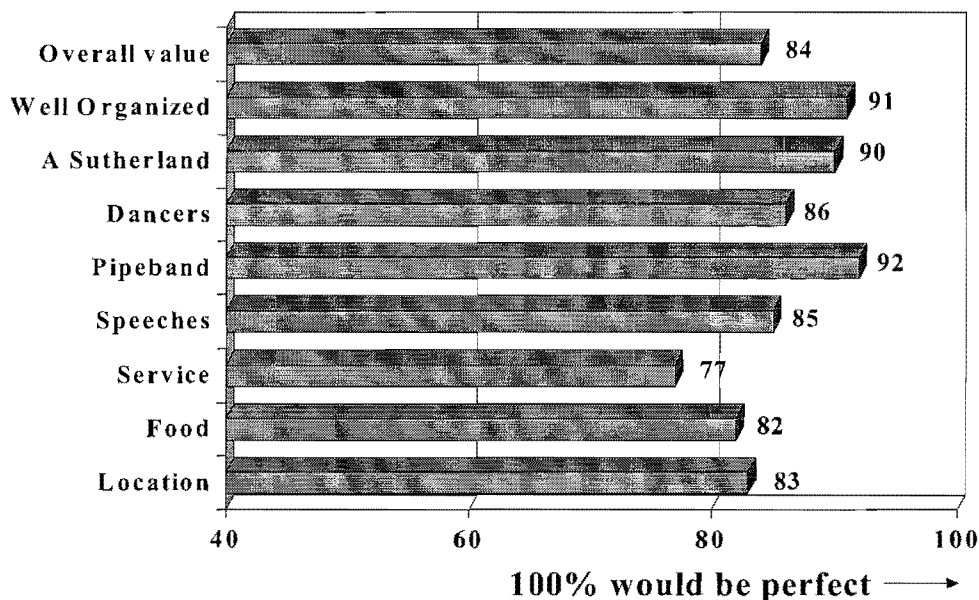
Located at I-94 and Heritage Landing

Wear your kilts and other appropriate tartan items.

Burns Dinner 1997: Responses

Last month we included a survey to all members to provide an opportunity to comment on our Burns Dinner event. Thank you to all who responded.

Total responses were 14% of our memberships, and we must assume that the majority of members who attended were pleased with the evening (we did receive several letters and comments to support this). Of the people who responded, some had negative comments and some had positive comments, even on the same item. We assigned a score responses on each separate portion of the evening and plotted these out:



As you can see, the overall results showed that you felt things had gone very well. Despite the hotel service and food scoring lower than other items in the survey, these were not bad scores and were greatly improved over last year. While the majority of people seem to enjoy the evening, a few people just don't like the format and/or the Adams Mark and we will continue to look at options to improve. Thank you again for helping us understand your feelings about this event.

We thought Alex Sutherland was great, and the feedback we've had confirmed that most people were of the same opinion. In the survey responses, Alex Sutherland and his band received a more favorable rating than did Alex Beaton in last year's survey.

If you are interested, Alex Sutherland recorded a tape last year entitled "*Songs and Stories of Scotland - Alive in St. Louis.*" You can obtain a copy of the tape - a bargain at \$10 each - Call Alex at (314) 771 0119.



In memory of that tragic day one year ago.

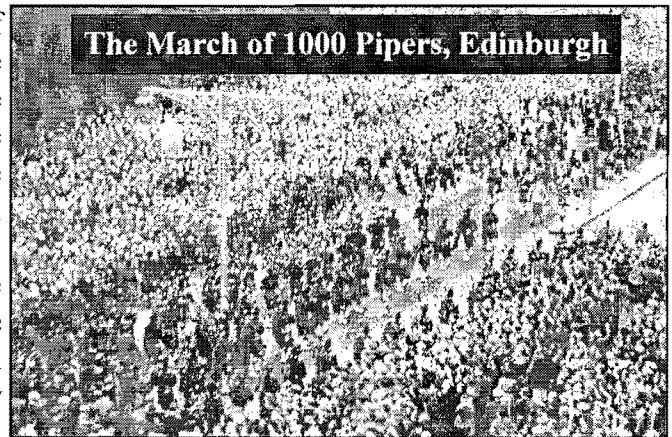


Kirkin' O' The Tartans

Our website is attracting growing attention and there is an interesting network of communication which sends electronic messages back and forth. It was through such communication that the following description was received for "Kirkin O' The Tartans". The explanation was written by George Murdock, a Commander of a Scottish-American Military Society and was passed along by the Rev. Jim Flom from Minnesota.

The ceremony had its beginning in America with the St Andrew's Society of Washington, DC during the early years of WW II. Dr. Peter Marshall, a native Scot, was Pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC, from October 3, 1937 to his death January 25, 1949. He was also Chaplain of the US Senate and a member of the St Andrew's Society. He spoke many times in support of the British War Relief. His sermons were popular, and when, in response to requests, they were printed, proceeds from sales were designated for relief programs in Britain. When asked for a title to his sermon of May 2, 1943, Dr. Marshall suggested the name, "Kirkin' O' The Tartans".

During World War II, the St Andrew's Society of Washington began to hold services of prayer for the subjects of Britain. These services continued in the Washington area and soon came to be known as "the Kirkin'", an annual event of the Society. Today the ceremony is held in the Washington National Cathedral each year on a Sunday near St Andrew's Day. Today, throughout this great country of ours, we Scots celebrate the Kirkin' on the Sunday after most, if not all, of the Highland Games held in the States. Many churches hold their own Kirkin's around St Andrews Day and/or any other Sunday of the year they so choose.



In most Kirkin' services the Clan Banners are processed by Clansmen in Scottish attire into the sanctuary led by at least one Piper playing "Scotland the Brave" and at a given point during the service, sometimes at the beginning sometimes after the sermon, the tartans are blessed in recognition of our heritage.

The service is briefly as follows: The Beadle (leader) commands "Gentlemen raise your tartans". All Clansmen respond, in a loud voice, "We raise these tartans to Almighty God". It is then declared, by the Beadle or his appointee, "On behalf of all Clans represented here today, we raise these tartans to Almighty God in appreciation of our heritage and ask His blessings on His servants. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen". The Minister then offers a prayer of dedication. At the end of the prayer the recessional commences with the Piper(s) playing and the congregation singing "Amazing Grace" as the tartans are processed out of the sanctuary.

Gaelic Corner.

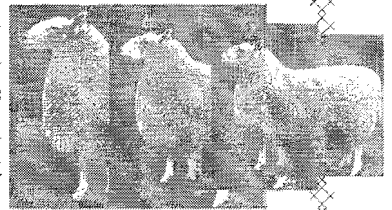
A bheil Ghaidhlig agaibh? [*A vel gyahlik akiv?*] is a polite way of asking someone if they speak the Gaelic [*the italics are phonetic pronounciations*]. Ciamar a tha sibk? [*kimar a ha shiv*] means how are you?

Failte gu ar ceilidh [*fahicha goo ar kehlee*] means welcome to our ceilidh. Madainn mhath [*mateen va*] means good morning. Beannachd leat [*byanakhk let*] means goodbye.

Caledonia Corner

If you missed it you must have been on holiday — in the far reaches of Antarctica! Scotland has produced a string of famous inventors and inventions, from Alexander Fleming (penicillin) to John Leslie (artificial ice) to Kirkpatrick MacMillan (bicycle). In February of 1997, it was revealed that Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh had successfully cloned a mammal. The fact that it was a sheep seems to be peculiarly Scottish! Even for those of us who are close to the biotechnology revolution, this was a startling feat of science. The world will never be the same, and Scotland stands in the midst of the greatest breakthrough of the century.

You will have noticed that the press has tended to focus on the extremes and what might go wrong — especially in relation to human cloning. Let me take a moment to present another point of view. Just like the discovery of the fire, or the wheel, there is no going back. Those discoveries also brought great benefits and huge atrocities. Science itself is not bad, it's what humans do with the science that makes the difference.



The cloning research was not done to clone humans per se, rather it was done to make identical animals which are capable of producing highly specialized medicinal proteins which can then be “harvested” from the milk of those animals. As far as I know it was not the scientists who plastered the world's front pages with potential draconian schemes.

The very fact that dedicated scientists openly announce their work for critical examination by their peers is central to the advancement and well-being of society. No doubt you have your own opinion on this matter, however, I ask you to hold that opinion from a knowledgeable stand and not based on the front pages of the press.

You know, it may be that another courageous, ahead-of-his-time Scot, called Robert Burns, may have foreseen this day:

*O wad some Power the giftie gie us,
To see oursels as ithers see us!*

Wha wad ken?

First to answer all three wins a Society flag pin.

1. What's the Mendelssohn connection on this page? Hint: ↘
2. When was the battle of Culloden? ↘
3. What was Thomas Telford famous for?

All replies to Jim McLaren:
Phone: (314) 532 5986
Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com
Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct,
Chesterfield, MO 63017.

Congratulations to Beety Marty of Neosho, MO who won last time. Answers were:

1. Marischal College is part of Aberdeen Univ., and is the world's largest granite building.
2. Oor Wullie is a cartoon character.
3. Capercaillie is a large Scottish bird.

Looking forward to hearing from you: answers



TOASTS & THINGS

A contemporary poem by Robert Hall:

*I would hear the selkies sing
In the islands to the north,
Let me walk in Brodgar's ring
Where the ancient prayers went forth.*

*I would take the Vikings' dare,
Listen for the selkies' bark,
Let me sit at Orkney fare
With a dram of Highland Park.*

The official Bothy Ballad King (Turrieff, Aberdeenshire) is Tam Reid, now of international fame for his writing and singing of North-East ballads:

*Come a ye jolly plooman lads
That wark amang the grun
An listen tae my story
If ye want tae hae some fun.
I'm no sae young as I aince hae been,
Some say I've had my fling,
But I just feel like a five-year-auld
When I begin tae sing.*

Excerpt taken from the Scots Magazine, Feb 1997.



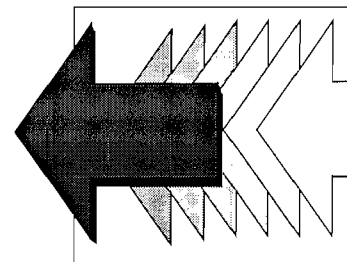
A bothy was a communal "cottage" where the farm workmen ate and slept, after a hard day in the fields. Scottish bothy ballads might be considered analogous to "blues" songs in the southern U.S.

Tam Reid (middle) re-creates some bothy scenes as a "stage" for his songs.



At the last count we had a total of 170 memberships.

(which translates to over 300 people in the Society)
Know anyone interested in joining, send us their number.
Dues & Leads To: Peter Geery, (314) 227 2785.



Thank you for your participation and help...

Hope 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: mclaren@inverizon.com.*

Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>