

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Our 1997-98 session has started with plenty of activity, and the variety of events provided several opportunities to participate in different ways.

The "bike ride" at the Katy Trail started at Augusta where our St Andrew's tent provided welcome refreshments —especially for those who had made it all the way to Defiance and back again.

The informal kick-off meeting at Young's was a great success with over 40 members coming along to try out the fish 'n chips and chat about summer happenings. It was good to see seven brand new members joining us and adding to the enthusiasm of the group. Everyone had a chance to comment on our plans for this



← We're still working on additional modifications and graphic improvements to our Society logo. Some were discussed at the Young's meeting, and we have evolved toward a straightforward, solid looking design.

For Your Calendar
OUR NEXT EVENT

October 26th, 12:15pm
Dedication of Church Bench
in memory of the Stirrats

Oct 27th, 6:30 - 9:00pm
HALLOWEEN PARTY
Spoele School

Nov 15th, 7pm
ST ANDREW'S NIGHT
— a celebration

See details inside....

year, and several good ideas were suggested.

The 2nd annual "kilted golf tournament" turned out to be an exciting and fun afternoon. There were lots of great prizes, some amusing incidents, and more that a few super golf shots. We even had Pete Peterson wearing a kilt and playing a few holes for his Channel 2 program.

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Upcoming Events

A Scottish Parliament

Diana, Princess of Wales

Caledonia Corner

Toasts & Things

Upcoming Events

Next



Event

Bench Dedication

Sunday October 26th, approx. 12:15pm

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church at 45 West Lockwood. The regular Church Service is at 11:15am and members are welcome to attend. The Society will present a bench in memory of William and Agnes Stirrat at 12:15pm, meet inside the east door. Kilts are appropriate.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Monday October 27th, 6:30-9:00pm

At Spoede School on Spoede Road (west of Lindbergh) Let your hair down, or you can even buy a wig. Great fun for kids (of any age!). Prizes for best costumes.

Act now



Send form

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT CELEBRATION

Saturday November 15th, 7:00pm

At "Just Dancing" studio at Hwy141 and Manchester Road We will have dancing (Scottish country dancing, ballroom, modern....), music and song, a toast to the patron saint, calling of the clans.... a night of celebration and enjoyment for all.

POT LUCK SUPPER: Please bring a dish of your choice, to share.

Beer, wine, soda will be provided.

TICKETS: \$15 per person, (\$5 for children: \$10 for Seniors)

Reserve in advance using the attached form: price will be \$5 more at the door.



Other events for the year:

December 15th, 7:00pm: CHRISTMAS PARTY

If you would like to help out, call Marilyn Geery 314 916 5344

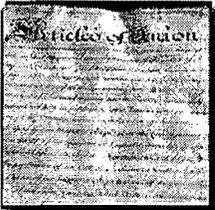
A Scottish Parliament

Within Scotland there was unrest. The economy had been weakened by several events, yet Scotland was considered to be a strong institution in the wider European context. A full-scale media war was underway to persuade the Scots to “do the right thing”, and the pubs were hot-beds of debate over the issues. This could have been the scene prior to Scotland’s recent referendum. In fact, it is a description of the state of affairs just prior to the last session of the Scottish Parliament on May 25th, 1707.

The Scottish Parliament had a strong period in 1639-51. Later, the Revolution Settlement (1689) again led to a more powerful Scottish Parliament. Just prior to its abolition in 1707, the Scottish Parliament was considered one of the most politically mature assemblies in Europe. Parliament House situated next to St Giles Cathedral had been re-built in 1639 and hosted the single-chamber, three “Estate” format. The Estates were a) the nobility (birth-right), b) commissioners of the shires (elected to represent land owners), c) commissioners of the burghs (elected to represent merchants). At that time, a major driving force in British politics was the issue of Hanovarian succession. The dynastic union (Union of the Crowns) was in dis-array and the Scottish Act of Security (1703) allowed for the Scottish Parliament to follow an independent foreign policy, and choose a different monarch from that of England. Clearly, there was some fear that England may be Hanovarian while Scotland could re-instate a Jacobite with the possibility of developing a renewed strong European alliance. This Scottish “problem” was cleverly addressed by dissolution of the Scottish Parliament and the formation of a single Parliamentary assembly in London.

The Treaty of Union had 25 articles, of which 15 were related to economic conditions. Article 1 which related to “an incorporating union” was passed by 115 votes to 83 on November 4th, 1706. Other articles were debated, and voted upon over a period of several months. Officially, the Scottish Parliament was dissolved by proclamation on 28th April 1707, and the Treaty and Act of Union came into effect on May 1st, 1707. (yet the records seem to indicate at least one final meeting of a Scottish Parliament on May 25th).

.....and 270 years later.....



Articles of Union

In 1976, the British Parliament introduced devolution legislation which led to referenda in Scotland and Wales. The people of Scotland voted on March 1st, 1979:

IN FAVOR of devolution: 52% AGAINST devolution: 48%

....but the devolution Bill had clearly stated that 40% of the eligible electorate had to be in favor while, because of a low turnout, this apparent “for” vote represented only 32.9% of those eligible to vote.

September, 1979, and Scotland went to the polls again. This time the overall turnout was 60.4% and the results were:

“There should be a Scottish Parliament” — FOR: 74% AGAINST: 26%

“A Scottish Parliament should have tax-varying powers” — FOR: 64% AGAINST: 36%

What now? The vote was not for a particular structure other than the tax-related powers, so the next step is to debate how a Scottish Parliament will be implemented and what the relationships will be with London, with Brussels, and so on. It appears that a Scottish Parliament may sit in Edinburgh by the year 2000 — or some 293 years following its previous assembly!

Caledonia Corner

William and Agnes Stirrat: Founder members of the Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis

We tend to take our St Andrew Society as a given — it's always been here and there's always some event going on. Many people today work hard to make all those things happen, yet before the Society existed it was even more difficult to have the cultural exchange that we all enjoy so much.

It took great vision to see that need, and courage to stand out in front and make it happen. Those were attributes that William and Agnes Stirrat brought with them to St. Louis from their native home in Scotland. It was 1947 when Bill and Agnes took that huge first step into an unknown world. They went west, and from Glasgow that meant an Atlantic crossing, accompanied by three children — a pioneering journey indeed. A train ride into the heartland of this vast country doesn't sound so formidable today, but it must have been both exciting and demanding for the Stirrats.

However, with typical Scottish tenacity they built their own grocery business, and nurtured a proud family — with two more children being born in St. Louis. Challenging enough? Not for the Stirrats, who found within themselves the capacity to provide shelter for other Scottish immigrants and to help them find their way in this new land. While the Stirrats embraced the opportunities of America, they never forgot their native Scottish heritage. In 1972,



Bill and Agnes led a visionary group who founded our St. Andrew Society and formalized it through incorporation on April 25th, 1973. Bill was the first President of the Society and Agnes was a Board member in that founding year. Later, Agnes would become the first lady President of the Society.

The preamble to the Constitution of our Society states, "The purposes of this Society are declared to be patriotic, historical, educational, cultural, charitable and philanthropic." As founding members, these were values that the Stirrats not only held but regenerated in the wider St. Louis community. We owe them our thanks for challenging us, through their legacy of the St Andrew Society, to continue in the promotion of these solid Scottish values.

The St. Andrew Society is proud to recognize the contribution that William and Agnes made to Scottish-American cultural exchange through the donation of a Memorial Bench to be located at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church. The dedication will be on October 26th, around 12:15pm (see page 2 for details).

Wha wad ken?

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

1. Ross and _____?
2. What Scot played James Bond?
3. What's a "but and ben"?

Congratulations to Bob Hamilton who won last month. Answers:

1. Glasgow is further west
2. Melrose Abbey
3. The Stone is in Edinburgh Castle.

All replies to Jim McLaren

Phone: 314-532-5986

Fast e-mail: mclaren@inverizon.com

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

Diana, Princess of Wales

The world was bewildered by the circumstances, and completely shocked by the tragedy of the death of Princess Diana and her companions. The tributes to her accomplishments have come from millions and several Memorial Funds have been set up to carry on the charitable work that she had championed so effectively.



Our Society will be making a donation of \$250 to the "Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund," Kensington Palace, U.K. There are also two Funds in the U.S. where individuals can make donations. If you wish to contribute to the donation that we will make to the U.K. Fund, please send checks to:

Anne McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct., Chesterfield, MO 63017, before Oct 31st.
Any donations we receive will be pooled and sent to Kensington Palace.

July 1st 1961 -
August 31st, 1997

Princess Diana was a major sponsor of the following charities: Centrepoint, English National Ballet, Leprosy Mission, National Aids Trust, Great Ormond Street Trust for Sick Children, Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund, Charities Aid Foundation, British Red Cross.

First, I want to pay tribute to Diana myself. She was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness. I admired and respected her — for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys." Queen Elizabeth II

In St. Louis, there were also tributes to Princess Diana. Bill and Jen Nicoll were just two among the Congregation that packed Christ Church Cathedral on September 14. The unique event was a Choral Evensong "In Thanksgiving for the Life of Diana, Princess of Wales, 1961-1997." The Dean of the Cathedral gave a short, moving eulogy to open the Service, and one of the three readings was given by a friend of the St. Andrew Society — Mr Val Lammert, Honorary British Consul in St Louis. In addition to the offering being sent to the "Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund," a portion of it was to be donated to "Our Little Haven," a St. Louis residential treatment centre for young children at risk.

The idea for such a Service came from William Partridge, Organist and Choir Director, who augmented his Cathedral Choir with that from the Church of St. Michael and St. George in Clayton. The sixty voices soared from the organ loft in performing a programme of British church music from the 16th Century to the present day. This included Charles Villiers Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in B-flat, chosen since they are performed regularly at Windsor Castle, where Diana would often have heard them. Also covered were several of the musical items that were part of her Funeral Service in Westminster Abbey. Among these, the Retiring Processional Hymn, to the great Welsh tune "Cym Rhondda," was a fitting end to a poignant service and an appropriate tribute to the memory of our Princess of Wales.

And it seems to me you lived your life like a candle in the wind:
never fading with the sunset when the rain set in.
And your footsteps will always fall here, along England's greenset hills;
your candle's burned out long before your legend ever will.

70 AS7S & 747NGS

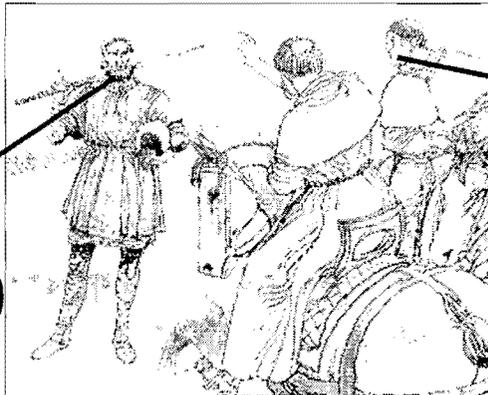
October already! It must be time for Halloween: the Eve of All Hallows, the Feast of All Saints, the “Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed”, or the ancient Celtic festival of Samhuinn. It was 1000 years before Einstein described the fourth dimension - yet, the Celts took the night of the winter solstice (Samhuinn) as the time when the past, present and future became one.

*On Hallowmas Eve, ere ye bounne to rest, Ever beware that your couch be blest;
Sign it with cross and sain it with bead, Sing the Ave and the Creed.*

Sir Walter Scott

Halloween in Scotland is the night the witches ride, and fairies migrate from hill to hill — capturing any unsuspecting mortals. Bonfires are lit to deflect these supernatural forces while, today, guisers (people dressed up in costume) still abound — a custom that descends from Druid times when men blackened their bodies with ashes so that the “wee folk” would not recognize them! Of course, in St. Louis pumpkin lanterns are a common replacement for the Scottish “turnip (neep) lantern” — and are a lot easier to carve into interesting shapes.

*Or if we trust the village tale
A wayward maid in witching hour
When stars were red and moon was pale
Reared thy dread mound by magic power.*



Whit's your
problem!

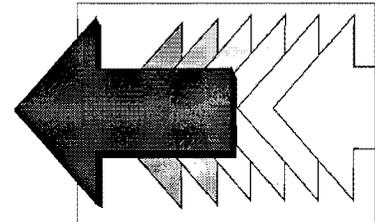
You'd better be
on your way to
the St Andrew's
Halloween Party!

The Dues are due!

Please pay now if you have not already done so.

Know anyone interested in joining, send us their number.

Dues & Leads To: Peter Geery, (314) 916 5344.



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: mclaren@inverizon.com.