

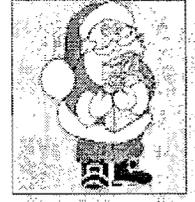
# SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

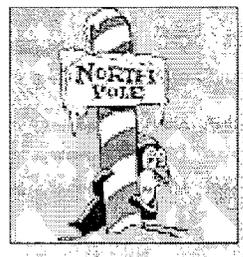
The St. Andrew's celebration Dinner Dance has come and gone for 2002, and what a great time we had. To paraphrase our good friend Ed Miller:

"With Bobby on the box, using midi for the fiddle,  
We birlled at the top, and danced doon the middle.  
Why more didn't come it really is a riddle!  
We had a great night at the Dance."



Thanks to all those who helped organize the evening, and to everyone who came. So, with the Dance, Thanksgiving, and St. Andrew's Day now past, we have our Christmas Party on Dec.16th to look forward to. Details are in this issue of Thistle Times. Along with Carrie and Alastair, may I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and look forward to celebrating with you the birth of the One who Andrew followed.

Yours aye, Alex Sutherland



### Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year



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

### inside...

- Membership News*
- St Louis Scottish Games*
- Caledonia Corner*
- Seasonal Traditions*
- Toasts & Things*

# Membership News

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

NOTE  
INSTRUCTIONS



Monday, December 16th, 2002.

## Annual Christmas Party

At Mary Institute/Country Day School  
Middle School Building

At Ladue and Warson Road (entry from Warson)

Dinner at 6:00 pm with family fun and carols at 7:00 pm.

The Society will provide ham, bread, and condiments.

**PLEASE BRING** a potluck dish (according to your surname)....

**A-G: Desert H-N: Salad O-Z: Vegetables**

Families attending with children should call Shirley Trotter to make sure that Santa has the right information. Tel: 314 841 2095

Other exciting events for this year....

### January 25th, 2003. Annual Robert Burns Dinner

At Frontenac Hilton, at Lindbergh and I-40 SEE ATTACHED FLIER

### March 22nd, 2003. Annual Ceilidh at Whispering Hills Clubhouse. 7:00pm

**April 5th, 2003. Tartan Day celebration:** parade starts noon from Goldenrod parking lot in St Charles, followed by evening festival at 7:00 pm, at the Lindenwood University Cultural Center on Kingshighway between Adams and Clark streets

If you would like  
to help out, call  
Diane McCullough  
314 773 4195

### WELCOME RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Lynette McCall. Chesterfield, MO  
Anna Humphrey. Centralia, IL  
Elizabeth Galacia. Centralia, IL  
Marilyn Mana. Florissant, MO  
Edward & Laura Crites. St. Louis, MO

### A Christmas Ceili

December 14th, 7 to 10pm

Arcadia Valley 4th Annual Celtic Festival is holding a fundraising concert at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 3633 Lindell Blvd (must enter via parking lot on Olive Street side. Alex & His Cronies, The Boatrights, and Red McWilliams. Tickets \$10 and \$5 (children), under 12 free.  
More info, Tel: 573 546 2432



### FLOWERS O' THE FOREST

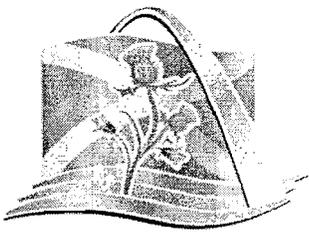
**Thomas Brennan** passed way December 7, 2002, at the age of 63, after a brave stand against a terminal illness. He is survived by his wife Sandra and two sons, Christopher and Thomas John.

Tom was President of our St. Andrew Society on two occasions, 1982-84 and 1992-94, and his leadership contributed much to our development. He was a good friend to many, a successful business man, and a strong pillar of society.

Born in Glasgow, Tom became a great champion of Scotland in his adopted country of America.

*For a' that an a' that,  
Their dignities an' a' that,  
The pith o' sense, an pride o' worth,  
Are higher rank than a' that.*

He was a great person and we will all miss him.



S T L O U I S  
SCOTTISH GAMES

**REVIEW OF THE 2002 GAMES & FESTIVAL**

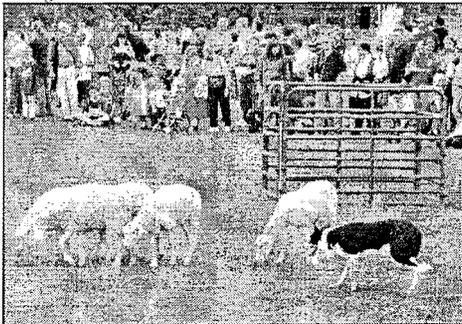
By Bill Nicoll, Managing Director

From recent post-event evaluation by the Games Board and operations team, here's a summary of the main findings. This year we again found it helpful to look at What Worked, What Didn't Work, What Was Missing.

Unanimous agreement that the biggest positive factor was the fine weather through Saturday. Close behind was this year's site layout, with a few improvements that can still be made. Access to the Lindell Pavilion from our friends at Forest Park Golf Club was a welcome feature (with parking control improvements slated for 2003), as was our use again of the History Museum (although the program there could have been better publicized, with more directions on how to enter that building).

Attendance doubled, including at the popular Friday evening activities where we'll add some other features next year. Steps will also be taken to expand and speed up the food and beverage lines on both days.

The traditional activities for all ages -- ceremonies, clans, competitions, exhibits, performances and vendor merchandising -- continued at the high quality level we committed to a year ago. Equally, our many critical support functions, on which an event like this relies heavily, again exceeded expectations. Among these rank Publicity & Media Relations (successfully "broke through" in all promotional aspects), Logistics & Facilities (can still use more help the week of the event), Volunteers (there can never be too many available at the event itself), Poster & Program Design (eye-catching and informational), Web Site and Email Services (essential elements these days), Hotel Accommodation (important for out of town attendees, officials etc).



To ensure continued financial security (for a budget in excess of \$100,000) we will build on this year's Development activity. This will include our "Friends of the Games" program, which attracted some 250 members, and alliances such as we've started with "Forest Park Forever." Our thanks to all of our generous patrons and loyal supporters to date -- we are planning to at least double those numbers in 2003!

We're also looking forward to 2004, when we're already set to be part of the 1904 World's Fair Centennial celebrations in and around Forest Park. We didn't make an official Video of this year's Games but the excellent 90 minute film from 2001 is still available (\$20 donation), as a memento of our 1st Annual Games & Festival.



**A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED SO WELL!**

More pictures on the web at [www.stlouis-scottishgames.com](http://www.stlouis-scottishgames.com)  
Games phone number: (314) 821 1286

# Caledonia Corner

A few signs noted for their thoughtfulness, or lack of as the case may be....

*"We repair what your husband fixed"*

Plumber's truck

*"7 days without pizza makes one weak"*

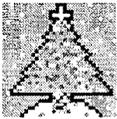
Pizza shop (not saying which)

*"We really know our stuff"*

Taxidermist shop

*"No appointment necessary, we hear you coming"*

Muffler shop



## Wha wad ken?

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

1. Who was King of Scotia (Alba) in 850AD?
2. What's at the west end of the Royal Mile?
3. What is the name of the largest mountain range in Scotland?

Congratulations to Alex Usher who won by about 15 minutes. Answers:

1. Glasgow University — 1451
2. "Ghillie" is originally a leading oarsman, now a hunting/fishing guide.
3. Mountain Ash = Rowan tree.

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

Fast e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com)

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



## Who invented Christmas cards?

While this is a difficult fact to establish with any certainty, the records claim that it was in Scotland. There is, in fact, some documentary evidence to support the Scottish origin. It is known that on December 17th, 1841, Charles Drummond, a publisher and bookseller of Kirkgate, Leith, placed a Yuletide greeting card in his shop window. The original idea may have come from his friend, a Thomas Sturrock of Edinburgh. This "first" card was engraved to include a laughing chubby-cheeked boy.



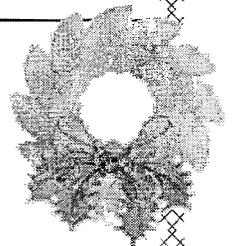
Needless to say, sales of these cards grew rapidly over the subsequent years with a range of styles being added. One common variation was to have cards containing sprigs of real heather, tied with tartan ribbons — maybe we should be claiming this as the "first" fragrance card! Throughout the years, cards began to take on more religious symbolism.



Obviously, Christmas (or "holiday") cards are now found throughout the world, and all this from a wee shop windae in Leith.

## Society Christmas Tree

Our Society has again placed a "Scottish" Christmas tree in the display associated with the International Folklore Federation. This year it is on show at the West County Mall (1st floor in front of Cachet).



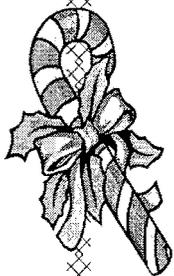
Many thanks to Patricia & Gordon McRoberts for volunteering to decorate the tree.

# Seasonal Traditions

The year-end festival activities in Scotland have been influenced by several different cultural interactions. The medieval Feast of Yule (December 25th to January 6th) probably originated via

Scandinavian "visitors" to Scotland. The French also impacted activities via various characters and customs at this time of year. For many years, this winter festival period was often referred to as the "Daft Days". While "Christmas time" (the Daft Days) was basically a festival of the winter solstice, it later became merged with the Christian Nativity. Some aspects of the evolving Christmas festival were lost during the Reformation. However, these were largely re-discovered during the Victorian Christmas era, and became more widespread through the writings of Sir Walter Scott. Thus, Christmas in Scotland is a mixture of nostalgic Victorian activities merged with some of the traditions of the earlier festivals. For example, turkey and crackers (the kind you pull) are relics of the old Celtic festivals. Scottish

*And well our Christmas sires of old  
Loved when the year its course had roll'd*  
Sir Walter Scott



Christmas trees became common following the introduction of the custom, at Balmoral, by Prince Albert. Before lights were available, a candle was placed in a window as a "torch of welcome" for friends and family. Mistletoe (Gaelic, *nuadhulig*, meaning "heal-all") came into the Victorian Christmas, but the kissing traces back to Druid fertility rites. January 6th is "Uphalieday" which is equivalent to the Feast of Epiphany, and is the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Uphalieday is celebrated in various forms throughout Scotland: from family gatherings with special baked cakes to the fire festivals in the north (closely linked to Viking events).



During the "Daft Days" and for the majority of Scotland, there was a secular event that was more celebrated than Christmas itself. Called New Year, or "Ne'erday," it too had roots in the ancient customs and beliefs. As the last bells toll on the auld year, Scotland erupts into a centuries' old party called "Hogmanay" (New Year's Eve). While the turning of the year had long been a recognized festival, the fixing of January 1st as the official Scottish New Year, was decreed by James VI at Holyrood Palace in the year 1599.



Edinburgh Castle and the Hogmanay fireworks

Is there anyone with Scottish blood who doesn't carry the anticipation of Ne'erday in their veins? Just like the majestic salmon that knows it must return to its river of birth, the Scots must have a great "redding-up" (clean-up) around the house. Everything must be fixed and working, the clothes all mended, all the chores completed, and everything set-up for the great Hogmanay event! The ritual of first-footing (visiting of friends and neighbors) with an exchange of shortbread, and your "New Year" from the family bottle, is symbolic of the old Celtic food offerings. The very first visitor to a house is called the "First Foot" and should carry particular gifts to ensure good luck for the coming year. The gifts vary by region, and may include cake or shortbread, coal, drink, salt, fish, and wheat sheafs. Of course, ideally, the "First Foot" should be a tall, dark-haired and handsome male to avoid the bad luck omens that go with the opposite characteristics.

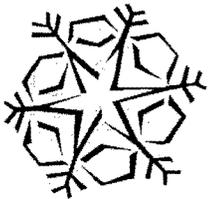
Oh!oh!....

It's time to get the Hoover and dusters out again....

# TOASTS & THINGS

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

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,  
Ilk man and mother's son, take heed:  
Whane'er to Drink you are inclin'd,  
Or Cutty-sarks run in your mind,  
Think! ye may buy the joys owre dear;  
Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare.  
From *Tam o' Shanter*.



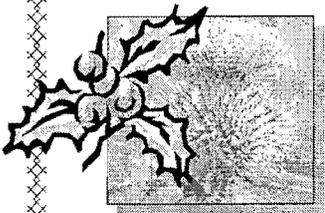
Wee modest crimson-tipped flow'r,  
Thou's met me in an evil hour;  
For I maun crush among the stour  
Thy slender stem:  
To spare thee now is past my pow'r  
Thou bonnie gem.  
From *To a Mountain Daisy*

Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;  
O I will love thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.  
From *A Red, Red Rose*

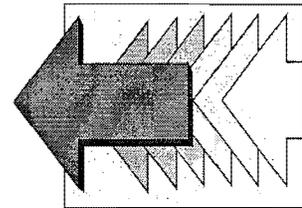
But come, ye sons of Liberty,  
Columbia's offspring, brave as free,  
In danger's hour still flaming the van,  
Ye know, and dare maintain, the Royalty of Man!  
From *Ode for General Washington's Birthday*

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 25th



**Merry Christmas  
And  
Happy Holidays**



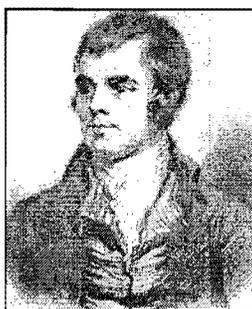
Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. Please send comments, new material, and letters to the Editor:  
*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017*  
or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com).  
Website address is <http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink>  
The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979

SCOTTISH ST ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST LOUIS

# ROBERT BURNS DINNER

**Frontenac Hilton**  
at Lindbergh and Clayton  
**Saturday, January 25th, 2003**

Cocktails @ 5:30pm  
DINNER @ 6:25pm  
(plus haggis)



A Grand Evening  
of poems, songs,  
Dance Caledonia,  
Invera'an Pipe Band,  
and Scottish culture.

## TRADITIONAL TOASTS AND TRIBUTES TO THE GREAT BARD

Including Special Guest Entertainer

Special room rates at the Frontenac Hilton: \$89 single or double.

Call to make room reservations at 314 993 1100

Seating is first come first reserved: must reserve and pay by Jan 18th.

### RESERVATIONS: DETACH & SEND WITH CHECK

\_\_\_ Members @ \$55.00 ea. = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Senior Members @ \$50.00 ea. = \$\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Non-members @ \$60.00 ea. = \$\_\_\_

CHECK FOR TOTAL = \$\_\_\_

RESERVATIONS IN THE NAME OF \_\_\_\_\_

If seating with another party, please indicate your preference and we will try to accommodate: \_\_\_\_\_

RESERVATIONS & CHECKS MUST BE IN BEFORE JAN 19th  
INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:  
Anne McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017  
Need more information then call Anne @ 636-532-5986.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO SCOTTISH ST ANDREWS SOCIETY