



# SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

# THISTLETIMES

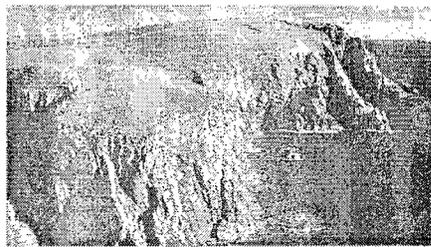
OCT 2003  
ISSUE 12.2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

Now in its 31st year, and following a very successful involvement in the 2003 St. Louis Scottish Games, the St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis continues to bring a "wee bit o' Scotland" to the Midwest. In keeping with this tradition, the new board has been hard at work putting together a first class program of events for the coming year. Details of November's Dinner Dance to honor St. Andrew and Scotland, and December's Christmas Party can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Thistle Times. Planning for January's Robert Burns Dinner, April's Tartan Day celebrations and Ceilidh, and May's picnic are all in full swing, so get ready for an overdose of "guid Scottish fun". And, oh yes - tell all your friends.

Yours aye, Alex Sutherland

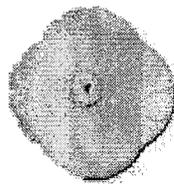


### The beautiful Mull of Galloway.

Legend has it that this was the last stronghold of the southern Picts. Also, rumored to be the location where the ancient Heather Ale was first brewed.

A busy time of year so...

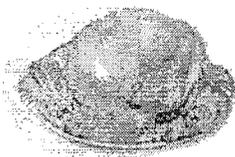
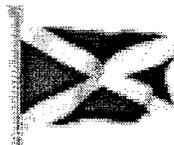
Happy Halloween



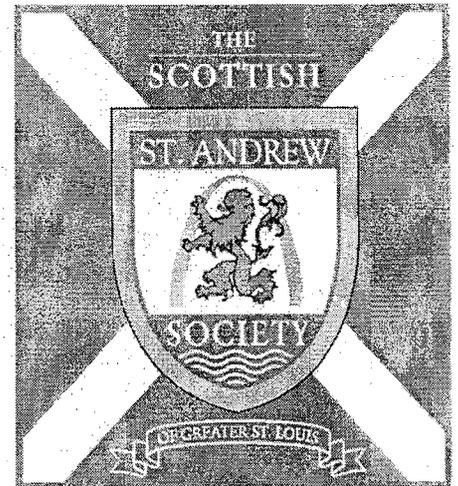
Lest We Forget

November 11

Have a memorable &  
fun St Andrew's Day



Happy  
Thanksgiving



inside...

*Membership News*

*Scottish Games Pictures*

*Caledonia Corner*

*Seasonal Activities*

*Toasts & Things*

# Membership News

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR NOW

Saturday November 22nd, 2003. Starting 6:30pm  
**ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**  
**For St Andrew's Day**  
At Forest Hills Country Club  
(Sign up BEFORE Nov 10th: see attached registration information)

Other exciting events for this year....

December 15th, 2003. Christmas Party at Mary Institute/Country Day School  
January 24th, 2004. Annual Robert Burns Dinner at the Frontenac Hilton  
April — Ceilidh and Tartan Day events  
May — Annual Picnic

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

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Kilted Golf — we need an organizer, or volunteer to help co-organize this event for 2004  
It's fun and the bonus is amazing! Call Jim McLaren at 636 532 5986

BULLETIN  
BOARD

## The Society Board for 2003-2004

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**Voted into office at the AGM were:**  
President: Alex Sutherland  
Vice President: Iona Baldwin  
Past President: Bill Nicoll  
Treasurer: Anne McLaren  
Program Director: Diane McCullough  
Membership Director: Geoff Chaboude  
Secretary: Linda Grabel  
Historian: Judie Chaboude  
Thistle Times Editor: Jim McLaren  
Merchandise: Chris Fulton  
Chaplain: Rev Thom Hunter  
Attorney: Allan Stewart  
Member-at-Large: Norma Forrester  
Member-at-Large: Chris Brennan

## WELCOME RECENT NEW MEMBERS

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Charles & Cynthia Burgess, Florissant MO  
Chris & Joyce Burgoyne, St. Charles, MO  
Linda Forrester, Webster Groves, MO  
Linda Grabel, University City, MO  
Gail Johnston, St. Charles, MO  
Stuart & Sue Keck, St. Louis, MO  
Michelle Marshall & Don Moore, Wildwood, MO  
Marilyn & Tom Patterson, St. Charles, MO  
Douglas Stirrat, Kirkwood, MO  
Melody Visser, Town & Country, MO  
— *there are now over 500 people in the Society.*

**Donations Wanted for St Andrew Dinner Dance Raffle**  
Please consider donating raffle prizes: large or small welcome.  
Call Diane McCullough at 314 775 4195.

# St Louis Scottish Games

From a wonderful day at the St. Louis Scottish Games (worth 10,000 words)....



Thanks to Brian Anderson who provided some of these photos.



# Caledonia Corner

The Wall Street Journal recently ran an article about the growing popularity of deep fried snickers bars and twinkies. Going for \$3 apiece at fairs, especially in the southern US. The concept was imported from Scotland about 5 years ago — actually the Thistle Times reported the story about it starting in a Stonehaven fish & chip shop where they first deep-fried mars bars. When you throw these delicacies into boiling fat, apparently the batter has a large impact on the outcome!!

OCTOBER 20, 2003. The "Scotsman" newspaper of Edinburgh published its 50,000 edition. The paper began as a weekly on the birthday of Robert Burns in 1817, and went daily in June 1855.

## PIPES AND DRUMS CONCERT

Sat January 17th, 2004

Kansas City MO

All-star line-up of gold medal pipers and champion Scottish drummers.

MidWest Highland Arts Fund of KC

Info at [www.mhaf.org](http://www.mhaf.org)

The Second Reading Bookshop in Alton has several interesting books, such as:

*Scottish Wit and Humor.*

*Robert Burns Rare Print Collection.*

*Tight Little Island.*

Open daily noon till 8:00pm

[www.secondreadingbookshop.com](http://www.secondreadingbookshop.com)

It's always darkest... just before you flunk a test!  
Two heads are.... Pretty scary!

## Wha wad ken?

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

1. What was Andy Stewart famous for?
2. What is "New Lanark" all about?
3. Name a type of Scottish sheep

Congratulations to Alex Sutherland who won in the last edition before the summer.

ANSWERS:

1. Capercaillie is wild bird, like a big turkey
2. The Jam Tarts: Hearts soccer club nickname.
3. Bridies are famous in a town called Forfar

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

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

Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,

Chesterfield, MO 63017

Taxi driver helped his female fare out of the cab and said, "There'll be no fare for that trip, mam, since you did most of the driving!"

My husband was bending over to tie our three-year-old's shoes. Young Ben was staring at my husband's head. He reached up and touched the thinning spot and said, Daddy, does that hole in your head hurt? After a pause, my husband replied, "Not physically!" (from Jessie Gober)

From the Glasgow Herald...

Labour MPs have not been slow in putting a positive spin on the prime ministerial cardiac emergency. As one loyal Blairite yesterday insisted in a Westminster corridor: "Terrible news, but at least it shows Tony's got a heart — unlike Thatcher." (Ouch!! :))

Satirical forces are again evident at Glasgow city-centre bar The Universal, where someone chalked a protest on the outdoor blackboard, "Them Caleyefornians ar'nie right in the heid!" (interesting perspective from Glasgow!)

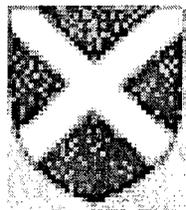
# Seasonal Activities



Halloween is upon us once again and the rituals of ancient Celtic Festival of Samhuinn (winter solstice), later merged with All Saints, will be followed in many a Scottish home. The legends abound...

One legend is that the ancient Celts would carry a lantern when they walked on the eve of October 31 to protect them from the seasonal spirits. In Scotland, the lanterns are carved from neeps (turnips). This custom obviously came to America via Scottish settlers (there's no Halloween in England), and being at a loss for neeps they chose the excellent substitute, pumpkins. Dressing up in costumes, called "guising" in Scotland, is descended from the Druid customs of disguising themselves to avoid recognition by the spirits of the dead during Samhuinn.

In the auld country, divination was also a large part of Halloween. For example, selected individuals would be blindfolded and asked to pull a kale plant from a field at random — the size and shape of the plant being used to divine future prospects. Luggies (bowls or pails) of clear water, dirty water, or being empty were used in a similar manner for blindfolded, young, men to determine whom they might marry in the upcoming year. Halloween is a great time for ancient legends, ghost stories, fairies, witches and warlocks, and various spirits!!!



St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland, continues to be a symbol of the individuality and courage of the nation. It was Andrew who first carried the gospel to the ancient city of Byzantium, which later became the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and was re-named Constantinople. In response to his missionary efforts, the Roman proconsul at Patras had Andrew bound on a distinctive (X-shaped) cross, the *crux decussata*, in the year AD 60. About 300 years later, Emperor Constantine wanted to establish Constantinople as a centre of Christianity and had the martyr Andrew's body transferred to the city — at this time a portion of Andrew's bones were moved to Scotland. In Scotland, the Feast of St. Andrew (also called Anermas) has long been regarded as an important event. In addition to religious ceremonies, celebratory dinners were known in 15th and 16th centuries.

On or close to November 30th, our patron saint is remembered by those at "hame" and in every corner of the Globe. A typical celebration involves a dinner (and dance or music), and our St Louis event follows that format — see attached information and sign up soon.

## Happy Thanksgiving to all

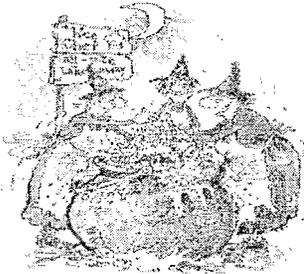
In Scotland the Celtic festival of autumn is called Lammas (a type of harvest thanksgiving), and is held in August. Michaelmas and Harvest Home were September festivals of "thanksgiving" for the harvests of that year. These are earlier than our November "Thanksgiving", probably because the Scottish harvest is earlier and the days are short by November. The "dark" festival for the Celtic and Druid winter solstice, known as Samhuinn, became Halloween. In Scotland, turkeys are eaten at Christmas, so an advantage of being in America is that you get an earlier turkey feast.



# TOASTS & THINGS

The auls guidwife's weel-hoordit nits  
Are round an' round divided  
An' mony lads and lassies' fates  
Are there that night decided:

*R. Burns*



**St Andrew's Day**  
For as long as can be remembered, Scots around  
the World have celebrated November 30th, with a  
view to the words in the George Leith poem...

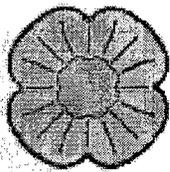
*The scattered clans are ane this nicht,  
Nae mair we war wi' ane anither,  
"Auld Scotland Yet!" for Scotland's richt,  
We'll bide the world's fueds the-gither.*

And the traditional toast is:  
**To St. Andrew and Scotland yet!**



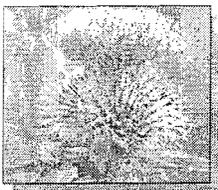
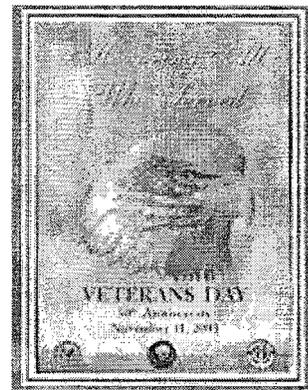
He that dare sit in St Swithin's Chair  
When the nighthag wings the troubled air,  
Questions three, when he speaks the spell,  
He must ask, and she must tell.

*Sir Walter Scott*

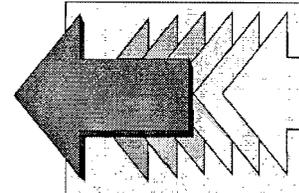


Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

**Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD**



**Know anyone interested  
In joining the Society  
Call Geoff Chaboude  
At (636) 519 7979**



**H**ope 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](mailto:mclaren@strathkirk.com).*

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



# ST ANDREW'S DINNER DANCE

## FOREST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

Saturday, November 22nd, 2003

Cocktails at 6:30 pm. Dinner at 7:30 pm.



**Featuring Peat Fire Flame**  
Local Band covering Song and Dance

### FABULOUS FOREST HILLS DINING

- Includes Garden Salad
- Chicken Breast with Mushroom Stuffing
- Grilled Salmon with White Wine & Caper Sauce
- Sun-dried Tomato Risotto
- Fresh Vegetable Medley
- Chef's Special Desserts & Trifle



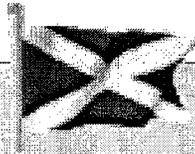
**DYNAMIC  
DANCING**  
Traditional  
and Scottish



**THIS IS THE REAL THING!**  
The whole evening will be fabulous,  
unique, and enjoyable.



**FOREST HILLS CC**  
Tel: 636 227 5030



From Highway 40 go south about 2 miles on Clarkson Road.  
After Kehrs Mill Rd turn second right into Forest Club Drive.  
Follow the road around and through the course to the Club House

Come One Come All  
**Bring Some Friends**

**CASH BAR.  
EXCITING RAFFLE.**

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Detach here and send with check, and stamped self-addressed envelope by Nov 10, to:  
Diane McCullough, 3664 Wyoming Street, St. Louis, MO 63116-4835. Tel: 314 773 4195

### RESERVATIONS:

\_\_\_ BEFORE Nov 10: Tickets @ \$50.00 each: Total = \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ AFTER Nov 10: Tickets @ \$60.00 each: Total = \$ \_\_\_

CASH BAR. RAFFLE.

You won't find a night out like this, anywhere in the Mid-West.

Make checks to Scottish St Andrew Society

**RESERVATIONS  
WILL NOT BE  
ACCEPTED  
WITHOUT A CHECK.**  
  
**BY NOVEMBER 10th  
for lower price**

**A GRAND CELEBRATION OF ST. ANDREW, THE PATRON SAINT OF SCOTLAND**