



# SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

I am honored to write this, my first letter as President of our St. Andrew Society. Thank you for your confidence in electing me to serve as President. Many thanks must go to Alex Sutherland, our past President for all the work he did to make the last two years so successful.

Congratulations and a great round of applause must go to Jim McLaren, Bill Nicoll, the SLSG Board, and all the other volunteers that worked hard and long to make last weekend's Scottish Games so memorable.

Our Society Board Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm at my home, 139 Plantation Drive, Creve Coeur. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings. The discussions at our first meeting were lively and we look forward to an interesting year. We hope to follow the leadership of Alex Sutherland, our past president when he read the preamble at the AGM and include in our activities awards to area schools. A membership packet is planned and we need to update our membership files I ask you to please return the form with your updated information.

I look forward to serving you and getting to know more of the members.

Yours Aye, Iona L Baldwin

### A Wee Slice o' Scotland (in St. Louis)



Current President, Iona Baldwin, and past Treasurer, Anne McLaren, of our St Andrews Society at the recent Scottish Games in Forest Park.



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# THIS TIMES

OCT 2004  
ISSUE 13.2

# Membership News

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

**Saturday, November 13th, 2004 at 7:00pm**  
**St. Andrew's Day Dinner Dance**  
**At the Elegant Forest Hills Country Club**  
**See attached flier for information and reservations**

Other exciting events for your calendar this year...

December 13th, 2004. Christmas Party at Mary Institute Country Day School  
(Call Vicki Dohrmann with names and ages for Santa. Tel: 636 230 0708)

January 29th, 2005. Annual Robert Burns Dinner at the Frontenac Hilton

March 19th: Annual Ceilidh

April 1-3: Tartan Day Activities in St. Charles

May: Kilted Golf Tournament

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

BULLETIN  
BOARD

**April 10th, 2005 at 4:30pm**  
**WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
First time in St. Louis, Gaelic Sacred and Secular Music.  
Performed by Peat Fire Flame, Ceol Alainn., and WGPC choir

**The new Board for 2004-2005  
was elected and installed at the AGM:**

President: Iona Baldwin

Vice President: Norma Forrester

Immed. Past President: Alex Sutherland

Treasurer: Elaine Martin

Programs: Diane McCullough

Secretary: Vicki Dohrmann

Membership: Geoff Chaboude

Public Relations: Stephen Clark

Merchandise: Chris Fulton

Chaplain: Rev Thom Hunter

Legal: Allan Stewart

Historian: Chris Brennan

TT Editor & Webmaster: Jim McLaren

Member-at-large: Linda Gabel

Questions or comments to the Editor.

We always try to put some humor in the Thistle Times, since Scots like a good laugh and it keeps everyone cheery. About half the jokes that are in the Thistle Times come from Jessie Gober — she collects them all over the place and has sent in an envelope full on a frequent basis, for many years. Here's one that fits... Wisdom from an elderly lady: Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here we may as well dance!

Thank you Jessie, for all the smiles you've brought.

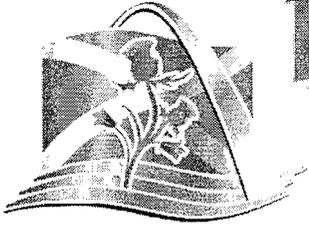
We hope you are making use of the websites:

St Andrew Society

[www.inverizon.com/scotlink/](http://www.inverizon.com/scotlink/) (select page)

St Louis Scottish Games

[www.stlouis-scottishgames.com](http://www.stlouis-scottishgames.com)



# Thank You

S T L O U I S

## SCOTTISH GAMES

### Wow! What a Games event that was....



Examples of the feedback....

“Absolutely brilliant”

“The most progressive Games I’ve seen”

“A big round of applause and we’ll see you next year”

Examples of things that happened....

A **World record** was set in the Athletics: 56lb weight over a 19 ft 5 inch high bar by Sean Betz of Omaha, NE.

A Class record was achieved in the under 190lb group, Nathan Burchett, 42lb weight over bar at 16ft 6 inches.

We had 28 Clan tents, 38 Clans participated in the Torchlight Calling, and over 40 Clans in the Parade of Tartans.

A young boy won the “Most Promising Highland Dancer” award (see p.6).

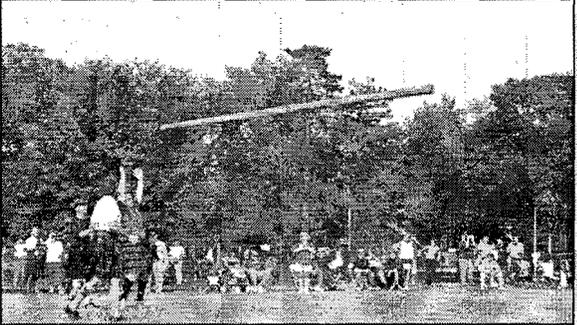
Invera’an won the grade 3 contest (see p.6)

Brian McNeill, Ed Millar, and John Taylor provided an outstanding musical platform including the kick-off Ceilidh at which Sandy & Pris McDonnell were the Honorary Hosts.

Yes, that’s 56lbs and it is 19ft 5 inches, a World record for Sean Betz.



Examples where a picture is worth a thousand words (check out the website for more)



# Caledonia Corner

## Raindrops Keep Falling...

The Glasgow Herald ran a contest for suitable song titles to celebrate Scottish music at the recent National Mod in Perth. A selection of the runner up titles is: "Life in the Faslane", "Falling in Cove Again", and "All We Are Saying, Is Give Leith a Chance". The winner of a bottle of the best Scotch for first place went to Chris Dwyer of Milngavie for "Raindrops Keep Falling On Barrhead".

## Jammy story...

Liverpool Football Club (who play American soccer), have participated many times in European competitions and, over the years, their performance has been enhanced by Scots such as Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness, Steve Nicol, and Frank McGarvey. These guys were great on the field but how did they fair in other aspects of living and traveling abroad. Well, one story goes that while on an away game trip to Tbilisi, McGarvey once buttered a roll at the hotel's buffet table before filling it with caviar. Taking a bite, he quickly spat it out and announced, loudly, "I wouldn't touch that blackcurrant jam. It's off."

## Oh yes, it does matter where you live...

MacIntyres, the Edinburgh jewelers, recently had a promotional ladies lunch. The star attraction was a 8.35-carat diamond ring. As one woman tried the mammoth sparkler on for size, her friend was heard to gasp, "That's worth £115,000 – you've got a house on your finger!" The diamond-lover agreed, but then quickly added, "But only if you want to live in Fife".

## Wha wad ken?

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

1. Where and what is the "Black Isle"?
2. Where was the 2004 Open?
3. Name the Edinburgh dog that was immortalized in a statue and a movie.

ANSWERS (from May edition):

1. Battle of Prestonpans: 1745
2. City near Pentland Hills: Edinburgh
3. Grey Mare's Tail: A waterfall near Moffat

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

The "Postage Stamp" at Royal Troon

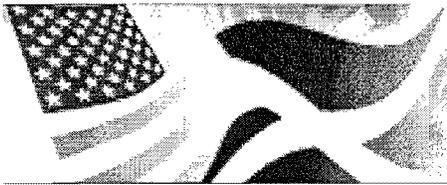


*Patient:* The nurse told me you just returned from a 3-day conference on stroke research.

*Doctor:* Relax, keep your eye on the ball and follow through.

Bumper sticker on plumbers truck read:  
We repair what your husband fixed

# Flowers O' The Forest



Honorary Life Member Winnie Shirreff died on June 11, 2004, but her memory and kindness will live for many years to come in the hearts of so many whose lives she touched. With her hands zipping across the keyboard, and that great big smile, she could change the character of any room, large or small.

Her nephew, Doug Stirrat, has written for the Thistle Times in her memory...

Aunt Winnie was born on December 23rd, 1910, in Glasgow, Scotland, where she lived until immigrating to the United States of America on May 7th, 1957. She loved life, family, and friends to the utmost and was always one whose unconditional love would be there to help anyone who needed a hand.

There are two stories that describe what a generous and giving heart Aunt Winnie had. During WWII Glasgow, in 1935, Winnie met a young 15-year old lass that she worked with at Peacocks. The girls' Mom and Dad had died and her brothers were away in the war. Winnie told her Mother that she wanted to help this young girl who had no family at home, the outcome was that young Jean Stirrat was practically adopted into Winnie's family. Following the war, the two of them arranged that their respective brother and sister should meet and soon after John and Babs Stirrat were married.



The second story happened in May of 2004 just a few weeks before she died. Winnie was sitting in bed and could sense that her sister-in-law, the same Jean (Cobain), was not feeling great about some things in her life. So, Winnie just got out of bed, made it slowly downstairs, and went to one of her favorite places, the piano. Before you knew it, the whole house was full of sounds of the great old Scottish tunes and the not so young Jean was smiling and signing her heart out because of Wonderful Winnie.

Whether she was making shortbread, calendars, marmalade, teaching Sunday School, or playing the piano at Bethesda, she did it all the same way — the very best she could. God has shown us his Grace in the Life and lessons of Winnie, and for putting her in our lives for such a long time. Thank you God, and Thank you Aunt Winnie. Doug Stirrat.



Babs Stirrat

The late Tom Brennan  
(former President of  
the Society)

The late Winnie

Jean Cobain



## TOASTS & THINGS.. Local Talent

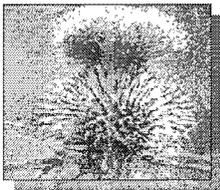


The happy Highland Dancer is 10 year old Geddy Avery with his teacher Sandra Brown. Geddy won the trophy for his class at the Games on October 9th. He was also named "The most promising morning dancer" and the judge, Christie Freestone of Alma, Michigan, presented Geddy with another trophy.

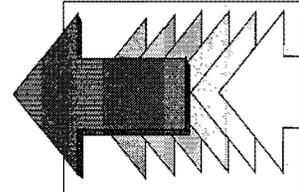
When asked how he felt about all this notoriety, Geddy said "I think it's great that I won in St Louis because I am able to show everyone that boys can win a trophy because they hardly ever do. I have been working very hard with my teacher for a long time and it finally paid off".

The hometown Invera'an Pipe Band won the Grade III band competition at the St. Louis Scottish Games on October 9th. Also competing in Grade III were the Kansas City St. Andrew's Pipe Band and the St. Andrew's Society of Central Illinois Pipe Band from Springfield. "This was the band's first time competing against another Grade III band since the Chicago Games in 2002," said Pipe Major Matt Pantaleoni, "so we were quite happy to walk away with the trophy." The band plans to compete again next spring.

Since that last competition in 2002, Invera'an has grown thanks largely to a teaching program started five years ago. "We've got about 20 pipers and 5 snares on the roster right now, plus a host of students at various levels coming through the teaching program," said Matt. "We're always looking for students, but particularly younger students with Scottish ties." Information on the band and piping/drumming lessons can be found at Invera'an's new web site, [www.inveraan.org](http://www.inveraan.org).



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

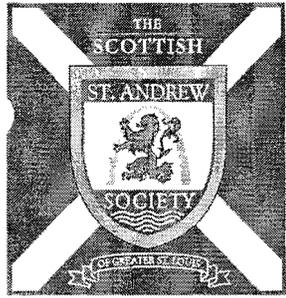


Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. **Please send comments, new material, and letters to the Editor:**

*Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017*

*or call (636) 532-5986, or e-mail: [mclaren@strathkirk.com](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

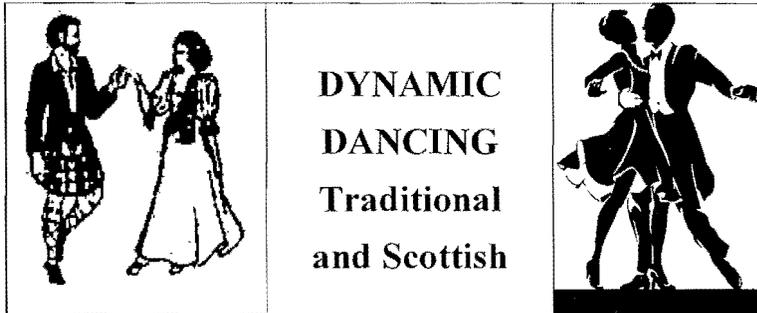
## FOREST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

Saturday, November 13th, 2004

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

### Featuring Peat Fire Flame

Local Ceilidh Band covering Song and Dance



### FABULOUS FOREST HILLS DINING

Gourmet Menu including Chef's Special Desserts & Trifle

### THIS IS THE REAL THING!

The whole evening will be fabulous, unique, and enjoyable.

Come One Come All

## Bring Some Friends

FOREST HILLS CC

Tel: 636 227 5030

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

Detach here and send with check, and stamped self-addressed envelope by Nov 6th, to:

Diane McCullough, 3664 Wyoming Street, St. Louis, MO 63116-4835.

Tel: 314 773 4195



RESERVATIONS:

\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$50.00 each. Total = \$ \_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

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 6th**

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