

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members & Friends,

Seasons Greetings from Scotland!

Christmas Day dawned crisp and white. We ate our festive Christmas dinner of turkey and the traditional plum pudding, overlooking snow covered fields and a calm, steely grey North Sea, at Findon, just south of Aberdeen. Brightening the picture was some bright yellow gorse blooming unseasonably early due to the mild weather in early December.

I hope that everyone home in St. Louis enjoyed their holiday with family and friends. My two children and I are with my family here in Scotland for the first time together at Christmas in twenty six years. We were given the credit of bringing the first white Christmas in several years!

I look forward to spending New Year's Eve in St. Louis and will need to wait for another year to have a Scottish Hogmanay. January brings the birthday celebrations of our national Bard, Rabbbie Burns. I look forward to seeing you all at our Burns Dinner on January 29th.

Wishing all our readers and friends
A GUID NEW YEAR!

Here's tae us! Wha's like us? Iona Baldwin



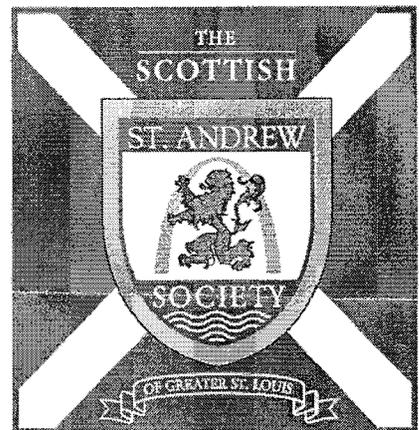
HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

and

Lang
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reek!



Edinburgh Castle New Year's Eve



inside...

Upcoming Events & News

Oot an' Aboot

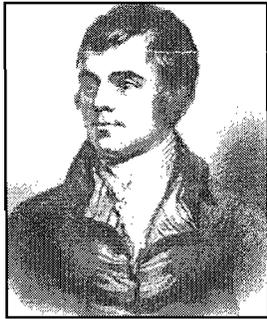
Caledonia Corner

Scottish Traditions

Toasts & Things: R. Burns

Membership News

UPCOMING
EVENTS



Saturday January 29th, Starts 5:30pm Annual Robert Burns Dinner At Frontenac Hilton

See attached reservation flier
USE IT, DON'T LOSE IT

A Grand Evening including Alex Sutherland and His
Cronies, Dance Caledonia, and the Invera'an Pipeband

Call Vicki Dohrmann for information
Tel: 636 230 0708

Other exciting events for your calendar this year....

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

BULLETIN
BOARD

TARTAN DAY

Saturday April 2nd, St Charles
Mark your calendars.

If you wish to have your own Tartan hung
along the parade route then please contact
Geoff Chaboude immediately. Cost will be
\$80, for a 6 ft by 60" wide tartan (includes
tax & shipping from Scotland). 636 946 4174
or geoffckctj@sbcglobal.net

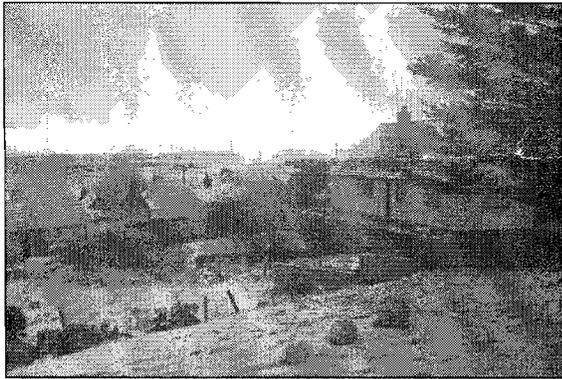
RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Karen Chartrand O'Fallon, MO
Lorraine Cox East Alton, IL
Dorsey & Sondra Elis, St. Louis, MO
George & Carol Keane, Festus, MO
Jeff Lyell, Richmond Hts. MO
Tom & Marilyn Miller, Washington, MO
Susan Murbarger, Edwardsville, IL
J.M. Pantaleoni, St. Louis, MO
Linda Ransford, O'Fallon, MO
Valencia & Alan Sowry, St. Louis, MO
Aprille Winston, St. Louis, MO
Donald Withrow, St. Louis, MO

April 10th, 2005 at 4:30pm
WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYT. CHURCH
Gaelic Sacred and Secular Music.
Peat Fire Flame, Ceol Alainn., and WGPC choir

Oot an' About

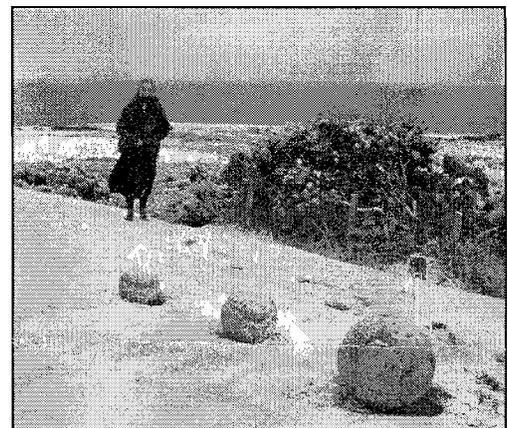
Iona mentioned in her President's Message that she had spent Christmas in the North-East of Scotland. She also managed to send some photos by e-mail to share with everyone here....



From the village of Findon, just South of Aberdeen.
Latitude = 57°
(St Louis = 39°)



A rare instance of the "burning" sunshine! (top left)...and there's Iona heading out for a swim in the North Sea! (below) Note the ancient Pictish soccer balls.



Looks a lot more fun when inside, enjoying a traditional Scottish turkey Christmas dinner.

Another wee gem from the Glasgow Herald...

A rapid-fire American motivational guru once staged a seminar in Port Glasgow, subjecting attendees to a gung-ho rant about "empowering yourself by living the dream" and then asking them what they most wanted from life. Shyly, one chap said he'd most like to establish a football pitch in his part of town "as it would benefit local youth who've nowhere to play fitba". Warming to his theme, the chap said he'd put floodlights in, too. "Great," enthused the American, "but what's your rationale?" The man looked blank. "Your rationale," the American repeated. "You know . . . why you're building this facility with these floodlights." Recognition dawning, the man replied: "Because you cannae play fitba' in the dark."!

Caledonia Corner

Haggis Wars Begin. The Scotsman Called it a "Turnip for the Books"!

Haggis comes to mind whenever we start thinking about our upcoming Burns Dinner. However, back in Scotland haggis is available on a daily basis: on my recent trip to the UK I had haggis in the breakfast buffet every morning. In Scotland, each village butcher has a customized variation around the foundation recipe, and this provides excellent choices and competitively-driven high quality.

Recently, a Texas food processing company, called Caledonia Kitchen, has begun manufacturing tinned Highland Beef haggis and is making this product available in the US and for export. Scottish butchers are now upset because they have never been allowed to sell into the US, and they are concerned about the quality of the product and how it might have a negative impact on "real" haggis. I can see their point of view: first, tinned haggis is never as good as fresh haggis (lasts about 3-5 days) and, second, the initiated among you will have already noticed the "beef" in the Texas haggis mentioned above — what's the beef? Well, the best haggis is made from sheep, not Texas steers!

If you are a lover of the beef type then go for it at www.caledoniakitchen.com.

Meanwhile, the Glenrothes, Scotland, food producer called Stahly Quality Foods has opened a manufacturing facility in Chicago — in a response to the inability to export the original haggis from Scotland to the US. Stahly notes "Since there are more Scots outside Scotland, I think this could be a large market, especially in the US where the trend is to embrace being Scottish". Our understanding is that the Chicago facility will also produce tinned haggis, including vegetarian haggis.

There are several distributors — one example being — www.madeinbritainltd.com/sthal5oztin.html

Wha wad ken?

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

1. Where was John (tar) Macadam born?
2. Where was the Cutty Sark built?
3. What Scottish tree is also known as the Mountain Ash?

Congratulations to John Ogilvy who won.

Answers:

1. Ardross Wolf — Pictish Stone
2. Longest rail bridge — Tay Bridge
3. Most common Scottish name — Smith

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

Fast e-mail: mclaren@strathkirk.com

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

A LOVE OF HUNTING OR....

A November survey revealed a third of Americans visiting Scotland believed haggis an animal they could hunt and catch.. Away yersel, Jimmy

SCOTTISH CALVINISM TAKES A HIT

Bill Duncan had enough of those "Little Books" that instruct the more easily swayed in the art of Happiness, or Wisdom or Something... So he wrote the "Wee Book of Calvin" which is an excellent satire on the Little Books and on the inherent Scottish feature that we have all had to battle: gloom and fatalism. What's remarkable is that Bill Duncan struggled through it and wrote this book without leaving Scotland — as most of us did, as the only logical step forward. The book includes gems such as:

Self-pity never biled a haddock!

The newborn aye greets afore they laugh!

The hangover: yer payment for a guid time!

Scottish Festivals

Hogmanay & Ne'erday — the major Scottish Celebration

Last month we wrote about Hogmanay and since it's a big deal we will mention it again here. Hogmanay (December 31st) is the Scottish New Year's Eve and has been celebrated for centuries. Stories and legends abound but the true origins are lost in time. We do know it is treated as a major renewal of the seasonal life-cycle. Hogmanay "washes" out the past, and Ne'erday brings in the new (promises and opportunities of the new year). In case you didn't know, Ne'erday is Scots dialect and is believed to have arisen from a contraction of "New Years Day".

**A Very Happy New Year, or
A GUID NEW YEAR TAE YIN AN' AW, AN MONY MAE YE SEE**

Up Helly Aa

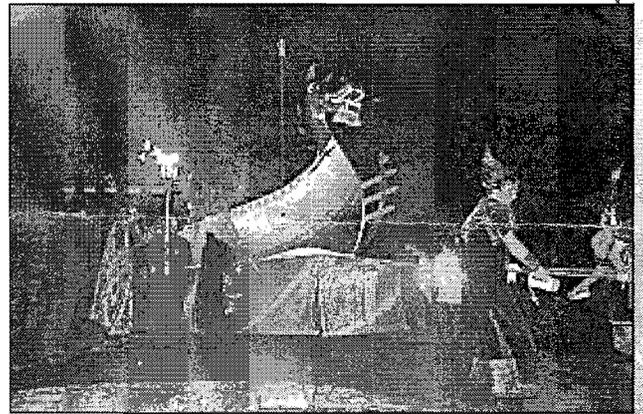
January brings a number of festivals across Scotland with Ne'erday celebrations, torchlight parades, and other hangovers from mid-winter Celtic rituals. However, if you like fire then the northern islands (the Orkneys and Shetland Isles) festival would be the one to visit. Called "Up Helly Aa", the festival is related to the ancient battles with the sea-going Vikings. During late January, several towns have their own Up Helly Aa festivals with the largest being at Lerwick (capital of Shetland). Typically, about 1000 costumed participants, bearing flaming torches, drag a Viking galley through the streets. They are led by a horde of Vikings wearing traditional sheepskin garb, winged helmets, and replica axes and shields. Some of these costumes reside in particular families and are considered important heirlooms. At a designated point, the torches are thrown into the galley and a huge bonfire results with the crowd reveling around. One of the songs has a chorus:

*Grand old Vikings ruled upon the ocean vast,
Their brave battle-songs still thunder on the blast;
Their wild war-cry comes a-ringing from the past;
We answer it "A-oi!"
Roll their glory down the ages,
Sons of warriors and sages,
When the fight for Freedom rages,
Be bold and strong as they!*



As many of you know the Sisters of the Haggis have a secret haggis-making session to prepare for the Burns Dinner. We do appreciate their efforts and the excellent haggis that is delivered.

Although the location is secret, the Thistle Times spared no expense on tracking devices and a hidden camera to capture the scene. The picture came out quite well and is shown here on the left.

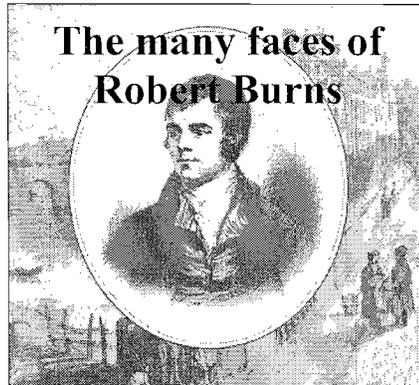


TOASTS & THINGS

Warlocks and witches in a dance:
Nae cotillon, brent new frae France,
But hornpipes, jigs, strathspeys, and reels
Put life and mettle in their heels.

When Guilford good our pilot stood
An' did our hellim thraw, man,
Ae night, at tea, began a plea,
Within America, man

O, my luv'e's like a red, red rose,
That's newly sprung in June.
O, my luv'e's like the melodie,
That's sweetly play'd in tune.
Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,
And the rocks melt wi' the sun!
O I will luv'e thee still, my Dear,
While the sands o' life shall run.



I'm truly sorry, Man's dominion
Has broken Nature's social union

There's nought but care on ev'ry han',
In ev'ry hour that passes. O
What signifies the life o' man
An 'twere na for the lasses, O

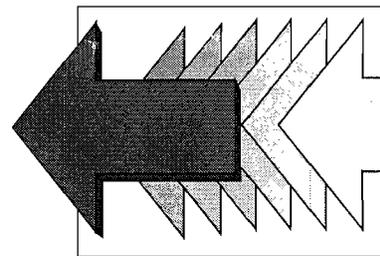
Dusty was the coat,
Dusty was the colour,
Dusty was the kiss
That I gat frae the Miller

Ye hypocrites! Are these your pranks?
To murder men and give God thanks!

A prince can mak a belted knight
A marquis, duke, an' a that;
But an honest man's aboon his might.
Gude faith, he maunna fa' that!

All you who follow wealth and power with unremitting ardour, O,
The more in this you look for bliss, you leave your view the farther, O
Had you the wealth Potosi boasts, or nations to adore you, O,
A cheerful honest-hearted clown I will prefer before you, O.

**Have a great Ne'erday
and a
Happy New Year
to Yin an' A'**



Hope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**. Thank you to all who contribute material. It is appreciated. 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.*

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

The St Andrew Society phone number is (636) 519 7979

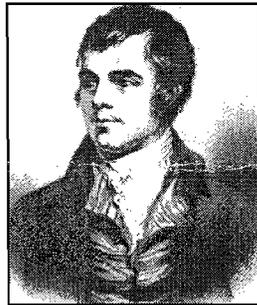
SCOTTISH ST ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST LOUIS

ROBERT BURNS DINNER

Frontenac Hilton
at Lindbergh and Clayton
Saturday, January 29th, 2005

Reserve
Now

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

Featuring: Alex Sutherland and His Cronies

Special room rates at the Frontenac Hilton: \$95 single or double.

Call to make room reservations at 314 993 1100

Seating is first come first reserved: must reserve and pay by Jan 22nd

RESERVATIONS: DETACH & SEND WITH CHECK

Society Members:

___ Regular Members @ \$65.00 ea = \$ ___

___ Senior Members (62+) @ \$60.00 ea. = \$ ___

Non-Members

___ Non-members @ \$70.00 ea. = \$ ___

CHECK FOR TOTAL = \$ ___

If after Jan 22nd, and space still available, price = \$80 per ticket

RESERVATIONS IN THE NAME OF _____

Any seating preference: _____

RESERVATIONS & CHECKS MUST BE IN BEFORE JAN 22nd

INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:

Vicki Dohrmann, 611 Painted Vista, Ballwin, MO 63021

Need more information then call Vicki @ 636-230-0708.

CHECKS MADE OUT TO SCOTTISH ST ANDREWS SOCIETY

The Society donates to events that promote Scottish culture. Your tax-deductible contribution to our mission would be appreciated: \$ _____