Here we are starting a New Year. Last year was very successful for the Society.

Since the last Thistle we had a great St. Andrew's day dinner at Spumante’s restaurant. We had the whole restaurant to ourselves thanks to Ian Skone-Rees who set the whole evening up for us. In January Norm Auslander and Ian Skone-Rees put on our best ever Burns Supper at the Altadena Town and Country Club. From the Haggis to the Whisky and the Music everything was wonderful. The turnout was also great with more members and guests than ever. Next we had our Annual General Meeting at the beautiful home of Jack and Barbara Dawson where I was privileged to be elected your Society’s President for another year. The next event was the Queen Mary Highland Games where for the second year the Society and clan tents were outside the ship. Turnout was good, however there were more vendors than clans. During the Games five of us left to attend Ben Sharp’s funeral. It was a lovely service, we will all miss Ben. The following Friday I attended the funeral for Barbara Grant, again a lovely service and we will also miss Barbara.

Looking forward our next event will be the United Scottish Society’s Highland games in Costa Mesa on Memorial Day weekend, May 25th and 26th. I hope all of you can make it. Our Garden Party will be held June 30. We will of course notify you in plenty of time for you to plan to attend. I am looking forward to seeing you at one or more of our many events this year.

Tartan Day
6 April

Tartan Day was observed on 6 April, 1997 for the first time in US history. Since then it has become a day that thousands of Scottish-Americans observe to celebrate their Scottish ancestry. In churches, on village greens, at Scottish festivals, at social gatherings, and in the home Scottish-Americans who care about their roots take time to celebrate the rich cultural heritage that is Scotland.

This year, as in the past, the St. Andrew’s Society will celebrate Tartan Day, this year on the day itself, 6 April. We will gather at that peerless Scottish restaurant the Tam O’Shanter at 4:00 p.m. in the Prince Charlie Room. Society piper Cindi McIntosh will herald our arrival. There will be an address by a True Scot and music from the rousing guitar of Peter Romano.

Full details including a ticket order form are on the society website or contact John Lowry, 818-886-4968. Make your reservation as soon as possible, this event is sold out every year.

Garden Party
June 30, 2013

The society’s annual Garden Party will again be held this year at the beautiful home of Frances and Terry Buchanan.

Please reserve this date on your calendar and plan to join your fellow members to celebrate the coming of summer. The annual garden party is traditionally the society’s principal fund raising event of the year so your attendance is even more important. There will be live music, good food and drink, and plenty of shade for you to enjoy all three. Details of the location, including a map, are on the society website or you may contact Eileen Skone-Rees for more information.

The Scamp

The Scottish Aviation Scamp was a small electric car developed and produced by Scottish Aviation Ltd at their Prestwick factory from 1965.

Designed by Dr. W.G. Watson, only 12 units are understood to have been produced, although the car was never commercially produced. The car was rear wheel drive, carried four 48 volt batteries and had two electric motors, believed to produce about 3 hp. The Scamp had a length 84 inches (2.13 m), and a width 46 inches (1.17 m).

Finance for the project was provided by the Electricity Council, undertaken at a time when small cars were extremely popular, and was intended to be used by shoppers on short journeys. Although it had a claimed top speed of 35 mph, battery technology of the time
British Regimental Bands Visit Valley Performing Arts Center

The pipes and drums of the Black Watch 3rd. Battalion of the Royal Regiments of Scotland and the Band of the Scots Guards entertained a packed house at the Valley Performing Arts Center, Northridge on 1, March. Representatives of the St. Andrew’s Society had the privilege to present leaders of these two world renowned bands with a certificate of appreciation at a private party following the performance.

The legendary Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of Scotland’s Black Watch joined forces with the Band of the Scots Guards for an evening celebrating the music of Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. The most famous bagpipe band in the world, the Black Watch, was joined by the renowned musicians of the Band of the Scots Guards and presented a unique blend of music, pageantry and history highlighted by traditional folk music, highland dancing, and military tunes that conveyed the rich legacy of the British Isles.
Scotland’s Influence in the United States

The Scots were a valuable addition to a developing world. Their past experience of working in the harsh conditions of rural Scotland, combined with their hard-working Presbyterian upbringing, made them an ideal people to help build America in its formative years.

The Scottish emigrants of the 18th Century were an educated group due to the Scottish Reformation, which had stressed the need for education, so every Scot could read the Bible. Education has always played an important part in Scottish society, and these Scots played a crucial role in the early development of the New World. Most headmasters of the schools in the new colonies south of New York were Scottish or of Scottish ancestry. These establishments were fundamental in the education of America’s future leaders; both Thomas Jefferson’s and John Rutledge’s tutors were Scottish immigrants.

In this continuing series of articles we will introduce Scots or persons of Scottish descent who have left their indelible mark on the American landscape – Ed.

Sir Sean Connery 1930 –

It had to happen and with the 50th anniversary of the Bond film franchise it seems fitting Sir Sean should have his place in the Thistle.

Sir Sean has hosted the celebrity fashion show Dressed to Kilt in New York. Dressed to Kilt fashion show is an annual event held during Tartan Week to celebrate Scottish culture, proceeds from which have gone to soldiers injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ed.
The 1963 film Dylan (Dylan Thomas) with Richard Burton was shown in the theatre and Burton’s inimitable resonant voice spoke selections from the poet’s most famous works.

The Celtic nations have an obvious connection with one another but Scotland and Wales may have the strongest of all. Strathclyde was originally known by the Brythonic Ystrad Clud and a part of medieval Wales and there is evidence to suggest that William Wallace spoke the ancient Welsh Brythonic language as well as having an obvious link through his last name with Wales.

What are the seven Celtic nations? Answer at the foot of this page. Iechyd da!

The Society website contains information about our events and is a very useful source for information about other matters relating to Scotland and our own Scottish community here in southern California. The Useful Links page contains a host of links to Scottish newspapers and periodicals, libraries and museums, as well as links to other organizations and clubs. The latest addition is a link to the Celtic Arts Center in North Hollywood. If you are interested in concerts, plays, music dance, or folklore, or even interested in learning an ancient Gaelic language you should pay them a virtual visit.

The members only area of the website requires you log-in with your unique credentials. This area contains the membership directory. All paid-up members may access this area using a user name and password. The directory may be downloaded and printed on your home printer by pressing the PRINT button in the directory. Please visit the directory and make sure the information listed for you is correct. Each member can update their own information online, and change their user name and password.

If you have any questions or are not sure how to use any part of the website please contact me by email.

St. David’s Day 1, March
Croeso i Gymru

Wales is one of the seven Celtic nations and St. David its patron saint. 1, March is St. David’s Day and this year it was celebrated in fine style on 3, March in the grassy Barnsdall Park. A couple of the vendors that are familiar to us through our own Scottish Games and Festivals were in attendance, as was Aedan MacDonnell, who many of you know from the Clan Currie Harp Glen at the Seaside Highland Games and as a member of Speyside who have become a regular fixture at many of our events, including this year’s Burns Supper. Aedan played the Celtic Harp and sang a selection of songs from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Brittany.

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AAFHA

Many St. Andrew’s members have led interesting lives, but what happens to the memories as generations past make way for the new? Steven Spielberg helped ensure we would not lose the first hand memories of Holocaust survivors through the Shoa recordings. The Army Air Forces Historical Association (AAFHA) has done the same for many veterans, recording and transcribing oral histories from the men and women who helped defend us during World War II. Society members Norman and Carol Auslander have been

Please see AAFHA, page 6

Calendar of Events

April 6, 2013
Tartan Day Dinner
Tam O’Shanter Inn
Details on the website or contact John E. Lowry
818-886-4968

May 25-26, 2013
ScotsFest
Memorial Day Weekend
Orange Cty. Fair & Event Ctr.
Details on the website.

June 30, 2013
Annual Garden Party
1161 Glenmont Drive
Glendale, CA 91207
Details on the website or contact Eileen Skone-Rees
818-769-5166

For more society information and news log on to:
www.saintandrewsla.org

Website Update

By: Ian Skone-Rees

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Contact Ian Skone-Rees
via email at: rees1@mac.com
If you were there, you already know this year’s Burns Supper was one of the most enjoyable ever and the best attended.

126 members and guests filled the Mendocino Room at the Altadena Town & Country Club. Our new location at the historic club was well suited and provided an olde world atmosphere reminiscent of the rooms in which Rabbie himself likely entertained the cream of Scottish society who were never satiated by his poetry, sparkling wit, and conversation.

While Rabbie himself was unable to attend several of our members rose to the occasion to keep us entertained with toasts and recitations. Isle of Skye native Kenneth MacKinnon delivered the Address to the Haggis in his own inimitable style, John Lowry made the toast to the Immortal Memory and kept a rapt audience hanging on every word (and there were many of them — yes John you warned me it was long). Then came the toast to the lasses by Jim Bell, followed by a no-holds-barred reply from Roberta Gottfried. On behalf of a grateful audience, thank you all.

A significant reason for the record attendance this year was the participation of other clubs and friends of the society. The Oxford Union Society, led by honorary secretary Bea Hopkinson, sent 18 of their number to join us and the British United Services Club were represented by several members including past president Squadron Leader Munir Azam and secretary Col. Tom Mahan. Thank you all for coming, we hope you enjoyed the evening and will be back next year in even greater numbers.

Photos of many of the revellers are below, if you were there and not pictured here please go to the society website where all 300 photos are posted in the gallery section.
Poets’ Corner

Poets’ Corner is the name given to a section of the South Transept of Westminster Abbey due to the number of poets, playwrights, and writers now buried and commemorated there, including Scotland’s own Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Thomas Campbell, and Robert Adam.

Alan Alexander Milne was born in 1882 in Scotland. He soon moved to England, where his father used to work as schoolmaster. He was taught by H.G. Wells, among other teachers. After he had finished his schooling, he began his career as a writer in London and in 1918 he published his first book, When We Were Very Young. In 1920 his son, Christopher Robin, was born and Alan decided to write a story about Christopher Robin’s nursery toys, entitled Winnie-the-Pooh. Later on, The House at Pooh Corner, which was to be the last of the series, became a best-seller.

Wind on the Hill

By: A. A. Milne

No one can tell me,
Nobody knows,
Where the wind comes from,
Where the wind goes.

It’s flying from somewhere
As fast as it can,
I couldn’t keep up with it,
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding
The string of my kite,
It would blow with the wind
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,
Wherever it blew,
I should know that the wind
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them
Where the wind goes...
But where the wind comes from
Nobody knows.