

the

thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

Tartan Day at the Tam

June 2009

Close to 100 guests converged on the Tam O'Shanter in Atwater Village April 6. Piped to table by our own Cindy MacIntosh the festivities included spoken extracts from the Declaration of Arbroath and Senate Resolution 155, recognizing April 6 as National Tartan Day. Jeanne McDougall entertained us with renditions of Scottish folk songs, and Glenlivet provided a generous supply of their 18 year-old single malt to amply whet all our whistles.

Sadly this was the last Saint Andrew's Society event attended by our past president J. Howard Standing, who passed away May 25. J. Howard was a driving force in establishing Tartan Day in the United States and his attendance at this event will remain a poignant memory.

Many thanks to our Vice President, John Lowry and his wife Nellie, whose planning and attention to detail made this such an enjoyable and memorable affair for all who attended.

We hope this will become an annual event, so mark April 6, 2010 in your calendar to avoid missing this spectacular gathering.


See page 5 for a pictorial essay of the revellers! 

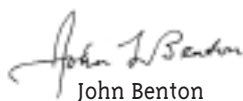
a message from John Benton, M.D., President



As we enter the second half of the year we can look back over the last six months and say with assurance that our society has demonstrated a vitality that belies the general state of the economy.

The year began for us with our traditional Burn's evening, this was followed in March by our first Scottish Heritage day, and in April our Tartan Day celebrations at the Tam O'Shanter. Although we had good attendance at all our events many of you did not join us. I want to encourage you all to take note of our events calendar in this newsletter and on our website. We need the support of every one of you in order to sustain these events, so please join with us and support the society and all those hard-working members who plan these gatherings. Looking forward, the pace does not slow. June 27th is

our annual Garden Party, followed in September by our Ceilidh at Micellis in Hollywood. October of course is the Seaside Games in Ventura. Our society will have an information tent at the Games and we do need volunteers to help staff it. It's a lot of fun and a chance to talk to others about the Saint Andrew's Society. If you are willing to contribute a couple of hours please contact me, or our Communications Director, Ian Skone-Rees, so we can plan the schedule. A special thanks to Peggy Steiner, Mary Corcoran, Dave MacPherson, Dave Moffet, Norman Auslander, and John and Nellie Lowry who spend many hours planning our events. 


John Benton

Contact John Benton via email at: tavernan1@hotmail.com



In Gear



Started in 1998, by the Scottish Rootes Enthusiasts, the Moffat car rally has grown to become the biggest classic car event in Scotland.

Set in the beautiful Moffat hills the rally is an incredible place to both exhibit cherished classic or vintage motor cars and is a wonderful visitor experience.

The rally accommodates 800

entries some of which come hundreds of miles to participate. This 2 day event has a drive through the Moffat hills on the Saturday which is a glorious sight and Sunday is the show where prizes are given for the best cars.

The Rally raises money every year for Macmillan Cancer Relief and Cancer Research.

Britain names female poet laureate

Scottish born Carol Ann Duffy is the first woman to receive the honor in 341 years

Extract of an article by Los Angeles Times columnist Janet Stobart

For the first time since the post was created in 1668, Britain has selected a woman as its poet laureate, the long acclaimed Scottish-born Carol Ann Duffy, who has written on topics including Shakespeare and Elvis Presley.

Duffy will serve a 10-year term as official royal poet, following a long line of illustrious literary names dating to 1668, when Charles II appointed John Dryden.

Duffy was born in the low-income district of Glasgow known

Please see **POET LAUREATE**, page 4

The 12th Moffat Car Rally is to be held 27-28th June 2009 Moffat Showground Moffat

Classic car fans will be heading to the Moffat Classic Car Rally, Scotland in their thousands. Enthusiasts are coming from all over the world for the tenth annual Moffat Classic Car Rally.

Please see **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**, page 4



President
John Benton, M.D.

Vice President
John Lowry

Treasurer
David Moffett

Secretary
Margaret Steiner

Board of Trustees

Mary Corcoran, Ph.D.

Jack Dawson

Alan MacDonald

J. David MacPherson

Victoria Pushee

Ian J. Skone-Rees

The Thistle is the official publication of the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles. It is published four times a year. Deadline for each issue is the first day of March, June, September & December. Submit articles, photographs, and address changes to the editor at: rees1@mac.com.

or

The Editor

Saint Andrew's Society, Los Angeles
12240 Ventura Blvd., Suite 101
Studio City, CA 91604
www.saintandrewsla.org

The publisher accepts no responsibility for the opinions expressed, accuracy of information, or similarity of names submitted by authors.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Benton
David Cargill
Nellie Lowry
John Lowry
Victoria Pushee
Kenneth Sinclair Stewart
Ian Skone-Rees

PUBLISHER
EDITOR AND GRAPHIC DESIGN
Ian Skone-Rees

PHOTOGRAPHY
Leo Lewis – Union Jack
Ian Skone-Rees
Kenneth Sinclair Stewart

PRINTING
Coronet Printing

Letter from Edinburgh



Our City Council is nothing if not imaginative when it comes to controlling traffic. First it was a by-pass to take traffic out of the city, which was built. Then they wanted congestion charges which were put to a referendum and rejected by the citizens. Now Edinburgh city is to have tramcars. We used to have super double-deckers until 1956 when they were dispensed with in favour of buses. The majority of the populace did not want them to be re-introduced, but we are to have them at a vast cost of £455



million for only one line running from the ancient village of Newhaven through the Port of Leith, up Leith Walk to the top and along Princes Street (where there will be only one stop) and out west eventually arriving at Edinburgh Airport.

The other day I visited a 'mock-up' of the actual tramcar which I found was very comfortable with all the usual fittings common to such cars as are found in Cologne and other cities of Europe, and on reflection I think that most citizens will enjoy the experience when it is up and running!

Homecoming Scotland is a Scottish Government initiative managed by *Event Scotland* in partnership with *VisitScotland* (formerly the Scottish Tourist Board). *Event Scotland* is a national agency working to strengthen and build Scotland's reputation as a leading destination for sporting and cultural events. This is part of the advertised official view but how much of this is true?

They advertised many events to take place all over Scotland including Edinburgh, but for we ordinary citizens, what benefit do we get? How many of the so-called anniversaries of famous Scots, participation in gold, whisky and Burns—don't forget our National Poet—do we attend? I suspect very few.

But our St Andrew Society did visit Edinburgh's National Library's exhibition of Robert Burns' 250th anniversary which I found fascinating with many very interesting letters and others of that ilk written by the great man himself. The exhibition is now on tour around the country.

Slán go fóill (Goodbye for now).

Kenneth

Kenneth Sinclair Stewart

Secretary of the World Federation of Scottish Societies

In recognition of his unique contribution to the development and expansion of the ties between The Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles and the parent society in Edinburgh, Kenneth Sinclair Stewart has, by unanimous decision of the Board of Trustees, been elected an Honorary Member of our society.

Saint Andrew's Society Los Angeles Calendar of Events

June 27, 2009

Annual Annual Garden Party
Home of Jack and Barbara Dawson

September 13, 2009

Ceilidh
Micellis, Hollywood

October 9, 2009

Whisky Tasting/Scottish Evening
Four Points Sheraton, Ventura

October 10 & 11, 2009

Seaside Highland Games
Seaside Park Ventura

Date TBA, 2009

Annual Kirkin' O'The Tartan

Highland Games Calendar

Please refer to the SASLA website
www.saintandrewsla.org for a
comprehensive calendar of
Highland Games and Scottish
celebrations.

For more information visit
www.saintandrewsla.org



IN MEMORIAM

J. HOWARD STANDING, ESQUIRE — former president of this Society for most of the years 1997–2007, passed away quietly on May 25th—Memorial Day—at his home in Tarzana. J. Howard was a dynamic leader with a list of accomplishments that could fill this page. The Society has been asked by Joan Standing, his devoted wife and life partner, to arrange a service of Memorial in his honor and those plans are already going forward. Details will be communicated to you as they are finalized.

COL. DOUGLAS MacMULLEN — passed away Sunday, January 11, 2009. There was a private service for family only. Donations may be made in the Colonel's name to Shriners Hospital for Children.

Scotland's Influence in the United States

A series of articles prepared by David Cargill

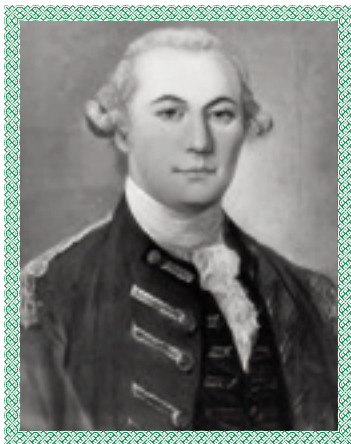
The Scots were a valuable addition to a developing world. Their past experience of working in the harsh conditions of rural Scotland, combined with their hard-working Presbyterian upbringing, made them an ideal people to help build America in its formative years.

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.



General John Forbes is seen by many as the founder of Pittsburgh after expelling the French in 1758. The Scot born in Dunfermline, Fife, on September 7th 1707 is remembered across Pittsburgh by the establishment of *The Forbes Trail* and *Forbes Marker* plaques at various places.

Forbes was the son of an army officer and put aside his medical career ambitions to concentrate his determination to serve as a soldier in the British army. He was accepted and commissioned, in 1735, as a lieutenant in the Scots Greys. He saw action in the War of the Austrian Succession. He later served in the Jacobite Uprising of 1745 under the infamous Duke of Cumberland, as acting quartermaster-general.


When the French and Indian War (called the Seven Years' War in Europe) broke out, Forbes was sent to the fighting in the New World. His first action in North America came in 1757 when he was dispatched to reinforce an attack on the French fortress of Louisburg in what is now Nova Scotia. During the seven years when the French and native Americans battled for control of North America, Forbes led the British forces. He was commanded to capture Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh) on November 25th 1758. He was joined by Colonel George Washington and with 7,000 regular and provisional troops he succeeded in defeating the French. Forbes subsequently ordered the town and fort to be renamed Fort Pitt (later amended to Pittsburgh, using the Scottish spelling of borough). Forbes decided on the name Pitt in honor of Sir William Pitt the Elder, who was then Secretary of State (elected Prime Minister 1766).

Then, Forbes made peace with the Cherokee Indians and they together embarked on his next battle by starting work on a 300 mile road and numerous forts, cutting through the Pennsylvania

Scotsfest '09

The United Scottish Society's Highland Games and Gathering took place over the Memorial Day weekend, May 23rd and 24th at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa.



For the second time at a major Scottish event the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles was present with its own society tent on clan row. Located between the clan tents of Moffat and MacPherson (staffed by our own Dave Moffat and Dave MacPherson) and close to the entrance of the fairgrounds our tent was in a prime position. Many interested folks stopped by to ask about the society, pick up copies of our newsletter and membership applications (we look forward to completed copies being returned to us). Staffing the tent can be an arduous affair, but our president John Benton helped support his troops with the aid of Newcastle Brown, ensconced in a suitably cooled container. Thanks to John Benton, John Lowry, Alan MacDonald, Patricia Tennyson-Bell, and Ian and Eileen Skone-Rees, for supporting our presence, and drinking the Newcastle. 

Forest. Unfortunately, the heroic Scot would die just 4 months after his incredible victory over the French on March 11th, 1759. He was just 49 years old. He never went home to Scotland. The road is now named after Forbes.

The people of Pittsburgh have kindly donated one of the Forbes markers to Dunfermline, and the marker is proudly hanging outside Forbe's original house in Pittencrief Park where he lived as a boy.

Forbes is buried in Christ Church, Philadelphia. At his funeral the congregation included 15 signatories of the American Declaration of Independence. 

Committee News

The **Board of Trustees** will meet July 11 at the home of Jack Dawson. Minutes will be posted on the website.

The **Communications Committee** coordinates production of The Thistle and other related outreach projects. The committee convened May 8, to discuss and plan the editorial content for the this issue.

The **Membership** chair has

reported four new members since February 2009.

The **Finance Committee** meets regularly under the chairmanship of treasurer Dave Moffett.

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings and Board of Trustee meetings. Dates are posted on the website. Meeting minutes are posted on the website.

Moffat Car Rally, from page 1

A total of 800 cars will take part with entrants coming from France and Germany, some down from the Shetland Isles, many from northern Ireland, Wales as well as Kent, Cornwall and Dorset to take part in this amazing 2 day event.

The fun kicks off with a road run (which 300 cars can participate in) to St. Mary's Loch, leaving the town centre in 15 minute intervals in groups of 60. There will be a picnic stop at

the loch and the route will also take in Megget and Talla.

Entertainment, live music and childrens' attractions are all planned for the showground and the day will wrap up with a ceilidh in the marquee.

The Car Rally has been a fabulous connection with the town of Moffat. It appeals to enthusiasts, the businesses in the town and to the public that visit. 🚗

Poet Laureate, from page 1

as the Gorbals. It was schoolteachers who sparked her love of poetry, she told the BBC. Duffy, a single mother, is also the first openly gay poet laureate.

The job is more of an honour than it is remunerative — Duffy will receive an annual stipend of £5,750 (about \$8,600) as well

as the traditional "butt of sack," which translates to 600 bottles of sherry. She plans to donate her salary to a fund for young poets. But on hearing her predecessor had yet to receive his butt of sack, she declared that she was demanding hers "upfront!" 🍷

Scotch Corner

Do you cover your roast beef with catsup or make soda-pop with Caol Ila?



There is a popular line of thought that the idea there is a wrong way to drink single malt whisky is fallacious and impolite. Indeed the distilleries themselves promote the idea that the only way to drink their product is the way *you* like to. The Fab 4 liked to drink CocaCola® with scotch (but this was probably the blended sort). The distilleries are probably happy so long as their whisky is being consumed, and what the consumer adds to it is their business. However would you take a Château Haut-Brion, Vintage 1986 and add a splash of Cola to sample its flavour? I think not (I hope not). The reason is simple. The wine has been produced with the utmost care and attention, favoured by climate not easily replicated, stored and monitored, before finally being bottled for your enjoyment. Production of single malts enjoys no less care and scrutiny. The flavours and particular characteristics released by these unique spirits are only masked by the addition of foreign mixers and the skill, care, and devotion given by the distillers

clouded by elements never intended to be imbibed in the same swallow. Even ice changes forever the natural aroma and dulls unique facets of this most complex spirit.

Despite distilleries' claim that the only right way to drink single malt whisky is the way *you* like to, the master distillers all agree single malt whisky is at its best when mixed with a little branch or filtered water (avoid tap water, because the chlorine and/or dissolved minerals will interfere with the taste). Water releases and enhances the flavours of the spirit and prevents the high alcohol content from masking the qualities of its core character. Experiment yourself and see if this is not true. Neat scotch will probably accelerate intoxication but many of the intricacies of aroma and flavour will be lost. Like all rules there are exceptions! Tread softly with very young and very old spirits, where the balance of molecular structure is more delicate — Ed.

Slainte mhath!

For more information visit
<http://www.malts.com>

CLAN CURRIE WWW.CLANCURRIE.COM

One of the oldest and most distinguished names in Scottish history Currie derives from the ancient gaelic name MacMureach. Clan Currie is led by the Commander of the Clan, Robert Currie, who is now in the process of establishing a west

coast presence. If you have connections to this most revered family, please contact me at the address below to learn how you can get involved in your own clan.

Contact Ian Skone-Rees
via email at: rees1@mac.com



Tartan Day at *the Tam* April 6, 2009



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Robert Ramsey family members | 14 Cindy MacIntosh and Robert Behr |
| 2 Cindy MacIntosh | 15 Don Cameron, Donna Loppini |
| 3 Bruce MacDonald, June and Ray MacDonald | 16 Nellie Lowry, John Lowry, Ian Skone-Rees, Donna Ingram, Michele and Bill Graham |
| 4 John Lowry and Nellie Lowry | 17 Frances and Terry Buchanan |
| 5 Carol Auslander, Norman Auslander, Jane Sharp | 18 Cindy Ventuleth, Peggy Steiner |
| 6 Michele and Shelby Graham | 19 Lucille and John Christie |
| 7 Ian and Eileen Skone-Rees | 20 Anne Sharp |
| 8 Doug Brown | 21 Dave MacPherson, Norman Auslander, John Lowry |
| 9 John and Cynthia Benton | 22 Joan and J. Howard Standing |
| 10 Jeanne McDougall | 23 Lea Ann Duncan, Ian Skone-Rees |
| 11 Scott Graham, Sally Stewart | 24 Brian Mooney, Suzi McNutt |
| 12 Pipers from the Los Angeles Police Emerald Society | 25 John Lowry, Chuck Robertson |
| 13 Chuck Robertson and guest | |

In The Dog House

By: Ian Skone-Rees

His first name wasn't Charles and he was unable to write, but we named him Dickens.

This heady moniker was, however, frequently shortened to Dickie. He didn't seem to mind and came willingly when we would call him by either name. His long life started in Rancho Cucamonga. One of a Champion's litter we had aspirations of developing for him a life in the show-ring. A setter's silky coat is meant to lay flat from the top of the head, along the back to the tail. Dicken's refused to do so. No matter what we attempted — wrapping him in a towel secured with safety pins under his neck and belly or painstakingly blow-drying his long and silky coat—it always reverted to a coat more reminiscent of a poodle's! I exaggerate, but the natural curl of his coat did him in as far as a show career was concerned. However we

persisted and entered him in a show at the Rose Bowl. With Dickens washed, clipped and safely crated in the back of our van we set off for Pasadena. On arrival I opened the back of the van expecting to see our neat blue-belton (black and white) setter, instead I was presented with a black and yellow setter. During the journey, Dickens had quietly voided himself of, what looked like, gallons of puppy urine, effectively dyeing the glossy white parts of his coat a deep yellow. We considered entering him in the yellow Labrador class, but on advice from the more experienced entrants rapidly shelved the idea. Thus closed Dicken's short career as a show dog. No regrets. He did continue to benefit from our constant attention to his appearance, frequent brushing, clipping and tail trimming. Prejudiced we



probably are, but setters are one of the most strikingly handsome breeds. Their aristocratic heads and soulful eyes give them the eternal languid look of the blue-blooded elite. Dickens was not huge, but at eighty pounds he had an unmistakable presence. His muzzle would rest comfortably on a dining-room chair, while his tail would casually attempt to flick off a crystal glass from the coffee table causing one or other of us to quickly dive as if monitoring a batsman in the slips (a sporting analogy for all you cricket enthusiasts).

Dickens passed away in April 2007 aged sixteen years. A bronze sculpture of an English Setter sits on our buffet, around its neck is Dicken's collar and on the plinth are his ashes—he'll always be with us.



Irish Blonde

An attractive blonde from Cork arrived at the casino and bet twenty-thousand euros on a single roll of the dice. She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I'm completely nude." With that she stripped, rolled the dice and yelled, "Come on baby, Mama needs new clothes!" As the dice came to a stop she jumped up and down and squealed, "YES! I WON! She hugged each of the dealers, picked up her winnings and quickly departed. The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally one of them asks "What did she roll?" The other answered, "I don't know, I thought you were watching."

MORAL OF THE STORY—

Not all Irish are stupid, not all blondes are dumb, but all men are men.



Welcome New Members

The vitality and strength of any organization thrives on new blood and we all most heartily welcome the following to our midst, in the certain knowledge that they will add, contribute to, and participate in our Saint Andrew's Society.

Members

John Allan Taylor	February 2009
Annie Schreckengost	March 2009
Jonathan Carr	May 2009
Chuck Robertson	May 2009

We are dependent on the growth of our membership. Please spread the word about your Saint Andrew's Society and encourage your friends to join us in preserving Scottish identity and culture.



**Thank you
Coronet Printing
for your generous support of
The St. Andrew Society
of Los Angeles.**

*Quality Service Since 1946
Pre-press • Printing • Bindery*

9260 Owensmouth Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
818-775-9733 • fax: 818-775-9368
www.coronetprinting.com