

the

thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

Rampant Scotland

The Rampant Scotland Newsletter – is your insight into what has been happening in Scotland, snipped from the Scottish media, for Scots in Scotland and abroad. It brings you news and events, plus a Scottish magazine section. It is published every other week.

Hot Rampant Scotland Newsletter is available by e-mail. Send an e-mail to: Scottie@rampantscotland.com with Subscribe Newsletter as the subject line and a text version of free Scottish snippets of news will arrive in your mailbox every weekend! 🍷

Mark Your Calendar

Scottish Heritage Day 2009

Altadena Town and Country Club
March 14, 2009
10 am – 2:30 pm

Contact Dave Macpherson for reservations and additional information.
JDMacpherson@att.net

Tartan Day

Tam O'Shanter Inn
April 6, 2009
6:00 pm –

for reservations and additional information.
JEmmettLowry@aol.com

March 2009



RBS 6 Nations Championship

Murrayfield

February 28, 2009

Scotland 26 – Italy 6

<http://www.rbs6nations.com/en/home.php>

What, I hear you say, is the RBS 6 Nations Championship and what is Murrayfield? It is an annual rugby union tournament played between the six countries: England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales. Murrayfield is the home ground of the Scottish Rugby Union, in Edinburgh. As you see, Scotland prevailed over Italy by quite a healthy margin, cause for celebration by the cognoscenti! The championship is a round-robin affair, meaning each team plays each other and collects

Please see 6 NATIONS RUGBY, page 4



occasionally Brian (who was in charge of motor car sales) and once in a while with the great man himself, Donald Healey. This

Please see FORD'S MODEL A, page 2

Report to the St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles' Annual General Meeting of 22 February 2009

John Benton, M.D., President



The By-Laws of our Society (1999) say that the president should present a "concise"

written report at the Annual General Meeting. Implied, of course, is that there is beauty in brevity. However, so much has gone on this year in our Society that it makes achieving "concise" rather difficult.

It has been my intent as a new president to follow our By-Laws, as drawn up years ago by our Past President, Mr. J. Howard Standing. They have served us well over the years. As the old proverb says, "If it ain't broke, don't try to fix it." But, as time goes by and practices change, By-laws may have to be tweaked here and there to keep up.

We now have our Policies and Procedures lists available to clarify them. These should be invaluable to not only new members, but also the older members as well.

This year, we have established two important standing committees. One is the Finance Committee. Under the leadership of the Treasurer, it is charged with over-seeing and controlling the financial condition of the Society, and engage in long-term financial planning. It has been busy with positioning our treasury to minimize the effects of the current economic problems.

The other, the Communications Committee,

Please see PRESIDENT'S REPORT, page 4

In Gear

This is the third of series of articles devoted to cars. Not just any cars, but those owned by members of the Saint Andrew's Society that may be regarded as representative of the Golden Age of Motoring. Each issue, this column will feature a member's own automobile love affair. If you have a love affair to reveal, contact the editor.

Healey, by Ian Skone-Rees, Trustee

There are a few objects that we assume to be extensions of our bodies: a car, a motorcycle, a boat...What then is the car?

Donald Healey was a doyen of the British sports car golden era. He had two sons, Brian and Geoffrey who between them ran the Healey Motor Works at The Cape in

It is, I think, the flesh given to those old phantoms, personal freedom, individual liberty."

Pontus Hulten, 1984

Warwick, England. As a sales and marketing representative for Shell-Mex and BP with a territory encompassing Warwick I had regular meetings with Geoffrey,



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John Lowry, FSA Scot

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J. David MacPherson

Victoria Pushee

Ian J. Skone-Rees

J. Howard Standing

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Letter from Edinburgh



Greetings to Los Angeles from the St Andrew Society in Edinburgh—the 'parent society' as we are known.

We were founded in 1907 by loyal Scottish folk who wanted to work for the betterment of Scots in all walks of life at home and abroad, to keep in touch and to give them news of their homeland, sending greetings for St. Andrew's Day; and we also supply information on a great variety of questions.

We have a long and meritorious history of good work done over the years. In later times we set up the *Flag Trust* which cares for the Saltire which flies at Athelstaneford, the site of the battle when the Saltire was adopted as Scotland's National Flag, and which also runs and maintains the much acclaimed Heritage Centre there.

The World Federation of Scottish Societies and Individuals was incorporated with our Society many years ago, and is the business arm which attends to the current day-to-day business and communication with all our affiliated societies and clubs and gives advice and assistance to those Scots furth of Scotland wishing to set up a St. Andrew's Society.

We celebrated our Centenary by creating our own tartan which is available on sale to all our members including our affiliates.

Our society will be pleased to welcome any member of your society who wishes to visit Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh and they may contact me, your correspondent in the first instance, at: worldfederation.standrew@yahoo.co.uk.

Kenneth

Kenneth Sinclair Stewart

Secretary of the World Federation of Scottish Societies

Saint Andrew's Society Los Angeles Calendar of Events

March 14, 2009
Annual Scottish Heritage Day
Altadena Town and Country Club

April 6, 2009
Tartan Day Celebration
Tam O'Shanter Inn, Los Feliz

May 3, 2009
New Member Reception
Home of Vickie Pushee

Date TBA, 2009
Annual Annual Garden Party
Home of Jack and Barbara Dawson

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
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church

For more information visit
www.saintandrewsla.org




Healey, from page 1

was a family business. The family came from Cornwall and were totally dedicated to what we now regard as the classic English sports car. Although the Healey family were involved with many famous English marques, they are best known for the cars built in conjunction with the British Motor Corporation (BMC), the *Austin-Healey* and the *Austin-Healey Sprite*.

The *Austin-Healey* was a powerful car for its time and in 1956 a heavily streamlined version of the 100-6 model recorded a speed of 203.6 mph at the Bonneville salt-flats in

Utah. Donald Healey was not only an accomplished engineer; he was an enthusiast who passed on his enthusiasm to his engineer son Geoffrey. They believed the sports car should be affordable for everyone. In 1958 father and son introduced the *Sprite* and proceeded to sell more than 130,000 of them, eighty-nine percent to America. I am the owner of an original 1958 Wimbledon White *Sprite*. It has proved a reliable and fun car to drive and amazingly spacious. There is no boot (trunk), but the entire rear end of the car is hollow, allowing all kinds of luggage to be safely stored out

of sight, behind the two seats. The engine, unlike its brother's, is not powerful, but the driver's proximity to the ground allows its 948 cc engine to provide a greater sense of speed than many of today's mechanically superior econoboxes. The *Sprite* is known in England as the *Frogeye*, because of its headlights bolted to the front of the bonnet (hood). The original design was for retractable headlights but this was abandoned because of cost. The *Sprite*, in its many modified forms, remains to day a popular racing car and may be seen at many club events, a testament to its enduring design. 

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

Robert Lockhart and John Reid bring Golf to America



The Royal and Ancient old course St. Andrews, Scotland, whose name was adopted for the St. Andrew's club in Yonkers.



John Reid, often described as "the father of American golf," founded the St Andrew's Golf Club in Yonkers in 1888.

The introduction of golf to the USA can be traced back to two young men from one city in Scotland, the ancient Scottish capital of Dunfermline.

In 1865, the local Scottish newspaper covered John Reid and his friend Robert Lockhart leaving Dunfermline for a new life in America. Reid and Lockhart travelled with "a golf bag of clubs purchased from Old Tom Morris' shop in St. Andrews."

John Reid's first job was working in an ironworks in New York, eventually rising to become general manager and later a trustee, alongside his position as director of other companies. During Reid's leisure time, he would entertain the Yonkers locals with the traditional Scots game of golf.


In February 1888, the local townsfolk turn out to watch "sportsman John Reid and several of his friends with an armful of clubs, some gutta percha balls and hearts full of enthusiasm to a pasture in Yonkers for a friendly round of *gowf*." The group knocked the balls around a man made three-hole golf course.

Before long the Dunfermline lads created a clubhouse "an old apple tree from whose gnarled branches they hung their coats

and obligatory flasks of fine Scotch whisky."

This 1888 game was the first for the first officially formed golf club in the USA. Over the years the Yonkers Saint Andrew's Golf Club grew from strength to strength. In 1911, Reid invited another son of Dunfermline to play the course. Andrew Carnegie commented, "Let it be recorded, therefore, in the annals of time, that the introduction of golf to America was the work of two Dunfermline bairns, Lockhart and Reid, both of Dunfermline, Scotland and of Yonkers, New York."

In 1894, the golf club, with Reid as President, moved within the Yonkers city boundary to a Gray Oaks farm. In 1888 the Saint Andrews course in Yonkers was the venue to celebrate 100 years of golf in America. The event brought together some of the greatest names in the game including Gary Player, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

Not much is known of Robert Lockhart, but John Reid died in October 1916 and his portrait proudly hangs in the impressive Yonkers clubhouse, proclaiming "The Father of Golf in the USA." 

Committee News

The **Board of Trustees** met on Sunday February 22 following the AGM. Minutes will be posted on the website.

The **Communications Committee** coordinates production of The Thistle and other related outreach projects. The committee conferenced via email during February to discuss and plan the editorial content for the next issue.

The **Membership** chair has reported seventeen new members during 2008.

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.

President's Report, from page 1

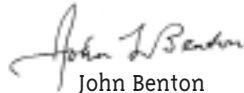
already very busy, produces our quarterly and very well received newsletter, "The Thistle." The committee has also set up our colorful web site www.saintandrewsla.org. It's a great way for communicating with and within an organization such as ours, and it can also be a very good way of attracting new members.

Our membership situation has also been somewhat adversely affected by the present economic situation. However, we are still continually getting new members. We'll be having many events, watch the schedule!

We'll be going to Highland Games and setting up tents to attract new members. The people who go to Games are usually the ones most likely to sign up. However, we will also continue our discreet screening process.

We'll be paying more attention to Highland dancing. Most importantly, we want to schedule events that are fun. Maybe, even a Ceilidh or two!


Yours Aye,


John Benton

Contact John Benton via email at: tavernman1@hotmail.com

6 Nations Rugby, from page 1

points for their result, two for a win, one for a draw, and zero for a loss. The team ending the series with the most points is the champion, the team with the least takes the *wooden spoon*!

Scotland's win over Italy means they escape the ignominy of taking the wooden spoon! You can be sure lusty Scottish voices were belting out *Flower of Scotland* as their team romped to a well-deserved win in front of the home crowd. 

Scotch Corner

Regular readers of The Thistle will know that the last issue also featured Talisker. Why again? you ask. A new bottling I reply! Unfortunately so far only available in the UK, but a good reason for making a trip across the pond! Ed.

Introducing a new full-strength bottling of Talisker Single Malt Scotch Whisky available now across the UK.

Known as Talisker 578 North, the name comes from the unusually high latitude of the distillery, one of the world's most remote and northerly. So it's only appropriate that it's bottled at the high strength of 57% ABV compared with the 45.8% ABV strength of our other bottlings of Talisker.


At virtually natural cask strength, the North is the first regularly available full-strength Talisker to be released. Previous bottlings of cask-strength Talisker have only been available in exclusive annual 25 and 30 year old limited-edition releases.

Talisker 578 North has no age statement. It's been drawn from 100% American oak refill casks, which have been selected regardless of age, to emphasise the unique and intense distillery character of Talisker.

So what is it like to taste? You could describe Talisker 578 North as perfectly reflecting the vigour you'd expect of a Talisker. Here's what Georgie Crawford, Brand



Home Manager, Talisker Distillery feels:

"This whisky showcases everything that's first-class about Talisker while packing a bit more punch because of the special bottling strength. Delving into the aromas and flavours I find that the wonderful smoke and peat character is perfectly balanced by a warming spicy orange sweetness. The lengthy finish has all the expected volcanic build up of heat and intensity that is Talisker's signature, giving a tingling warm pepper and chilli sensation in the mouth while clouds of smoke roll up the tongue. The whole experience feels both stormy and smooth at the same time. The perfect dram for an evening spent beside a beach bonfire." 

For more information visit www.taliskerwhisky.com

In Memoriam

The Honorable William W. Huss, Superior Court, Los Angeles Ret.) and long time member of the Saint Andrew's Society peacefully passed away at his home November 26, 2008. On January 26, 2009 his wife Mariene Marie Huss, MD joined her husband in everlasting life. Donations in their memory can be sent to Saint James' Episcopal School. www.sjsla.org/support.html



Annual Queen Mary Scottish Festival & Games By: John Lowry



Clockwise: John Benton and guests; Dave Moffett with Nilda and Phil Maffett; Dave McPherson, Richard Gillaspay and Annie and Rod Shreckengost

The first keel plate for the HMS Queen Mary was laid December 1, 1930 in Clydebank, Scotland but hard economic times delayed her completion until September 1934 when she was launched and named Queen Mary by Her Majesty Queen Mary accompanied by His Majesty King George V. She was the pride of Cunard White Star, LTD and plied the oceans of the world for many years before being retired and moved to Long Beach in 1967 where she has pleased so many on numerous special occasions.

One such annual event is the Queen Mary Scottish Festival held each February and your St. Andrew's Society was on hand for this year's Festival among the Clans, Bands and Vendors. The Society table was a busy spot neatly located beside the Moffat and MacPherson tables and not far from the Grahams and Gordons. President John Benton was on hand for the weekend as

was Communications Chair Ian Skone-Rees and, of course, Dave Moffat and David MacPherson.

The weekend always begins on Friday with a single malt whisky tasting and a Men of Worth Concert in the Royal Theatre. Action on Saturday and Sunday is non-stop with more music, vendors plying their wares, bands marching, dancers dancing and athletes performing super-human feats of strength! Good Scottish food is available and a proper ale to wash it down, as well. As this is the traditional start of Festival season in Southern California, there is much camaraderie amongst Clan reps and the general public is swept into this "reunion" atmosphere.

This Festival's conclusion is on Sunday night with their "Plaidpalooza" concert with many of the weekend entertainers taking part. The QM is a wonderful place for a very special gathering! 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

The Magnificent Irish Wolfhound

By: Patricia Tennyson Bell

The Irish Wolfhound, has an ancient history, dating back some 3,000 years. These giant-sized hounds were used for hunting and they were even used in battle to pull men off horseback. However, by the 19th Century numbers had dwindled and following the Irish Famine of 1845, the breed almost died out. Fortunately, a revival took place, and today the Irish Wolfhound has a strong, enthusiastic following.


Owning an Irish Wolfhound should be a serious and wonderful thing, and it is important to realize that ownership of such a large hunting dog can bring plenty of responsibilities, along with the pleasures and the companionship. It is not

enough to take a fancy to owning a Wolfhound because they are enormous, or because they have such a romantic history, or because they are great with kids.

You need to find out what it is really like to live with a dog as big as an Irish Wolfhound. There are some unforeseen expenses that should be budgeted for before you take the plunge, such as the cost of either exchanging the family saloon, for a suitable estate car/station

wagon or van, or maybe buying a second vehicle just for trips with the hound. Then there is the problem of a Wolfhound's love of comfort. The couch or sofa in your sitting room is likely to be appropriated by your hound, who will greatly appreciate the good view, the softness and the freedom from draughts. This is OK at the puppy state, because people will fit on the sofa too, but by the time your hound is full grown you may well have to buy another sofa for the humans to use.

Strongbow, our first Irish Wolfhound, came into our lives in June 2004, when he was 11 weeks old and our household hasn't been the same since. Grainne came into our lives in October 2007 when she was also 11 weeks old. They are intelligent, strong willed, stubborn and extremely affectionate.

It is a privilege that both our Irish Wolfhounds allow us to share their house and van. We cannot imagine being without an Irish Wolfhound and we owe it all to these wonderful dogs. 



Connall Bell with Champion Strongbow Baile Atha Cliath.

Scottish Dog Breeds

There are thirteen breeds of dogs, including one with two variations, which are either Scottish in origin, or are closely associated with Scotland.

In alphabetical order, they are:

Bearded Collie
Border Collie
Border Terrier
Cairn Terrier
Collie – Rough
Collie – Smooth
Dandie Dinmont Terrier
Golden Retriever
Gordon Setter
Scottish Deerhound
Scottish Terrier
Shetland Sheepdog
Skye Terrier
West Highland Terrier



Highland Games Calendar – 2009

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

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

Cynthia Benton	January, 2009
Rodney Tolute Laderas	February, 2009
John Allan Taylor	February, 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.


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