

St Andrew's Society of Oakland
3565 Whitehall Court
Pleasanton, CA 94588

ST ANDREW'S ECHOES



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February issue 2007

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

Editor's note:

It came to my attention that there are rumors of a Burns Supper to be held at Dick's Restaurant in San Leandro, so I thought I would investigate further. Spokesperson, Nancy Wigley, of the St Andrew's Society of Oakland confirmed that the rumors are true. When asked for more details on the event here is what she had to say, "The Burns Supper is to be held on the 24th February with no host cocktails at 6.30 pm and dinner to be served at 7.30 pm. Reservations are to be made by the 19th of February." "Will haggis be on the menu?" I asked. "Yes, but this year it will be served as one of the entrees rather than as a starter". "Any reason for that?" I asked. "Well," she said, "some people can't manage the haggis as an appetizer and then eat a big entrée helping. Also, not everyone likes haggis, so this year we thought that to please all of our guests, we will ask Dick's to include the haggis as one of the entrées, then people can choose which main course they would like to have." "Good idea" I said, "but will guests have to choose what they want before they come along to Dick's?" "Yes, when they call myself or Ian Myles to make their reservations, they will have to let us know what they would like to eat on the night, whether it will be Haggis, neeps and tatties or another main course, such as the chicken or vegetarian dish. We will also be serving Cock-A-Leekie soup for a starter and probably apple crumble for dessert." she replied. "Is there anything else you would like our readers to know?" I asked. "Oh, just make sure you bring, your appetite, your singing voice and your dancing shoes!" she retorted with a wee twinkle in her eye.

So folks, it looks like the evening will be the usual success. This year, there will be assigned seating, so let them know whom you want to sit beside!

January Business Meeting: (Meetings held every 2nd Friday of every month at Dick's Restaurant, Alvarado St, San Leandro. All are welcome. Next meeting Feb 9th at 8 pm.)

Committees and their Duties

The President opened the meeting by appointing volunteers to be on the following committees:

Committee On Delinquents: Jim Hutchinson will be Chairman with help from Janet Robertson and Nancy Wigley. So watch out folks – their duties are to investigate any member whose dues are in arrears. If you are late in paying, you may well have the “heavies” knocking at your door!!

Entertainment Committee: Ian Robertson is the Chairman and the committee members are Janet, Nancy, Ian Myles, Dorothy and Jacqueline. Their duties are to arrange all the social events of the Society, so for those of you who have a “big swallie”, you would be advised to attend all the organized parties!

Auditing Committee: Steve Wigley, Kenny Lawrence and Dorothy Mackay-Collins head up this committee and according to the byelaws, shall examine the books, reports and vouchers of the several officers, and report in writing their findings. They will also examine any bills and make sure they are correct before payment is made. Sounds like a job just made for my dad as he's always examining my mum's finances, ergo the Visa Statement every month! Mind you – he really doesn't get much say in any of that!

Membership Committee: Billy Edmiston, Jacqueline Ritchie and Ernestine Moir will approve new applications for membership. Keep the riff-raff out!

Visiting Committee: Janet Robertson and Jacqueline Ritchie will now be in charge of caring for our sick members. So, if you know of anyone in the Society who is ill or who needs a wee bit of attention, let our two care-givers know and they'll be in contact with you to offer help, a sympathetic ear and a cheerful smile. Don't hesitate to call them in times of need or any of the society officers for that matter. We're all here to help each other.

Balloting:

You'll see Ernestine Moir's name on the Membership Committee. Yes – you've guessed right! Ernestine applied and was approved membership by the attending members. She immediately signed up to help and get involved with the Society. Way to go, Ernestine!

New Business:

A tree will be planted in memory of our sorely missed member, Alex Moir, who sadly passed away in December.

Ernestine mentioned that she would like a scholarship fund established in memory of Alex and administered by the St Andrew's Society of Oakland. Ian Robertson will look into this further and report his findings at the next meeting.

Ian Robertson talked about a website for the Society hosted by Microsoft Live which appears to be a free service. He will research it further and set up a website if his findings are correct.

Happy Birthday to You!

This month's birthday wishes go to –

Ann Sagramoso – Feb 7th

Janet Robertson – Feb 12th

Judith Le Bris – Feb 25th

Joe Collins – Feb 28th

Also belated birthday wishes to Ernestine Moir – Jan 27th

***Happy Birthday and Best Wishes from the
St Andrew's Society of Oakland***

Congratulations!

Agnes and Jim Hutchinson are pleased to announce the arrival of their grandson, Adam. Their daughter, Debbie, gave birth to Adam on the 19th January weighing in at a healthy 6lb 6oz. Both mother and son are doing fine.

Congratulations from the St Andrew's Society of Oakland

St. Andrew's Society of Oakland

Burns Supper

Saturday, February 24, 2007



**Celebrating the 248th Anniversary of the birth
of**

**Robert Burns
1759-1796**

at Dick's Restaurant – San Leandro

***3188 Alvarado Street, San Leandro, CA
94578***

\$40 per person No Host Cocktails @ 6:30 p.m. / Dinner @ 7:30 p.m.

for reservations and information contact:

Ian Myles (Treasurer) by telephone: (510) 797-9621 or email: ianmyles@att.net

OR

Nancy Wigley (Secretary) by telephone: (925) 426-8969 or email: ns_wigley@yahoo.com



St. Andrew's Society of Oakland (Founded 1878)

Sport:

Alex McLeish is the new Scotland boss.



Ex-Rangers manager Alex McLeish has signed a contract with the SFA that will see him guide the national team until 2010. He has some rather big shoes to step into though as ex-Scotland boss Walter Smith has left the team on top of Group B containing the likes of France and Italy. McLeish has said he is looking to start up where Smith left off, and keep the momentum going, but it will be an extremely tough task. This is Scotland he is talking about remember. With a double header against Georgia and Italy (away.....YIKES!!) coming up next month, Big Eck has already gotten right to it with calling up two uncapped players and organizing a little training in Ayrshire. Can Alex McLeish keep the momentum going? Can he do the unthinkable, the impossible? Can he get Scotland out of their toughest group of all time? This could get very interesting. Or the usual, typical Scottish false hope.

Next Scotland match: Scotland B vs Finland B on Wednesday, February 7th.

Entertainment:

Rod Stewart coming to San Jose.



Rod Stewart will be performing at the San Jose pavilion at 8pm on Thursday, March 15th. Tickets are on sale now.

Fun and games:

Name the Scot.

- Is an avid fan of the Buddhist religion.
- When she was 17 years old, she enrolled at the "Royal Academy Of Music" in London.
- Her closest friend is Pretenders singer Chrissie Hynde
- Credits Motown as one of her major influences
- Is a vegetarian

The answer to last issue's quiz was Ewan McGregor.

Scottish News:

The following is an excerpt from the Scotsman dated December 29th 2006. Kenny Lawrence actually brought this in to the last meeting, thinking that it may be of interest to the members.

It looks like there are more people with Scottish ancestry living in the US than in Scotland! Census reports show that there are 4.2 million people with Scottish ancestry living in Canada and 4.9 million in the USA. One of the five people who were responsible for putting together the US Declaration of Independence was a Scot, Robert Livingston. He was also the 14th President of the New York St Andrew's Society. He swore in the first President of the United States. He was in charge of buying the State of Louisiana from France and changed the course of history, otherwise it would have been war between France and the US. The Scottish influence on Canada has been immense. The first mayor of Vancouver, for instance, was a Scot, Malcolm MacLean from Tiree and by the 1930s there were over 30 different Scottish societies in Vancouver.

So, we know that Scots are scattered, not just in North America, but also from one corner of the earth to the other, teaching the world about our haggis, the kilt and the heather. Pontificating over our history and heritage and rightly so! Keep up the good work, people!

Cock-a-Leekie Soup:

Just thought I'd include a wee recipe for all you cooks out there. I'd never heard of Cock-a-Leekie soup and decided to raid my mum's recipe books. This one's out of a book called A Feast of Scotland by Janet Warren and from the section Hamely Fare. Hope I don't get done for plagiarism as I'm printing this more or less word for word!

Here are the ingredients:

1 boiling fowl (I suppose that means chicken?!?)

1 bay leaf

1lb leeks, slit, cleaned and cut into 1 inch pieces

4 pints stock or water

1oz long grain rice

4oz dried prunes, soaked overnight

salt and pepper

This famous Scottish soup can often be found on the menu at a Burns Supper or St Andrew's Night Dinner. The addition of prunes to the soup was going out of vogue according to Meg Dod's recipe, and that was in 1826!

Put the bird and giblets into a large pan with the stock or water, add the bay leaf, leeks and plenty of seasoning. Bring the soup to the boil then skim the surface, reduce the heat, cover the pan and simmer for 2-3 hours, or until the bird is tender.

Remove the bird, giblets and bay leaf and skim off any fat from the surface. Add the rice and the prunes, drained, and simmer the soup for a further 30 minutes. Check for seasoning, then serve. Use the chicken, coated with a caper or egg sauce as another course.

(Ah well, I'm glad she told me what to do with the chicken! I'm away to look up the dictionary now to find out what a caper is!!)

Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events:

February 24th St Andrew's Society of Oakland Burns Supper
To be held at Dick's Restaurant, 3188 Alvarado St,
San Leandro. 7.30 pm.