



Forth Railway Bridge

St Andrew's Society of Oakland

3565 Whitehall Court

Pleasanton, CA 94588

ST ANDREW'S ECHOES



St Andrew's Society of Oakland Echoes

August 2008 Issue

Society News

Meetings are held every 2nd Friday of the month at Dick's Restaurant, Alvarado St, San Leandro. All are welcome.
Next meeting: August 8th at 8 pm.

July Business Meeting

There wasn't much to discuss at the meeting the main topic being the first applications received for the Alex Moir Scholarship Fund, which are now in the hands of the Scholarship Committee for review.



Happy Birthday to You!

August birthday wishes go to –

Elaine Durkin - 9
Gordon Beveridge – 12
Ian Robertson – 19
Nancy Wigley - 22
Paul Berman – 23
Alan Purves - 29

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



(Next item is an excerpt from the Rampant Scotland Newsletter)

Next Week in Scottish History



July 27 1689 - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay.

July 29 1565 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley.

July 29 1567 - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier.

July 30 1938 - First edition of the long-running "Beano" comic was published.

July 31 1786 - "Kilmarnock Edition" of the poems of Robert Burns "Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" first published.

July 31 1965 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain.

August 1 1747 - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years.

August 2 1894 - Death duties introduced for the first time in Britain.

August 3 1305 - William Wallace betrayed and handed over to the English.

August 4 1870 - Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder.

August 5 1695 - The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office.

August 6 1678 - First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh.

August 8 1296 - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned.

August 9 1935 - Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913.

A Wee Bit of Blethers

Did you know.....

Thomas Cook, the world's first travel agency in the world, was founded in 1850.

There are more TV sets in the US than there are people in the UK.

Before the year 1000, the word "she" did not exist in the English language. The singular female reference was the word "heo", which also was the plural of all genders. The word "she" appeared only in the 12th century, about 400 years after English began to take form. "She" probably derived from the Old English feminine "seo", the Viking word for feminine reference.

For 3000 years, until 1883, hemp was the world's largest agricultural crop, from which the majority of fabric, soap, paper, medicines, and oils were produced.

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson both grew hemp. Ben Franklin owned a mill that made hemp paper. The US Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.

The names of all the continents end with the letter they start with.

On every continent there is a city called Rome.

The oldest inhabited city is Damascus, Syria.

The words "electronic mail" might sound new but was introduced 30 years ago. Queen Elizabeth of Britain sent her first email in 1976.

Some 190 billion emails are sent daily - more than 2 million per second - by 1,2 billion email senders. About 70% (133 billion emails) are spam and viruses. There are about 1,4 billion registered email addresses.

Eskimos use refrigerators to keep food from freezing.

Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon with his left foot first.

The electric chair was invented by a dentist.

It is not true that the Great Wall of China is the only man-made structure that can be viewed from space - many man-made objects, including the Dutch polders, can be viewed from space.

The length from your wrist to your elbow is the same as the length of your foot.

The human head contains 22 bones.

Einstein's brain was of average size (1375 grams - 49oz).

If the amount of water in your body is reduced by just 1%, you'll feel thirsty.

A person can live without food for about a month, but only about a week without water.

You'll drink about 75,000 litres (20,000 gallons) of water in your lifetime.

A person remains conscious for eight seconds after being decapitated.

Unless food is mixed with saliva you cannot taste it.

King Henry I, who ruled England in the 12th century, standardised the yard as the distance from the thumb of his outstretched arm to his nose.

The coloured part of the eye is called the iris. Behind the iris is the soft, rubbery lens which focuses the light on to a layer, called the retina, in the back of the eye. The retina contains about 125 million rods and 7 million cones. The rods pick up shades of grey and help us see in dim light. The cones work best in bright light to pick up colours.

We actually do not see with our eyes - we see with our brains. The eyes basically are the cameras of the brain. One-quarter of the brain is used to control the eyes.

(The above information was found on the following website: www.didyouknow.com.)

Name that Scot

✚ born in Glasgow on the 14th April 1961

✚ Trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and formed his own theatre company, Rain Dog, in 1991

- ✦ Has been seen in TV shows such as Cracker and Taggart
- ✦ Best known for his part as Hamish McBeth
- ✦ Has been in movies such as Trainspotting, 28 Weeks Later and The World is Not Enough
- ✦ Best clue yet – he played Gaz in the Full Monty!

Last month's answer is: **John Hannah**



Joke time

Bonding with Grandpa

A friend, who worked away from home all week, always made a special effort with his family on the weekends. Every Sunday morning he would take his 7-year old granddaughter out for a drive in the car for some bonding time. One particular Sunday however, he had a bad cold and really didn't feel like being up at all. Luckily, his wife came to the rescue and said that she would take their granddaughter out. When they returned, the little girl anxiously ran upstairs to see her grandfather.

"Well, did you enjoy your ride with grandma?"
 "Oh yes, PaPa" the girl replied, "and do you know what? We didn't see a single dumb bastard or lousy shit head!"

Brings a tear to your eye doesn't it?

A Stunning Senior Moment

A self-important young college freshman attending a recent football game, took it upon himself to explain to a senior

Frustrated? Duh!

This joke was emailed to me and thought I would include it in this issue as I'm sure we've all been in the same circumstance at some time in our lives and felt the need to write something like this:-

Dear Minister

I'm in the process of renewing my passport but I am a total loss to understand or believe the hoops I am being asked to jump through.

How is it that Bert Smith of T.V. Rentals Basingstoke has my address and telephone number and knows that I bought a satellite dish from them back in 1994, and yet, the Government is still

citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

"You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one," the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear. "Our generation grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon. Our space probes have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, ships and electric and hydrogen cars, cell phones , computers with light-speed processing ... and more."

After a brief silence, the senior citizen responded,

"You're right son. We didn't have those things when we were young, so we invented them. Now you arrogant little shit, what are you doing for the next generation?"

The applause was amazing ...

(The following Paddy and Mick jokes were sent to me from Ernestine. Thanks Ernestine!)

Paddy and Mick

Paddy's given a job painting the white line down the middle of the road.

On the first day he paints a line eight miles long, on the second day he paints three miles and on the third day he only manages one mile.

The foreman's not happy and says to Paddy, "Why is it your lines are getting shorter each day?"

"Ah to be sure," says Paddy, "oim gettin' further away from the paint can!"

Paddy met Mick in the street and said, "Paddy, will you draw your bedroom curtains before making love to your wife in future?"

"Why?" Paddy asked.

"Because," said Mick, "all the street was laughing when they saw you making love yesterday."

Mick said, "Silly buggers, the laugh's on them. I wasn't home yesterday

asking me where I was born and on what date?

How come that nice West African immigrant chappy who comes round every Thursday night with his DVD rentals van can tell me every film or video I have had out since he started his business up eleven years ago, yet you still want me to remind you of my last three jobs, two of which were with contractors working for the government?

How come the T.V. detector van can tell if my T.V. is on, what channel I am watching and whether I have paid my licence or not, and yet if I win the government run lottery they have no idea I have won or where I am and will keep the bloody money to themselves if I fail to claim in good time. Do you people do this by hand?

You have my birth date on numerous files you hold on me, including the one with all the income tax forms I've filed for the

past 30-odd years. It's on my health insurance card, my driver's licence, on the last four passports I've had, on all those stupid customs declaration forms I've had to fill out before being allowed off the planes and boats over the last 30 years, and all those insufferable census forms that are done every ten years and the electoral registration forms I have to complete, by law, every time our lords and masters are up for re-election. Would somebody please take note, once and for all, I was born in Maidenhead on the 4th of March 1957, my mother's name is Mary, her maiden name was Reynolds, my father's name is Robert, and I'd be absolutely astounded if that ever changed between now and the day I die!

I apologise Minister. I'm obviously not myself this morning. But between you and me, I have simply had enough! You mail the application to my house, then you ask me for my address. What is going on? Do you have a gang of Neanderthals working there? Look at my damn picture. Do I look like Bin Laden? I don't want to activate the Fifth Reich for God's sake! I just want to go and park my weary backside on a sunny, sandy beach for a couple of week's well-earned rest away from all this crap. Well, I have to go now, because I have to go to back to Salisbury and get another copy of my birth certificate because you lost the last one. AND to the tune of 60 quid!

A Wee Quiz

How much Scottish Trivia do you know?

1. Where were the first Open Golf Championships held – Prestwick or St Andrews?
2. From what type of stone is the Stone of Destiny fashioned?
3. How did Arbroath-born, James Chalmers, stamp his mark on the modern postal system?
4. Which two 'islands' are together known as "The Long Island"?
5. In which firth is the Bass Rock situated?
6. Which admiral is commemorated by a telescope-shaped monument on Calton Hill, Edinburgh?
7. What is the first name of the poet, McGonagall?
8. Which actor is best remembered as the beleaguered headmistress in The Belles of St Trinians?
9. Who is the only Scot to have won an Olympic gold medal in boxing?
10. Which brand of cleaning agent was promoted in a series of 70s and 80s TV ads featuring Molly Weir?

Ponder This

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

What a racket THAT is!! Would it be so complicated to have all the services in the same spot to assist in the issuance of a new passport the same day? But nooooo, that'd be too damn easy and maybe make sense. You'd rather have us running all over the place like chickens with our heads cut off, then find some tosser to confirm that it's really me on the goddamn picture - you know... the one where we're not allowed to smile in in case we look as if we are enjoying the process! Hey, you know why we can't smile? 'Cause we're totally jacked off! I served in the armed forces for more than 25 years including over ten years at the Ministry of Defence in London. I have had security clearances, which allowed me to sit in the Cabinet Office, five seats away from the Prime Minister while he was being briefed on the first Gulf War and I have been doing volunteer work for the British Red Cross ever since I left the Services. However, I have to get someone 'important' to verify who I am -- you know, someone like my doctor... who, before he got his medical degree 6 months agoWAS LIVING IN PAKISTAN !?!?!?

Yours sincerely,

An Irate British Citizen.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

Why do toasters have a setting that burns the toast to a crisp ?

PBFSCO BURNS SUPPER

Save the date for the PBFSCO Burns Supper to be held in the Pleasanton Marriott (formerly the Crowne Plaza) on Saturday, January the 31st 2009.

Your Society Needs You

Before we know it, time will be upon us to vote in new officers for next year. As you are well aware, the Society has operated without a President for the past year and we need your help to volunteer for the positions, which may become vacant.

The Nominating Committee will be looking for volunteers in October, but I thought I would give you all a chance to put your thinking caps on early, and decide if you would like to take on an Officer's role within the Society or to volunteer your time to write the Echoes, or be on the Entertainment Committee, etc, etc. There are plenty positions to be filled and we need new faces to step up to the plate and take some responsibility. Please think about your Society, what it means to you and how we help those in need; and if you think you would like to help out in any way from December onwards, please mention this to any of the current Officers so that we can pass your name on to the Nominating Committee for consideration in October.

Officers

President:	Vacant	
Vice-President:	Kenny Lawrence 4266 Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, CA 94568 Email: kenneth.lawrence@sun.com	925 829 8771 (home) 510 676 6865 (cell)
Secretary:	Nancy Wigley 3565 Whitehall Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588 Email: ns_wigley@yahoo.com	925 426 8969 (home) 925 200 0387 (cell)
Treasurer:	Ian Myles 38346 Jacaranda Ct, Newark, CA 94560 Email: ianmyles@att.net	510 797 9621
Editor:	Nancy Wigley (see above)	
Sick/Relief:	Jacqueline Ritchie 3008 Ferndale Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94588 Email: jacqueline1ritchie@yahoo.com	925 426 8926 (home) 925 381 2840 (cell)
Website:	www.standrewssocietyofOakland.org	

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

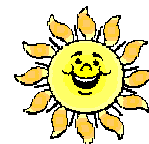
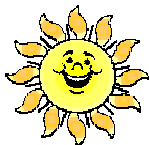
July 12/13	Dunsmuir Scottish Highland Games
Aug 9 2008	Four Clubs Ceilidh
Aug 30/31	143 rd Gathering & Games, Pleasanton Fairgrounds
November 15	Caledonian Club St Andrew's Ball
November 22 2008	St Andrew's Society of Oakland Banquet, Hilton Hotel, Pleasanton
December 7 2008	Christmas Party, Oor Nancy's Hoose

Answers to A Wee Quiz:

1 Prestwick; 2 Sandstone; 3 He invented adhesive postage stamps; 4 Lewis and Harris; 5 Firth of Forth; 6 Lord Nelson; 7 William; 8 Alastair Sim; 9 Dick McTaggart (1956); 10 Flash



Edinburgh Castle



8/7/2008