

St Andrew's Society of Oakland

3565 Whitehall Court

Pleasanton, CA 94588

ST ANDREW'S ECHOES

FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE



Society News

Please remember that the next meeting will be held at Redcoats Pub, 336 St Mary's Street, Pleasanton on Thursday 12th February 2009. The meeting will commence at 8 pm as usual.

If you are coming from the 580, take the Santa Rita exit and head south (right). Santa Rita Road becomes Main Street, then turn right onto Saint Mary Street. You will find Redcoats on the left hand side. If you are coming from the 680 take the Bernal Ave and turn left onto Main Street. Keep going until you get to Saint Mary Street and turn left into it.

January Business Meeting

Sick/Relief Committee

Jacqueline went over the sad news on the passing of Sylvia Davidson and Ralph Paulk. She said that Wanda, Ralph's wife, would like donations to be made to the Heart Association instead of receiving flowers.

She reported on Gordon McGill who has been ill lately with pneumonia, but is now at home and also on John White's wife, Frances, who has had a bout of bronchitis.

Dave Pope reported that Jim Niven, a Past President in 1977, passed away on January 7th.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Membership Committee

Three people have volunteered to be on this committee and they are:
Martin Deehan, Kay Deehan and Ann Kelly.

Applications for Membership

There were two applications, which were duly handed over to the Membership Committee for consideration.

Balloting for Membership

After a brief discussion all were in favor of accepting the two new members into the Society whose names are Nicola Golden and Lindsay Hick-Frazer. Welcome to the Society ladies!

Unfinished Business

It was announced that four other Scottish Societies, namely the San Francisco St Andrew's Society, PBFSCO, Dixon Scottish Cultural Club and the Caledonia Club, were having their Burns Nights in January and the beginning of February. As they are well and truly over now, I can give an account of them in the next issue after the next regular meeting.

Entertainment Committee

Steve informed us that Dick's Restaurant has once again been booked for the Burns night to be held on the 21st February 2009 and tickets will be on sale at \$40 per person. The Entertainment Committee is putting together a good "show" for the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, so buy up the tickets and come along for a night of Toasts, Speeches, Haggis, Drinking (can't forget the drams!) Singing, Dancing and lots of general laughter and mirth!

Please find more information on the flyer and when sending in your checks to Ian Myles, (same address for dues) please remember to include your meal choices.

Also, please remember that dues are due! If you haven't already paid your annual fee of \$25 per member, please send your checks to Ian Myles, Treasurer, 38346 Jacaranda Court, Newark, CA 94560.

New Business

There was some discussion around getting another Piper for the Society as our regular Piper, David Unsworth, cannot always be on hand to play for different events, etc, as he is busy at University and work. The topic was tabled and will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Also, discussed was the subject of donations to different charities and societies as we are always being asked for money.

Another point for discussion was made around having a guideline for an amount for flowers, gifts, etc, to send to people who unfortunately fall sick or who are in need of some TLC.

This led to fundraising and Nicola suggested that we should, perhaps, form a fundraising committee. However, as time was getting on it was motioned that more discussion should be made at the next meeting.

Kenny stated that the Trustees should meet before the next regular meeting.



Happy Birthday to You!

February birthday wishes go to –

Ann Sagramoso - 7

Janet Robertson - 12

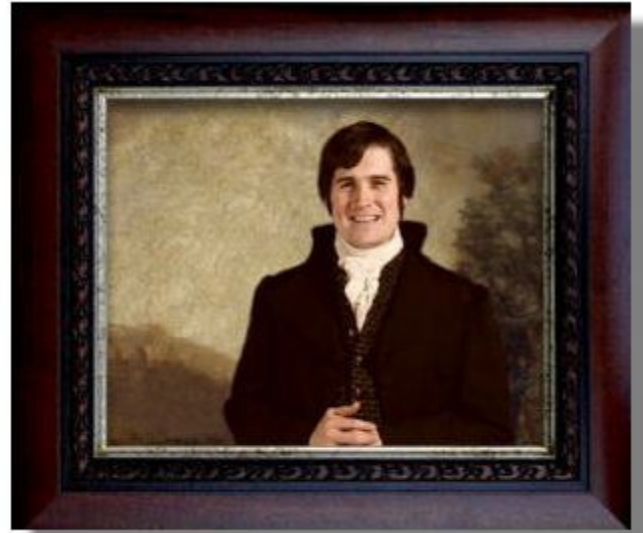
Joe Collins – 22

Judith McKenzie Le Bris – 25

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



A Wee Bit o' Blethers



Mr Robert Burns

I'm cheating a bit as I put this in last year's February Newsletter, but thought that as it's a good article, decided to include it again this year. I know you're all thinking "but I thought we normally celebrate his life in January?" Aye well, that may be the case, but we've not had ours yet! Remember – Come along to Dick's Restaurant in San Leandro on the 21st February to hear about the life and times of Rabbie as well as downing a wee dram or twa' (hic) and join in a few celidh dances!

Have a look at www.scotland.org/burns-night/interactive/ It's a great wee website and you'll learn a good deal about Scotland's National Bard. I'm sure it will appeal to you all.

The next 10 items were taken from the website www.scotlandistheplace.com and they are ten things you may not have known about oor Robbie.

On 25 January Scots all over the world will be gathering together to honour the great bard's short, yet prolific career. But did you know...

1. Burns' Suppers were first held on 29 January, because his friends got his birthday wrong. It was only after double checking the church register that the 25th became the definitive date!

2. There is much speculation about how many children he fathered. Most believe it is twelve, from four by different women, while others believe it could be fourteen children and by six mothers. His last son, Maxwell, was born on the day Burns was buried.

3. Many refer to him as Rabbie but Burns signed himself Robert, Rob't, Rab, Rob, and or just R. He used either 'Robbie' and 'Rabbie'.

4. Though a humble ploughman, he was well educated. He read Shakespeare and included French and Latin in his letters. He was also a competent fiddler and could sight-read music. He became a theatre enthusiast and was planning to write a play when he died.

5. The first recorded Burns supper was in 1801 in Alloway when a group of his friends gathered, not in January but in July, to mark the fifth anniversary of his death.

6. He was not a heavy drinker as his poems might suggest. Neither his health nor his wallet allowed it.

7. He was a hard worker as a farmer and exciseman as well as a poet. The 224-line poem Tam O'Shanter was drafted in a single day while occupied on his day job.

8. Burns's poems are published into more than 24 languages, including Esperanto (an artificial language based on words common to all the European languages).

9. It is estimated that Robert Burns is worth £100 million in tourist revenue alone. That's not including £5.5 million in high street sales and £1.2 million in traditional food.

10. More people will take part in a Burns' Supper this year than the total population of Scotland at the time of Burns's birth.

Burns Night

So, what's the normal feast on Burns Night? Well, the supper is usually opened with the *Selkirk Grace*, which goes as follows:

*Some hae meat, and canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit.*

Then we all get stuck into:

Cock-a-Leekie Soup
Haggis with Tatties-an'-Neeps
Roastit Beef
Topsy Laird
Dunlop Cheese

However, look out for a change in the menu at Dick's!

Have you ever wondered what Haggis is made of? The "Great Chieftain o' the puddin'-race" is really just a big unusual sausage, but why is it called Haggis? According to the recipe book, 'A Feast of Scotland' written by Janet Warren, she reckons that the word probably derives from *haggen*, an old English verb meaning to chop or hack, although its exact origin is unclear. The ingredients include:

The stomach bag and pluck (heart, liver and lights) of a sheep
2 onions, peeled
12 oz pinhead oatmeal (2 cups)
8 oz shredded suet (1 2/3 cups)
salt and pepper

a trussing needle and fine string

It seems to be a bit of a skitter to make, but our haggis at our Burns on the 21st February will be supplied by our very own Butcher, Alec Henderson.

Also, have a look at: www.burnssupper2009.com and listen to the speech given by our First Minister Alex Salmond, read up on the Homecoming Burns Supper and look at all the Highlights. Very entertaining!

Sport

Did you watch the Australian Open and see oor lad Andy Murray lose to the Spaniard Fernando Verdasco? What a shame! He had been playing really well in the early rounds, although he had been complaining of headaches and a sore throat, but his symptoms didn't stop him from winning his games until he had to play Verdasco. Incidentally, Murray had never lost to Verdasco on five previous times they played together.

(The next item is an excerpt from the Rampant Scotland website.)



February 8 1587 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle

February 9 1958 - Golfer Sandy Lyle, winner of The Open Championship and the US Masters, born.

February 10 1306 - Robert the Bruce murdered Red Comyn.

February 10 1567 - Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated.

February 11 1895 - Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2C at Braemar.

February 12 1846 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell.

February 13 858 - Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada and the Picts, died at Forteviot.

February 13 1692 - Massacre of 38 of the Clan MacIain by government order at Glencoe.

February 14 1565 - Mary Queen of Scots meets Lord Darnley for the first time. They married in July 1565.

February 15 1971 - Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound.

February 17 1540 - King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gipsies.

February 18 1958 - Writer Ian Banks born in Dunfermline, Fife.

February 19 1972 - Death of film director and producer John Grierson, a pioneer of documentary film making. In 1939, he left Britain to set up the National Film Board of Canada.

February 20 1472 - Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway.

February 20 1951 - Gordon Brown, UK Prime Minister, born.

February 21 1945 - Eric Liddell, "Chariots of Fire" athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China.

February 21 2002 - The all-Scots curling team won gold at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, watched by over 5 million TV viewers in the small hours of the morning.

Name that Scot

- Born in Edinburgh in 1955
- He appeared in small roles on TV such as The Secret Army, The Singing Detective
- In 1997 was nominated at the Laurence Olivier Awards for best actor category in the play "Art"
- He has one son to his first wife
- He is a supporter of Hearts of Midlothian FC
- Best clue yet – He played DI John Rebus in the hit series Rebus

Answer To December's Name that Scot:
David Tennant

-18C – Really?

Yep, really! Temperatures plunged in some parts of the Highlands to -18C and people have been swarming the ski-slopes over the weekend. Aviemore recorded the coldest February temperature since 1986, whilst temperatures in Glasgow and Edinburgh were -1C despite snow falls. Brrr! If you are going back to Scotland soon, remember and take your thermal undies!

Jokes



Why we love kids:

A kindergarten pupil told his teacher that he had found a cat, but it was dead. "How did you know the cat was dead?" asked his teacher. "Because I pissed in his ear" replied the child innocently. "You did what?" the teacher exclaimed in surprise. "You know" explained the boy. "I leaned over and went 'PSST!' and it didn't move."

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "Dylan, how do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St Peter says, "For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!"

The above two jokes were sent in by Eddie Galley's wife, Jacquie. Thanks Jacquie!

...and more from the kids:

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, 'What does 'love' mean?' Here are their answers:

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.'

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.'

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'

'Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.'

'Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mummy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss'

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.'

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate,'

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.'

A Wee Quiz

(How much Scottish Trivia do you know?)

1. Who provides the arm of the law in both Oor Wullie and the Broons cartoon strips?
2. In which other country has haggis been considered a delicacy – Greece, Indonesia or Peru?
3. In a 1996 survey, who did Scottish women say they would most like to see wearing a kilt?
4. In which town or city are the St Enoch and Princes Square shopping centres?
5. Which Princes Street monument was designed by an architect using the pseudonym, John Morvo?
6. What occupation was a 'soutar'?
7. Who is the only sportsman to have a Glasgow five storey building named after him?

8. Which exclusive hotel, near Dornoch, was once the home of Andrew Carnegie?

9. Which song contains the line, 'carry the lad that's born to be king...?'

10. Which successful film contains the character, Renton, Spud, Diane and Begbie?

St Andrew's Society of Oakland

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the birth of

Robert Burns

1759-1796

When - 21 February 2009

**Where - Dick's Restaurant
San Leandro**

3188 Alvarado Street,

San Leandro,

CA 94578

Meal Choices - Haggis, Chicken, Pasta...please make your choices and contact Jan Myles or Nancy Wigley.

Entertainment - Toasts, Ceilidh, Music and Dancing Traditional songs by guest singer and open mike.

Cost - \$40 per person

No Host Cocktails @ 6:30 p.m. / Dinner @ 7:30 p.m.

Reservations and information call..

Jan Myles (510) 797-9621 or email: ianmyles@att.net

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

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Calendar of Upcoming Events:

January 23 2009	Caledonian Club Burns Supper, Sharp's Park
January 31 2009	PBFSCO Burns Supper, Pleasanton Marriott
February 7 2009	Dixon Scottish Cultural Association Burns Supper
February 21 2009	St Andrew's Society of Oakland Burns Supper, Dick's Restaurant, San Leandro

Answers to a Wee Quiz: 1 P.C. Murdoch; 2 Greece; 3 Mel Gibson; 4 Glasgow; 5 Scott Monument; 6 A Shoemaker; 7 Gavin Hastings; 8 Skibo Castle; 9 Skye Boat Song; 10 Trainspotting