The past year is one that should be remembered by our Society as one of great significance. A year that opened up new dimensions and expanded the scope of possibilities and involvement of our charitable activities.

We can look back on 2014 and say with pride we were able to make a difference both to individuals in southern California through our grant program and through donations to charitable organizations tasked with preserving Scottish natural beauty and architecture, its literature and artwork. These financial contributions we have been able to make are key to preserving Scottish arts, literature, painting, architecture, and its intellectual achievements but so too have the events we hold and participate in throughout the year here in southern California. It has been particularly encouraging to me personally that our events have attracted a wide range of people beyond our traditional membership. Membership in our Society is not restricted to Scots. We welcome everyone, those with ancestral roots, no matter how far back in the mists of time, and those who simply have an inclination to celebrate Scotland’s rich heritage. I hope this will continue and prosper in the coming year and beyond. In Robert Burns’ words —

Then let us pray that come it may,  
(As come it will for a’ that,)  
That Sense and Worth, o’er a’ the earth,  
Shall bear the gree, an’ a’ that.  
For a’ that, an’ a’ that,  
It’s coming yet for a’ that,  
That Man to Man, the world o’er,  
Shall brothers be for a’ that.

And now we are well into the new year and planning for our program of events is firmly established. Scots Fest held at The Queen Mary was a great success and helped launch our Tartan Day event which will be held 11th April at the Intercontinental Hotel in Century City. We look forward to welcoming representatives from many Scottish communities in addition to our own members, and we promise a gathering that will delight, complete with all the trappings that create the Scottish identity, woven around the special day set aside by the US Senate in 1997 – a day that will be observed so long as there are Scots who care about their heritage.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM 21st February. In the mean time, Slainte mhor!

a message from Ian J, Skone-Rees, FSA Scot, President.
Visit Scotland to Host Breakfast in Los Angeles

The National Tourist Board of Scotland has hosted exclusive breakfast meetings for several years in New York and Toronto in its ongoing effort to educate potential visitors to Scotland and to help the travel industry better service their customers.

For the first time and as a result of their awareness of the increase in visitors from the west coast, a meeting will be held in Los Angeles. Key business leaders, members of the travel industry, and leaders of the Scottish diaspora will be invited to meet with representatives of Visit Scotland.

Daily Life in Celtic Britain

By Tim Lambert, of Local Histories

About 650 BC the Celts introduced iron into Britain and they made the first swords.

Warfare was common during the iron age and many hill forts (fortified settlements) were built at that time. (Although there were also many open villages and farms). The Celts fought from horses or light wooden chariots. They threw spears and fought with swords. The Celts had wooden shields and some wore chain mail.

Most of the Celts were farmers although there were also many skilled craftsmen. Some Celts were blacksmiths (working with iron), bronze smiths, carpenters, leather workers and potters. (The potter’s wheel was introduced into Britain c.150 BC). Celtic craftsmen also made elaborate jewelry of gold and precious stones. Furthermore objects like swords and shields were often finely decorated. The Celts decorated metal goods with enamel. The Celts also knew how to make glass and they made glass beads.

Celtic society was hierarchical. At the top was a class of nobles headed by a king or chieftain. Below them were the craftsmen (of whom metalworkers were the most important). Then came the farmers who provided the food supply and also fought for the chief. There was also a class of slaves in Celtic England. However the Celts were divided into tribes. There was no political unity among them and a great deal of fighting.

The Celts grew crops in rectangular fields. They raised pigs, sheep and cattle. They stored grain in pits lined with clay.

Where does the Money Go?

St. Andrew’s Societies were originally established all over the world to assist newly arrived immigrants find their feet in their newly adopted countries.

Many of those arriving on strange shores came out of economic necessity and more often than not needed the philanthropy of those who had already established themselves. Over the many years since the Scottish diaspora St. Andrew’s Societies have evolved into more than just charitable organizations. Today we are focused on preservation of Scottish culture and promotion of understanding between the United States and Scotland through many different activities. However the underlying charitable purpose of our Society remains firmly rooted in philanthropy. We take very seriously the responsibility of supporting organizations and individuals whose stated objective is in concert with our own. Our grants program is in place to provide financial support to individuals who are seeking excellence in a wide range of Scottish traditional pursuits. We also identify other organizations who are engaged in wider efforts to preserve many avenues of Scottish culture.

In 2014 we were able to provide the following with financial support:

- National trust of Scotland
- Enable Scotland
- National Libraries & Galleries of Scotland
- Pasadena Pipe Band
- Pierce Rose (to attend College of Piping & Drumming)

Our charitable work is made possible by members like you. Please consider a donation so that we may continue this valuable work.

Please Celts, page 6
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 uncompromising 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.

John Muir 1838 – 1914

Born in Dunbar, East Lothian on April 21st 1838, John Muir’s family moved to Wisconsin where he studied nature. Muir wrote over 300 magazine articles and 10 major books in addition to his many other talents: geology, botany, school teaching and even glaciology. But it was Muir’s writing that would shape America, inspiring 3 presidents, all of whom, created personal relationships with the Scottish lad.

In the “American Forest” publication Muir wrote: “any fool can destroy trees…but He (God) cannot save them from fools—only Uncle Sam can do that.” After reading this article, President Cleveland contacted Muir and created 13 Forest reserves totaling 21 million acres and the opening of what was to become the U.S. Forest Service. After a 1903 meeting with Muir, President Roosevelt created 148 million acres of national forest, 5 national parks and 23 national monuments.

Although Muir settled in California’s Alhambra Valley with his wife and two daughters, he always had a fondness for his ancestral home and it’s people: “I have always maintained that the Scotch are the salt of the earth, the French are more affable and polite, the Italians are more lively and graceful…but for real kindness of heart, depth of intellect and all the graver, higher attributes of humanity, the son’s of Caledonia are unequaled.”

John Muir died aged 76 on Christmas Eve 1914, in Los Angeles. The John Muir National Historic Site preserves his Martinez, CA Victorian home.
Currently there are postings about Whisky - the angel's share - and the 6 Nations Rugby Union Championship which began 6th February. Scotland opened their bid for glory with a hard fought match against France but Les Bleus (as the French side is named) beat the Scots 15-8 – so much for the Auld Alliance!

So take a look at the St. Andrew’s Facebook page, read the postings and comment or add information of your own. You can find the page at: https://www.facebook.com/stanrewsla

Please visit.

How many times have you seen those words above and wondered what they mean?

The phrase Social media also leaves some of us over 30 a little confused. However if you feel left out because you don’t “do” Facebook you probably are missing some fun, not to mention an opportunity to keep up with things and issues you probably have an interest in. Of course there are many reasons social media has got a bad rap in some quarters, but like everything else it is usually the minority that tarnish the image for the rest of us. In truth if managed properly using the tools available your involvement in social media can be as private or as public as you want.

Well I am leading up to the fact that your Society has a dedicated Facebook page and if the number of visitors is any indication it is very popular and becoming more so. Very simply it has a lot of the same information regarding events that the website has, but it also contains a lot more information, links, and Factoids (love that word) about a wide range of topics that have interest to the Scottish community. For example recently “A Scottish Winter Poem” was published extolling the weather enjoyed by the inhabitants of Scotland.

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Please visit.

The website should be the first resource to go to for any information regarding the Society.

Not only does it list upcoming events and all relevant details including location, time, and description. It also displays in the Gallery section photographs and video of past events. For example if you attended the Robert Burns Supper this year all 246 photos and a video of Lynn Ferguson’s Address To The Haggis are there to see so you can relive what was one of the best Burns Suppers the Society has held. If you were not so fortunate to attend you can now vicariously take part in the evening.

There is also a comprehensive listing of Highland Games and Festivals, both in America and Scotland. Visit the merchandise page and pick up a lapel pin, blazer crest, or a polo shirt with Society embroidered crest. Pay for these online with your credit card or PayPal. Talking of payment you can also renew your membership online using the same credit card.

Information about how to apply for a Society Grant is also listed, including all the forms an applicant will need to complete. There’s more … please visit.
This year we celebrated our 84th Robert Burns Supper and for the third year at the historic Altadena Town & Country Club nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains. A record 136 guests enjoyed a Celtic reception with music by Grammy award winner Susan Craig Winsberg and her trio. The Address to A Haggis was given in true Scottish form by Lynn Ferguson, traditional toasts and dancing rounded out the evening. A huge thanks to all who came to enjoy the evening and please plan to come again next year!
in the war, but also received tooling from the Germans to start their own factory earlier on.

The Russian version is called the Ural and there is actually a dealer in LA today who sells them and they are very cool and not too expensive. The Russians then supplied the Chinese with tooling for a factory in China in return for several million eggs soon after the war when everybody was hungry. The Chinese version is still in use as police and customs cycles on the frontiers. I have seen whole families pile their shopping onto the side car of a Ural and drive it away from the train station across country in Siberia. I bought mine form an old German who had imported and restored it. He rode it at Sturgiss to wide acclaim. Mine is a head turner at Newcomb¹s ranch and I have ridden it in the La Cañada Memorial Day Parade many times, although not recently. It now needs some TLC three new inner tubes, battery, and clutch cable repair. But it still runs. It sports a machine gun mount and an ammo box as well as an official Jerry can for spare gas. Top speed was only designed to be 50 mph so it’s quite safe. I bought mine as a nostalgia purchase because as a medical student at St. Thomas¹ Hospital in London I had a second-hand black BMW R67 500 cc twin with original pagusa saddles that I loved. I sold it after I pranged it with my wife to-be on the pillion. I cracked my lunate wrist bone but she was OK. The bike never worked properly after that. 

BMW, from page 1

Celts from page 2

stone or wicker and sealed with clay. The Celts also brewed beer from barley.

Trade with Europe was common. Metals like copper, tin, iron and lead were exported from England. Wool, cloth, skins and grain were also exported. Luxury goods like fine pottery and expensive metal goods were imported from Europe. At first the Celts used iron bars as a form of currency but by about 50 BC they were using gold coins.

The Celts lived in round houses. They were built around a central pole with horizontal poles radiating outwards from it. They rested on vertical poles. Walls were of wattle and daub and roofs were thatched. Around the walls inside the huts were benches, which also doubled up as beds. The Celts also used low tables.

Celtic men wore tunics and trousers and women wore long dresses and mantles. They used bronze mirrors. Women wore belts around their dresses made of cloth, leather or bronze rings. Celtic men soaked their hair in lime water to make it stand up straight. They wore mustaches but not beards. Wealthy Celts wore gold ornaments around their necks called torcs or torques.

The Celts made dyes from plants, woad, for blue, madder, for red and weld for yellow.

For amusement Celts played board games. They were also very fond of music and played flutes and lyres. In good weather they held horse or chariot races. The Celts also enjoyed hunting wild boar on horseback.

Although the Romans regarded the Celts as barbarians they created a sophisticated and advanced society.