WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE SOCIETY’S NEWSLETTER. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY WITH NEWS ABOUT OUR SOCIETY’S EVENTS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS, AND REPORTS ABOUT SCOTTISH EVENTS IN OUR AREA, AS WELL AS ACROSS THE POND.

MANY EVENTS ARE BEING PLANNED FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR. OUR ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY WILL BE HELD JULY 19 AT THE HOME OF BARBARA GRANT. A NEW EVENT IS CURRENTLY IN THE PLANNING STAGES FOR SEPTEMBER. IN OCTOBER, WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FAMOUS SEASIDE HIGHLAND GAMES IN VENTURA. OUR ANNUAL KIRKIN’ O’ THE TARTANS WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 26. IN JANUARY, 2009, WE WILL HOLD OUR ANNUAL BIG BASH ROBERT BURNS AND ST. ANDREW’S DAY DINNER DANCE. A DAYLONG SCOTTISH STUDIES CONFERENCE IS IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES. PLEASE WATCH THE CALENDAR SECTION FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT ALL THESE EVENTS.

REMEMBER, IN ORDER FOR OUR SOCIETY TO CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER THE PARTICIPATION OF EACH OF OUR MEMBERS IS CRUCIAL. I ENCOURAGE EACH ONE OF YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED BY ATTENDING OUR EVENTS AND ENCOURAGING YOUR FRIENDS AND BUSINESS COLLEAGUES TO JOIN US. IN ADDITION TO A
The Saint Andrew Society

History and Purpose of the Los Angeles Chapter

First founded during colonial times, the St. Andrew’s Societies continue to flourish, furthering their fundamental purpose of advancing charitable and cultural causes within the ambience of Scottish heritage.

From Charleston, South Carolina in 1729, Savannah in 1750, New York in 1756, and Philadelphia in 1847, they have propagated to our west coast with San Francisco in 1883 and our own Los Angeles in 1930.

Founders of the Los Angeles Society, James Loudon, OBE (1882–1975) and Alexander S. Cowie (1882–1968) sought to follow the same honorable tradition notwithstanding the vast changes that have occurred in our world with the passage of time.

In a modern world we enjoy a place in heraldic history through recognition by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, at Edinburgh, as a Society Noble in the Noblesse of Scotland, attested by Ensigns Armorial and our motto “Scotia Semper Patria.”

We have focused our charitable activities in recent years on such worthy organizations as the Associated Judges and Teachers of Highland Dancing in California; the Celtic Art Center in Hollywood; and in Scotland the restoration of Robert Burn’s house, and the National Trust.

At the Costa Mesa Games, we present the Kimberley Cameron Trophy for the Adult Scottish Dance competition; an award of $1500 to the winner of the Edinburgh Medal for Dancing and the Loudon Trophy for the caber toss.

At the Seaside Highland Games in Ventura we present the Cairn California Award with a check for $1500 to the overall winner in dancing.

The Society is incorporated as a non-profit tax exempt California corporation, with federal exemption as a 501 (c) (3) IRS classification.

The St. Andrew Society (Edinburgh) Constitution—extract.

Name
The Society shall be called the St Andrew Society incorporating the World Federation of Scottish Societies and Individuals. The St Andrew Society will be used as a short title.

Mission
To encourage a proper pride in Scotland’s cultural heritage, cooperate with other organizations and societies that promote similar purposes, and support occasions and symbols that strengthen our identity as a nation.

IN MEMORIUM
Helen (Anderson) MacDonald 1917–2008

One of our long standing members, and staunch supporter of Scottish culture in Southern California, Helen MacDonald, passed away during surgery June 5, 2008. Helen is remembered with fondness and affection by all those who knew her and she is greatly missed by husband, Forrest, and her extended St. Andrew’s family.
An overcast cloudy morning in Coronado galvanized my wife Eileen and I to abandon plans of spending a lazy day by the pool overlooking the Pacific ocean and to drive northwards to Costa Mesa. As we progressed up the uncharacteristically empty 405, the clouds rolled away and the sun made a welcome appearance. By the time we arrived at the fairgrounds, I decided to discard my wool Barbour roll neck sweater and don a tee-shirt under my argyle jacket. It’s a big venue, and the parking attendant’s directions a little vague; but the melancholy wailing of the pipes, like a light on a stormy sea, provided the welcome beacon we needed. After handing over $36 to a licensed highwayman in a kiosk we gained entry to the United Scottish Highland Games. The parting of this amount of money at a time when petrol (gas) prices are quickly approaching those paid by our brethren across the pond is an acute reminder of traditional Scottish parsimony. By the end of the day I was glad I did not give in to it.

I am always surprised at the amount of interest Highland Games evoke. The sheer number of people that attend to celebrate their Scottishness is also a constant source of amazement. It shouldn’t be. There are many more Highland Games and gatherings to celebrate Scottish culture in North America than in Scotland itself. The paucity of such events in Scotland is of such concern that 2009 has been marked as Homecoming Scotland. 2009 has been picked to coincide with the 250th anniversary of Scotland’s national poet, Robert Burns. See page 6 to learn about this yearlong celebration and the very special Gathering of the Clans, July 2009, in Edinburgh.

The clans were well represented in Costa Mesa and their tents, including those of Moffett and MacPherson manned by our own Dave Moffatt and Dave McPherson, lined the main passageway. John Lowry too, was there with his wife Nellie to remind everyone of the Seaside Games in Ventura, later this year in October.

For those of us always on the lookout for bargains to supplement our Scottish regalia the vendor hall is the place to be. This year Blandford and Sons were reducing their inventory of colored Balmorals. I picked up a lovat green model for $30, which more than made up for the price of admission. My wife was sorry not to see St. Croix weaving represented, but we hope they will be on hand in Ventura.

The Games provide something for everyone; whether its traditional dancing, heavy lifting, highland pipe music, or our favorite event, sheep herding. Last year, in Ventura, we made the aquaintance of Kit, a young Border Collie, who when he finished his performance ran straight through the open gate into my wife’s lap—maybe it was the sheepskin jacket she was wearing. Kit again demonstrated his skill at Costa Mesa, but was upstaged by a miniature Schnauzer who, while entertaining, did not quite get the concept of gathering the sheep and instead behaved rather like the white ball in an initial snooker break.

There were also cars. An Aston Martin DB-4 with the California license plate Mi6 QBB, shared space with a 1960 Austin Healey Sprite, a Jaguar E-Type and a rare 1934 Riley Lynx complete with the original bonnet (hood) ornament. Beautiful cars, but when I hit the 405 north to Studio City I was glad to have the ABS, and satellite navigation that were yet to be thought of back in the days of David Brown, Lord Nuffield and Donald Healey.

Don’t miss the Opening Ceremonies and Grand Parade as they kick off at noon sharp on Saturday. Sunday morning brings a brief but meaningful Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans service beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pipe bands will parade periodically throughout the weekend and a colorful Closing Ceremony at 5 p.m. Sunday will send folks away with a hearty Haste Ye Back for the October 2009 Games. We hope to see you ALL in Ventura in October! Bring a cover—the Pacific breezes can be cool in the late afternoon! Aye.
Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry

1841 Scotland Census is Available Online

The original handwritten records, which have never before been seen online, were recently published by www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. The 1841 census was the first to record information on individuals and it has helped to paint a unique picture of life in Scotland at that time. There is a charge for searching on this website. At ScotlandsPeople you buy Credits — 30 credits for £6 (about $11 US). These credits are used to view search results (1 credit) and to view images (5 credits). ScotlandsPeople contains the most comprehensive online set of family history information for any country in the world and is currently one of the largest single information resources on the web.

Begin an Outline for a Biographical Sketch

Pick an ancestor or family and start work on a narrative.

Don’t worry about grammar and syntax, just start with the facts—dates and places, places you’ve found them in censuses and directories, occupations, historical events that took place and may have affected them—anything you have on record and any facts that come to mind. Arrange them chronologically and fill in as much as you can. As you progress, you’ll start to see their story take shape and you may just pick up some clues for further research along the way!

Record Heirloom Origins

As you are doing your spring cleaning, and dusting around all those family heirlooms, take a photograph and take time to record the origins and any stories associated with them. Create an album with photographs and the histories of all your precious items. That way the stories won’t become lost as time goes by.

Happy Researching!

Contact Nellie Lowry via email at LowryLines@aol.com

Scotch Corner

No newsletter connected with Scotland would be complete without at least a passing reference to the water of life, known by gaelic speakers as usquebaugh and most of us as Scotch Whisky.

So prevalent is this amber nectar at SASLA events that any new member would be forgiven in supposing Saint Andrew is the front for a serious drinking club. There’s nothing wrong in that. Scotch Whisky is such a complex and fascinating drink that there should be enough material to populate this corner for many future issues.

‘Whisky has suffused the ethos of Scotland to a degree unequalled by any liquor in any other culture’ (Derek Cooper, 1983)

Land of their birth

There are few products which are so closely related to the land of their birth than Scotch malt whisky.

First

It is made from only the most elemental Scottish ingredients—water and barley (often malted with a dash of peat).

Second

Successful maturation relies to a large extent on the cool, maritime northern climate of Scotland.

Third

It cannot be made elsewhere, for reasons which have defied even German and Japanese scientists—both of whom have tried to replicate ingredients and processes in their own countries. Recently a Welsh whisky was launched. It is good, just as Irish whiskey is good, but it is not Scotch.

But there is more than this. Whisky is the lifeblood of Scotland: historically and socially.

Historically

‘Whisky and freedom gang thegither’ wrote Robert Burns. Scottish history is much to do with ‘freedom’—independence from England and centralized authority; independence of mind (one of the reasons why the country has produced such a phenomenal number of inventors and ‘Fathers of’ so many sciences); independence of spirit.

Socially

It is the drink of welcome and of farewell, and much in between. Babies are ushered into the world, of farewell, and much in between. Babies are celebrated, and guests to the house, with a dram. In the days when distances were travelled only with difficulty, a jug of whisky was left out for any tradesmen who might call. Business deals were sealed with a dram. All manner of small ailments are eased with whisky—from children’s teething, to colds and flu.

Departing guests were offered a deoch an doruis, the ‘dram at the door’—in modern terms ‘one for the road’. The dead-departed are remembered and wished Godspeed with large quantities of whisky.

Contact John Benton via email at: tavernman1@hotmail.com
Scottish Country Dancing, A Rich Heritage

Scottish Country Dancing is the traditional ballroom dancing of Scotland and is part of the ordinary social life of the community. The French ballet was the origin of Scottish Country Dancing which, in turn, is the forerunner of American Square Dancing. Unlike square dancing, however, most of the dances are done in longwise sets and are not “called.”

The Scottish Country Dancing Society was founded November 26, 1923 in Glasgow. In 1951 the title Royal was appended to the Society and in 1952, on her accession to the throne, Queen Elizabeth II graciously consented to become its patron. The Society has over 20,000 members worldwide. It is administered from the headquarters in Edinburgh through a network of 170 branches and approximately 400 affiliated groups all over the world.

Through their teacher-training program, their publications and their annual summer school in St. Andrews, the Society ensures that Scottish Country Dancing is done the same way throughout the world.

The Los Angeles Branch offers classes each week from Santa Barbara to Torrance. Partners are not required although couples are, of course, welcome, and you need not be Scottish to participate. Dancers routinely change partners after each dance so there are many opportunities to meet new people.

Each month the Branch holds a dance which is an opportunity to show off what you have learned.

Where to Dance in Southern California

Learn to dance Scottish Reels, Jigs and Strathspeys to lively Scottish music.
Easy to learn and Good Exercise!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anaheim</td>
<td>Bob Harmon</td>
<td>714-774-8535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bakersfield</td>
<td>Barbara Mackenzie</td>
<td>661-822-3998</td>
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<td>Lomita</td>
<td>Jack Rennie</td>
<td>310-377-1675</td>
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<td>Simi Valley</td>
<td>Mary Lund</td>
<td>818-996-5059</td>
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<tr>
<td>Van Nuys/Lancaster</td>
<td>Aase Hansen</td>
<td>818-845-5726</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culver City</td>
<td>Eve &amp; Jerry Lubin</td>
<td>310-391-3052</td>
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<td>Manhattan Beach</td>
<td>Rosemary Abend</td>
<td>310-373-1985</td>
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<td>Thousand Oaks</td>
<td>Robb Quint</td>
<td>805-498-2303</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pasadena/Monrovia</td>
<td>Doug MacDonald</td>
<td>909-644-9496</td>
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<td>Santa Paula</td>
<td>Oberdan Otto</td>
<td>805-389-0063</td>
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<td>Tustin</td>
<td>Shirley Saturensky</td>
<td>714-557-4662</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Hills</td>
<td>Robert Burger</td>
<td>818-576-1015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eagle Rock</td>
<td>Becky Green</td>
<td>626-405-2188</td>
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<td>Northridge</td>
<td>Deanna St. Amand</td>
<td>818-761-4750</td>
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<td>Ridgecrest</td>
<td>Frank Wu</td>
<td>760-375-6247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Eileen Gray</td>
<td>805-967-0698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costa Mesa</td>
<td>Bob Patterson</td>
<td>714-731-2363</td>
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For more information visit www.RSCDS-LosAngeles.org
Highland Games Calendar – 2008

June
7th                      Modesto Games
21st                     Campbell Highland Games
28th & 29th               San Diego Highland Games

July
5th & 6th                Monterey Scottish Festival
12th & 13th               Dunsmuir Highland Games
19th & 20th               Highland Celtic Festival

August
30th & 31st              Pleasanton Highland Games

September
20th                     Dixon Scottish Games
20th & 21st               Sebastopol Celtic Music Festival
27th & 28th               KVMR Celtic Music Festival

October
4th                      Loch Lomond Highland Games
4th & 5th                 Reno Celtic Celebration
10th – 12th               Seaside Highland Games

USA dominate 2008 World “Heavies” Championships!
Sean Betz of Nebraska was crowned World Highland Games Heavy Champion on Saturday May 6 in Bridgeport, West Virginia. Sean managed to hold off a fierce challenge from Larry Brock of South Carolina and former five-time world champion Ryan Vierra of California.

Scotland had a disastrous day with both of her representatives having to withdraw without tossing a caber in anger.

The World Championships will return to Scotland in 2009 when they will be staged in Edinburgh.

Garden Party, from page 1

Festivities will start at 2:00, and last until about 6:00. The price is $50 per person which includes entertainment and dinner. Drinks will be available at the bar for a modest charge.

You will be entertained by dancers and a musician. A group of Scottish Country Dancers will perform, and then give lessons to those who are interested in learning the dances. I am told that Scottish Country Dancing has steps similar to Square Dances, but there is no Caller and the costumes and behavior are more formal. If you have any interest, be prepared to be instructed. It should be fun. There will also be a strolling Guitar player. He is a friendly young man from CSUN who will play and also take requests.

There will also be a raffle which will provide those in attendance the chance of winning some very good scotch, as well as other items still to be determined. Raffle tickets will be sold at the party. A buffet dinner will be catered by Alex MacGillivray who will also pipe us to it.

Plan to attend this very special event, and don’t forget your guests are welcome.