

the

# thistle

The St. Andrew Society of Los Angeles

June 2008

## GARDEN PARTY



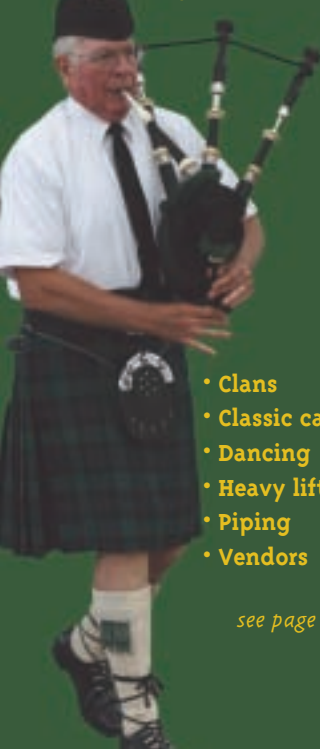
July 19, 2008  
2:00 p.m.

In late spring or early summer each year our Saint Andrew Society gives a party in the garden of one of its members. This year the date will be July 19 and the location at Barbara Grant's lovely garden north of Sunset in the hills of Bel Air. Barbara also had the party at her home in 2002 and deserves double thanks for her generosity, kindness and perhaps bravery.

Please see **GARDEN PARTY**, page 6

## Costa Mesa 2008

76th USS Highland Games



- Clans
- Classic cars
- Dancing
- Heavy lifting
- Piping
- Vendors

see page 3

a message from **John Benton, M.D., President**



**W**elcome 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

Please see **MESSAGE**, page 4

## Up The Membership!

**M**embership in the St. Andrew Society of Los Angeles is open to anyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage, or by inclination. The Society promotes Scottish individuality through friendship and the observance and celebration of traditional and contemporary Scottish culture.

Though the Society is named after the Patron Saint of Scotland, it is not a religious organization, and it is not affiliated with any religion.

I would like to urge you all to spread the word about the St. Andrew Society. Encourage your, relatives, friends, and business associates to become part of our organization. Bring them along to one of our events so they can

experience first hand the camaraderie we enjoy together. Attending a Highland Games is an entertaining introduction to Scottish culture and the range of activities we celebrate in our community. There are many venues in California, check the schedule on page six and make plans to visit.

If you are not yet a member, please contact me. I will be happy to send you a membership application and to answer any questions you may have about our Society and its activities.

Contact Victoria Pushee,  
Membership Chair. via email at:  
vpushee@verizon.net



## Seaside Highland Games



**Scots Gather at Seaside Park  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
Hosts Sixth Seaside Games  
October 10, 11 and 12, 2008**

**T**he weekend of October 11 & 12 will see Scotland in all its color and pageantry come alive on the Ventura County Fairgrounds as the Seaside Highland Games return to the Pacific Coast at Ventura. The pipes—the Great Highland Bagpipes of Scotland—will signal the call to gather on that one special weekend when ALL are invited to join in the fun!

Hundreds of pipers and drummers along with all sorts of Scottish/Celtic entertainment will descend on the Ventura County Fairgrounds Saturday and Sunday, the 11th & 12th of October and the gates are open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm each day. A wonderfully entertaining weekend of music, dance, athletics, children's events, shopping, food and drink! Something for everyone and age doesn't count! Seaside is known for bringing tradition to the field—with a twist! The ageless Celtic pastimes are honored but with a big nod to today. The pipes will play the tunes handed down through the ages—but don't be surprised when you hear new and modern sounds emerging from those ancient reeds!

Please see **SEASIDE GAMES**, page 3



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or  
The Editor  
Saint Andrew Society Los Angeles  
12240 Ventura Blvd., Suite 101  
Studio City, CA 91604

# The Saint Andrew Society

## History and Purpose of the Los Angeles Chapter

**F**irst 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.



## Saint Andrew Society Los Angeles Calendar of Events 2008

January 26  
Robert Burns and St. Andrew's Day Annual Dinner Dance.  
The Beach Club, Santa Monica.

February 24  
Annual General Meeting.  
Home of Jack & Barbara Dawson.

April 4  
Tartan Day — CSUN.

May 4  
New Member Reception.  
Home of Vickie Pushee.

June 21  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Home of Victoria Pushee

July 19, 2:00 p.m.  
Annual Garden Party.  
Home of Barbara Grant  
266 Ashdale Ave.,  
Los Angeles, CA

September  
New Event TBA

October 26, 10:30 a.m.  
Kirkin O' The Tartan.  
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.

### 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.



## Costa Mesa 2008 A personal review

from The Editor



*Kit demonstrates his herding skills.*

**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



*1934 Riley Lynx complete with Ski Lady bonnet mascot.*



*The timeless E-Type Jaguar looks as modern today as it did in 1961.*

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 acquaintance 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 QBR, 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. 🚗



### Seaside Games, from page 1

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.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.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.


### Message, from page 1

wonderful opportunity to socialize with others who have interest in Scottish culture, it is an exceptional way to network with business leaders and other professional colleagues.

The Board of Trustees welcomes members to attend their meetings. If you would like to discuss the Society with me,

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

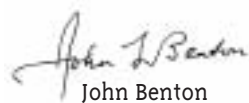
As you are doing your *spring cleaning*, and dusting around all those family heirlooms, take a photograph and take time to record the origins and any stories associated with them. Create an album with photographs and the histories of all your precious items. That way the stories won't become lost as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

### Happy Researching !

Contact Nellie Lowry via email at: [LowryLines@aol.com](mailto:LowryLines@aol.com) 

or if you have any comments or suggestions for improving our membership benefits, please contact me.

Yours Aye,

  
John Benton

Contact John Benton via email at: [taverman1@hotmail.com](mailto:taverman1@hotmail.com) 

## Scotch Corner



**N**o 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, 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. 

# Scottish Country Dancing, A Rich Heritage



*Norman and Carol Auslander lead the way in a traditional reel at the 25th Anniversary Ball of the Orange County Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.*


**S**cottish 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. 



*The Orange County Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society held their 25th Anniversary Ball May 3, at the city of Orange Women's Club House. 150 southland dancers danced to the music of renowned Scottish musicians Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith. Enjoying the dancing are L-R: John Ziegler, Norman Auslander, Marjorie McLaughlin, Irv Cohen, Christine Richard, Amanda Fleri, Carol Auslander and Pat Ziegler.*

## Where to Dance in Southern California

**Learn to dance Scottish Reels, Jigs and Strathspeys to lively Scottish music.**

**Easy to learn and Good Exercise!**

<b>Anaheim</b> Bob Harmon 714-774-8535	<b>Pasadena/Monrovia</b> Doug MacDonald 909-624-9496	<b>Long Beach</b> Helen Winton 562-438-0666
<b>Bakersfield</b> Barbara Mackenzie 661-822-3998	<b>Santa Paula</b> Oberdan Otto 805-389-0063	<b>Santa Ana</b> Shirley Saturensky 714-557-4662
<b>Lomita</b> Jack Rennie 310-377-1675	<b>Tustin</b> Shirley Saturensky 714-557-4662	<b>Torrance</b> Jack Rennie 310-377-1675
<b>Simi Valley</b> Mary Lund 818-996-5059	<b>West Hills</b> Leone & Robert Burger 818-576-1015	<b>Ventura</b> Mary Brandon 818-222-4584
<b>Van Nuys/Lancaster</b> Aase Hansen 818-845-5726	<b>Eagle Rock</b> Becky Green 626-405-2188	<b>Agoura Hills</b> Frank Ibbott 805-373-9905
<b>Culver City</b> Eve & Jerry Lubin 310-391-3052	<b>Northridge</b> Deanna St. Amand 818-761-4750	<b>Redondo Beach</b> Carol Johnson 310-372-8535
<b>Manhattan Beach</b> Rosemary Abend 310-373-1985	<b>Ridgecrest</b> Frank Wu 760-375-6227	<b>South Pasadena</b> Ann McBride 818-841-8161
<b>Thousand Oaks</b> Robb Quint 805-498-2303	<b>Santa Barbara</b> Eileen Gray 805-967-0698	<b>Costa Mesa</b> Bob Patterson 714-731-2363

For more information visit  
www.RSCDS-LosAngeles.org





www.saintandrewsla.org

## Highland Games Calendar – 2008

June		
7th	Modesto Games	Modesto, CA
21st	Campbell Highland Games	Campbell, CA
28th & 29th	San Diego Highand Games	Vista, CA
July		
5th & 6th	Monterey Scottish Festival	Salinas, CA
12th & 13th	Dunsmuir Highland Games	Oakland, CA
19th & 20th	Highland Celtic Festival	Flagstaff, AZ
August		
30th & 31st	Pleasanton Highland Games	Pleasanton, CA
September		
20th	Dixon Scottish Games	Vacaville, CA
20th & 21st	Sebastopol Celtic Music Festival	Grass Valley, CA
27th & 28th	KVMR Celtic Music Festival	Grass Valley, CA
October		
4th	Loch Lomond Highland Games	Ben Lomond, CA
4th & 5th	Reno Celtic Celebration	Reno, NV
10th – 12th	Seaside Highland Games	Ventura, CA

### 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. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

The Gathering 2009, 25th and 26th July, Edinburgh



*A celebration of the contribution made by the clans to the culture and history of Scotland.*

### About The Gathering 2009

#### Vision

To hold the greatest clan gathering the world has ever seen.

#### Mission

To stage an international Clan Gathering and Highland Games to celebrate Scotland's rich history and cultural traditions.

#### Key Messages

- Come home and celebrate your roots
- A unique celebration of Scottish heritage and culture
- A celebration of one of Scotland's greatest traditions

The Gathering 2009 is one of the signature events of Homecoming Scotland, a year-long government initiative aimed at encouraging those with a passion or connection with Scotland to come home.

For many years, Scotland has witnessed a decline in the popularity of Highland Games and a near extinction of clan activity. However, the opposite is true in some countries, especially in North America, where clan membership exceeds 100,000 and over 300 Highland Games and festivals are held annually.

*For more information visit [www.clangathering.org](http://www.clangathering.org) or contact:*

The Gathering 2009 Ltd  
27 Queen Charlotte Street  
Edinburgh, EH6 6AX, Scotland  
Email: [info@thegathering2009.com](mailto:info@thegathering2009.com)

### 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.** 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



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