As we enter the second half of the year we can look back over the last six months and say with assurance that our society has demonstrated a vitality that belies the general state of the economy.

The year began for us with our traditional Burns’ evening, this was followed in March by our first Scottish Heritage day, and in April our Tartan Day celebrations at the Tam O’Shanter. Although we had good attendance at all our events many of you did not join us. I want to encourage you all to take note of our events calendar in this newsletter and on our website. We need the support of every one of you in order to sustain these events, so please join with us and support the society and all those hard-working members who plan these gatherings. Looking forward, the pace does not slow. June 27th is our annual Garden Party, followed in September by our Ceilidh at Micellis in Hollywood. October of course is the Seaside Games in Ventura. Our society will have an information tent at the Games and we do need volunteers to help staff it. It’s a lot of fun and a chance to talk to others about the Saint Andrew’s Society. If you are willing to contribute a couple of hours please contact me, or our Communications Director, Ian Skone-Rees, so we can plan the schedule. A special thanks to Peggy Steiner, Mary Corcoran, Dave MacPherson, Dave Moffet, Norman Auslander, and John and Nellie Lowry who spend many hours planning our events.

Many thanks to our Vice President, John Lowry and his wife Nellie, whose planning and attention to detail made this such an enjoyable and memorable affair for all who attended.

We hope this will become an annual event, so mark April 6, 2010 in your calendar to avoid missing this spectacular gathering.

See page 5 for a pictorial essay of the revellers!

In Gear

Started in 1998, by the Scottish Rootes Enthusiasts, the Moffat car rally has grown to become the biggest classic car event in Scotland.

Set in the beautiful Moffat hills the rally is an incredible place to both exhibit cherished classic or vintage motor cars and is a wonderful visitor experience.

The rally accommodates 800 entries some of which come hundreds of miles to participate. This 2 day event has a drive through the Moffat hills on the Saturday which is a glorious sight and Sunday is the show where prizes are given for the best cars.

The Rally raises money every year for Macmillan Cancer Relief and Cancer Research.

Close to 100 guests converged on the Tam O’Shanter in Atwater Village April 6. Piped to table by our own Cindy MacIntosh the festivities included spoken extracts from the Declaration of Arbroath and Senate Resolution 155, recognizing April 6 as National Tartan Day. Jeanne McDougall entertained us with renditions of Scottish folk songs, and Glenlivet provided a generous supply of their 18 year-old single malt to amply whet all our whistles.

Sadly this was the last Saint Andrew’s Society event attended by our past president J. Howard Standing, who passed away May 25. J. Howard was a driving force in establishing Tartan Day in the United States and his attendance at this event will remain a poignant memory.

Many thanks to our Vice President, John Lowry and his wife Nellie, whose planning and attention to detail made this such an enjoyable and memorable affair for all who attended.

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For the first time since the post was created in 1668, Britain has selected a woman as its poet laureate, the long acclaimed Scottish-born Carol Ann Duffy, who has written on topics including Shakespeare and Elvis Presley.

Duffy will serve a 10-year term as official royal poet, following a long line of illustrious literary names dating to 1668, when Charles II appointed John Dryden.

Duffy was born in the low-income district of Glasgow known

Please see POET LAUREATE, page 4

The 12th Moffat Car Rally is to be held 27–28th June 2009 Moffat Showground Moffat

Classic car fans will be heading to the Moffat Classic Car Rally, Scotland in their thousands. Enthusiasts are coming from all over the world for the tenth annual Moffat Classic Car Rally.

Please see PRESIDENT’S REPORT, page 4
Letter from Edinburgh

Our City Council is nothing if not imaginative when it comes to controlling traffic. First it was a by-pass to take traffic out of the city, which was built. Then they wanted congestion charges which were put to a referendum and rejected by the citizens. Now Edinburgh is to have trams. We used to have super double-deckers until 1956 when they were dispensed with in favour of buses. The majority of the populace did not want them to be re-introduced, but we are to have them at a vast cost of £455 million for only one line running from the ancient village of Newhaven through the Port of Leith, up Leith Walk to the top and along Princes Street (where there will be only one stop) and out west eventually arriving at Edinburgh Airport.

The other day I visited a ‘mock-up’ of the actual tramcar which I found was very comfortable with all the usual fittings common to such cars as are found in Cologne and other cities of Europe, and on reflection I think that most citizens will enjoy the experience when it is up and running!

Homecoming Scotland is a Scottish Government initiative managed by Event Scotland in partnership with VisitScotland (formerly the Scottish Tourist Board). Event Scotland is a national agency working to strengthen and build Scotland’s reputation as a leading destination for sporting and cultural events. This is part of the advertised official view but how much of this is true?

They advertised many events to take place all over Scotland including Edinburgh, but for we ordinary citizens, what benefit do we get? How many of the so-called anniversaries of famous Scots, participation in gold, whisky and Burns—don’t forget our National Poet—do we attend? I suspect very few.

But our St Andrew Society did visit Edinburgh’s National Library’s exhibition of Robert Burns’ 250th anniversary which I found fascinating with many very interesting letters and others of that ilk written by the great man himself. The exhibition is now on tour around the country.

Slán go fóill (Goodbye for now).

Kenneth Sinclair Stewart
Secretary of the World Federation of Scottish Societies

IN MEMORIAM

J. HOWARD STANDING, ESQUIRE — former president of this Society for most of the years 1997–2007, passed away quietly on May 25th—Memorial Day—at his home in Tarzana. J. Howard was a dynamic leader with a list of accomplishments that could fill this page. The Society has been asked by Joan Standing, his devoted wife and life partner, to arrange a service of Memorial in his honor and those plans are already going forward. Details will be communicated to you as they are finalized.

COL. DOUGLAS MacMULLEN — passed away Sunday, January 11, 2009. There was a private service for family only. Donations may be made in the Colonel’s name to Shriners Hospital for Children.
Forest. Unfortunately, the heroic Scot would die just 4 months after his incredible victory over the French on March 11th, 1759. He was just 49 years old. He never went home to Scotland. The road is now named after Forbes.

The people of Pittsburgh have kindly donated one of the Forbes markers to Dunfermline, and the marker is proudly hanging outside Forbes’s original house in Pittencrieff Park where he lived as a boy.

Forbes is buried in Christ Church, Philadelphia. At his funeral the congregation included 15 signatories of the American Declaration of Independence.

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.
Committee News

The Board of Trustees will meet July 11 at the home of Jack Dawson. Minutes will be posted on the website.

The Communications Committee coordinates production of The Thistle and other related outreach projects. The committee convened May 8, to discuss and plan the editorial content for the this issue.

The Membership chair has reported four new members since February 2009.

The Finance Committee meets regularly under the chairmanship of treasurer Dave Moffett.

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings and Board of Trustee meetings. Dates are posted on the website. Meeting minutes are posted on the website.

Moffat Car Rally, from page 1

A total of 800 cars will take part with entrants coming from France and Germany, some down from the Shetland Isles, many from northern Ireland, Wales as well as Kent, Cornwall and Dorset to take part in this amazing 2 day event.

The fun kicks off with a road run (which 300 cars can participate in) to St. Mary’s Loch, leaving the town centre in 15 minute intervals in groups of 60. There will be a picnic stop at the loch and the route will also take in Megget and Talla.

Entertainment, live music and children’s attractions are all planned for the showground and the day will wrap up with a ceilidh in the marquee.

The Car Rally has been a fabulous connection with the town of Moffat. It appeals to enthusiasts, the businesses in the town and to the public that visit.

Poet Laureate, from page 1

as the Gorbals. It was schoolteachers who sparked her love of poetry, she told the BBC. Duffy, a single mother, is also the first openly gay poet laureate.

The job is more of an honour than it is remunerative — Duffy will receive an annual stipend of £5,750 (about $8,600) as well as the traditional "butt of sack," which translates to 600 bottles of sherry. She plans to donate her salary to a fund for young poets. But on hearing her predecessor had yet to receive his butt of sack, she declared that she was demanding hers "upfront!"

Scotch Corner

Do you cover your roast beef with catsup or make soda-pop with Caol Ila?

There is a popular line of thought that the idea there is a wrong way to drink single malt whisky is fallacious and impolite. Indeed the distilleries themselves promote the idea that the only way to drink their product is the way you like to. The Fab 4 liked to drink CocaCola® with scotch (but this was probably the blended sort). The distilleries are probably happy so long as their whisky is being consumed, and what the consumer adds to it is their business. However would you take a Château Haut-Brion, Vintage 1986 and add a splash of Cola to sample its flavour? I think not (I hope not). The reason is simple. The wine has been produced with the utmost care and attention, favoured by climate not easily replicated, and attention, favoured by climate not easily replicated, stored and monitored, before finally being bottled for your enjoyment. Production of single malts enjoys no less care and scrutiny. The flavours and particular characteristics released by these unique spirits are only conquered by the addition of foreign mixers and the skill, care, and devotion given by the distillers clouded by elements never intended to be imbibed in the same swallow. Even ice changes forever the natural aroma and dulls unique facets of this most complex spirit.

Despite distilleries’ claim that the only right way to drink single malt whisky is the way you like to, the master distillers all agree single malt whisky is at its best when mixed with a little branch or filtered water (avoid tap water, because the chlorine and/or dissolved minerals will interfere with the taste). Water releases and enhances the flavours of the spirit and prevents the high alcohol content from masking the qualities of its core character. Experiment yourself and see if this is not true. Neat scotch will probably accelerate intoxication but many of the intricacies of aroma and flavour will be lost. Like all rules there are exceptions! Tread softly with very young and very old spirits, where the balance of molecular structure is more delicate — Ed.

Slainte mhath!

For more information visit http://www.malts.com

CLAN CURRIE www.CLANCURRIE.COM

One of the oldest and most distinguished names in Scottish history Currie derives from the ancient Gaelic name MacMureach.

Clan Currie is led by the Commander of the Clan, Robert Currie, who is now in the process of establishing a west coast presence. If you have connections to this most revered family, please contact me at the address below to learn how you can get involved in your own clan.

Contact Ian Skone-Rees via email at: rees1@mac.com
Tartan Day at the Tam April 6, 2009

1. Robert Ramsey family members
2. Cindy MacIntosh
3. Bruce MacDonald, June and Ray MacDonald
4. John Lowry and Nellie Lowry
5. Carol Auslander, Norman Auslander, Jane Sharp
6. Michele and Shelby Graham
7. Ian and Eileen Skone-Rees
8. Doug Brown
9. John and Cynthia Benton
10. Jeanne McDougall
11. Scott Graham, Sally Stewart
12. Pipers from the Los Angeles Police Emerald Society
13. Chuck Robertson and guest
14. Cindy MacIntosh and Robert Behr
15. Don Cameron, Donna Loppini
16. Nellie Lowry, John Lowry, Ian Skone-Rees, Donna Ingram, Michele and Bill Graham
17. Frances and Terry Buchanan
18. Cindy Ventuleth, Peggy Steiner
19. Lucille and John Christie
20. Anne Sharp
21. Dave MacPherson, Norman Auslander, John Lowry
22. Joan and J. Howard Standing
23. Lea Ann Duncan, Ian Skone-Rees
24. Brian Mooney, Suzi McNutt
25. John Lowry, Chuck Robertson
In The Dog House  By: Ian Skone-Rees

His first name wasn’t Charles and he was unable to write, but we named him Dickens. This heady moniker was, however, frequently shortened to Dickie. He didn’t seem to mind and came willingly when we would call him by either name. His long life started in Rancho Cucamonga. One of a Champion’s litter we had aspirations of developing for him a life in the show-ring. A setter’s silky coat is meant to lay flat from the top of the head, along the back to the tail. Dicken’s refused to do so. No matter what we attempted — wrapping him in a towel secured with safety pins under his neck and belly or painstakingly blow-drying his long and silky coat—it always reverted to a coat more reminiscent of a poodle’s! I exaggerate, but the natural curl of his coat did him in as far a show career was concerned. However we persisted and entered him in a show at the Rose Bowl. With Dickens washed, clipped and safely cratered in the back of our van we set off for Pasadena. On arrival I opened the back of the van expecting to see our neat blue-belton (black and white) setter, instead I was presented with a black and yellow setter. During the journey, Dickens had quietly voided himself of, what looked like, gallons of puppy urine, effectively dyeing the glossy white parts of his coat a deep yellow. We considered entering him in the yellow Labrador class, but on advice from the more experienced entrants rapidly shelved the idea. Thus closed Dicken’s short career as a show dog. No regrets. He did continue to benefit from our constant attention to his appearance, frequent brushing, clipping and tail trimming. Prejudiced we probably are, but setters are one of the most strikingly handsome breeds. Their aristocratic heads and soulful eyes give them the eternal languid look of the blue-blooded elite. Dickens was not huge, but at eighty pounds he had an unmistakable presence. His muzzle would rest comfortably on a dining-room chair, while his tail would casually attempt to flick off a crystal glass from the coffee table causing one or other of us to quickly dive as if monitoring a batsman in the slips (a sporting analogy for all you cricket enthusiasts).

Dickens passed away in April 2007 aged sixteen years. A bronze sculpture of an English Setter sits on our buffet, around its neck is Dicken’s collar and on the plinth are his ashes—he’ll always be with us.

Irish Blonde

An attractive blonde from Cork arrived at the casino and bet twenty-thousand euros on a single roll of the dice. She said, ”I hope you don’t mind, but I feel much luckier when I’m completely nude.” With that she stripped, rolled the dice and yelled, ”Come on baby, Mama needs new clothes!” As the dice came to a stop she jumped up and down and squealed, “YES! I WON! She hugged each of her dealers, picked up her winnings and quickly departed. The dealers stared at each other dumbfounded. Finally one of them asks “What did she roll?” The other answered, ”I don’t know, I thought you were watching.”

MORAL OF THE STORY— Not all Irish are stupid, not all blondes are dumb, but all men are men.

Welcome New Members

The vitality and strength of any organization thrives on new blood and we all most heartily welcome the following to our midst, in the certain knowledge that they will add, contribute to, and participate in our Saint Andrew’s Society.

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<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Allan Taylor</td>
<td>February 2009</td>
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<td>Annie Schreckengost</td>
<td>March 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Carr</td>
<td>May 2009</td>
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<td>Chuck Robertson</td>
<td>May 2009</td>
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We are dependent on the growth of our membership. Please spread the word about your Saint Andrew’s Society and encourage your friends to join us in preserving Scottish identity and culture.

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