First I would like thank the board of trustees for electing me president. With help from all of you I plan to keep the society on course with more Scottish cultural and social events.

We had a tent at the Queen Mary Games thanks to the efforts of Stuart Bird-Wilson and plan to have one at both the United Scottish Society’s Costa Mesa games on Memorial Day weekend and the Seaside Highland games the second weekend in October. On the second of April we will join the Seaside Highland Games folks at the Tam O’Shanter for a Tartan Day celebration. We will continue to present the awards for dancers at both the Costa Mesa and Seaside games. As many of you know we also support the Pasadena Scots Pipe Band. This is a really special band as there are families playing together carrying on our Scottish traditions.

We are planning another Garden Party this summer and a Ceilidh later this year. Also we will have our Kirkin O’ the Tartan, St. Andrew’s Day Dinner and our very successful Burns Supper January next year. If you have any ideas or would like to help with any of our events please do not hesitate to contact me. Yours Aye,

a message from J. D. MacPherson, President.

In Gear

Ecurie Ecosse is back!

60 years since the team was formed, legendary Scottish outfit Ecurie Ecosse will make a full-time return to top-level international sportscar racing in 2012.

The team will run twin programmes in the Blancpain Endurance Series (including 24 Hours of Spa) and British GT Championship with a BMW Z4 GT3.

The illustrious squad, which won the Le Mans 24 Hours in 1956 and ’57, has been largely dormant on an international level since the 1990s when the team

Please see Ecurie Ecosse, page 4
Letter from the editor

Ian Skone-Rees

The Scottish Parliament was reconvened in 1999 after almost 300 years, having been adjourned on March 25, 1707 when members passed the Act of Union combining the Scottish and English Parliaments at Westminster in London. The union of the crowns occurred in 1603 when James VI, King of Scots, ascended the throne of England.

The reestablishment of the Scottish parliament provided for a wide range of powers to be devolved from Westminster to Scotland. Devolved powers are Health, Education and Training, Local Government, Social Work, Housing, Planning, Tourism, Economic Development, Law and Home Affairs, Police and Fire, The Environment, Natural and Built Heritage, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Sport and The Arts, Statistics, and Transport. Reserved powers, or areas that Westminster still remains responsible for, are Foreign Affairs, Defence, National Security, and Social Security. In addition Scotland receives subsidies from Westminster that result in Scots receiving $9,179 per capita in public funding while south of the border it is $7,535. One practical result of this apparent disparity is free university education for Scots while English students are required to pay. Not surprisingly English tax-payers are unhappy and some suggest that giving Scotland to the Argentine to settle the Falklands issue may be an answer.

Whatever our individual points of view about the proposed referendum in 2014, it is Scotland’s welfare and its continued positive influence on the world that we are interested in. Can Scotland go it alone? Some think not and some think if she did an economic disaster along the lines of the current Greek economic debacle would follow. The SNP political leaders meanwhile are rubbing their hands with glee at last year’s election outcomes and see the future of an independent Scotland almost assured. Let’s hope that the individual political gains and honors that will flow to the party’s elite with such a result will not be at the expense of a proud contributor to a union that has given so much to the world.

Flowers of the Forest

June L. Clarke 1920–2012

June L. Clarke, 92 passed away February 12th after a brief illness. Born in Stockton, she was a third generation Californian and a longtime Brentwood resident. June was a graduate of UCLA and a member of Tri Delta sorority. A true blue Bruin she attended football games as a season ticket holder for over 70 years. An avid traveler, June was always up for a new adventure. She also enjoyed golf, reading, crossword puzzles and her daily trips to Starbuck’s. A friend to all generations, she relished her role as wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Survivors include her daughter, Meredith, and grandson Matt and great-grandson Spencer. A private memorial will be held to celebrate her life. Donations in her memory can be made to The St. Andrews Society of Los Angeles, The Wooden Athletic Fund or The Wounded Warrior Project.

John Harry Ernster 1921 – 2011

John Harry Ernster, 90, of Palos Verdes Estates, California, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, died Thursday, Dec. 15, after a long and vigorous life. He was born September 26, 1921, Chicago, Illinois, to Harry Albert and Eleanor Moody Ernster. John graduated in 1946 from the Univ. of Ill., Champagne-Urbana, with a degree in dairy technology. He was married in June, 1946, to first wife Joan Van Antwerp (d. Apr., 1969), and married second wife Joan Kelm in Nov., 1969. John was a WWII Naval aviator from 1941-1945. He moved his family to Palos Verdes in 1963, and resided there for the duration of his life. Over the course of his life-long career in the food industry, John obtained several patents for innovation in food products and
Scotland’s Influence in the United States

Scotland’s ties with the United States date back to the founding of the USA. Scots and those of Scottish descent have helped shape the history of America in profound ways. Here are ten things Scotland has given the USA.

1. The US Navy
   John Paul Jones (1747 – 1792) is famous in the United States as the ‘Father of the American Navy’. A gardener’s son from Kirkbean, Kirkcudbrightshire, Jones went to sea at the age of 13 and went on to become America’s first naval hero in the American Revolutionary War.

2. The voice of Mickey Mouse
   You might be surprised to learn that the world’s most famous mouse was voiced for almost 40 years by a Dundonian, Jimmy MacDonald (1906 – 1991), who became a Disney sound effects wizard, was chosen by Walt Disney to provide the voice of his most well-known creation Mickey Mouse in 1947.

3. National Parks
   Dunbar-born John Muir emigrated with his family, aged 11, in 1849 to rural Wisconsin, USA. Muir had developed an early passion for the natural world, and pursued these interests across the Atlantic where he fell in love with the wilderness. He is credited with starting the national park movement in America - including Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. Muir has been voted ‘Most Famous Californian of all Time’, appeared on two US postage stamps and has dozens of places named after him. Muir died in Los Angeles on December 24, 1914.

4. At least 33 Presidents
   Of the 43 men who have served as President, an astonishing 33 have been of either Scottish or Ulster-Scots descent. This includes George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. According to genealogists, current president Barack Obama’s ancestry can be traced back to William the Lion who ruled Scotland from 1165 to 1214.

5. American icon Uncle Sam
   ‘Uncle Sam’, who is famously depicted on patriotic recruiting posters, is a national icon in the United States. The original ‘Uncle Sam’ is said to be Sam Wilson, a food business operator in New York, whose parents came from Greenock in Scotland. Wilson supplied meat to the US Army during the 1812 War and it was joked at the time that the ‘U.S.’ stamped on the crates stood for ‘Uncle Sam’, in reference to Wilson.

6. Thousands of its place names
   Many locations in America were nostalgically named after the places Scottish immigrants had left behind. There are eight Aberdeens, eight Edinburghs, seven Glasgows and eight places simply known as Scotland in the United States today. In addition, many places are named after Scottish clan names with areas named Campbell, Cameron, Crawford and Douglas throughout the USA.

7. The Man on the Moon
   Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, took a scrap of Armstrong tartan with him on his historic space flight of 1969, in tribute to his ancestors from Langholm, now in Dumfries and Galloway. The astronaut was made a freeman of Langholm when he visited in 1972.

8. Buick (see The Thistle December 2008)
   Buick is the one of the most famous brand names in the motor industry and is stamped on more than 25 million cars in the USA. The car is named after David Dunbar Buick, a plumber from Arbroath, who emigrated to the USA in 1856 and went on to set up the Buick Motor Company.

9. The Private Eye
   Glaswegian Allan Pinkerton founded the world’s most well-known detective agency in Chicago in 1850. He become famous when he foiled a plot to assassinate President-Elect Abraham Lincoln. The distinctive Pinkerton agency logo, the All-Seeing Eye, inspired the phrase ‘Private Eye’. A major crime-fighting force, the Pinkerton Agency and its methods are thought to have inspired the FBI.

10. Elvis Presley
    Elvis Presley’s roots can apparently be traced back to a village in Aberdeenshire. The musical icon is descended from Andrew Presley, who emigrated to North Carolina in 1745.

    Scotland was the location for The King’s only visit to the UK, a brief landing at Prestwick Airport in 1960.
Big Bang Theory, from page 1

By: Aedan MacDonnell

The music she was to play in the upcoming episode was The Girl From Ipanema And, Mayim was to play it during the taping in front of a live studio audience in less than two weeks. Oy! We definitely had a challenge ahead of us.

Like many beginning harpers that have a musical background, she quickly picked out the tune. And like almost every beginner, she plucked strings using the claw technique. The left hand was particularly problematic because she really wanted to drop her thumb. The studio rented another harp for her to take home to practice on, and by the time of our next lesson she had greatly improved. But she still had the challenge of playing Girl From Ipanema. Fortunately, about 15 minutes into our second lesson the script arrived and we found out they wanted her to sing the song they wanted her to sing the song.

At our first lesson I could feel her arrangement. But she didn't say a word and by slowly showing her the arrangement. She was doing great for only three lessons. I was asked if I could come in for the taping the following evening in case Mayim needed my assistance. As I walked into the building from the back door, I heard an emcee entertaining the crowd. I found Traci and was instructed to just hang out and help myself to the buffet table provided for the cast and crew. About 20 minutes before they taped Mayim's segment I was asked to tune the harp, which was already on set. Mayim came out, played the harp and finished the rest of her segment. They taped her segment twice, and both times she nailed the harp piece.

A couple of months later I received another call to rent the harp again, followed by a call from Traci setting up more lessons for Mayim. This time she was to play and sing Everybody Hurts by R.E.M. I found a rendition of it on YouTube and came up with a simple arpeggio that very closely duplicated R.E.M.'s arrangement. At our first lesson I could feel her hesitation when I showed her the arrangement. But she didn’t say a word and by slowly showing her how to play it, and with lots of encouragement, she played her first two-handed arpeggio. I don’t know who was more thrilled, Mayim or myself!

I was called in a third time in February to coach Mayim. This time the song was Bon Jovi's Wanted Dead or Alive. It was a genuine delight to work with Mayim, and she really enjoyed playing the harp. So if you watch The Big Bang Theory and see her playing the harp, you can say definitively that it is actually Mayim playing, and doing a remarkable job of playing and singing with only a handful of lessons.

Will I go back to Warner Bros?
You'll have to ask the writers, but it looks promising.

Ecurie Ecosse, from page 1

Ecurie Ecosse has attracted commercial backing for the season from sponsors such as John Clark Motor Group, Cotton Tree, Bremont and Ragus.

Team boss Hugh McCaig, who sees the 2012 programme as a natural progression towards a return to Le Mans, commented:

“This is a very exciting development for Ecurie Ecosse. We looked at a number of options for 2012 following the race at Spa last year but believe, with the combination of BMW’s Z4 GT3 and guys at Barwell, that we absolutely have the right ingredients in place to achieve success. We also have a team of ambitious and talented young drivers who have shown their commitment to this programme through a tireless effort to put the deal together in an extremely challenging economic environment. Ultimately we want to be back at Le Mans and this is a fantastic step in the right direction.

Ecurie Ecosse driver Andrew Smith added:

“We are all very excited to be involved in the continuing development of the Ecurie Ecosse comeback. We are confident the BMW Z4 GT3 is the best chassis out there and I have no doubt that our combination of car, drivers and team will prove competitive.”

Barwell Motorsport Managing Director Mark Lemmer is looking forward to the start of pre-season testing:

“We are absolutely delighted to announce that we will be running the Ecurie Ecosse programme with the BMW Z4 and believe this is the start of what will be a very exciting and fruitful partnership."

The team is exploring a number of new commercial partnership opportunities with interested sponsors.

The team is exploring a number of new commercial partnership opportunities with interested sponsors.

Interested in playing the harp?
Harp Rentals: Sylvia Woods Harp Center 800.272.6277 www.HarpCenter.com
Burns Supper January 28, 2012

See more photographs of Burns Night at www.saintandrewspla.org
Poets’ Corner

Poets’ Corner is the name given to a section of the South Transept of Westminster Abbey due to the number of poets, playwrights, and writers now buried and commemorated there, including Scotland’s own Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Thomas Campbell, and Robert Adam.

My Hame
by Thomas Carr (1780-1860)

I canna ca’ this forest hame,
It is nae hame to me;
Ilka tree is suthern to my heart
And unco to my e’e.

If I cou’d see the bonny broom
On ilka sandy know’;
Or the whins in a’ their gord’en pride
That on the green hill grow.

If I cou’d see the primrose bloom
In Nora’s hazel glen;
And hear the linties chirp and sing,
Far frae the haunts of men.

If I cou’d see the rising sun
Glint owre the dewy corn;
And the tuneful lavrocks in the sky
Proclaim the coming morn.

If I cou’d see the daisy spread
Its wee flowers owre the lea;
Or the heather scent the mountain breeze
And the ivy climb the tree.

If I cou’d see the lane kirk yard
Whar’ frien’s lie side by side;
And think that I cou’d lay my banes
Beside them when I died;

Then might I think this forest hame,
And in it live and dee:
Nor feel regret at my heart’s core
My native land, for thee.

New Society website

The Board of Trustees has set in motion a process that will help propel the society into the 21st century.

Director of Communications, Ian Skone-Rees, presented a proposal to the Board to overhaul and update the current website which has been developed by him using the Apple Macintosh iWeb software. Ian is currently sourcing possible developers to bid on the new website. It is envisioned that improvements will include an interactive photo gallery, a search engine look-up feature, database management which will allow easier maintenance of the online membership roster, and society email addresses. The new website will also include the latest social media tools available from Facebook™ and Twitter™. It is hoped the new website will be launched by the middle of 2012.

Flowers of the Forest, from page 2

Flowers of the Forest

Murray ended a run at Dubai for Djokovic that saw him win 18 straight and put him up as the three-time defending champion. The tournament was seen as a virtual lock for Djokovic by many observers, but the spirited Scot was up for the challenge. Andy was defeated in the final March 3, by an indomitable Roger Federer 7-5, 6-4. Ed.

等方面。他因其智慧和真挚而备受赞誉。约翰是一位真正的文艺复兴人物：艺术家、手工艺人、发明家、企业家，并且是所有人的灵感。他生前被儿子迈克尔所追悼，由妻子Joan，儿子John和Peter，女儿Paige Deary，女儿-in-law Lori，10个孙子和7个曾孙子。在花的捐赠中，可能会被送到圣安德鲁斯洛杉矶分校的Trinity Care Hospice，UCLA的Jonsson Cancer Center或你最喜欢的慈善机构。