

the

thistle

The St. Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

September 2008

Poppy Day Appeal



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them.

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the First World War ended. Civilians wanted to remember the people who had given their lives for peace and freedom. An American War Secretary, Moina Michael, inspired by John McCrae's poem, began selling poppies to friends to raise money for the ex-Service community. And so the tradition began.

Wear a Poppy to show you remember. Send a donation to the address on page 2 and a Poppy will be mailed to you.

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



While the Year 2008 may now be in it's last quarter, there's still a lot going on in our Society. Don't miss the

highly successful Seaside Highland Games at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in October. Come and spend an hour or two with us in our Society's tent! Our very special Kirkin 'O' The Tartans will be held again at the beautiful Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church on 26th October.

One of our Society's chosen responsibilities is supporting education, particularly in things Scottish. We give several awards. At the Costa Mesa Games over the Memorial day weekend, we present The James Loudon Memorial Cup to

the winner of a "heavy" event, the Kimberly Cameron Trophy for highland dancing, and the Edinburgh Award for the dancing competition that begins those Games. At the Seaside Games we give two awards, one to the winning dancer of 15 years and under, and the other to the winner of the 16 years and over group. We are working on setting up an annual donation to support the work of the Pasadena Scottish Pipes and Drums in training young musicians. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

John L Benton

John Benton

Contact John Benton via email at: tavernman1@hotmail.com



Seaside Highland Games



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

The Seaside Highland Games are especially geared to Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles members. The SASLA tent is ideally located midpoint on Clan Row and handy to every entertainment venue, be it bagpipes, dance, food & drink or athletics. New activities include a major dart tournament put on by Ventura County Dart Association, a medieval cultural encampment by Highlander Warriors, and the Drum Major Competition, all on the adjacent green. Plan to attend for these exciting attractions and so much more. For tickets and information: 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

<http://seaside-games.com>

In Gear

This is the first of series of articles devoted to cars. Not just any cars, but those owned by members of the Saint Andrew's Society that may be regarded as representative of the Golden Age of Motoring. Each issue, this column will feature a member's own automobile love affair. If you have a love affair to reveal, contact the editor.

Mogs and More

 by John Benton, M.D. President

There are a few objects that we assume to be extensions of our bodies: a car, a motorcycle, a boat...What then is the car? It is,

I think, the flesh given to those old phantoms, personal freedom, individual liberty."

Pontus Hulten, 1984

In Gear is devoted to the widespread hobby of rebuilding, maintaining, and driving vintage automobiles. Car clubs abound for what seems like nearly every car

ever made, here and abroad. The clubs are not just for cars that were originally expensive. Clubs devoted to Model T and Model A Fords are two of the most active.



1939 F4 Morgan Three Wheeler
Owner: John Benton.

In California alone the rapidly growing industry devoted to rebuilding and maintaining these vehicles approaches well over \$15

Please see **MOGS AND MORE**, page 4



The Kimberley Cameron Trophy and The James Loudon Memorial Trophy.

Board of Trustees

John Benton, M.D., *President*John Lowry
Vice PresidentMargaret Steiner
SecretaryDavid Moffett
Treasurer

Mary Corcoran, Ph.D.



Jack Dawson



Douglas Fairbanks



Alan MacDonald



J. David MacPherson

Victoria Pushee
MembershipJ. Howard Standing
Immediate Past President

The Thistle is the official publication of the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles. It is published four times a year. Deadline for each issue is the first day of March, June, September & December. Submit articles and photos to the editor at: rees1@mac.com.

or

The Editor

Saint Andrew's Society, Los Angeles
12240 Ventura Blvd., Suite 101
Studio City, CA 91604

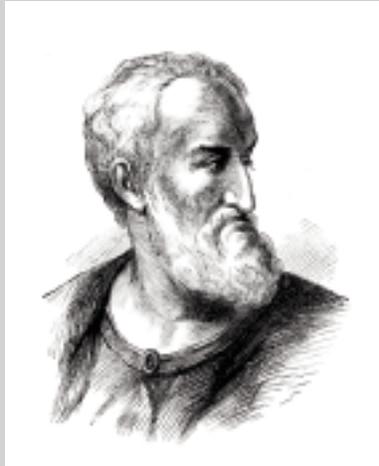
Send your donation to the Poppy Day Appeal to the address above.

CONTRIBUTORS

John Benton, David Cargill,
John Lowry, Victoria Pushee,
Ian Skone-Rees



Saint Andrew Patron Saint of Scotland



Saint Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland, and Saint Andrew's Day is celebrated by Scots around the world on the 30th November. The flag of Scotland is the Cross of Saint Andrew, and this is widely displayed as a symbol of national identity.

Very little is really known about St. Andrew himself. He was thought to have been a

fisherman in Galilee (now part of Israel), along with his elder brother Simon Peter (Saint Peter). Both became followers (apostles) of Jesus Christ, founder of the Christian religion.

Tradition suggests that St. Andrew was put to death by the Romans in Patras, Southern Greece by being pinned to a cross. The diagonal shape of this cross is said to be the basis for the Cross of St. Andrew which appears on the Scottish Flag.

St. Andrew's bones were entombed, and around 300 years later were moved by Emperor Constantine to his new capital Constantinople. Legend suggests that a Greek Monk called St. Rule was warned in a dream that St. Andrew's remains were to be moved and was directed by an angel to take those of the remains which he could to the "ends of the earth" for safe-keeping. St. Rule dutifully followed these directions, removing a tooth, an arm bone, a kneecap and some fingers from St. Andrew's tomb and transporting these as far away as he could. Scotland was close to the extremities of the known world at that time and it was here that St. Rule was shipwrecked with his precious cargo.

St. Rule is said to have come ashore at a Pictish settlement on the East Coast of Scotland and this later became St. Andrews. Thus the association of St. Andrew with Scotland was said to have begun. 

Saint Andrew's Society Los Angeles Calendar of Events

October 26, 11:00 a.m.

Kirkin O' The Tartan.

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.

See Invitation in this Issue

September 13, 2:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting.

Home of Vickie Pushee

January 24, 2009

Robert Burns and St. Andrew's Day Annual Dinner Dance.

The Beach Club, Santa Monica.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

Invitations will be mailed.

IN MEMORIUM

Olive McCulloch McDuffee

1917-2008



Olive McCulloch McDuffee life was dedicated to music and she worked tirelessly for this passion,

as manager of the Coleman Chamber Music Series at Cal-Tech, as associate and volunteer for the Debussy Trio Music Foundation, and in many volunteer and leadership capacities for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. Olive truly loved and valued her Scottish heritage. For the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles she served as Trustee while taking on the positions of Secretary and Membership as well as chairing various Garden Party events. Olive was a very kind, hardworking, and generous lady and those of us who knew her benefitted immensely. We will miss her. 



Bonnie Quaich: spotted by *The Editor* on the stern of a motor launch at the wooden boat show in Tahoe Vista August 2008.

Scotland's Influence in the United States

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 Presbyterian 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 first of a 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



John Muir at his desk in his Martinez home.

John Muir is arguably America's most famous and influential conservationist. Without Muir, we would most likely not have Yosemite National Park.

Indeed "The Father of Our National Parks" was also personally involved in the creation of Grand Canyon, Sequoia and Kings Canyon and Mount Rainier National Parks. Muir also founded the Sierra Club in 1892.

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 unequalled."

John Muir died aged 76 on Christmas Eve 1914, in Los Angeles. The John Muir National Historic Site preserves his Martinez, CA Victorian home. 



John Muir's 14 room mansion, Martinez, California, preserved as a John Muir National Historic Site.



The California State Quarter (Reverse).

San Diego Games, Vista



Members of the Commemorative company of the Gordon Highlanders of 1882.

Two intrigued friends in tow, my wife and I proceeded to the Scottish Games in Vista.

We had promised all kinds of spectacular entertainment to our pals, and they and we were not disappointed. Vista has an advantage over some of the other venues in southern California. They have grass, lots of it. Not exactly reminiscent of the undulating hills of Scotland, which have a more rugged appearance. Here the green sward rolls over hummocks that evolve from gentle grades to a loftiness that was to test the short legs of the Border Collies assembled at their foot. The grass provided a softer view to the eye and provided a backdrop in tune with the activities we were about to



The Border Collies held us spellbound.

witness.

The clan tents were lined up next to one another offering camaraderie to those who could establish a connection or who would swear allegiance to their chief. The DNA tent caught my eye and I spent several minutes learning about this scientific process that could help establish lineage. Several purveyors of highland dress offered their wares, but this time they did not succeed in separating us from our moola.

After touring the tents we were drawn back to the collies.

Please see **VISTA GAMES**, page 6

Mogs and More, from page 1

million dollars annually. Always something of a car nut, I acquired a new red MG-TD after being discharged from the army in 1952. This led to getting involved with sports car racing for a few years. But, time passed, and it wasn't until the early 1980's that I was bitten by the vintage car bug. It's also known as, "old guys driving

cars that were young when they were." Yes, I'm the proud owner of two vintage Morgans, known by their "lovable frailty." 🚗

Mog is the affectionate name by which Morgan enthusiasts refer to their cars. Morgan sports cars are still made today in Malvern, Worcestershire, UK. Ed.

Scotch Corner

The Scotch Whisky Distilleries and Regions

There are many ways in which malt whisky can be grouped, but a common method is to do so by the region of Scotland they come from:

Speyside — the region in the north of Scotland centered around the Spey valley, has the largest concentration of working distilleries, the most well known being *Glenfiddich*, *Glenlivet*, and *Macallan*.

Highland — is the largest geographical region extending north from a line stretching from Glasgow to Edinburgh (excluding Speyside). The *Glenmorangie* distillery being perhaps the most well known.

Lowland — extends south of the line between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Very few distilleries are still in operation. Those remaining include *Glenkinchie* near Edinburgh and *Bladnoch* on the border with England.



Cambletown — once rivaled Speyside but today has only three working distilleries. Its one time importance is the subject of a traditional folk song, "Cambletown Loch I wish you were whisky then I would drink you dry!"

Island — includes all the distilleries which are located on islands, apart from Islay which has its own category. Famous names include *Highland Park* from Orkney and *Talisker* from Skye.

Islay — is a tiny island off the west coast with a tiny population, yet it has seven working distilleries, including the famous *Laphroig*. 🚗



John Benton's 1964 Morgan Plus 4 (4 seater).

The Annual Saint Andrew's Garden Party

(or the trampling of Barbara Grant's lawn)



Anne Sharp, Ben Sharp, Morynne Motley.



Nancy and Alan MacDonald.



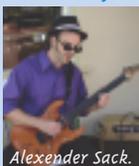
General Roger Rothrock, Matthew Sibert.



James Morrissey, Lenore Piller (winners of a weekend in Coronado)
John Benton, Victoria Pushee.



John Lowry.



Alexander Sack.



John Benton and
Past President John Christie.



Mary and Bill Corcoran.



Cheryl MacPherson, Dave MacPherson,
Esme Griffiths.

Once again Barbara Grant allowed us to use her wonderful home in the hills of Bel-Air for the Society's Annual Garden Party in July. The afternoon, as one would expect, was warm, but cooled by a welcome breeze that wafted up the valley to an appreciative reception by dancers perspiring in their highland attire. The view down the valley to Los Angeles is breathtaking, revealing on this clear day beyond the metropolis, sparkling water of the Pacific. Turning away from this vista we were greeted by a garden fringed with tables, chairs and umbrellas, and in one corner, guarded by Major General Roger Rothrock and Matthew Sibert, the bar, expertly tended throughout the afternoon by Don Waters.

The libations flowed (as you would expect) accompanied by a sumptuous roast beef repast prepared by our own Alex MacGillivray, who also announced the arrival of the comestibles in the time-honored manner with the pipes of Scotland.

Members of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Association performed a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing. This was followed by an invitation to all assembled to try their skills. There was no shortage of willing volunteers, who filled with the

confidence of single malt, twirled their lassies (and other peoples' lassies) around Barbara Grant's garden. Incredibly the tree shrouded blanket of green grass that is Barbara's lawn appeared not to have suffered unduly from the jiggling and swirling of dancing feet.

Then came the raffle. Precious bottles of usege beatha and a weekend away from it all in Coronado were on offer. Aided by Eileen Skone-Rees, John Benton and John Lowry called out the winning tickets and the victors claimed their prizes.

A memorable afternoon, that was made possible by the extraordinary efforts of Mary Corcoran, who planned, coordinated, and cajoled to bring everything and everyone together.

If you didn't make it this year, plan to attend in 2009. You could win a bottle of usege beatha and drink it during a weekend stay in Coronado! 

Highland Games Calendar – 2008

| September | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 20th | Dixon Scottish Games | 2008 CANCELLED |
| 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 |
| December | | |
| 6th | Mother Lode Christmas Faire | Plymouth, CA |

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.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE JUNE 2008

Life Member

John David MacPherson June 24 - Member since 2005

Members

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Douglas E. Brown | June 2, 2008 |
| Robert W. Turner | June 11, 2008 |
| Cheryl L. MacPherson | June 14, 2008 |
| Corinne E. MacPherson | June 15, 2008 |
| Jean MacLeod Keatley | July 7, 2008 |
| Richard J. Gillaspay | July 11, 2008 |
| John E. Taylor | July 22, 2008 |
| Macregor S. Reid | August 22, 2008 |

Sports RoundUp

Scots blasted their way into the sports headlines over the summer. Scottish cyclist **Chris Hoy** clinched a hat-trick of gold medals at the Beijing Olympics. Meanwhile Aberdeen native **David Florence** secured Britain's first ever silver medal in the men's slalom canoe.

No sports roundup would be complete without special mention of Scotland's own **Andy Murray**, who became the first Brit to reach the final of a tennis grand slam event, since Fred Perry in 1936, when he met Roger Federer in the men's final of the 2008 U.S. Open at Flushing Meadows, NY.



Vista Games, from page 4

Sitting on chairs sheltered by overhanging trees from a sun that threatened to roast our skin, we were enthralled by these incredibly intelligent animals. Instead of two or three dogs that provide a demonstration we watched a continuous procession of collies each one displaying their unique skills. A small, young, black and white collie sitting on the grass next to my chair watched each competitor with intense professional curiosity, and when it came time for him to gather the sheep he did it with accomplished and masterful competence that seemed to

say "that's how it's done."

The road home beckoned and reluctantly we said goodbye to the rolling hills of Vista, the collies, the sheep, and the special atmosphere of these Highland Games.

Now we look forward to The Seaside Games in Ventura, October 10-12, where we will have our own hospitality tent. See you all there! 

If you would like to help staff the Saint Andrew's Tent at the Seaside Games, contact:
John Lowry at:
JEmmettLowry@aol.com

Committee News

At the meeting of the **Finance Committee** September 6th Treasurer Douglas Fairbanks submitted his resignation. The Board of Trustees confirmed David Moffett Treasurer at the Board meeting September 13.

The **Communications Committee** coordinates production of The Thistle and other related outreach projects.

The **Membership** chair has reported eight new members since June 2008.

Any member interested in joining a committee please contact the appropriate committee chairperson. Contact details are posted on the SASLA website.

A competitor and fan hold hands at Vista.





**Thank you
Coronet Printing
for your generous support of
The St. Andrew Society
of Los Angeles.**

*Quality Service Since 1946
Pre-press • Printing • Bindery*

9260 Owensmouth Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311
818-775-9733 • fax: 818-775-9368
www.coronetprinting.com