

Burns' Night 09 Surpasses Most Expectations

What can I say after this Burns Night 2009? Any musings of mine would have to start with a great big thanks to all of the people who pitched in and made it happen in spite of the size of the task at hand. I will be the first to admit that this is the first Burns Night (BN) that I have worked and been one of the busy bees that helped to pull it off. Having done so now, I have a much greater appreciation for the enormity of the MSSSI BN. No one person or committee can pull off something of this magnitude without the efforts of many. My daddy used to say ad nauseum, "Light is the load where many share in the tasks." Looks like it still applies. Find out how you can contribute next year to the process and be involved with the dedicated few that make it happen. The first BN 2010 planning meeting will be held February 12th at the MDA/ALS Clinic, 8095

Club Parkway at 5:45.

So who do I thank first? The people who were there on Saturday morning of BN and helped to decorate, arrange for the silent auction, the Patron's Reception and the other myriad details at the last minute. I will try to name you from memory and if I overlook you, know it was not intentional. Ken Noe, Joe and Susie Lyle, Jackie and Lou Garner, Bill Crump and Melissa Gibson (BN chair who was there all day and all night), Mary Clausi, Sue and George Malone, Dena Warth, Cheryl Noland, Debbie Sellmansberger and John and Kathy Schultz.

I personally want to express thanks to Sue Malone, Mary Clausi and Debbie Sellmansberger for the help with the wrap-up of the silent auction. Yes, I became the bottleneck in the process trying to computerize the winners with Debbie's help while Mary and Sue just took the sheets and gave the people their totals and took their money. What a novel idea. Skip the computer input till later and just rake in the money. Ahh, the life

lessons we all receive when we get involved. At least in my mind the silent auction can go much smoother with that approach. To any of our guests or members that had to wait too long to pay, you can attribute that to me, for those that did manage to wait and pay thank-you. It was a successful silent auction. The silent auction was given a huge boost by the donation of a wonderful watercolor of a crofter's house on the Isle of Skye by Joe Lyle.

Now about the rest of BN. I believe without any reservation, that I am simply jealous of the beautiful singing of our Immortal Memory speaker, this seemed to be the show stopper and that is considerable, considering the competition of the superlative performance of Wolf River Pipes & Drums and the Scottish Country Dancers. Both seemed to raise the bar this year. Our hats should be tipped a bit to Melissa Gibson for having the courage to try something different for the IM. That performance was not the only one of note, (*cont on pg. 4*)

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SCOTTISH CONNECTION

A recent news article on elephant polo caught the attention of many Scottish Society members. And, yep, hard as it is to believe, elephant polo has a **Scottish Connection**.

For those of you who may have missed the news, we proudly report that the Scottish elephant polo team successfully regained their world championship in 2009 after holding off an upstart team from the Big Apple, New York Blue.

The Scottish team is captained by Torquhil Ian Campbell, 13th Duke of Argyll and is called Chivas Regal Scotland after their chief commercial sponsor. Here are some tidbits from BBC Online regarding His Grace

and the lads:

"The 40-year-old Duke and his three team-mates are not short of improvisation skills. Finding that their practice sessions at the Duke's family home of Inverary Castle on Argyll's Loch Fyne, were missing the odd vital ingredient - like elephants - they thought up some neat alternatives to acclimatise themselves in advance of the competition.

"The Duke admitted to the Daily Mail that: 'We worked on our swing by perching on the castle's enormous stone mantelpiece. We also balanced on the roof of my 4x4 (presumably under engine power). You don't want to fall off an elephant'. Indeed not.

"An interesting footnote to the story is an unusual and appropriate link between elephant and ducal rider. The motto of the Clan Campbell, whose Chief is the Duke of Argyll, is 'Ne obliviscaris' - 'Do not forget'."

In an aside, just for laughs, we pass along that when Chivas Regal Scotland lost the world championship in 2008 to the team from England, The Daily Mail reported it as "Duke's jumbo loss".

So, next time you come across any contact with elephant polo, and we admit that might not be for quite a while, remember the bonny duke and elephant polo's **Scottish Connection**.

Bits and Pieces

You may already know about these things, but I just stumbled onto a web site while looking for a tune called Kelvingrove. I found the tune at:

<http://www.contemplator.com/scotland/kelvin.html>

The shorter links (parent URLs) are also interesting, with many more tunes. I think that this tune is beautiful. Holy Communion has used a 3/4 variant in their Celtic services. That's where I first heard it. Blessings, John Simmons Come sing with us again John Simmons.

Kathy Schultz found this site with Grandfather Mountain news.

<http://www.grandfather.com/newsletter/dec08/online.html>

Carmen Wright, our Edinburgh correspondent highly recommended this site.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/robertburns/>

Sammy, while looking for gardening boots, I ran across these plaid rain boots (in 4 different "tartans" - I wonder whether they are sets of real tartans?)

<http://www.zappos.com/n/p/dp/48025023/c/396.html>

I don't know whether this kind of thing is appropriate for "Grace

Notes" or not, but they may be just what somebody is looking for! Kathy Schultz

"Grace Notes" is your newsletter as much as anyone in our Society. Do make it what you wish. I just put it together and occasionally fill in some cracks. S Rich

GRACE NOTES

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

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to foster education and
promote understanding of
things Scottish



Lineage Society Presentations and Local Author Book Signing

John Schultz and hopefully other MSSSI members will be participating in the event coming up on March 7 at the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center. The event is from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

John and the other participants will each have about 7 minutes to tell about the mission of your society, your activities, and what is required to be a member.

This is the order of the presentations:

Jama Richardson, author (please tell how your family history is woven into your stories)

Memphis Scottish Society--John Schultz

Huguenot Society, Manakintown, VA--Olivia Chandler

TN State Soc., Daughters of the American Colonists--Linda Mansur

DAR, Chief Piomingo Chapter--Debra Nimtz

Sons of the American Revolution & Sons of the Confederate Veterans--Clark Doan

Questions and Answers about these societies

15 minute break with refreshments

United Daughters of the Confederacy--Jama Richardson & Martha Smylie

1812 Sons--Mr. Chandler

US Daughters of 1812 & New England Women Society--Bettie Gustafson

Jama Richardson, local author, again, if there is a different crowd

Questions and Answers about these societies

Please stay after the presentations for the question and answer sessions in case anyone in the audience wants further information about your society. Feel welcome to bring your friends and neighbors.

Jennifer Baker, Germantown Regional History & Genealogy Center
7779 Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN 38138, [901-757-8480](tel:901-757-8480)

Drummer News

Our own, Memphis based Kenneth Hiner, traveled to the annual Winter Storm weekend of competitions, classes and concerts, and walked away with the Silver Medal bass drum competition.

His win netted him the opportunity to play next year in the top level, Gold Medal competition.

He also came home with a brand new bass drum along with the Silver Medal as his prize.

Please be sure and congratulate him on his continued successes.

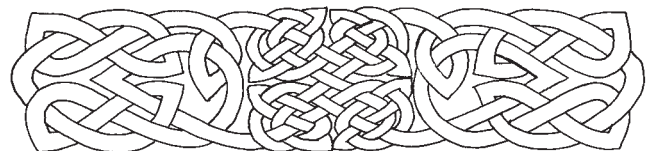
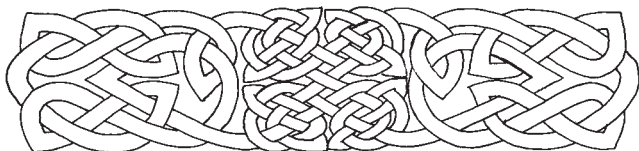
David Corbett



St. John's Kirkin

The Kirkin will be Sunday Feb. 1, 2009 at 10:30 AM. St. John's Episcopal Church, 3245 Central at Greer. Wolf River Pipes and Drums will be playing. Everyone is welcome to come. It is generally one of the larger attended services of the year, so come early. We will gather in the parish hall about 10:15 to form the processional. If weather permits we will form up in the courtyard. Anyone and everyone is invited to carry their plaid and have it blessed (You don't have to be a member).

Thanks for the help in getting the word out. -- Seldon



cont from pg 1

Planet Reel provided exceptional music for the dancers and the meal. Then, the Toast to the Lassies by Geoffrey Meece made me belly laugh. To think that he came to me for input on the Toast to the Lassies was a bit ironic in it's own light. Elaine's response was up to the task and having the final word is always something I look forward to. Nice job by both of

you. The poems were read and the prayers were said before and after the meal. A review of the night would be incomplete lest I forget the meat and don't give homage to the haggis, with Bruce on the pipes, Ken on the bag and Seldon trailing with Whisky. So now what have I forgotten? Ahh, the Address to the Haggis, by John Schultz, his first time to fill in and an admirable job was done, by memory, no less, and with just as much vigor as needed to make it sound believable.

Bill Crump, you surprised me the most with your touching comments in response to the Immortal Memory as the M.C. for the evening. Overall, I would have to say that this BN was the most memorable for me of all I have attended. Hmm, do you think it could be because I was the most involved of any I have attended? Join me as we go forward with this fine tradition and pass on the joy of service to new members along the way. *(Cont. At bottom of this page) srich*

'Twas the Night After Burns' Night

'Twas the night after Burns' Nicht
And throughout the Mid-South,
The people were sharing,
By email & mouth.

Then dinner came promptly
And oh, what a meal!
Accompanied deftly
By the great Planet Reel.

Welcomed to Heather,
Clausis Mary and Rick.
To the Thistle, Dave Corbett,
Each one quite a pick.

"This Burns Nicht was awesome!"
Bill Crump was the emcee,
And Drew sang the National
Anthem so pretty.

Next, Burns recitations:
Gus aced "To a Mouse".
"Rights of Woman" by
M.A., who skipped "To a Louse".

(Since Dave had to miss Burns
nicht, we'll give him his certificate
at the first member meeting his
work schedule permits.)

Wolf River Pipes & Drums?
Skill, thrill, & hist'ry combined.
Scottish Country Dancers?
So lithe and refined.

The Immortal Memory came
With melodious details
Performed by young Drew and
New Miz Massengale.

Blessed in benediction
By Reverend Ken.
"Auld Lang Syne" in a circle,
...And all finished by ten!

That whole bit with the haggis,
The poem and the whiskey:
John, Bruce, Ken, & Seldon!
(Though we missed our Bud
Hisky.)

Elaine and Geoff Meece
Gave the lass-and-lads toasts,
With heart-touching mem'ries
And his-and-hers boasts.

(And, to quote Dick Bevier, "Now
you know why we revere Robert
Burns.")

Via versatile Bill Crump,
Graced by Burns, fore and aft.
Graced, too, by Rev' Clifford,
Poems showing Burns' craft.

Then, while Planet Reel
Feted, the packed silent auction
Tempted with art works
And each basket concoction.

(Plus one wee monster.)

Kudos to the team of dozens who
applied their time and talents to
pulling off a splendid Burns Nicht:
Melissa Gibson, Mary Clausi,
Jackie and Lou Garner, Sue Ma-
lone, Sammy Rich, John Schultz,
and many more. Mary Ann

(cont from the top of this page.)

It was brought to my attention
by Melissa that I failed to mention
the Patron's reception along with
the Whisky tasting. See what hap-
pens, when you trust your memory.
Not being a whisky officianada, I

can only speculate as to the quality
of the whisky provided. But if my
instincts are the least bit true, there
can be no reason to doubt that this
was some of the finest hooch to be
had anywhere. Now the Patron's
reception was my area of forte.

The tasty meat pies, the cucumber
sandwiches, the devonshire cream
on some yummy little scones, the
Scotch eggs, were all excellent.
Always are and that is why I keep
coming back to this table. Special
thanks to Seldon, Jackie and Lou!

I am a Scot.
I speak from the heart.
I know the value of friendship.
I drink my whisky from my great-grandfather's quach
I wear my clan tartan with pride.
I fight back tears at the skirl of the pipes.
I long to walk in the footsteps of my ancestors.
I was born and raised in ...
But I have Scottish roots.
In 2009, I am going home.

HomeComing Scotland 2009

Throughout 2009, over 300 major events and festivals will pay homage to Scotland as the home of Robert Burns, Whisky, Golf and Great Minds & Innovation. Toast the bard at the Burns 250th Anniversary Weekend; sample a wee dram during Whisky Month; get out and dance at the Outsider; swing by The Open Championship at Turnberry; find your clan at The Gathering; taste the Highlands at the Blas Festival; tap your toes at Perthshire Amber: The Dougie MacLean Festival; and much more.

For full Homecoming Scotland event listings and great travel deals, visit: <http://www.cometoscotland.ca>

2009 International Folk Alliance Conference Feb 18-22, 2009 -- Marriott, Memphis, TN

This festival features many different "folks" and many different art forms: Showcases, Panels, Workshops, Exhibit Hall, Jam Sessions, Parties, Feature Concerts, Awards & much more. This year's festival boasts Roger McGuinn, founder & frontman of the Byrds.

"In February 2009, over 2000 songwriters, festivals, venues, agents, managers, publishers, attorneys, media, educators, organizations, legends, presenters, artists, and just plain music fans will converge in Memphis for the 21st annual International Folk alliance Conference."

For more information, visit www.folk.org or contact the organizers Folk Alliance; 510 So Main Street; Memphis, TN 38103 901-522-1170 fa@folk.org.

What is the International Folk Alliance Conference?

The International Folk Alliance conference is annual event that draws together music industry professionals from throughout North America and the world to share ideas, network, and celebrate traditional music and dance. It is an event of celebration, education, and entertainment for all who attend. Held over five days, the Conference includes:

- * Over 2000 registered attendees

- * Over 50 workshops, panel discussions, and peer group meetings that address critical issues relating to presenting, promoting, and preserving folk and traditional music and dance.

- * 100+ industry exhibitors

- * Special events, such as the Folk Music & Business Awards, Lifetime Achievement Awards, networking receptions, official Performance Alley and private showcase performances, feature shows, exhibit hall, block booking sessions, Memphis Tours, community outreach concerts, etc.

- * 200 official juried performances (Performance Alley)

- * 300+ unofficial private showcases

Where & when is it held?

The 21st Annual International Folk Alliance conference will be in Memphis, TN. Events will take place at the Memphis' Downtown Marriot and Cook Convention Center, February 18-22, 2009.

Susie, Sue, Mary and Joe making ready



B N
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S T

2009

This young lass had just about all she could stand for the evening.



Lou stayed busy preparing the patron's reception



Cindy Dodd is presented a paper rose by a secret admirer. The Woodland Hills Staff all need to be thanked for a job well done.



George tries his hand at decorating tables.



Mary, Ken and Melissa are busy as well.



John, Bruce, Seldon and Ken attend the ceremonial hag-



Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes & Drums

6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance - 274-1889
2nd, & 4th Friday:
Scottish Country Dancing.

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

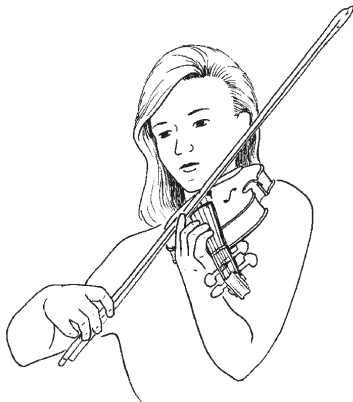
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

-1 p.m. *"Strands of the Celtic
Knot"* Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3



Monday, February 9

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli @
Poplar & Highland
For directions call 757-4200 or
go to
memphiscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Program:

David Corbett, speaks on
"Scots, Sots and Scoundrels"

Thursday, January 29

Board Meeting at 5:45 at MDA/
ALS 8095 Club Parkway

Thursday, February 26

Board Meeting at 5:45 at St.
Lukes Evangelical Lutheran,
2000 N Gtown Pkwy

January 31

NE Ark. Caledonia Pipes and
Drums & the First Presbyterian
Church of Jonesboro, AR
Burns Night. Call: David Corbett
901-233-2903

February 1

St. John's Kirkin' Central &
Greer

February 12

Burns' Night 2010 planning
meeting at MDA/ALS Clinic at
8095 Club Parkway, 5:45

April 17-19

29th Arkansas Scottish Festival
Batesville, AR

the Thistle & Shamrock®

February 5: Classically Celtic

Hear music that draws upon tradi-
tional roots whilst oozing classical
style, albeit with string sections
sounding just a little more racy than
usual!

February 12: Celtic Romance

Lose yourself in the sound of soul-
ful ballads and songs of loving,
leaving, and loneliness in new and
traditional Celtic music of the heart.

February 19: Underneath the Stars

Our music looks to the Northern
and Western skies for inspiration
this week from ancient landscapes
that have always drawn meaning,

guidance and solace from the sun,
moon and stars.

February 26: Welsh Momentum

Emerging Welsh roots recordings
vary from traditional harp music
to genre-bending blends of Latin,
funk, and Afrobeat. Hear estab-
lished and emerging artists includ-
ing Drymbago, Mim Twm Llai,
Gwenan Gibbard, and Crasdant.

March 5: New Traditions

Music from traditional roots
absorbs new influences and styles
from the Celtic heartlands and
around the world. Hear the best of
the emerging sounds.

To the membership of the Memphis Scottish Society,

It has been a great honor and privilege to be among the few to be entrusted with two terms as president of this fine organization.

I wish again to thank the fellow members of the 2007 and 2008 Boards whose hard work and support was a great assistance in the performance of my duties. We all benefited from their efforts that were frequently unheralded and unnoticed but resulted in fine times of gathering together, such as at the picnics, ceilidhs, and the monthly programs.

The Grace Notes staff continued their tradition of a top-notch publication. The annual Order of the Heather and Order of the Thistle honors recognized some of the very deserving members of the society.

Kathy and Melissa both pulled off two of the finest, though smaller, Burns Night suppers that we have enjoyed. As people were leaving, I heard many compliments on how much they enjoyed the evening and were glad they came. In both cases there were concerns that they might fall short financially, but in the end came in with a modest profit for the general fund, and, through the silent

auction, they added significantly to the Memphis Scottish Society's scholarship fund.

Let's not forget the help and support of the lass who was God's providential surprise 38 years ago.

Thank you for two challenging and rewarding years and the gifts to remember them by.

Soli Deo Gloria
John Schultz

The stamp emblem this month is titled "Division" It is four separate knots joined together to give the appearance of separate knots.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, February 9th
Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 David Corbett, "Scots, Sots, & Scoundrels"
Board Meeting, Thursday, January 29th at 5:45, MDA/ALS - 8095 Club Parkway
Regular Board Meeting, February 26th at 5:45 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran -
2000 N. Germantown Parkway

GRACE NOTES
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