

## Picnic Only a Month Away

Block out the afternoon of Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> on your calendars – it's time for our annual Summer Picnic. It will be held at beautiful country home of Joe, Debbie, & Rob Sellmansberger in Williston, TN, about 20 miles east of Cordova on Macon (TN 193). Plans include a potluck lunch (soft drinks provided), games & contests, sprinklers & water weapons, some entertainment, & maybe another home-made ice cream contest that was such a treat at last year's picnic. Watch for more details in the June issue of *Grace Notes*.

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## SCOTLAND 101 COMING SOON!

The program of the May meeting will be the first of a special series of presentations entitled “Scotland 101”, which will run every other month through January 2008. The presentations, of both an introductory and a comprehensive level, will include a survey of “all things Scottish”.

These hour-long, multi-speaker presentations will be filmed and will form the backbone of an archive which will be available for members (especially those just beginning to explore Scottish-ness) to acquire information on Scotland relatively easily. The archives, which will also include books, handouts, and samples, can also be lent to community or educational organizations for the same purpose.

Here is the tentative syllabus and presenters.

### May 2007 – Scotland 101: Geography

Political Geography – Louis Garner; Physical Geography – Jim Lucas; Scottish Flora – Bill Crump; Scottish Fauna – Mary Ann Lucas.

### July 2007 – Scotland 101: History

Ancient Peoples – Bill Maguire; Recorded History – Bud Hisky; Religion Pre-Reformation – Seldon Murray; Post-Reformation Religion – John Schultz; Diaspora – tba\*.

### September 2007 – Scotland 101: Culture (The Arts)

Dance – Brenda Maguire; Bagpipes & Drums – tba; Other Music – tba; Literature – tba; Fine Arts – Lore Hisky.

### November 2007 – Scotland 101: Culture (The Rest)

Science, Engineering, Invention – tba; Sports – tba; Food – tba; Dialect – tba.

### January 2008 – Scotland 101: Tartans & Clans

Tartans, Tweeds, & Conventions of Scottish Dress – Morse & Sheena Rose; Clans & Septs – tba.

Other possible “Scotland 101” topics may follow: Economics, Commerce & Industry; Government (previous & current); Relationship with Great Britain; Education; Tourism & Tourist Tips; Genealogy; National Symbols & Songs; etc.

Plans for the latter presentations are still somewhat tentative. See a topic you'd like to present or other topics you'd like included? Contact Vice President Mary Ann Lucas.

\*To be announced.

## SCOTTISH CONNECTION

In support of the new Scotland 101 series starting at the membership meeting this month, here is a geography-related subject: did you know that the relatively new science of geology has a **Scottish Connection**?

Geology as a recognized field of scientific study came into being at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rating no mention in the 3rd edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, published in 1797, but receiving lengthy treatment in the fourth edition of 1807. (Fairness, however, requires that it be reported the Chinese have a somewhat credible claim to having invented it in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.) The word “geology”, from *geo*, meaning “earth” and *logy*, meaning “the study of”, was itself coined in 1778.

The first modern geologist, James Hutton of Edinburgh introduced his *Theory of the Earth* to the Royal Society in 1785. Sadly, it was so poorly written that it

wasn't until another Scot, James Playfair of Benzie, Forfarshire, presented a simplified re-statement of Hutton's principles in his *Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth* in 1802 that the rest of the scientific world could understand them enough to realize Hutton's genius.

It is Sir Charles Lytell of Kinross, Angusshire, however, who is considered the father of

geology, having published the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of his *Principles of Geology* in 1830. This book was credited with influencing not only the entire century of geological development, but also of inspiring Charles Darwin's impact on biology. Lytell would go on to publish a string of later editions of his *Principles* until his death in 1875. It was still in use through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

These Scottish scientists paved the way for petroleum exploration, the understanding of plate tectonics, the measurements of mass of the planets, and other almost innumerable discoveries. So, next time you fill up your car, feel an earthquake, or simply recognize the type of rock you just stubbed your toe on, remember geology and its **Scottish Connection**.

*from A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson and various sections of Wikipedia.com .*



## English Speaking Union

The English Speaking Union has invited The Memphis Scottish Society to a dinner meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2007. The speaker is Brian Monteith, MSP, member of the Scottish Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife and weekly columnist for The Edinburgh Evening News. Tickets will be \$50.00 for the dinner at The Memphis Country Club. See or call Lore Hiskey, 683-3403.

## 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), just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs (preferably black and white; no Polaroids, please).

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*



## Ceilidh 2007 Highlights

Sue Malone & I arrived at 5:00 pm and began setting up. Debbie Sellmansberger and son Rob joined us after a few minutes, and we finished putting table cloths on the tables for the food and the drinks. Next, we set each dining table with menus for the evening's entertainment, a song sheet of sing-a-long songs, and a few flowers from Debbie and Sue. Then, we just had to wait on people to come in. The food brought was ample and tasty. Thanks to all who contributed to our meal. We started eating just a few minutes after 6:00 and were pretty much through by 6:35. At 6:35 we had the Pledge of Allegiance led by Dick Bevier and then a blessing from Monty Payne. At this point the waiters and waitresses (who were also the evening's featured entertainers) were introduced, and they commenced to selling "appetizers" (short entertainments like riddles, limericks, songs, & jokes) and to taking the orders from the entertainment menus at the dining tables. The theory was that whoever of the wait staff "sold" the most entertainment would perform first, the next, second, so forth, but after clear frontrunners Geoffrey and Elaine Meece, all the rest made up a second place just too close to call, so we

decided to just have them perform in the order in which they appeared on the menu. This proved expeditious and nobody complained, always a good sign. The entertainment began just after 7:00.

Bud Hisky packed all of the boy-hood charm he could muster in his rendition of "Nelly May" which placed everybody in a good spirit. Then I led everyone in the singing of "Rothsay-O". We may as well just say, though, that Bill Crump about stole the show with his powerful and poignant sharing of his son-in-law's story, ending with the 1860s song "Angel Band". Emily Smith found a dance called "Three's the Charm" which demonstrated the dancing skills of herself and of John & Kathy Schultz. Those in attendance were complimentary of the evening in general and also of the other varieties of entertainment offered: poets – Monty and Geoffrey; storyteller, Mary Ann Lucas; actors – John & Kathy; singers – Elaine, the Caledonia Chorale, and myself (though Bill also performed a Scottish agricultural ballad with improvisations from John as an elephant, Emily as a slinky snake and George Malone as a springy kangaroo - some strange

animals down on Old McDonald's farm); musicians – George, Debbie, Marty Wooley, and Melissa Gibson; dancers—some really good sports from the crowd. Mary Ann nearly killed us all by trying to teach us ceilidh dances with her instructions of "clockwise" and "counterclockwise" – whatever happened to "Right, Right, Gimme a Right, Left, Right"? Ask Dick & the other SAMS members: I bet they know. Anyway, the so-called ceilidh dancers had a good time trying to dance. And didn't we have a dramatic ending to the evening when the lights went out!

Thanks also to Debbie for serving as Hostess; Mary Ann, Aide-de-Camp; Sue, Facilities Liaison with St. Luke's Lutheran, whom we also thank for the use of their fellowship hall; Tom Lewis, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Ken Noe and Charles Stuart for help with the set up and break down, along with a few others, including virtually all of the men that were there; Lindsey Miles, Houston Brown, and Lottie & Ellis Rich for being the token kids that were dragged there screaming, but managed to have a good time regardless. – Sammy Rich, Chairman



### *Flowers of the Forest*

*MSSI offers condolences to the family of Janet Mandana in the death of her mother Juanita Long.*

*Visitation and the funeral will be at the funeral home at Memory Hills on N. Germantown Rd. Visitation 5-8 PM on Friday. Funeral 10 AM Saturday, reception will follow at the funeral home.*

## Scenes from MSSI Ceilidh



Above: The Melendez family down from Jackson, rumor has it Lisa was scouting talent; for the Celticfest in Jackson.

Below: Monty Payne and Geoff Meece are getting ready to recite their poems and Bill Crump displays his talents with the bowed psaltery while Dick and Pat Bevier enjoy the show.



Bill Crump leading his game volunteers in a Scottish agricultural ballad of great reknown. Emily Smith can really shake it. You go, girl! John Schultz and George Malone are eagerly awaiting their turn to display their animal instincts.



Scottish Country Dancing hardly, but Ceilidh dancing even at its simplest can be complicated to explain with clockwise instructions and counter clockwise dancers. Clockwise 2,3,4- counterclockwise 2, 3, 4; women in 2,3,4- women out 2, 3,4; men in 2,3,4-men out 2,3,4; turn around 2, 3, 4- March 2, 3, 4; change your partner 2, 3,4; do it again 2,3,4. Have we got it yet? Well, it looks like we did in this picture!



## “CLANJAMFRY : THEY NEVER SLEEP!

Things are moving right along for Clanjamfry as the folks at Evergreen Presbyterian find themselves barreling into Spring. The Music Stage schedule is close to being set and they are in negotiations with a musical group for the Saturday night concert. The dancers will return, vendors far and wide are contacting them about attending, and the 5K Run is in the planning stages. The honored clan this year is Clan Cunningham, its local representatives being Jackie and Louis Garner, long and faithful friends of Clanjamfry—beyond that the initial lineup of clans and societies looks promising with some even contacting them.

Mark the dates on your calendar—September 21 thru 23. It is never too late to be thinking about this wonderful community festival.

If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer or become a patron of Clanjamfry, please let them know—Evergreen can't do it without all of us! If you're interested, or even just curious, please call one of the following: Carole Blankenship 274-2195; Susan Bransford 452-2324; or Lee Hutchison 278-1830. The Clanjamfry website has been updated. It contains lots of photos from last year's festival. Check it out—you might be on it! [Clanjamfrymemphis.org](http://Clanjamfrymemphis.org). Thank-you John Schultz for pointing out this article from the Evergreen Newsletter - [evergreenmemphis.org/f/Pres\\_May\\_07.pdf](http://evergreenmemphis.org/f/Pres_May_07.pdf) The article on their page 5 is about MSSII!



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## U of M Multicultural Fair staffed by John and Kathy Schultz



# Calendar of Events

## Mondays

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

## Thursdays

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,  
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;  
G'town Pkwy. 753-9494 for info.

## Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild  
Pres.; 1750 Union Ave,  
West Entrance

## 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday

Contra Dancing. 278-1216.

## 2nd & 4th Friday

Scottish Country Dancing. 274-1889

## May 14

Regular monthly meeting,  
Holiday Inn Express, Poplar @ I-240.  
Dinner reservation required  
by May 10th; call 725-1879 or  
online at [memphisscots.com](http://memphisscots.com).  
6:00 pm Dinner & 7:00 pm

## **Program: Scotland 101: Geography**

Political – Louis Garner  
Physical – Jim Lucas  
Scottish Flora – Bill Crump  
Scottish Fauna – Mary Ann Lucas

## May 31

Board Meeting at Perkins at  
1340 S.Germantown Rd.5:30 pm.

## 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

## **May 3 |Loch Shiel**

The dramatic and beautiful landscapes around Loch Shiel provide some of the scenic backdrop to the Harry Potter films. The area has also been a hotbed of traditional music for generations, as we learn from Mary Ann Kennedy.

## **May 10 |All Women**

We focus upon music from some of today's leading women artists, including Òran na Mnà (a Woman's song), original Gaelic compositions by Maggie MacInnes "linking the voices and feelings of women from centuries past to the present day."



## **May 17 |Singsong**

Here are the full flavours of the season in life affirming acoustic sounds from the coastal communities of the Atlantic archipelago.

## **May 24 |Clear Air**

Celtic music's beloved slow airs and laments take centre stage this week, along with songs set to these evocative melodies

## **May 31 |Anna-Wendy Stevenson**

Fiddler Anna-Wendy Stevenson is known for her work with traditional groups Anam, Fine Friday, and Caluna, but she tells us that her first inspiration was her grandfather, the classical pianist and composer Ronald Stevenson.

## **June 7 |Digital Imperfection**

Studio technology has vastly improved standards in music recording and performance. Some artists offset all the

digital perfection by mixing archive vinyl, complete with clicks and pops, into their own tracks, while others resist depending on overdubs and re-takes. More than a gimmick, it all helps us stay connected to the authentic roots of today's music.

## **June 14 |Fret Full**

Mandolin, guitar, cittern, banjo, bouzouki: the fretboards of these stringed instruments are put to good use this week by Celtic musicians from Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, and the U.S.

## **June 21 |You Cannot Be Serious**

Sad lover's laments and tragic ballads, although gorgeous, can weigh heavily on the heart. For the opposite sensation, check this week's music.

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## Plan Ahead

Here are several upcoming events you may want to include in your social plans:

**May 6 – Dead Irish Blues** plays from 4-7 at Huey’s on Madison. This favorite Celtic fusion group adds a bagpiper & bodhrán player for this show.

**May 8 – Memphis Acoustical Music Association concert - “Incendio”** at Otherlands, 641 S. Cooper, 8 pm.

**May 20 – Mid South Celtic Arts Alliance concert - “Back of the Moon”** at Café Francisco

**May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 3 – Glasgow (KY) Scottish Games & Festival.** Favorite bands Albannach & Seven Nations are joined by Need Fire. This game also features the Society for Creative Anachronism & the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser re-enactors and is the most camper-friendly Scottish festival in the region.

For more info, see [www.glasgowhighlandgames.com](http://www.glasgowhighlandgames.com) .

**June 8-9 – Greenville (SC) Scottish Games & Highland Festival.** Clan chiefs attending: Kennedy, MacMillan, Montgomery, and Sinclair. FMI, see [www.greenvillegames.org](http://www.greenvillegames.org) .

Next Monthly Meeting - May 14th - Dinner Reservations by 05/10, 725-1879 or online  
[www.memphisscots.com](http://www.memphisscots.com) - Holiday Inn , Poplar and I-240; Dinner at 6:00, Program at 7:00.

Board Meeting, Thursday, May 31st at 5:30, Perkins @ 1340 S. Germantown Rd.

## GRACE NOTES

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