

Picnic Wrap

It has come and gone as quick as a summer shower and the Scottish Society managed to have the picnic on the only day in May that it didn't rain for most of the day. How much good luck can any society have? Not to mention the location, Plum Nelly, simply one of the most delicious, comfortable places that I have ever visited. Thanks to Agnes Stark for letting us use these facilities again. Please see pictures on page 4.

So let's see what happened, upon arrival, I immediately walk around with my camera and take every picture I can until the battery dies and I have to stop. Luckily Karen English was armed with her camera and had the very same idea. Frankly, I think her pictures turned out better than mine. If we have any luck then they should both be on our website in a few days and you can see them at memphisscots.com. The next thing that seemed to be on the table was one of the best laid out potlucks I have ever attended. Thanks to all who

contributed. There was even some homemade ice cream to top it off with. Rumor has it Joe was seen praying over the machine, I am not sure what he was praying for but it worked. We got ice cream and everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.

Well, now let me think a minute. I seem to remember throwing down the gauntlet at our last monthly meeting to take on any and all challengers at horseshoes and a few bra' lads stepped up to the plate. First to accept was Clifford McWhorter, and then Joe Sellmansberger decided he would get in on the fun, and last but not least Jim Lucas joined us to make it a foursome. The stakes were high, and the results were predicted as Clifford and Sammy made short of Joe and Jim. The team of Joe and Jim decided they should change partners so Jim and myself took on Joe and Clifford in the quest for Horseshoe supremacy within the ranks of MSSS. There was actually a leaner on a leaner in a hotly debated point, but

my rationale withstood the challenges and we marched on to another victory. I believe this left my gauntlet... OK, I need some help with this one. Was my gauntlet answered, or safe, or was it not a gauntlet at all. If you can help with this one please send all written responses to srich1001@comcast.net.

In the meantime, plans are still a brewing for our Ceilidh in either the latter part of July or the early part of August. Maybe you can give me some of your preferences at our members meeting on June 8th at Jason's Deli. So dust off those vocal cords, and bring your dancing shoes, because Mary Ann has convinced me it isn't a ceilidh without dancing. Me, I like a good story, a good song, a good joke, another story, another song, a poem, etc. etc. But whatever makes the Ceilidh police happy. Your company and the talents you bring are what makes a ceilidh the most fun. Hope to see you soon. SRich



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Bits and Pieces

Thanks to Winnie & Vernon Drane for an impressive number of door prizes which have recently been distributed at our monthly members meeting. The various Scottish t-shirts and calendars hit a real high note with the lucky members who won them.

All of the members who attended the May meeting were lucky, however, because they got to experience the sculpture, music, and prose of three contemporary Scottish artists as presented by Bill Crump. Now, we all know Dr. Crump is a low-tech kind of guy, so you might wonder how he was able to give a presentation with slides and sound-tract coordinated by computer to his recitations. The credit goes to VP Sammy Rich and Webmaster Gavin Anderson. Kudos to this talented trio for what was likely the best program ever presented at one of our meetings, among many superlative presentations.

Thanks go to Sammy Rich also for passing along the tip which became our **Scottish Connection** last month on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 150th birthday. Sammy's sharp eye also provided the tip on Encyclopedia

Britannica when he noticed its symbol was a thistle and researched until he found that **Scottish Connection**. Got any similar ideas? Pass them along to the Grace Notes staff.

Be sure to check out the website panalba.com.

Bill Crump noticed that his Charter Member certificate was dated 25 years ago this month. Happy 25th, MSSI! (If you're wondering why this past Burns Nicht was the 25th, remember that the far-sighted folks who hosted that B.N. did so before the formation of the Memphis Scottish Society.)

The thoughtless and unfortunate snub of the local U.S. Marine Corps detachment's piper on Memorial Day by a Cracker Barrel manager has resulted in a grass-roots boycott of that chain. The same fracas has elevated Dixie Café to the preferred provider list. For details contact any of our Leathernecks. Most of the SAMS members know the story, too. Thanks to Ben Kemker for passing this along.

Saturday, June 6th has featured entertainment for young and old. Our friends at WKNO Channel 10 will be hosting "**Mr. Chuck's Musical Picnic**" for the weans at the campus off Getwell, and they'll be opening the event at 10 am with our favorite music, bagpipes, played by our own Ric Clausi, David Corbett, and George Malone. A bit later our friends at Celtic Crossing, 901 South Cooper at Nelson are hosting an **Oyster Fest**, with shellfish imported from Ireland. The day will offer music all day from many MSSI favorites: Need Fire, Reel McCoy, Swagger (Mark Harriman of the SallyMacs & friends), and "Celtic Bagpiper". (That Corbett lad sure gets around.)

BTW, SallyMacs are one of the featured bands at Clanjamfry. It's not too early to start planning for Clanjamfry, September 25 – 27. We'll be hosting a booth; see Board member Sue McDoniel to volunteer. The Clanjamfry folks also have plenty of spots for volunteers; see Lee Hutchison.



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



Memorial Day

This is by far the hardest of all our national holidays for me to find the words to express the love, respect and appreciation for the members of our armed forces. Not only for the sacrifices they have made in the past but for the sacrifices that will be made in the future. If I could I would list all members of the Scottish Society who have served within our pages, but I can't; I don't even know all of you. But for those of you I do know, understand this, while many of us never express our appreciation appropriately or often enough, it isn't because it isn't due or you aren't worthy, it is more often because of our own failings as individuals in a society that constantly clamors for entertainment that we fail to learn how to show the proper respect due both you and our flag.

I believe that is why I am writing this article today. With so many challenges facing us, both here and abroad, I personally find comfort in knowing that there are still those of us who truly understand the difference between the bacon and the egg. I certainly hope to be considered as one of those.

In the picture to the right you will find the ever photogenic Wolf River Pipes and Drums, playing out in front of a large American flag at the Memorial Day ceremony at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery. Apparently some people are catching on, the turnout was the biggest ever. Maybe we can join them next year, either as a group, or as individuals who want to stand up and show that we do know and understand what it means to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. A special thanks to Scripps Howard and the Commercial Appeal for providing this stunning picture!

Utah Middle School Forces Student to Change Out of Kilt

WEST HAVEN, Utah — The principal of a Utah middle school has been asked to apologize for forcing a kilt-wearing student to change his clothes.

Weber School District spokesman Nate Taggart says Craig Jessop has been asked to extend an apology to 14-year-old student Gavin McFarland of Hooper after the school official's comments Wednesday.

Gavin says he wore the kilt twice in

the past two weeks to Rocky Mountain Junior High as a prop for an art project. Jessop told the boy that the outfit could be misconstrued as cross-dressing.

Taggart says the district recognizes the kilt as an expression of the boy's Scottish heritage and that the kilt was not inappropriate.

Kilts are traditional Scottish apparel generally worn by men for formal or special occasions. Thanks to Gavin Anderson for finding this jewel.

Have You Heard?

Let's catch up on some news of our members and their families:

Our favorite Canadian, Dorothy McWhorter, recently became one of us Yanks. Yep, she has become a naturalized American citizen. Hurrah for you, Dorothy! "O-oh say, can you see..."

Young Andy Abernathie, the youngest piper in the Sgt. Singleton Pipes & Drums, has just graduated from high school. His proud da Gordon gets a few months to grin like a possum before reaching for his checkbook, as wee Andrew is off to college in the fall.

Our erstwhile-kiltmaker-cum-student-nurse Nancy has a new name: Nancy Shields. She wed the lucky Larry Shields recently. The happy couple

resides in Bartlett.

And speaking of Nancy, she's about to be a granny for the 4th time in two years. Son Ben is about to become a daddy any day now. This baby (a girl, we understand) will join cousins Bryce (Mac David), Mia (Nic Meagan), and Cooper (Mac Christie).

While lots of Scots wind their way to the Auld Country for Homecoming Scotland 2009, our globetrotting Agnes Gordon Stark, whose most recent expedition was to Iceland, is on her way to Japan. *Sayonara*, Agnes, and hurry back so we can say *kaneechiwa* to you. And by the way, *domo* for letting us have our annual spring picnic at your lovely Plum Nelly.





Clockwise from top are the horseshoe throwers with Jim Lucas in motion, with Clifford McWhorter, Sammy Rich watching diligently and Joe Sellmansberger catching a break from the grueling competition. Next is a blue-tailed lizard I managed to sneak up on. I was delighted with this one. Next is the Smoke house and the next picture is one of the corners of the smoke house and the one above it is one of the many stunning examples of plants at Plum Nelly. Let's give credit to Karen English for the horseshoe throwers and smoke house.



D-Day piper celebrated with song

A piper who played the bagpipes as the troops went ashore during the D-Day Landings has been honoured in song. Scot Bill Millin, who is now 82, has lived in Dawlish, Devon, for 40 years.

Inspired by his musical past, north Devon folk singer Sheelagh Allen has written a tune for him called *The Highland Piper*.

Mr Millin was nicknamed the Mad Piper for going ashore piping the *Highland Laddie* under the instruction of the eccentric Lord Lovat. When the offensive was launched, Scottish servicemen were among the first to land on Sword Beach at Normandy.

Lord Lovat led his commandos ashore to the skirl of the bagpipes and asked piper Millin, then aged 21, to play to rally the troops' morale.

Later the Germans claimed they did



not shoot him because they thought he must be "mad".

Lord Lovat's men went on to fight their way to Pegasus Bridge where they

met the 6th Airborne Division.

Mr Millin, whose actions have already inspired books and paintings, said he was "very honoured" to now be celebrated in Ms Allen's song.

"Unfortunately I can't play the bagpipes for her in return," he said.

Now Bill is living his passing years/in the peace of Dawlish, Devon. His memories crowd around him there/of comrades not forgotten. And we give thanks for Bill and his mates/who were part of that Longest Day. When he piped them ashore on the beaches of France/to the tune of the *Highland Laddie*.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/england/devon/4534074.stm> Published: 2005/12/16 09:21:00 GMT

Pictured below to the left is an action shot of WWI soldiers with kilts flying. The next one is the colours of the 42nd Royal Highlanders, The Black Watch.



SCOTTISH CONNECTION ?

TRUE or FALSE:

Butterscotch was first made in Edinburgh in the mid-eighteenth century.

The flavor unique to butterscotch comes from the single malt scotch used in the recipe.

Butterscotch has absolutely no connection to Scotland.

(see answers below)

Butterscotch is a type of candy whose primary ingredients are brown sugar and butter. Other ingredients such as corn syrup, cream, vanilla, and salt are typically part of the recipe also. The ingredients for butterscotch are similar to toffee; the major difference is that the sugar is boiled to the soft crack stage for butterscotch and the hard crack stage for toffee. Butterscotch sauce is often made into syrup, which is used as a topping for ice cream. The term butterscotch is also often used, such as in the names of recipes, for the flavors brown sugar and butter together where the actual

confection butterscotch is not involved, e.g. butterscotch pudding.

Food historians have several theories regarding the name and origin of this confectionery, but none are conclusive. One explanation is the meaning "to cut or score" for the word "scotch", as the candy must be cut into pieces, or "scotched", before hardening. It is also possible that the "scotch" part of its name was derived from the word "scorch".

However, the word was first recorded in Doncaster, in England, where, in 1817, Samuel Parkinson began making a buttery brittle toffee. Parkinson's Butterscotch was one of Doncaster's most famous exports and the Royal highlight of the St. Leger race week. For many years the company carried the Royal seal of approval. The Parkinson family ran the business until 1893 when it was sold to Samuel Balmforth. It was incorporated as a limited company in 1912. In 1961 the company was acquired by

the Holland's Confectionery Group. The business ceased production in 1977. The recipe was revived in 2003 when a Doncaster businessman and his wife rediscovered the recipe on an old folded piece of paper inside one of the famous St. Leger tins in their cellar. Parkinson's Doncaster Butterscotch Ltd. was formed, and is now producing and trading butterscotch made to this original recipe. It sells the product all over the world.

In 2007, 190 years since its first association with the St. Leger, the Doncaster Racecourse was completely rebuilt and reopened by the Princess Royal who in keeping with the tradition was presented with butterscotch supplied by the new Parkinson's Doncaster Butterscotch Company.

FYI, the answers to the T/F questions are: 1. False, 2. False, and 3. True. There is absolutely no Scottish connection between Butterscotch and Scotland!

HOW TO CALL THE POLICE

George Phillips, an elderly man, from Meridian, Mississippi, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to go turn off the light, but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me.

Then the police dispatcher said

"All patrols are busy.. You should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available." George said, "Okay." He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot them." and he hung up. Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic, and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence, and caught the

burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!" George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

(True Story) I LOVE IT! -- Don't mess with old people

Live well, laugh often, love much!!!



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.

Sundays

NEAC Pipes and Drums
1:30-4:00
First Presbyterian Church;
Southwest Dr
Jonesboro, AR exit 45

Monday, June 8

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli @
Poplar & Highland
For directions call 757-4200 or
memphisscots.com.
6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program:
Bud Hisky "The Royal Stuarts"

Thursday, June 25

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

Scottish - Celtic RadioShows

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

June 4: Reunion (Part 1)

The ten-day Perthshire Amber
Festival always brings together
musicians from across the world
that have connections with Dougie
MacLean. Fiona Ritchie hosted a
festival gathering between former



members of legendary bands Os-
sian, Silly Wizard and the Tanna-
hill Weavers. Enjoy their memories
and the music they share.

June 11: Reunion (Part 2)

The ten-day Perthshire Amber
Festival always brings together
musicians from across the world
that have connections with Dougie
MacLean. Hear more highlights
from Fiona Ritchie's festival chat
with legendary band members from
Ossian, Silly Wizard and the Tan-
nahill Weavers, along with music
they have made along the way.

June 18: One, Two...

Enjoy this hour dedicated to some
of the great solo artists and duos

whose craft is uncluttered, crystal
clear acoustic music.

June 25: ...and Three

In guitar, fiddle, accordion trios
and other three-way instrumental
combinations you can really hear
the interplay between artists. This
hour features classic and newly
formed musical threesomes weav-
ing their melodies and rhythms
together in an intoxicating blend.

July 2: A Broader Canvas

We shift the spotlight away from
Scottish and Irish music this week
to illuminate the rich traditions of
Cornwall, the Isle of Man, Galicia,
Asturias, Wales and Brittany.



This lovely picture was taken by our one and only English lady, Karen English, who by the way was the first winner of our Scottish words and meanings puzzle presented at a recent monthly meeting. Is there something wrong with this? Of course not, it just goes to prove the good sense of at least one English person! Thanks Karen for the really nice pictures.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, June 8th
Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland
Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Bud Hisky "The Royal Stuarts"
Regular Board Meeting, June 25th at 5:45 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran -
2000 N. Germantown Parkway

GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

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