



January 2010

# Saltire Sentinel

The Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond, Inc.  
PO Box 3972, Glen Allen Virginia 23058, [www.standrewssociety.org](http://www.standrewssociety.org)

*If you are receiving this newsletter through the United States Postal Service, it means we do not have an accurate or valid email address. Please email us at <mailto:Board@StAndrewsSociety.org> with your correct address so that we may save money on postage.*

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## Calendar

### January 9, 2010 Saturday:

#### SASR Hogmanay

Time: 7:00 pm for cocktails at cash bar  
dinner at 7:30 pm

Place: Sheraton Richmond West Hotel  
6624 West Broad Street,  
Richmond, VA 23230  
[www.sheraton.com/richmondwest](http://www.sheraton.com/richmondwest)

Includes: Piper, Haggis, DJ Music,  
Ceilidh Dance, Silent Auction,  
Live Auction

### January 22, 2010 Friday:

#### Concert

The Band of the Irish Guards and the Royal Regiment of Scotland will perform at the Carpenter Theatre. Tickets are \$18-36 from Ticket master. Visit [modlin.richmond.edu](http://modlin.richmond.edu) for more information or call 804-289-8980

### January 22, 2010 Friday:

#### Concert

*Iona*, a Celtic folk music group, will be in concert at In Your Ear, Studio A, 1813 East Broad St. (19th and E. Broad in Shockoe Bottom) Richmond, VA. Doors open at 6:30 PM, Music starts at 7:30 PM. *Iona* has been described as "...acoustic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany (France), the Isle of Man,

Asturies and Galicia (Spain), as well as their transplants in America. Blending songs, dance tunes, and aires into a rich and stunning tapestry...". More information at [www.jaminc.org](http://www.jaminc.org).

### January 23, 2010 Saturday: Burns Night hosted by VSGPD.

Starts at 6:30 for cocktail hour. The event is BYOB. Price \$25.00 a person with reservations recommended. Contact [Amanda Scholte](mailto:Amanda.Scholte) for more information.

### February 10, 2010 Wednesday: SASR Regular Meeting

We meet at the Church of the Holy Comforter (Monument Ave. at Staples Mill Rd.) We gather at 6:30 p.m. to socialize and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. *The Celtic Buffet will be there, as usual, so please bring a dessert or an appetizer to share.*

This evening's presentation will be on Scottish Drumming by members of the Virginia Scots Guard pipe band.

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The doorbell rang, and McTavish discovered a man complete with a large box of tools, on the doorstep.

"I'm the bagpipe tuner."

"But ah didnae send for a bagpipe tuner," protested McTavish.

"No, but your neighbors did."

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You can email the Officers and Board at <mailto:mBoard@StAndrewsSociety.org>. Each of the officers can be directly emailed at [President@...](mailto:President@...) [VicePresident@...](mailto:VicePresident@...) [Secretary@...](mailto:Secretary@...) and [Treasurer@...](mailto:Treasurer@...)

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Q. What do you call someone who hangs out with pipers?

A. A piper!

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## President's Notes



First things first – from myself and all the board members, we wish You and Yours a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I really hope I can follow this up formally with a warm Scottish handshake at our Annual “Hogmany” dinner/dance on Saturday.

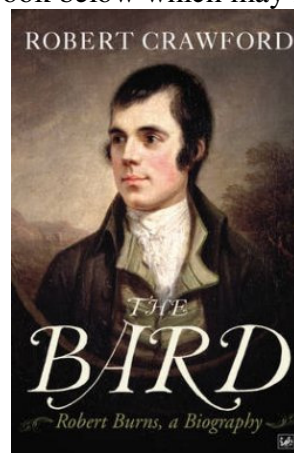
I chose the photo above, taken in the UK a few weeks ago, because apart from the fun Scottish Nessie theme, after 7 years in Virginia I realised that like the Lowlands of Scotland it is unusual to have snow on Christmas Day here. So, the chances of there being snow in both my garden here and my mother's garden there are some pretty long odds and anyway - it made me smile.

I hope everyone had a nice Christmastime and perhaps enjoyed in the practice of giving – in whatever form. I was given a Wii Sports DVD so I guess if I get started on it now I might actually get into that Kilt next week (Does anyone know why they make kilts from that material that shrinks over time – baffling!).

On behalf of everyone who attended our December “Restaurant” Night I want to take

this opportunity to thank Lennie and her “incognito” singing partners Trish, Tippy and Cheryl for their fantastic Holiday harmonies and musical merriment. I'd never noticed the song “Santa Baby” before and now I've blushed every time I've heard it (5 times since that night) - If you were at the meeting then you know what I mean.

Now, don't forget to have Haggis (let me know if you want to order some) and a wee Dram on the 25<sup>th</sup> for Burn's Birthday. And, on the subject of Burn's, I found a note from the Press Office at University of St. Andrew's about the book below which may interest you.



Described as an 'outstanding', 'searching and sensitive' biography in the *New York Review of Books*, Professor Crawford's critically acclaimed biography of Robert Burns was praised by the judges as "a book that takes poetry and looks at it with a poet's eye and a poet's ear."

In closing, we hope you are enjoying the content of the newsletters as we try to include a range of topics with Scottish connection hopefully capturing some interest for everyone. However, help us out by contributing what you can.

Yours & Aye for Scotland,  
Bill Cooper

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Two Scots were staggering home one star-filled night after spending some hours in the pub.

"Is that the sun or the moon up there?" asked one.

"Ah widnae know" replied the other, "ah'm no' fae aroon these parts."

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### David R. Ross (1958 – 2010)



David at statue of William Wallace  
Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, MD

It is with great sadness that I have to include this piece in our newsletter. David passed away on 2<sup>nd</sup> January in Scotland. A lot of you knew David, some for many years and some meeting him for the first time at our October meeting when Susan coordinated for David to address our Society just before he headed back home across the Atlantic. He was immense as usual that night with humour, history, weaponry and music - playing guitar and singing his favourite "I'm Coming Home". On their request he even obliged the ladies on the front row of our meeting by posing for a picture of his knees/thighs.... oo-er missus. And then he was pushing Dianthia around the hall trying to knock over the Presidents past and present.

For those who didn't know David he was the larger than life "biker"/historian and author with a passion for Scotland that would be hard to rival. His books on Scotland, Scottish history, Robert the Bruce, Bonnie Prince Charlie, William Wallace and The Black Douglas have become a "must read" for many of our members. He had just sent his latest book – about Scottish Women - to his publisher at the end of November.

Of all of David's work and words I hope he doesn't mind that my tribute to him is to pick some of his writings which are relevant to most of our membership here in Virginia. He had decided that he should be learning more about American history whilst he was here and so the following is an extract from an entry he wrote at home in July last year 2009.

Enjoy and I do not apologise for the length of the article.

RIP "Big Man" - as we say in Scotland

Bill Cooper

““I was six weeks in the States, and I decided that on this trip I should make an effort to immerse myself in American history. Seems only right, when I'm espousing Scottish history to Americans, that I should at least know their story. Have read several in depth books on the matter-but using exactly the same criteria as I do in Scotland, I really need to get out into the land itself and walk over the sites where extra-ordinary events took place and immerse myself in them to really understand them.

I know quite a lot about the American War of Independence, where they severed from British rule. (Well done!) So it was time to really get to understand the Civil War. As I was based in Richmond, Virginia, I was right in the middle of the thick of things.

Visits to relevant places during every spare minute became the norm. The Museum of the Confederacy and the Civil War Museum in Richmond. A visit to Chimborazo, the military

hospital. All the fields where the Seven Days Battles took place. Standing in the little clearing at Cold Harbor where 7,000 Union boys died in the first six minutes of the charge against the entrenched Confederate positions.

I stood in that space in the trees where so many lives were lost, and had the place to myself, sun beams filtering through and bird song, in a place where absolute carnage had once rained.

Hollywood Cemetery and the myriad of graves. Gaines Mill and the turtles in the creek, and even turtles in the trees above the water-not an everyday sight in Scotland!

At Guinea Station I was shown the bed that Stonewall Jackson died upon. At the Burnett Place in Pennsylvania I visited the house where General Johnston surrendered and finished the War. A tour round the many, many miles of the defences around Petersburg. With the replica of the 'Dictator'-the huge mortar that shelled the town being something I really wanted to see, especially as it stands 'in situ' of the original. The earthworks are still pretty much in evidence, and many cannon are still on site for many miles round the town.

But I got to see something I've always wanted to see, and that was the place where the Battle of the Crater took place. Many miners among the Union troops reckoned they could tunnel under the Confederate positions, and pack the mine with gunpowder and blow the opposition to Kingdom Come. So mine they did, and dug a tunnel 511 feet long with several chambers on the end. Four tons of explosive were put in place, and the troops were instructed that when the explosion occurred (although nobody was sure it that the efforts would either explode or work!) they had to charge through the Confederate lines and on to Petersburg.

The explosion was bigger and more devastating than anyone imagined, and as the dust cleared the Union troops surged forward.

Unfortunately they did not run round the rim of the resultant crater, they ran into it, but its sides were so steep that they could not get back out its

thirty foot sides. The Confederates soon recovered their composure, and realising that the Yankees were trapped, it became a 'turkey shoot' with them merely firing into the mass below. To give you an idea of the mayhem, the last 1,100 in the bottom of the hole surrendered, leaving many times that number dead.

I stood on the edge of the crater and cast back my mind. Then I walked to the Yankee positions and looked at the remains of the entrance to the mine. And the most surprising thing about all this? At nearly all these places I never saw another soul. Just the spirits of those boys who died a century and a half ago were there with me. I did circular walks of various fields, got to stand on the exact spots where Robert E. Lee had stood several times, and never saw another person.

Back at the accommodation, I told Jamesie from Albannach about the stuff I had seen that particular day, and especially the details of the 'Crater'. As he listened, he told me that this sounded exactly like the opening twenty minutes or so of the movie 'Cold Mountain'. So when I first got home, I bought the movie for the princely sum of £3 out of my local music store, and settled down to watch it. They captured the events of the Battle of the Crater perfectly. Spot on in fact.

One of the other wee revelations was during the visit to the Museum of the Civil War. As I turned one corner I was confronted by the Flag of Scotland, our beloved Saltire, the diagonal cross of St. Andrew, facing me from a glass case. The men of Arkansas had flown it during the Civil War. The south was partly settled by many incoming Scots of course, especially the Carolinas, with many Scots point of entry being Cape Fear. Strangely, it is reckoned that the word Yankee may be from the same source as the French 'Anglais'-meaning English.

And like the attitude of the Highlands of Scotland after the Battle of Culloden in 1746, where the Jacobite failure was said to be a 'Lost Cause', I have seen this same term used for the ambitions of the south after the Civil War.

The men of the south knew the flag of the Confederacy as the “St. Andrew’s Cross”, interestingly enough.

The tour was a good one, culminating in my fourth year at Grandfather Mountain. When I started attending, there were many Union Flags on display, and God Save the Queen was sung at the opening ceremony. I am glad to say that no Union Flags were on display this year, and that above mentioned anthem, so offensive to Scots, was not sung.

“Rebellious Scots for us to crush, God Save the Queen”, run the lyrics, just in case you didn’t know!

I hope my influence has been productive. These games and events are Scottish occasions, and these are no place for symbols of foreign interference to be on show.

No animal attacks on this tour that I can recall, which is strange for me! Nearly stood on a snake in Pennsylvania, but I had no idea if it was dangerous or not. I was the recipient of some outstanding hospitality, and my heartfelt thanks go out to Karen from Texas, Heather (nice house!!), Liz as always, and Suzan and Donnie at Grandfather showed me what legendary southern hospitality is all about.

Its always a learning process, and I realise that there are wide gulfs sometimes in what Scots think is acceptable behaviour, compared to that of our north American friends. Listening to the Scots round about me puts it into perspective. For instance, if someone is singing badly out of tune, a Scot will remark, not really out of earshot of others, “if that does not stop, I’m going to go over and kick him till he is soggy”. Now I don’t really believe that this is going to take place, and the Scot concerned is unlikely to rise from his seat, but I have seen Americans take this information as literal, and look somewhat alarmed!

The best I can say regarding this, is a new slogan. “We Scots are not necessarily violent-we just like to vent!”

I might even have that printed on a t-shirt.””

## Susan Boyle wins Top Scot award at Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards

By Tim Cornwell

The great and the good of the Scottish nation gathered in Edinburgh to celebrate the cream of Scottish talent at the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards.



Among those who received awards were actor Peter Capaldi and author Ian Rankin, while global overnight sensation Susan Boyle was named Top Scot of the Year. In winning the title, the miner's daughter from West Lothian joins a roll call of famous names, from Harry Potter author JK Rowling to last year's winner, Sir Chris Hoy.

Ronald Ross, dubbed "Ronaldo of the Glens" for his prowess in the quintessentially Scottish game of shinty – including scoring 1,000 senior career goals – won the sports award. He squeezed out contenders such as Catriona Matthew, the North Berwick golfer who is the first Scot to win the Women's British Open Golf Championship.

Judges in the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Awards, organised with The Scotsman as media partner, picked nominees in eight areas: : business; art; food; sport; music; screen; environment and writing.

In a measure of her surging stardom, singer Boyle was unable to attend the ceremony at Edinburgh's Prestonfield House Hotel as she was in Paris last night, promoting her album – part of a hectic string of appearances from New York to Germany and Australia.

The winners are chosen from the nominees by a public vote, and the Top Scot award is decided by an open vote. "Congratulations to Susan Boyle and all the winners," said Mr McLellan. "I'm sure she will look back on this year with a huge sense of satisfaction, but also of astonishment. If ever

there was a story of the triumph of hope, this is it."

### AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Top Scot - Susan Boyle  
Screen – Peter Capaldi  
– Ian Rankin  
Art – Nicky & Robert Wilson –  
Jupiter Artland  
Business – Richard Dixon –  
Vets Now  
Environment - Mike Robinson –  
Stop Climate Chaos Scotland  
Food – Pete Gottgens –  
Ardeonaig  
Music – John McCusker  
Sport – Ronald Ross, Shinty

Writing

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## Scotland's oldest book: A pocket-sized piece of historical dynamite

By FIONA MACLEOD

For decades it has lain in the vaults of a Scottish university library, seen by only a handful of scholars.



**The 11th-century collection of psalms on display in Edinburgh was likely produced by monks on Iona and is described as 'a riot of colour'.**

But Scotland's oldest book – a handwritten illuminated collection of psalms – goes on display to the public for the first time in more than 40 years. The 11th-century pocket psalter was painstakingly written out by hand, most likely for the private devotions of a wealthy aristocrat.

Described as Scotland's version of the celebrated Book of Kells in Dublin, the priceless manuscript

has illuminations in vivid green, red, purple and gold, and the script – the psalms in Latin – is still bold and clear.

The University of Edinburgh has held the book in its collection since the early 17th century. But now it will form the centrepiece of an exhibition of literary gems in the university library's refurbished Exhibition Room on the ground floor of the Basil Spence-designed building in George Square.

Edinburgh University's rare book librarian Joseph Marshall said: "It is a riot of colour. You would think someone had gone over it with a felt-tip pen."

Andrew Grout, in charge of special collections at the university, said it is not known for sure who made or previously owned the book. "We don't know who commissioned it, but it would have been someone very important. "It could have been a royal, possibly Queen Margaret."

He said the text was so rare, it was impossible to say how much it was worth. "It is always difficult to value something which is unique and things like this come up at auction very rarely," he said.

Specially designed display cabinets with controlled environments have been purchased in Italy to exhibit the precious books. And a security system, which includes a lock-down procedure if there is a breach, has been installed to protect the priceless collection.

The exhibition, Masterpieces 1, runs to 14 March from 10am to 5pm on Monday-Saturday and 12-5pm on Sundays.

### THE SPINE OF A GREAT COLLECTION

Among the books on show is a 1567 translation of John Knox's Book of Common Order, the only copy in Scotland of what is the first book printed in any of the Gaelic languages.

Scotland's first substantial printed book, the Aberdeen Breviary, commissioned by William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen, to give Scotland its own distinctive liturgy, and printed in 1509-10.

A very rare copy of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, published during the dramatist's lifetime, along with a beautifully illuminated manuscript of the works of the Roman poet Virgil, made in Paris in the first half of the 15th century.

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## Bereavement

### Eric Michael Rapp

4/25/68 – 1/3/10



Chris Rapp's brother passed away 3<sup>rd</sup> January at home with his family by his side, after a courageous battle against melanoma. Please keep Michael's wife of 15 years, Susan, Chris, Bessie and all the Rapp family in your thoughts and prayers.

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## Star of "It's a Wonderful Life" backs bid to refurbish Cameo

By BRIAN FERGUSON

She was the child actress who claimed a starring role in arguably the most quintessential Christmas film of all time.



**The Cameo Cinema shows It's A Wonderful Life every Christmas**

Now Karolyn Grimes – who starred alongside James Stewart as Zuzu Bailey as a six-year-old in

Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life" – has agreed to help a restoration appeal being run by a historic Scottish cinema. Grimes, whose character had one of the famous closing lines in the film, has penned a personal tribute to the Cameo Cinema in Edinburgh for its efforts to keep showing the classic tear-jerker every festive season. Her letter, which is being reproduced in programmes is being used to promote the £250,000 appeal launched to refurbish the cinema rescued from being turned into a bar and restaurant.

Staff at the Cameo tracked down Grimes, one of the few surviving cast members, to her home in Washington after hearing that she was still in contact with fans of the film. They told her they were keen to make "It's a Wonderful Life", which has been screened at the Cameo every Christmas since 1997, one of the centrepiece movies of the cinema's 60th anniversary celebrations, which have already attracted the backing of big-name directors Ken Loach and Quentin Tarantino.

Zuzu Bailey is the youngest daughter of the film's central character George, played by James Stewart, whose imminent suicide on Christmas Eve is halted by the intervention of a guardian angel trying to secure his wings. Born in Hollywood in 1940, Grimes starred in 16 movies after making her debut in "That Night With You" aged just four.

Her Hollywood career was cut short in her teens when her mother died from Alzheimer's disease and her father was killed in a car accident. After being adopted by her aunt, she went on to become a medical technician. Grimes, 69, also worked with the likes of John Wayne, Cary Grant, Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye during her seven-year film career.

Grimes stated "I am so happy for those lucky patrons who have been given the opportunity to discover this film and can watch it on the big screen in a lovely, historic setting every Christmas Eve. The movie is timeless and it applies to yesterday, today and tomorrow. It is about how each man's life touches another. The movie gives hope and inspiration."

## Gallery admits portrait isn't Bonnie Prince Charlie

By MARK SMITH

It has become the "official" portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie, regarded by the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography as the best likeness of the Jacobite hero.



But now, in an embarrassing climbdown, the National Galleries of Scotland has admitted that the painting is not of Charles Edward Stuart at all. The portrait, by the French master Maurice-Quentin La Tour, has hung with pride in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery since 1994.

A row has been rumbling on for two years over the work after London art dealer Bendor Grosvenor claimed it was not of Bonnie Prince Charlie, but his younger brother Henry. Initially, the gallery stoutly defended its painting from attack, insisting it was definitely of the prince and citing Stuart portrait expert Dr Edward Corp of the University of Toulouse in its defence.

Now, however, Dr Corp has changed his mind. The fact the sitter was wearing armour had seemed to point to Charles – Henry was a cardinal, and would not have been pictured in military garb. But Dr Corp has discovered that at the time the portrait was made, Henry was leading a naval expedition in support of his brother and had not yet been made a cardinal – so he could well have posed in armour.

He also concluded that the painting is an almost exact likeness of another portrait of Henry. He said: "The weight of evidence – perhaps regrettably – supports Bendor Grosvenor's argument that the pastel in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery shows Prince Henry rather than Prince Charles.

However, in a recent article for the British Art Journal, Dr Corp re-considers this position. "In

the light of this development, we have reassessed our own position and, on balance, accept that it is more likely that our pastel depicts Prince Henry Benedict, and not his elder brother."

British Art Journal editor Robin Simon said: "There is no doubt at all. But it's rare that anything is so spectacularly wrong."

The 5ft-tall pastel of the man in armour came to be seen as a classic image of the prince. Charles, also known as the Young Pretender, was the elder son of the Old Pretender, James Edward Stuart, and the grandson of James II and VII. He fled into exile after his forces were defeated at Culloden.

### Dead ringer: Charlie's brother sat for artist

The detective work started after a painting called Portrait of a Cardinal was auctioned in London from the collection of St Mary's Roman Catholic College. It was bought by London dealers Philip Mould. After cleaning it and comparing it with other pictures, it was identified as a lost portrait of Henry. Bendor Grosvenor, a director of the firm, became convinced it was a copy of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery's pastel. "It was a dead ringer. He compared the details of his portrait of a cardinal with this La Tour pastel. It was a brilliant thing to have done," said Robin Simon, editor of the British Art Journal.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart's brother, Prince Henry Benedict, was born five years after Charles in 1725. He was known as the Duke of York or Cardinal York until his brother's death in 1788, when he claimed the title of Henry IX. Unlike Charles, Henry never attempted to seize the throne or challenge the Hanoverian rule of Britain. After the failure of the Jacobites in 1746, Henry embarked on a career in the upper echelons of the Catholic Church, being created a cardinal by his godfather, Pope Benedict XIV, in June 1747. This move, however, in addition to the seizure of his property by the French, led him into poverty.

The British minister in Venice arranged an annuity of £4,000 from King George III of Great Britain, which was portrayed as an act of charity. Henry returned to Frascati, near Rome, in 1803, becoming the Dean of the College of Cardinals and hence Cardinal Bishop of Ostia and Velletri. He died on 13 July, 1807, at the age of 82.

## Chuffed to have you home, big man



**Locomotive 3007, a 179-tonne class 15F built in 1944, has been returned from South Africa for restoration.**

By ALASTAIR DALTON

It was nearly 200 tonnes of proudly built, but rusting, Glasgow steam engineering about to be shipped to China and turned into cars. However, this massive locomotive was rescued from a South African railway siding and has been returned to its home city on a perilous journey by rail and sea.

Restoration work has started on the class 15F monster as part of a £300,000 project to make it the centrepiece of Glasgow's new Riverside Museum.

The engine was chosen to epitomise the tens of thousands of Glasgow-built locomotives exported across the world. Three of more than 200 built in the city are still running on South African heritage railways. It was built in 1944 at the North British Locomotive Company's Queen's Park works in Polmadie – the largest in Europe – before being shipped in pieces and assembled near Cape Town.

The locomotive's sheer scale – 74ft long, 13ft high and 179 tonnes – was required to haul heavy trains over the country's vast distances and rugged terrain.

The seven-month restoration will include replacing brass piping stripped from the locomotive while it languished in a Bloemfontein siding for 18 years after a crash.

The cost of the museum, designed by the Iraq-born architect Zaha Hadid, increased in 2007 from £57 million to £74m because of inflation and design problems. It is being funded by the city council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. A public appeal to raise the remaining £5m required is more than half way towards its total.

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## Notes from the Editor, Jeff Kelso

We send the Saltire Sentinel by email since using USPS cost us over \$0.50 per member (postage and printing) while email does not cost us a cent (and we are Scottish!). The only real problem is that some emails are being bounced by members' email servers or are not being read because it is going to an old email address.

Please add [News@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:News@StAndrewsSociety.org) to your trusted contacts list in your email program so that we won't get "bounced". That is the only email address that we use for sending general emails to our membership.

If you have several email addresses (you don't want to know how many email accounts I have ... let's just say it is several dozen at last count!), then please let us know your preferred email address (send it to our email box above).

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## Contributions Please!

Please send any articles, music/book reviews, jokes, recipes or information on upcoming events (of a Celtic nature) to **Editor** at [News@StAndrewsSociety.org](mailto:News@StAndrewsSociety.org) or P.O. Box 3972, Glen Allen, VA 23058, **by the end of January for the February issue. This is your St. Andrew's Society newsletter . . . so please send something you would like to see in it!** Thank you!

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A scot went to the doctor. "Jist look at this, doctor," he said, "ah cannae get ma hauns tae stop shaking."

"Do you drink much whisky?" asked the doctor.

"No' any more. Ah spill most o'it!"