

Memphis Scottish Society Inc., Board

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GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Vol. 41 No. 4 • April 2025

President's Letter

s the median age of Scottish Society members rises, it becomes more and more important for all of us to remember who we are, why we're on this earth, and why we have formed our friendship bonds within this group.

America and the world have been through a very rough patch, and some of us are individually in the midst of serious challenges. Some of us have exercised remarkable determination to continue to be active and mobile, but are finding that those days are now in the past.

One former member, Robert Hawks, is really struggling right now in rehab, with few resources and even fewer options. Someone kindly established a *gofundme* account for him. Encouragingly, it's passed the halfway mark, and we would just encourage anyone who isn't struggling themselves to do what they can. Those of us in officer roles are continuing to push forward, even with challenges such as cancer, Parkinson's, epic orthopedic surgery, hearing loss, and other serious ailments. As the Society's spokesman, I'm encouraging all of us — with our diverse lives — to become even closer in friendship and caring for our fellow members.

Updates on festivals and events: May weekends games (i.e. multiple weekends) at **Gwen Castle** in Middle Tennessee (visible from I-840). **The Rosemark Tennessee Historical Festival** (about which I called several of you on the telephone) has now been postponed until November, with no details known at this time.

Please help us keep this group together and to become even more close-knit. I appreciate all of you.



~ Debbie Sellmansberger, President

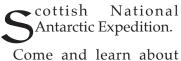
Tennessee Tartan. Created by the Heart of Tennessee, Scottish Celebration as a State tartan. Passed by Tennessee Public Acts 1999, Chapter No.82, Senate Bill No. 73. The source of the tartan 2526 was: Bill Bickford of the Tennessee Tartan Committee.

Notice to Program Presenters:

ohn Schultz requests that 5-7 days before the meeting you e-mail a KeyNote or PowerPoint file to *jfschultz1948@yahoo.com*. This is to allow time to incorporate the presentation into a full meeting presentation and to check out any issues. Otherwise there won't be a projector.

Member Meeting

Topic is:



Scottish explorer **William Speirs Bruce** and the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition (SNAE) he led from 1902-1904. Upon the many accomplishments, we will learn of the establishment of the 1st manned meteorological station in Antarctica.



~ John Bair

Blezher

- **Meaning:** "Blether" is a lighthearted Scottish word that describes a chat or talk, typically long-winded or about inconsequential matters.
- Usage: You might use it to describe a pleasant conversation with friends, as in, "We had a good blether over coffee".

Scottish Action Figures

id you know that you can use ChatGPT to make a toy *action figure* of yourself?

Simply load the image you want to use, and ask it to make an action figure, or tell it you want it to make a Mattel[®] action figure, and it will show it in a package.

For the one pictured here, I uploaded a picture from a half marathon I did earlier this year, in which I played for the runners starting the race (and made the local news), played at every aid station along the route, and played "Scotland the Brave" crossing the finish line.







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 it electronically to gracenotes@memphisscots.com. Grace Notes will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the fourth week of each month preceding the month of publication. Due to time constraints, the editor cannot accept handwritten submissions. EDITORIAL STAFF

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to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish

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GRACE NOTES

The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. gracenotes@memphisscots.com P.O. Box 383092 Germantown, TN 38183

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Memphis Pipe Band

Mondays 6:00 - 9:30 pm Kenny Hiner, Pipe Major 901-616-1564 *info@MemphisPipeBand.com www.memphispipeband.com*

Phoenix Pipe Band

Douglas Dauson, Pipe Major ddauson@gmail.com www.phoenixpipeband.org Collierville Pipes and Drums

Kenny Hiner, Pipe Major 901-616-1564 www.colliervillepipesanddrums.com

Memphis Scottish Country Dancers

Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm Riveroaks Reformed Presbyterian Church 1665 S. Germantown Road Contact: John Schultz 901-359-4900

Memphis Scottish Society General Meeting

Third Monday of the month 6 pm to eat, 7 pm for meeting Perkins Restaurant 1340 S. Germantown Pkwy.

Board Meeting

Last Monday of the month at 7:15 pm Via ZOOM

A Burns Poem for April

obert Burns' poem "To a Mountain Daisy," written in April 1786, is a fitting choice for the month, as it reflects on the beauty and fragility of nature, particularly a humble flower, as the plow turns the soil.

To a Mountain Daisy

On Turning One Down with the Plow, in April, 1786

Wee, modest, crimson-tippèd flow'r, Thou's met me in an evil hour; For I maun crush amang the stoure Thy slender stem: To spare thee now is past my pow'r, Thou bonie gem.

Alas! it's no thy neibor sweet, The bonie lark, companion meet, Bending thee 'mang the dewy weet Wi' spreck'd breast, When upward-springing, blythe, to greet The purpling east.

Cauld blew the bitter-biting north Upon thy early, humble birth; Yet cheerfully thou glinted forth Amid the storm, Scarce rear'd above the parent-earth Thy tender form.

The flaunting flowers our gardens yield High shelt'ring woods an' wa's maun shield: But thou, beneath the random bield O' clod or stane, Adorns the histie stibble-field Unseen, alane. There, in thy scanty mantle clad, Thy snawie-bosom sun-ward spread, Thou lifts thy unassuming head In humble guise; But now the share uptears thy bed, And low thou lies!

Such is the fate of artless maid, Sweet flow'ret of the rural shade! By love's simplicity betray'd And guileless trust; Till she, like thee, all soil'd, is laid Low i' the dust.

Such is the fate of simple bard, On life's rough ocean luckless starr'd! Unskilful he to note the card Of prudent lore, Till billows rage and gales blow hard, And whelm him o'er!

Such fate to suffering Worth is giv'n, Who long with wants and woes has striv'n, By human pride or cunning driv'n To mis'ry's brink; Till, wrench'd of ev'ry stay but Heav'n, He ruin'd sink!

Ev'n thou who mourn'st the Daisy's fate, That fate is thine—no distant date; Stern Ruin's ploughshare drives elate, Full on thy bloom, Till crush'd beneath the furrow's weight Shall be thy doom.





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