



The Porridge Pot



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CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE MANOR

December 4th was the date of the SAS Christmas Party. Alan & Jan Johnson and Curt & Sue Johnson planned a festive evening with food catered by HyVee and delicious home-made desserts (see recipe for one of the treats printed below). There was a short business meeting during which Bill Sterba was re-elected as vice president and Jim Dougherty agreed to serve as our new membership chairperson. Many thanks to Gale Hoff for all her hard work for several years as membership chair. The office of treasurer is currently an open position. Judy Hawthorne will stay on as interim treasurer. For the 2015 events the following have agreed to take a leadership role in the planning: Tartan Day and St. Andrew's Day - Derek Grant; Beltane - Ty Thomson and Stancliffs; tent at the Celtic Festival - Hoffs and Board members; Samhain - Hawthornes; Christmas Party - Johnsons & Johnsons. Anyone else interested is encouraged to contact a Board member. Help is especially needed at the Celtic Festival/Highland Games.

Mrs. McBain's Shortbread

1 cup butter

1/2 cup sugar

2 1/2 cups sifted flour
salt

Creme butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add flour and a pinch of salt. Mix well and press evenly into a square pan. Prick with fork. Bake at 325 degrees until pale golden. Cool slightly in pan and cut in squares.

THRU THE STONES

On December 6th at the River Center in Davenport, over 300 people from 29 states attended the "Thru the Stones" event during which there were numerous workshops and classes, a Scottish luncheon and dinner, and vendors. Deb Ford, a florist from Orion, IL, took her enjoyment of the books from "The Outlander" series by Diana Gabaldon to a different level and planned this event for other fans of the books (and, now, it's even a TV series on Starz). The author and one of the stars of the TV series, Graham McTavish, were present

during the day and for the dinner. SAS had an informational table and served haggis at the luncheon, Bill Hawthorne displayed and sold his Scottish artwork - as well as teaching a class on Scottish castles, and Blackhawk Pipes & Drums received a standing ovation for their performance at the dinner.

ROBERT BURNS CELEBRATION

The Radisson QC Plaza was the place to be on January 24th if you wanted to enjoy good Scottish music (provided by Don Estes & the Green Trees Ensemble and our Blackhawk Pipes & Drums), a delicious dinner, and the company of lots of people running around in kilts! The usual pageantry was observed, including the piping in of the haggis, with a rousing rendition of "The Address to the Haggis" by Derek Grant. Our own homemade haggis was prepared on January 10 by a team of members. Bill Hawthorne's Scottish-themed artwork added to the beauty of the space as did Ty Thomson's decorations. Gale and Ian Baker from Rampant Lion in Elmhurst, IL provided Celtic items for sale. Our emcee, Darren Low, kept the group entertained as well. There was a very successful silent auction, which helped cover expenses since we try to keep the cost as low as possible for this event. "Flowers of the Forest" (members who have passed this past year) were Elaine Lass and Chick Thomson. Chick was one of the founding members of SAS and his wonderful Glaswegian accent and joyful participation in the group will be missed by all. Be sure to put January 23, 2016 at the Radisson on your calendars for next year's Burns Celebration! Anyone with ideas i.e. forms of publicity is a challenge, and willingness to help is encouraged to join the committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tartan Day & Beltane

April 6 is the date for Tartan Day and the Beltane Potluck Picnic at Duck Creek Park, Davenport, will be Tuesday, May 19. Mark your calendars now - you will be sent a reminder postcard with details and times.





Photo from St. Andrew's dinner, Christmas party, Haggis making, and Burns Night. Photos by Bill Craig, Sue Grant, and Judy Hawthorne.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN SOCIETY

c/o Sue Grant
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Davenport, IA 52803

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

2015 UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6 - Tartan Day, location TBA
May 19 - Beltane Potluck Picnic, Duck Creek Park, Davenport
September 18 & 19 - Celtic Festival/Highland Games,
Centennial Park, Davenport
October - Samhain Potluck, 4404 Royal Oaks Dr., Davenport
November 30 - St. Andrew's Day, location TBA
December - Christmas Party, The Manor, Bettendorf

WEBPAGE HELP WANTED

If you have skills that could help the Board in creating a website, please contact anyone on the Board. We would like to be able to use a website as a means of communicating better with anyone who might be interested in the group.

WELCOME

New members (some joined at the Burns Night) and returning members:

Dr. Bob & Mary Jo Godwin	Bill & Norma Good
Thomas Harper	Henry & Sharon Marquard
Mirian & David Mock	Thomas & Barbara Montgomery
William & Michelle Sinclair	Beth Stone
Kerry & Judy Sullivan	Kris & Jill Yates



HIGHLAND DANCE

Seann Truibhas (pronounced Sean Trews)
Did you know this is known as the ballet of highland dance. After the English took over Scotland in 1746, they enforced an "Act of Proscription," a law banning the carrying of guns, wearing of the kilt, the playing of bagpipes, gathering of clans, and the honoring of Bonnie Prince Charlie. The graceful movements of the dance, symbolizes the Scottish kicking off of their "English" trousers and showing their freedom, as represented by their kilts.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN

Don't forget to complete the attached form and send your membership renewal to Jim Dougherty. If you have a * on your label this will be the last newsletter you'll receive. And we don't want you to miss being notified of any of the SAS events (and receive your discount for the Christmas Dinner). Please be sure to include your e-mail address.

SAS Membership Renewal for 2015

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Single (\$9) _____ Family/Couple (\$18) _____

Send form & check to: Jim Dougherty, 1732 Springbrook Ct., DeWitt, IA 52742