

GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.

Vol. 41 No. 4 • April 2025

President's Letter

As 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 **Castle Gwynn** 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



Memphis Scottish Society Inc., Board

President

Debbie Sellmansberger
901-465-4739

president@memphisscots.com

Vice President

John Bair
757-289-8970

vice-president@memphisscots.com

Treasurer

Jeanette Martin
901-351-5230

treasurer@memphisscots.com

Secretary

Rosanne Frank
901-628-1948

secretary@memphisscots.com

Members at Large

Chuck Kindrick
901-496-0127

Sammy Rich
901-496-2193

Holly Staggs
901-215-4839

Notice to Program Presenters:

John 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 National Antarctic Expedition.

Come and learn about 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

Blether

- **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

Did 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

Gavin Anderson
Editor & Publisher
901-485-8270
gracenotes@memphisscots.com

Submissions
gracenotes@memphisscots.com

Information
info@memphisscots.com



*to foster education
and promote understanding
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Please address all postal correspondence to:

GRACE NOTES

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

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

Robert 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 weat
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 overwhelm 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.*





Next Monthly Meeting — Monday, April 21st
Perkins Restaurant at the corner of Germantown Pkwy. & Wolf River Blvd.
Dinner @ 6:00, Program @ 7:00
Regular MSSSI Board Meeting — last Monday of the month @ 7:15 pm via ZOOM



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