



The Saltyre

May 2022

Message From The President

Hello,

Elections are nearly here, and the Dining In/AGM is just around the corner. Soon you will be receiving an email to vote online via Survey Monkey. I hope that in future elections members will step up to run against incumbents. You never can tell when the lead singer spot might open for auditions.

Quite a few dues renewal checks have arrived in my mailbox. One showed the finest work of the USPS. Only two thirds of the check and envelope were present and there was a form letter apology that opened with "We Care...". Please don't be shy about using our website to purchase event tickets or renew your membership. That could save you writing another check and using another stamp and envelope.



The Board is currently looking a revision of the non-resident portion of the bylaws. Changing this would require notification of the membership and a vote by the membership. I will keep you posted as we continue to investigate changing this part of the Bylaws.

Please don't forget the Society when you're shopping online. You can do this by signing up at **smile.amazon.com**. Pick Sacramento St Andrews Society as your charity of choice. One half of one percent of your purchases will be donated to the Society. Since signing up with Amazon Smile my personal orders have generated \$31 for the Society. All charities in the US that receive Amazon Smile donations have collected over \$300 million just this year. Any money we receive this way goes to the scholarship fund.

Starting with this issue of the Saltyre I am going to go to every other month to get them out more consistently. It's to much work for me to do an issue a month.

All the best,

Bruce Locken



Scottish Flora and Fauna

The Rowan Tree

The Rowan is steeped in folklore and was seen very much as a tree of protection.

The common Scots Gaelic name is caorunn (pronounced choroon, the 'ch' as in loch). This name crops up in many Highland place names such as Beinn Chaorunn in Inverness-shire and Loch a'chaorun in Easter Ross. Rowan was also the clan badge of the Malcolms and McLachlans.



The rowan features in Norse mythology and legend has it that it saved the life of the god Thor by bending over a fast flowing river in the Underworld in which he was being swept away. Thor managed to grab the tree and get back to the shore.

In Scandinavia, rowans growing out of some inaccessible cleft in a rock, or crevices in tree possessed an even more powerful magic. Such trees were known as 'flying rowan'. Rowan was furthermore the prescribed wood on which runes were inscribed for divination.

In the British Isles the rowan has a long and still popular history in folklore as a tree which protects against witchcraft and enchantment.

The physical characteristics of the tree may have contributed to its protective reputation. Each berry has a tiny five-pointed star or pentagram opposite its stalk. The pentagram is an ancient protective symbol.

People also believed the color red was the best protection against magic. Thus, the rowan's vibrant display of berries in autumn may have further contributed to its protective abilities. An old rhyme hints alludes to this: "Rowan tree and red thread / make the witches tine (meaning 'to lose') their speed". The rowan was denoted as a tree of the Goddess or a Faerie tree by virtue of its white flowers. The same was true of the hawthorn and elder.





These themes of protection crop up again and again. People carried pieces of the tree to ward off witchcraft. They even used of rowan sprigs to protect cows and their produce from enchantment.

The tree itself was said to afford protection to the dwelling by which it grew, and residents would make sure not to damage them. To this day rowan trees can be seen growing beside rural dwellings in the Scottish Highlands and Ireland.

On the Isle of Man people wore crosses made from rowan twigs, without the use of a knife. They fastened them to cattle or hung inside over the lintel on May Eve each year. From Scotland to Cornwall similar equal-armed rowan crosses bound with red thread were sewn into the lining of coats or carried in pockets.

There were strong taboos in the Highlands against the use of any parts of the tree save the berries. However there were exceptions. A threshing tool made of rowan and called a buaitéan was used on grain meant for rituals and celebrations. The strength of these taboos did not apply in other parts of Britain it seems. Even so, there were sometimes more widespread rules to be observed in harvesting rowan. One example is the taboo against using knives to cut the wood.

The rowan's wood is strong and resilient. It makes excellent walking sticks and is well-suited for carving. It was often used for tool handles, spindles and spinning wheels. Druids used the bark and berries to dye the garments worn during lunar ceremonies black. The bark was also used in the tanning process, and people used rowan twigs for divining, particularly for metals.



The berries can be made into or added to a variety of alcoholic drinks. Different Celtic peoples each seem to have had their favorites. As well as the popular wine still made in the Highlands, the Scots made a strong spirit from the berries. The Welsh brewed an ale and the Irish used them to flavor mead. Today rowan berry jelly is still made in Scotland and is traditionally eaten with game.

References

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Scottish History For May

May 1, Beltane's Day - ancient fire festival celebrating start of summer.

May 1 1707, The Act of Union English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed.

May 1 1873, Missionary and explorer David Livingstone died.

May 2 1933, The story of the Loch Ness Monster first appeared in the press

May 2 1959, The first nuclear power station in Scotland opened.

May 3 1557, John Knox began the Reformation in Scotland.

May 6 1959, Icelandic gunboats fired at Scottish boats, during the "Cod War" over fishing rights.

May 8 1701, Scottish-born pirate, Captain William Kidd, tried for piracy and hanged on 23 May.

May 9 1860, J. M. Barrie, author of "Peter Pan" born

May 10 1307, Battle of Loudon Hill, King Robert I defeated English forces under de Valence.

May 12 563, Community of Iona founded by Collum Cille (St Columba) from Ireland.

May 12 1725, The Black Watch regiment was commissioned to police the Highlands.

May 13 1995, Alison Hargreave, became the first woman to climb Mt. Everest solo.

May 14 1754, St Andrews Society of Golfers formed. It became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club.

May 20 685, Battle of Dunnichen (also known as Nechtansmere), south of Forfar in Angus, the Picts stopped the northward advance of the Angles of Northumbria.

May 20 1303, France and England make peace, releasing forces to attack Scotland.

May 20 1747, Edinburgh-born James Lind began an experiment which demonstrated that citrus fruits could prevent scurvy.

May 22 1859, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, born of Irish parents in Edinburgh.

May 28 1503, Papal Bull signed by Pope Alexander VI confirming the marriage of King James IV and Margaret Tudor and the "Treaty of Everlasting Peace" (hahaha) between Scotland and England.

May 29 1687, Order of the Thistle founded by King James VII.



The National Instrument: Bagpipes at War

Damien Lewis tells the story of David “Mad Piper” Kirkpatrick.

Bagpipes have a long history when it comes to war, one of pipers at the head of Scottish regiments piping them to glory. When researching my new book *SAS Italian Job* – which tells the story of one of the most audacious raids of the war – I was amazed to find that legendary SAS commander Major Roy Farran had put in a special request for what he saw as his “Secret weapon” – a youthful Scottish piper in the shape of one David Kirkpatrick.

What does a Special Forces unit that is meant to operate in secret (quietly) behind enemy lines need with a (very loud) bagpiper? Surely this was anathema, running contrary to the very essence of silent, stealthy forces striking by utter surprise? But no, Farran’s was actually an inspired and wily plan.

Working behind enemy lines, especially in concert with local partisan groups, could lead to reprisals from the local German troops. They tended to take out their anger on the local civilian populace, as a way to ‘dissuade’ further action by the resistance. Farran knew this from experience of previous behind-the-lines missions. In German-controlled northern Italy in March 1945, his forty SAS would be operating alongside one hundred war-bitten Italian partisans. Farran was determined to stamp an indelibly ‘British’ mark on his operations, to deter any reprisals.

The Germans had every reason to fear the Italian partisans. Over the winter of 44-45, they Italian resistance had accounted for some 20,000 dead and injured German troops. In response, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring – a Hitler favourite and his supreme commander in Italy – ordered his men to resort to widespread brutality.

‘It is the duty of all troops and police in my command to adopt the severest measures,’ Kesselring had announced. ‘Every act of violence committed by the partisans must be punished immediately.’ He ordered ‘a proportion of the male population’ to be shot, while pledging to ‘protect any commander who exceeds the usual restraints’. Hitler added fuel to the fire, ordering ten partisans killed for every German casualty.

Winston Churchill – a key proponent of irregular warfare across occupied Europe – was privy to Kesselring’s orders. Code-breakers working at Bletchley Park had decrypted the



David Kirkpatrick. Picture: submitted



German commander's messages, sending them directly to the British prime minister. They made for grim reading. In August 1944, in the village of Sant'Anna di Stazzema, SS troops had machine-gunned 560 men, women and children, as reprisals for partisan operations. Then, in late September, at Marzabotto, they had perpetrated one of the single greatest massacres of the war, wiping out over 700 villagers.

These were far from isolated examples, and the level of bestial horror visited on remote Italian populations was terrifying. It reflected the growing desperation of Kesselring. Farran, aware of the increasing savagery adopted by the enemy, was determined to avoid anything similar in his area of operations. One way he could try and convince the enemy that his was a wholly British operation was to include a Scottish Regimental Piper in his raiding force.

Something of a wild and troubled teen, David 'The Mad Piper' Kirkpatrick had earned a reputation for drinking and insubordination, but he was utter reliable when leading troops in action. Having already piped ashore a Commando unit on a do-or-die daylight raid in Albania, his commander sought him out for a new, and even more daring operation. Kirkpatrick was working in the dreaded "Stores" at the time, where a slow death through boredom often resulted. He was ripe to be recruited to Farran's case.

'I'm looking for a piper to do a wee job,' his commander announced, enigmatically. 'I know you're more or less qualified for these things.'

Aye,' Kirkpatrick had agreed, simply, 'I'm way fed up in the stores.'

Thus he was recruited for Major Roy Farran's mission, codenamed TOMBOLA. That "wee job" entailed boarding an aircraft, being strapped to a parachute and jumping into Northern Italy some 200 miles behind the lines. It was very possibly a safer place for the young Kirkpatrick than back in Scotland, for when his father found out his son had volunteered for Special Service he was none too happy.

On the night of 23/24 March '45, Kirkpatrick made his drop. Forty SAS were already on the ground having jumped earlier in the month. The main difference between him and them was that none of them had parachuted from an aircraft wearing a regimental kilt. A sight not seen in Italy's Apennine Mountains, it caused quite a stir amongst the locals, who seemed to think a woman in a skirt was falling from the skies.

Once on the ground, Farran explained to Kirkpatrick the nature of his role in the forthcoming raid. Even as all hell was to let loose during the planned attack on the German 14th Army headquarters – one that controlled 100,000 troops garrisoning northern Italy – Kirkpatrick was to begin piping Highland Laddie, then the formal marching song of all British highland regiments. The aim was to stamp an iconic British signature on the battle, to deter against reprisals. Farran also sought to stiffen the resolve of those charged to fight



their way into the headquarters buildings – two fortress-like villas – intent on wreaking bloody mayhem and murder.

On the night of the attack that is exactly what Kirkpatrick did. The Germans were taken by complete surprise, as bullets ricocheted about the place and grenades went off, the raiders striking from out of the silent darkness. They were further shocked and confused to hear, intermingled with the cacophony of battle, the sound of a lone piper playing the Scottish regimental theme, Highland Laddie. It sounded as if an entire British army regiment had arrived on their doorstep.

What Farran had hoped for seemed to be paying off. ‘Keep playing,’ he cried above the roar of battle. ‘You’re my secret weapon!’

And play Kirkpatrick did, ignoring the bullets that targeted the sound of his pipes, blasting holes in the uppermost section of the bass drone, the longest pipe that creates the harmonizing bass tone. The long and gruelling retreat to their mountain base would take 24 exhausting hours, but as the raiders approached safe territory, delirious with fatigue, they dug deep and fell into line. Their attitude and posture were stiffened as the sound of Kirkpatrick’s bagpipes rang out, and the men marched into the village heads held high.

Farran’s plan had worked. Sixty enemy officers were killed and the headquarters villas left gutted, smoking ruins. The attack was hailed as, ‘One of the most dangerous and effective ever undertaken by this Regiment against the enemy,’ by SAS Lt Col Robert Walker-Brown, MBE DSO. Even though there was evidence of partisan involvement, the enraged enemy decided against carrying out reprisals, for it was so clearly a British-led raid. Once again a lone piper had led his men into battle, armed only with his instrument and his resolve to keep playing under fire.

After the war, Kirkpatrick returned to Scotland and settled into family life. It wasn’t until a few years before his death that he would find out that the Italian village where the raid had taken place had for years celebrated his actions as those of a true war hero. Kirkpatrick would be invited with his family to join the villagers, taking his pipes with him so as to play once again on the battlefield. After his death his sons, all pipers themselves, have returned there to carry on the tradition and to pay homage to the brave actions of their father, and all who served on that raid.

[You can read more about this audacious raid and the exploits of David “The Mad Piper” Kirkpatrick in my new book SAS Italian Job.](#)

<https://www.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/ww2-mad-scots-piper-who-remains-hero-italy-1466065>



A few images of the pipes in the theater of war



WWI, possible Somme battlefield



D-Day Piper Bill Millin disembarking



Bagpiper leading troops into battle WWI



WWI saw the loss of more than 1,000 bagpipers. After the war pipers were officially removed from front-line service. David Kirkpatrick and Bill Millin were famous examples of high-ranking officers working around regulations.

On D-day, piper Bill Millin was taking cover behind a beach obstacle when his commanding officer, Lord Lovat, ordered him to strike up the pipes. Millin is said to have replied that it was against regulations. Lovat reportedly said those regulations are from the British war office and we're Scottish. Now strike up! Millin followed orders and survived the battle and the war. After the battle, captured German soldiers said they didn't shoot Millin because they thought him to be insane and not a threat.

This situation is famously represented in the movie *The Longest Day*.



Clan Buchanan

Clan Buchanan is an old Highland Scottish clan. Its people have been in Scotland, particularly in Stirlingshire and on the shores of Loch Lomond, for over a thousand years. According to DNA analysis, Clan Buchanan was located on the shores of Loch Lomond, in the Auld Kingdom of Alba, well before the year 1000 (CE) and possibly going way beyond that.

According to the official publication provided to the Clan Buchanan Society International (CBSI), "There is a strong DNA link to the Clan Gregor which seems to indicate a common ancestor around the year 400 C.E. (AD)" This discovery was made through extensive genetic testing information collected provides further proof of the existence of Clan Buchanan well before dates mentioned in the "Irish Prince Origin Myth".



From 1217 to 1250 Malduin ruled the district of Lennox (known in ancient times as the "Levenax"). The Parish of Buchanan was a part of the Lennox. The parish of Buchanan was a sub-division of the lands established by the church. Two names are given as the root of the territorial name Buchanan: Mac a Chanonaich = The Son of the Canon, and Buth Chanain = The house or seat of the canon.

During the reign of Malduin, Anselan (third of that name) was granted, in 1225, the island of Clareinch. Anselan was Seneschal to Malduin; he is referred to as 'clericus meus', meaning 'my clergyman'. Anselan is subsequently recorded as "Absalom de Buchanan" and it is understood that to have this title, there must have been other grants of land in the parish of Buchanan. Absalom is just a variant of Anselan. The 7th Chief Anselan MacAuselan is considered to be the first "Buchanan".

During the reign of King Alexander II (1214–1249), Gilbert de Buchanan, seneschal to the Earl of Lennox, received, in 1231, a charter *confirming* Clareinch and other lands in Buchanan

Sir Maurice Buchanan 10th of Buchanan married Margaret Menteith. Margaret was granddaughter of Sir John of Menteith, Sheriff of Dunbarton Castle. Sir John is reputed to have betrayed Sir William Wallace to King Edward I of England on 5 Aug 1305. Sir John was imprisoned by (Scottish) King Robert I but in 1314 "through influence of his sons-in-law; Malice, Earl of Strathern; Sir Archibald Campbell, of Lochow; and Maurice Buchanan, of Buchanan, he was released immediately before the Battle of Bannockburn, where he deported himself valiantly on the part of the Scottish king." Sir John was also a signatory to

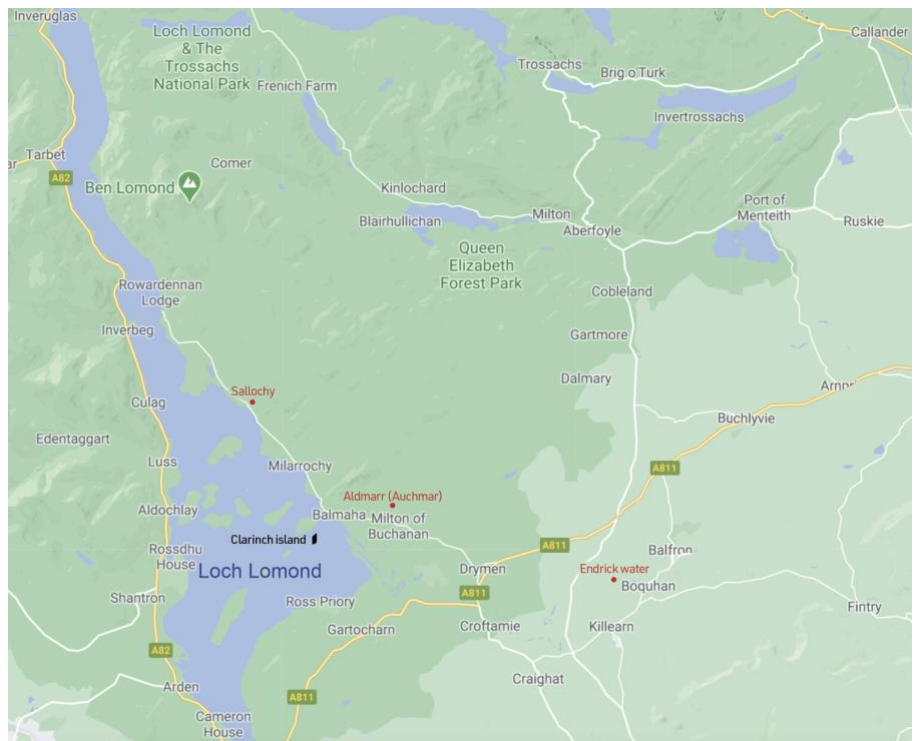


the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 During the Wars of Scottish Independence, the Clan Buchanan supported King Robert the Bruce by aiding his escape in 1306.

The chief, Maurice 10th of Buchanan, refused to sign the Ragman Roll (*The "Ragman Roll" was an oath of allegiance to English King Edward the 1st*), and the chief and lairds of the clan (and presumably their clansmen) served under Malcolm the Earl of Lennox. It is likely that the clan fought at the Battle of Bannockburn.

During the reign of King David II (1324–1371) at least part of the lands of Buchanan belonged to Sir Gilbert Carrick.

But, in 1371 the lands were returned to Maurice Buchanan (10th chief):
 During the reign of Donald Mormaer (Earl) of Lennox (1333–1365), and confirmed by King David II in 1370.
 "Confirmation is of charter by Donald, Earl of Lennox, in favour of Maurice Buchanan, son and heir of late Maurice Buchanan, of that carucate of land called Buchanan with Sallochy, with these bounds ie Akehin up to Aldmarr [Auchmar] just as it descends below the water of Hanerch [Endrick], and the land of Sallochy, with these bounds, from Sallochy all along to Kelg and then it descends to the water of Lochlomond [Loch Lomond], to hold in fee and with the freedom to hold as many courts with jurisdiction of life and limb as he may wish."



The 15th century is an important period in the clan's status with three influential events:

1421 - Sir Alexander Buchanan, second son of Walter Buchanan of Buchanan (11th chief of Buchanan), led men of the clan in support of the French against the English at the Battle of Baugé in 1421. It is said that Sir Alexander Buchanan came face to face with the Duke of Clarence and, escaping his thrust, pierced the Duke through the left eye, killing him. Sir Alexander Buchanan however was later killed leading the clan against the English at the Battle of Verneuil in 1424.



This is the origin of our crest badge: The Chief's 1657 crest (which also is the centerpiece of clan folk's badge) is a hand couped at the wrist holding a ducal cap, which celebrates Sir Alexander Buchanan's slaying of the Duke of Clarence in combat.

1425 – Execution by James I of Scotland, of his first-cousin, Murdoch Stewart, 2nd Duke of Albany, and Murdoch's two older sons for treason

1443 – Marriage of Isobel Stewart [daughter of Murdoch Stewart, 2nd Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland, and his wife Isobella, daughter of Donnchadh (Duncan), Mormaer (Earl) of Lennox] to Sir Walter Buchanan, 12th Chief.

The Buchanans do not have a castle or historic house. Buchanan Auld House (or Buchanan Old House) is a ruined house in Stirlingshire, Scotland, located 1.5 miles (2.4 km) west of the village of Drymen. Historic seat of the Clan Buchanan, the house was the property of the Chiefs of Clan Buchanan who controlled the surrounding lands from at least 1231 until 1682. Following the death of John Buchanan in the late 17th century, the estate passed to the Grahams who substantially rebuilt the house during the 18th century. The property burned down in 1852 and James Graham, 4th Duke of Montrose commissioned the country house of Buchanan Castle as a replacement, which was built in 1852-1858 and stands 0.5 miles (0.80 km) to the southeast. The ruins of Buchanan Auld House exist today as part of a courtyard attached to the clubhouse of the Buchanan Castle Golf Club, which occupies the surrounding lands.

Here is a picture of the remains of Buchanan Auld House





Current Scottish Games Calendar For California

Scottish Fest, Costa Mesa, May 28, 29, <https://www.scottishfest.com>

San Diego Highland Games, June 25, 26, <https://sdhighlandgames.org>

Monterey Scottish Games, July 16, 17, <https://www.montereycelticfest.com>

Redwood Highland Games, August 20, 21, No website, they have a Facebook page
Location: 3750 Harris St, Eureka, CA 95503

Pleasanton Scottish Games, September 2,3,4; Solo piping piobaireachd competition on
Friday September 2, <https://thescottishgames.com>

Seaside Highland Games, Ventura, October 7, 8, 9, <https://www.seasidehighlandgames.org>

Currently there are no schedules for Plymouth (Mother Lode) or Dixon.





Flowers of the Forest

Herman Chambers.....	1930-2020	Felix D. Othon	1929-2007
Clyde Le Roy Scott	1938-2019	William Arnold Butler	1943-2006
Malcolm MacClenaghan.	1924-2019	George Santrizos	1914-2005
Alex Doig	1938-2019	Daniel Stephens	1911-2003
Gordon Scott	1946-2019	David F. McGeary	1940-2002
Alasdair Harding.	2018	Leroy Coulter Pierson	1913-1999
Walter (Skip) W. Hastings	1945-2018	Rev. J.P. Edwards III	1925-1997
Calvert Lawton Crawford	1933-2018	Watson Burns	1996
William Leroy Wilson	1929-2017	James McCracken	1920-1994
Gary D. Stevenson	1949-2017	Alexander W. McTavish	1906-1992
David Mercer	1935-2016	Rev. Howard Perry	1921-1989
Charles Preston Thomson	1940-2015	Wallace Gibson Holt	1919-1989
Donald Calavan-MacRae	1932-2013	James C. C. Wallace.	1926-1989
Edison Alva McFarland II –	1925-2012	Angus Murray	1984
Moton Bryant Holt	1929-2012	Robert Jeffreys	
James C "Jim" Richey	1931-2009	Alec Cowan	
George W. Burns	1925-2008	Tom Ross	
George Eric Martin	1921-2008	Bob MacDonald	
BG Harry McIvor Nicolson	1920-2008	Larry Cameron	
		Shakey Johnson	
		Frank M. Clark	
		Richard Russo	

The Society plants trees in Scotland on behalf of departed brothers of the Society. This is done as a remembrance and contributes to the replanting of the Great Caledonian Forest. Any time you wish you may donate via this link:

<https://treesforlife.org.uk/plant-trees/grove/5067/>



Charitable giving may help you minimize taxes while supporting the causes that are meaningful to you. Please consider making a donation to the Society when estate planning.



<u>Society Board</u>	<u>Calendar</u>	<u>Society Finances</u>
<p><u>President</u> <u>Bruce Locken</u></p> <p><u>Vice President</u> <u>Travis Chatters</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> <u>Thomas Melton</u></p> <p><u>Secretary</u> <u>Chuck Jamison</u></p> <p><u>Directors of the Board</u> <u>Chuck Meng</u> <u>Doug Walters</u> <u>Ed Moore</u> <u>James Morgan</u></p>	<p>*****</p> <p>Fall Ceilidh</p> <p>Investiture November 30 ??</p> <p>Christmas Party December 10</p> <p>Burns Supper Feb. 4, 2023 North Ridge Country Club</p> <p>Spring Tea TBD</p> <p>Dining In/AGM June 10, 2022</p> <p>½ Way to Burns Day July 23 Fair Oaks Brew Pub, Fair Oaks</p> <p>Board meetings are currently being held at the VFW post on Kruitoff Way, Fair Oaks. The Board meets between 5:30 & 6:00 for dinner, RSVP required 5 days in advance.</p> <p>Third Monday of the month</p>	<p>Through May 1, 2022</p> <p>Checking -\$1,922</p> <p>Savings -\$29,769</p> <p>Scholarship -\$3,743</p> <p>**Brokerage account income this year....\$305</p> <p>Total -\$35,739</p> <p>**Our brokerage account has a \$10,000 base balance. The gains are reinvested.</p>

Check out this Celtic Calendar for a huge list of upcoming events from other groups and communities:

<http://www.2jamisons.com/calendar.html>

<https://saintandrewssocietyofsacramento.wildapricot.org>

St Andrews Society of Sacramento,
 6941 Ellsworth Circle, Fair Oaks, CA 95628