



# Scottish Society of the Treasure Coast

# The Scotsman

MAY 2026

## **Director Of Membership/Events Report - Steve Hicks**

The Scottish Society has been fortunate through its member support to have had many successful events this season.

Our Burns Supper had a record attendance and those who chose to be sponsors made a meaningful contribution to the Scholarship Fund. Peter Dobson gave an excellent address to the Haggis and the Vero Beach Pipes and Drums played very well and were enjoyed by all. The dancers from the Centre for Dance & the Performing Arts added a special flair to the event, plus all the speakers did a fine job.

Our Annual Tea saw the greatest number of reservations ever to the point that we had to turn away several requests. Next year we will rent a larger space at Pointe West.

Our Scholarship Fund Committee is doing a fine job reviewing the many applications we have received. A special thank you to Doug Wood for his assistance in making known our funds existence throughout the State. The fund is at the core of the Scottish Society's mission to promote our cultural heritage and on that we have created the position of Director of Scholarships Fund with Brad Mason being unanimously elected to this post. I urge all those who are able to contribute to this fund to do so.

## **Scholarship Committee Update - Brad Mason**

A fundamental tenet of our society is the preservation and promulgation of our proud Scottish heritage. Our scholarship program, supporting young people engaged in Scottish dance and musical pursuits, is the primary pillar of that outreach. Our society, and Scottish culture in general will only be preserved if we encourage younger generations to show interest and take part. This has been a successful fund-raising year. For 2026 we will award over \$4,200 to the most deserving of 11 applicants, both local and from across the state. We will determine our 2026 recipients by late May.

We are already looking ahead to 2027 and we seek the support of ALL members. You will have many opportunities to contribute. Whisky raffles, sponsorship-level ticket purchases for our dinner events, donation initiatives at polo and pub nights, are among fund raising efforts already available. We implore our members to consider more active giving to this most important part of our community outreach. If every current member can find a way to contribute only \$25 a year, perhaps attached to annual dues, we would raise nearly \$2,000 more. We exist to support our shared heritage and vibrant culture. The young people we sponsor become our legacy.

## Website News - Doug Wood, Director Of Communications



Welcome to our updated website, <https://www.scottishsocietyofthetreasurecoast.com/>

Be sure to go to the events page to get an update on all our pending events. There are many links to get additional information. If the event has passed, there will still be a tentative date for next year. Also, you can go to the “Gallery of Photos” page to get a nice pictorial overview of the event. If you like a specific picture, you can usually “right click” on it and then “left click” on “Save Image as.... “. It will usually be saved to your Downloads directory found in your file manager.

Remember that all payments are considered tax-free contributions. You do not need a PayPal account. At the bottom of your “cart” there is a link to pay with your credit card.

Please feel free to send any suggestions or ideas for improvement. Just go to the Contact tab. Note; if you are on a mobile device, click on the 3 bars MENU at the upper left corner to get a listing of all the tabs.

### News From The Scottish Genealogy Interest Group (GIG) - Mason Russell, Vice President

Are you interested in learning more about genealogy, especially as it pertains to Scottish heritage, how to get started with your research, and data software resources that are available to assist you in your genealogy work? If so, we welcome you to join us!

The Scottish GIG was started two years ago by former President, Roy Thompson and current Vice President, Mason Russell to offer our members enrichment opportunities in this area. Shortly after we started our meetings, the Indian River Genealogical Society (IRGS) invited us to become their official Scottish GIG. Our meetings include a mix of Scottish society and IRGS members, but many of us are active in both groups. Recent meetings have focused on the use of artificial intelligence platforms, such as ChatGPT, Grok, and Claude to assist in getting started in, or conducting, genealogical research. For an example of how one such platform (Grok 4.20) can be used to generate useful information to help you in your research on Scottish ancestry, visit our website at [www.scottishsocietyofthetreasurecoast.com](http://www.scottishsocietyofthetreasurecoast.com). You’ll also find information on our upcoming meetings, so be sure to bookmark the page for future reference.

We will be meeting the Fourth Tuesday in April (the 28th) and May (the 26th) at 10:30 in the Family History Room, 2nd floor of the County Main Library, 1600 21st St., Vero Beach. Meetings will reconvene in October. For further information, reach out to either Roy ([roysloanthompson@gmail.com](mailto:roysloanthompson@gmail.com).) or Mason ([masonwr@gmail.com](mailto:masonwr@gmail.com)). We hope to see you soon!

### Treasurer Report - Ron Redpath

The Scottish Society of The Treasure Coast continues to be in a stable financial position. The 2025-2026 member-year events experienced increased attendance generating additional funds for the organization. As a non-profit organization, we are using our fund-raising efforts to provide scholarships to young people who are learning about and will preserve the Scottish culture. This year, attendees to the Burns Supper were given the opportunity to become a sponsor with all sponsor funds going directly to the Scholarship account. This was very successful, and sponsorship opportunities will be added to next year's events. In addition, there were several significant donations directly to the Scholarship account. For this year's awards, there is a little over \$5,000 available, a major increase from last year. We continue to explore additional opportunities to provide more financial support for scholarships.

# Why the Kilt is Worn

**A kilt is not chosen for fashion alone.**

**It is worn as a reminder of where a man comes from and what he chooses to carry forward.**

**Before it was ceremony, it was necessity.**

**Before it was pattern, it was belonging.**

**Cloth woven not just for warmth, but for identity in a land that asked men to endure.**

**A kilt holds memory.**

**Of names spoken before ours.**

**Of ground walked, defended, and left behind.**

**Of traditions carried quietly, even when they could not be worn openly.**

**To wear a kilt is not to look back in nostalgia, but to stand in recognition.**

**To accept that heritage is not something completed in the past, but something continued in the present.**

**The weight of it is intentional.**

**It asks the wearer to stand a little straighter.**

**To remember that he is part of a line, not an exception to it.**

**Some wear it to honour blood.**

**Some to honour choice.**

**Both are valid.**

**What matters is not how often it is worn, but why.**

**A kilt does not make a man.**

**But it reminds him that he belongs to something larger than himself.**

Submitted by Donna Sherrard

## Scottish Jokes

I was walking my dogs up the park. Guy comes up and says, excuse me, they Jack Russells? I said naw mate they're mine.

Two tunnocks caramel logs meet up in the arrivals lounge of Glasgow Airport, One says to the other, how long you been a wafer?

10 cows in a field, which one's on holiday? The one with the wee calf.

That cow over there won the Nobel Peace Prize, apparently it's outstanding in its field.

Just back fae a magic holiday in France, great hospitality in the hotel. Every time I ordered twa pints, they brought me three!

Guy walks into a shop called 'All cakes are £1'. He sees one behind the till that's marked as a fiver. He asks the baker why it's more expensive and he says 'ah well, that Madeira cake'

Man's waiting for the bus but he forgot his glasses at home. Bus shows up but he doesn't want to end up in Peebles by accident. Turns to the guy next to him and says "Is that the Biggar bus?" "Naw mate, it's the same size as every other bus".

Scotsmen travels down to South of England in July on a coach holiday. After arriving at their destination, he exits the coach with the driver. With a confused look on his face he nudges the driver and points towards the sky. "Whas tha" he asks the driver. Driver says "that's the sun mate".

A Scotsman in London is having trouble phoning his sister from a telephone box. So he calls the operator who asks in a plummy voice: 'Is there money in the box?' ' Naw, it's just me,' he replies.

## Tea Committee Chairman - Dorothy Carter

The Afternoon Tea went very well, despite the mix-up in reservations. In the future, we must get everyone's name to prevent this from happening again. We had 70 people attend the event. Once we had everyone seated, I think all of us had a good time. People commented on the great presentation and really enjoyed the various sandwiches, scones with clotted cream, and the good variety of desert cakes. Also, the Scottish dancing was entertaining and fun for those who took part in it.

## Upcoming Events

**Annual Meeting** - Sunday, October 4, 2026 at Pointe West...more information to follow.

**St. Andrew's Celebration** - Sunday, November 15, 2026 at Pointe West...more information to follow.

**Burn's Supper** - Saturday, January 30, 2027 at Pointe West...more information to follow.

## Photo Gallery of Recent Events



Scottish Country Dancing at the Afternoon Tea

## Photo Gallery of Recent Events



**Kirkin**



**Kirkin**



**Kirkin**



**Afternoon Tea**



**Burns Supper**



**Highland Dancers at the Burns Supper**

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### **THE MONTHLY TARTAN QUIZ**

This month's tartan is the Witches of Scotland. It was created to memorialize those who suffered as a result of The Witchcraft Act in Scotland and to help create a 'living memorial'. The black & grey colours are intended to represent both the dark times of this period and the ashes of those burned. It also incorporates red & pink colours, symbolic of the legal tape that bound the fate of the accused during that time. Each black square contains 173 threads for every year the Witchcraft Act was enforced. The overall thread count of this design incorporates the years 1563 and 1736. The objectives of the Witches of Scotland organisation are to ensure a pardon, an apology, and that living memorials are achieved. Between 1563 and 1736, around 4,000 people (at least 84% women) were tried in Scotland under the Witchcraft Act with over 2,500 individuals executed. In 2022, formal apologies were issued by the Scottish government and the Church of Scotland to honor the victims. These memorials serve as a reminder of the scale and brutality of the witch hunts in Scottish history.

### **2026 SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### Officers

President - Kaye Hicks

Vice President - Mason Russell

Secretary - Sarah Morley

Treasurer - Ron Redpath

Communications Director - Doug Wood

Membership/Events Director - Steve Hicks

Director of Scholarship Funds - Brad Mason

Director at Large - Helena Krasa

Director at Large - Donna Sherrard

Treasurer Emerita - Sylvia Gregory

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