



# The Great Scot

www.dscots.org

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April 2009

## St Patrick's Day At The Pub



The Douglas County Scottish Society celebrated St. Patrick's Day at Little Brothers Pub in Roseburg on Friday, March 20th. It was a fun evening attended by about 25 people. The food was excellent and a good time was had by all.



## DCSS General Meeting

April 17th, 6:30 pm  
Riddle Church of Ascension  
Potluck Dinner

**IMPORTANT MEETING:**  
**\*VOTING ON SECRETARY,**  
**CORESPONDING SECRETARY**  
**TREASURER**  
**\*BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS**

Directions: Exit 103 off I-5. Go west on Riddle Bypass Rd. Turn left into Riddle at sign. Church located at 135 N. D St one block off Main St.

## Upcoming Events

April 4, Saturday - Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival, Albany, Linn County fairgrounds, 9 - 5

April 6, Monday - Tartan Day - Wear your tartan!

April 17, Friday - DCSS General Meeting, 6:30 pm, Riddle Church of Ascension

May 9, Saturday - Mother's Day Tea - White Horse Coffee & Tea, Sutherlin, 6 pm, \$30 per person

May 16, Saturday - Eugene Scottish Festival - all day, Peace Presbyterian Church

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**NOTE: Correct dates for Celtic Highland Games & Clan Gathering are AUGUST 14 - 16, Friday concert, Games Saturday & Sunday**

## DCSS Mother's Day Tea May 9, 6 pm

White Horse Coffee & Tea  
960 East Central, Sutherlin

**Tickets will be \$30.00 per person**  
**Limited Seating**

Delicious Food & Beverages  
Auction/Raffle

541-459-2910 or 877-752-2360  
(check May newsletter for further details)

## Skirts for men a fashion comeback?



Sean Connery & friends

### DEAR ABBY:

Allow me to offer kudos to "Joe in Pennsylvania" (Dec. 31), who wrote that he prefers wearing skirts at home, on errands and at church. I grew up in southwestern Asia where skirts, sarongs and robes are

common daily apparel for men. I have been somewhat surprised by the disapproving looks and downright hostility I have encountered in this country any time I have chosen to leave my home wearing anything other than pants.

I look forward to a day when more people in the USA recognize that pants are a relatively new phenomenon in the world. Men who prefer skirts as a mode of dress are not all weirdos or terrorists.

So, congratulations to Joe, who has not only the fortitude to wear what he pleases, but also to his family members, community and church members for respecting that choice. -- KARL, KILT SUPPORTER IN FLORIDA

DEAR KARL: I heard from men and women across the United States and beyond who wrote supporting Joe in his decision to wear skirts. Many of them suggested he contact Utilikilts, a company based in Seattle, which manufactures a line of kilts for the modern man. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: To Joe's jackass relatives who start rumors about him because he wears skirts for comfort, I have one word for him: "Utilikilt." They are made in all sorts of different styles and fabrics -- from work kilts to fancy dress kilts -- and they are male-specific. Plus he can then use my favorite kilt joke: "You know why they're called 'kilts'? Because if ye call 'em 'skirts,' ye'll be kilt." -- ANN FROM KANSAS CITY, MO.

DEAR ABBY: Three cheers to Joe and to you for your answer regarding his wearing skirts. While skirts may not be appropriate for riding a horse or

motorcycle riding, they make perfect sense as casual attire, potentially even business attire.

I find it interesting that women have won the "right" to wear pants at will, and their sexuality is not questioned. However, when a man dons a skirt, his masculinity falls under suspicion, unless he's wearing a kilt and is involved in macho activities. Then the question most asked becomes, "What are you wearing under that?" My reply to that question is, "Do you ask that of women wearing skirts?" -- RAY IN CALIFORNIA



Men rallying for skirts

DEAR ABBY: I had a good laugh after reading the letter from Joe. My husband dresses exclusively in kilts throughout the summer, much of the winter and whenever he works for my designing business. If someone calls his kilt a skirt, he smiles and tells them, "It's only a skirt if I'm wearing pumps with it." A good chuckle generally diffuses any discomfort of bystanders.

Good luck, Joe. I hope you continue to set fashion rather than to follow it. -- A KILTER'S WIFE

DEAR ABBY: Someone should send Joe's family to American Samoa and see if they will still snicker at the men. We grow NFL linebackers here, and they all wear "skirts." The Samoan lavalava is a wraparound "skirt" worn by Polynesian men and hardly a girlish trend. -- AMUSED IN SAMOA

DEAR ABBY: My husband is a "skirt" wearer. They are called kilts. We actually receive more comments at church when he doesn't wear one and opts for pants instead.

A word of warning to the ladies, as a co-worker of my husband's has found out: Do NOT do a "kilt check." It is considered sexual harassment. -- JENNY FROM TEXAS

*(excerpt News Review, Thursday, March 12, 2009)*

## Life In The “Good (?) Old Days” in the 1500’s



Next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn’t just how you like it, think about

how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500’s.

### “Here Comes The Bride”

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.

### “Don’t Throw Out The Baby...”

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children—last of all, the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it — the saying “**Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.**”

### “It’s Raining Cats and Dogs.”

Houses had thatched roofs—thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats, and other small animals, mice, rats, and bugs lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof—hence the saying.

### “The Sky Is Falling”

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings would really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That’s how canopy beds came into existence.

### “Over The Threshold of Dirt Poor”

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying “**dirt poor**”. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh on the floor to help keep their footing.

As winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entryway—hence, a “**threshold**”.

### “The Upper Crust”

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guest got the top, or “**upper crust**”.

### “Wake Up and Die”

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock people for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on a kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up - hence the custom of holding a “**wake**”.

Because they started running out of places to bury people, they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a “bone’house” and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, one out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead the string through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the” the graveyard all night (the “**graveyard shift**”) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be “**saved by the bell**” or was considered a “**dead ringer**”.

-Thanks, I think, to **Dennis Smith** for this information



Douglas County Scottish Society  
1224 NE Walnut PMB 167  
Roseburg OR 97470

**April Birthdays**

Reg Dewar, Ruth Tompkins  
Jason Hunter, Bill Hunt  
Susan Van Meter, Roberta Marsh  
Willy Ellis, Ray MacMullin  
Mollye Peterson, Tom Paulson  
Joylene Sanada, Diane Chaney  
Sarah Rutter

**Douglas County Scottish Society**

website: [dcscots.org](http://dcscots.org)

email: [dcscots@dcscots.org](mailto:dcscots@dcscots.org)

**2009 Officers**

**President**-Ray Edwards.....863-6424

**Vice President**-Patrick Webber...670-1030

**Secretary**-Willy Ellis.....863-3333

**Treasurer**-Debra Rutter.....672-9396

**Sunshine Secretary**-Jill Ellis.....863-7965

**Coresponding Secretary**.....

**Membership**-Terry Webber.....670-1030

**Editor**-Terry Webber.....670-1030

*The Great Scot is published monthly and is  
free to all paid-up members.  
Articles, photos & information welcome!*

**President's Message**

Well, my fellow Scots, we are in the first quarter of our new year. Charles Lamb has a good start on the Games. The club is running kind of smoothly. We had a past presidents and officers meeting and went over the by-laws. and they are redone. I will see if I can get a copy for everyone at the next meeting in Riddle on May 17th. We also have two or three people looking into a grant for us.

**Parade Director's Message**

Well, summer is just around the corner and our first parade is in June. Let's have a good turn-out for it. The theme will be Myrtle Creek Rodeo. So for us lads, it's cowboy boots and hats, and, of course, kilts.

Your President & Parade Director,  
Ray Edwards