

Newsletter - Autumn 2025



From the President - Frank Paterson

I can't believe it's September but I do know that I've thoroughly enjoyed some great events during the summer. The weather has been kind so there may be some truth in the old saying that the sun shines on the righteous!. Time spent with old friends always goes quickly but it has also been great to meet some new members this year. I do hope that you feel welcomed, have enjoyed our company and will be keen to get involved. You don't need to have been born north of the border to like things Scottish!

We are not a clannish society - so do encourage your friends to join in our varied social programme.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who organise the individual events - I really appreciate the thought, time and commitment they give to the Society. Their greatest reward is members turning up on the day so please continue to give them your support.

And please do keep in touch through our website at <https://yorkscot.org.uk/>

Hope to see you soon,

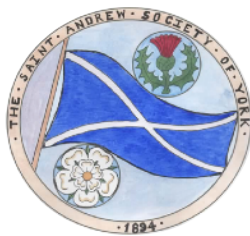
Yours aye,

Frank

Recruitment Drive

In this newsletter, we welcome 9 new members - Caroline Burrows, Douglas McClements, Jill Kenny-Hogg, Elizabeth Chisholm, Ann Deller, Pauline Seddon, Vivien Appleby, Helen O'Brien, Carole Aspinall & Christine Carey.

The Council remains keen to continue to attract new members to the society. You may have attended recent events at which our society leaflet/flyer that lists upcoming events for members to pass onto friends, family members and others who may wish to consider joining us. Please distribute these as you see fit.



Summer Trip to Whitby

30 members enjoyed a coach trip to Whitby organised by the Ladies Circle for a tour of the new Botham's Bakery followed by a delightful afternoon tea at Botham's new tearoom.

Joe Botham, great-grandson of the founder Elizabeth Botham led informative tours of the bakery and then provided an overview of the history of Botham's of Whitby since its founding in 1865.

Many of the group took the opportunity to buy a few of Bothams' delicacies before leaving!



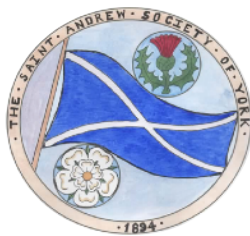
Garden Party

40 members and their families thoroughly enjoyed this year's Garden Party, once again held at the home of President Elect Aileen Minns in Copmanthorpe.

The weather stayed dry which enabled a full range of fun games to be enjoyed by all.

Competitive spirits were in abundance with the Putting, Chipping, Badminton, Bowling, Archery, Hoopla and the infamous Welly Wanging competitions with fabulous sugary prizes for the various winners.





Bowling & Quiz Evening

The society recently held a very successfully bowling and quiz evening at the York Railway Bowls & Social Club. The bowling event was won by Janet Sharpe & Murray Halliday who were presented with the St Andrew Society of York John Morland Trophy made by Graeme Miller.



After the bowling, Graeme Robertson ran a 50-question quiz which was won by Heather & Mike Hogg who were presented with society Quizzing Trophy also made by Graeme Miller.



Half-way through the quiz, we all enjoyed a fantastic pie, mash & pea supper plus dessert. An excellent time was had by all.

A Glasgow Tale....

2 *Weegies* were sitting in a pub discussing Jimmy's wedding "Och it's gonna be pure dead brilliant" says Jimmy "a'things organised aw ready, the church, the floo'ers, the cars, the rings, the reception, av even goat a kilt tae get maryed in!"

"A kilt" say Archie "that's magic, you'll look dead smart in that, whit's the tartan?"

"Och, I think she'll be in white!" replies Jimmy.



Ladies Circle



Hello Ladies,
I hope you all had a good summer and are ready to come back to the Ladies Circle lunches.

We have a selection of speakers booked to entertain and inform us which I hope you will enjoy.

A Christmas theatre outing is being arranged and we will be inviting society members to join us. (further details will be sent out soon).

Our numbers are growing and we will be pleased to welcome new members at our lunches. You can find out all about us on the society website <https://yorkscot.org.uk/> - this is very interesting, informative and kept up to date.

I look forward to seeing you all on 9th October and hope we will have a year of friendship and enjoyment.

Best wishes.

Helen.

2025/26 Programme

2025

9th October - Ladies Introduction

13th November - Phil Lazenby, 30 Years in Farming

11th December - Christmas Celebrations

2026

8th January - Lisa Green, Door 84

12th February - Ellie Florentine, Life on Air

12th March - John Lacy, The Lighter Side of Policing

9th April - Stuart Priest, Circus Skills

14th May - AGM



T is for Thistle

A common sight throughout Scotland, this pretty, purple weed has been Scotland's national flower for centuries and stirs a deep sense of patriotism and sentiment in all who have Scots in their blood. No one really knows why the thistle, or *Cirsium vulgare*, was chosen to represent Scotland out of all of Scotland's plant life, but one legend seems to reign tall as the leading reason.



It all began back in 1263, during a time when parts of Scotland were still under Norwegian rule. Enter King Alexander III - yes, the same king who famously died after falling off his horse during a storm while rushing back to see his new wife. That accident sparked a full-blown succession crisis and eventually led to the Wars of Scottish Independence. (Cue William Wallace and Robert the Bruce!). But long before all of that, Alexander had grown tired of Norway's grip on what he believed should be Scottish land - namely the Western Isles and Kintyre. So, he made a diplomatic move, offering to buy the territories back from the Norse king, Haakon IV. Unimpressed (and probably a bit insulted), Haakon responded the Norse way - by sending a fleet of fearsome longships across the North Sea to remind the Scots who was in charge. Legend has it that the Norse troops landed under cover of darkness, abandoning their ships to sneak inland and ambush the unsuspecting clansmen. To maintain silence, the invaders even removed their boots. It was the perfect plan - until it wasn't! One unlucky Norse soldier stepped squarely on a Scottish thistle and let out a scream of pain, instantly alerting the sleeping Scots. The clansmen sprang into action, grabbed their weapons and routed the invaders. Fact or folklore? Who knows - but it's one hell of a story.



T is for Thistle

The thistle has appeared on many silver coins throughout the years, in Scotland and later Britain. The earliest coins featuring the thistle were issued by King James III way back in 1474. In 1687, King James VII and II founded the Order of the Thistle, an order of chivalry which to this day is the highest honour Scotland can bestow on an individual. The latin motto for the Order of the Thistle is 'Nemo Me Impune Lacessit' meaning 'No One Attacks Me With Impunity' - a fitting tribute to the thistle, which cannot be easily plucked without the culprit receiving a sore finger!



There are many different varieties of thistle that grow across the UK, but the most common is the spear thistle which is the one used as the national emblem. Others include the creeping thistle, the marsh thistle and the 'Scotch thistle' or cotton thistle (which bizarrely enough, is non-native and is most abundant in the US and Australia).

You will also find the thistle in poetry, artwork and songs. Hugh MacDiarmid's masterpiece 'A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle' (1926) speaks of the wonders of the prickly weed:

"Rootit on gressless peaks, whar its erect And jaggy leaves,
Austerely cauld and dumb / Haud the slow scaly serpent in respect /
The Gothic thistle, whar the insects hum"

The thistle is an intrinsic part of Scotland's cultural identity and can be seen on the logo of our national rugby and football teams, the proud insignia emblem from small local businesses to large organisations and can even be seen on the uniform of our national police force.



Burns Federation Weekend in Kilmarnock

The St Andrew Society of York were represented at this year's conference by Jim & Anne Murison, Murray Halliday and Jim Robertson. The photo below shows them with the new President Jean Abdulrahim (dressed appropriately in the Robert Burns Tartan).

It was a good weekend, we learnt a fair bit about the history of Kilmarnock on a visit to the Dick Institute Museum, where the AGM was held on the Saturday morning. The buffet lunch provided by the East Ayrshire Council was most welcome, but the whisky tasting, even better! This was presented by Scott Watson who founded 'The Lost Distillery Company'.

During the weekend we heard of a Burns Federation project linking Ukraine with St Petersburg, Russia. This was the initiative of outgoing President Peter Pringle. The aim is to merge these two tartans into one and invite children from the Ukraine and St Petersburg to Scotland, to share in that message, "A man's a man...". Pictures of the two tartans are shown below.

We also heard about an inspiring story of a project aimed at those affected by Dementia, presented by Grace McKelvie, Lifelong Learning Convener for the Federation. This is called "*A Box O' Burns*", using many of the songs and poems that many would remember from their earlier years. You can find out more about this and watch a video, just search the RBWF website for details [rbwf.org.uk/lifelong-learning]

Overall, it was a successful weekend, enjoyed by all, and we can be reassured that the Burns World Federation is very much alive and kicking, north of the border!

Jim Murison





Forthcoming Events!

We have a number of exciting events planned for members to enjoy throughout the remainder of the 2025/26 membership year - below are the key dates to note:

Thursday 2nd October - Tour of Restructured Station Hall at York Railway Museum
Sunday 12th October - Annual Apple Harvest at Carlston Farm, Wetherby
Friday 31st October - Halloween Memories - *a North East Nicht*
Saturday 29th November - St Andrew's Day Lunch
Sunday 14th December - A Christmas Selection Musical Production
Thursday 1st January 2026 - New Year's Day Gathering
Saturday 24th January 2026 - Burns Supper Celebration
TBD March - St Patrick's Day Celebration
Saturday 2nd May - RBWF Yorkshire District Annual Tartan Ball

Further details of each event will be notified nearer the time.

Annual Subscription Payments

If you are one of the few members who haven't yet paid, the Council would be obliged if you could do so as soon as possible.

Payments can be made via bank transfer to the Society Bank Account
(Sort Code 60-24-62, Account Number 16143779)

Please use reference "SUBS followed by your name".

Cheque payments can also be made to "The St Andrew Society of York" and sent to:

Marlynn Holroyd, 36 Westfield Grove, Wigginton, York, YO32 2QJ

Next Newsletter

Our Winter Newsletter will be published after our St Andrew's Day Lunch event at some point during December.

If you have any articles or information you wish to share with the membership in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to send this to me at the email address below.

Deadline for inclusion will be 30th November.

Finally please let me have any feedback you wish to give by emailing me at:
standrewyork@gmail.com

Grant Young - Secretary