



NEWS FROM THE HOUSE of SCOTLAND

“Sgeoil nan Taigh”: Scots-Gaelic for
“News From The House”

Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101

February 2011

Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Knight at 11:30 A.M. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries: January birthdays include Jim Scrimgeour on January 3, Claire Hoffmann on January 8, Danielle McGruer on January 17, and Dianne Schultz on January 20. Megan Noel Beaty, the fourth child of Elizabeth Schultz Beaty and Dan Beaty was born December 20, 2010

Prayers and Remembrances: Kathy Kough's father passed away just before Christmas. We keep her in our prayers. President Steve Knight called for a moment's silence for those members of our military serving in harm's way.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. Cherie gave a brief recap of what passed for a membership meeting at our Christmas party.

Treasurer's Report: The December Treasurer's report was read and approved pending audit. We took in \$629 at the Christmas party auction. The final total of our profits from the International Christmas Festival (aka December Nights and/or Christmas on the Prado) hasn't been determined because HPR has not billed us for some of the expenses.

Pipe Band Report: There was no pipe band report, however, this report was sent in by Pipe Major Peggy Yuile:

My apologies for no band presence at yesterday's meeting. The person who was supposed to attend mixed up the date.

Not much going on right now anyway. We've been on our Christmas and New Year break since we wrapped up Prado. Our first practice is tonight.

We're working on some new tunes for our Medley Selection. The opening tune given to us by our instructor, Lorne Cousin, was written by George McIntyre and is unpublished. So, that should interest the Judges! They're so used to hearing the same tunes again and again, so this should be a nice change for them. We're also changing our Strathspey and have added a great jig called Glasgow Police Pipers. As Lorne would say, "it's a crackin' tune!"

We hope to have some new people come down tonight to check us out. Hamish and I have been in touch with a prospective piper and drummer. So, we're looking forward to that.

Hamish spoke with Kenny Macleod from McCallum Bagpipes just this morning to get an ETA on our concert chanters. Kenny says they're tooling up to make our matched set and will have them out to us shortly. We're really excited to start working with these chanters.

The Queen Mary Highland Games are coming up on February 19th and 20th.

Mandy signed up to attend the February 13th meeting.

Old Business: First Vice President Dani moderates (President Steve is off to his first HPR meeting!)

Hosting: Melissa needs people to host February 13, February 20 and February 27. If you can host on one of those dates, please let Melissa know.

Upcoming events:

The Robert Burns Club of San Diego is holding their Robert Burns Dinner on January 15, 2011, at Admiral Baker Clubhouse. The cost of non-members is \$60.00. Additional information can be found at www.robertburnsclubofsd.org.



The North County Scots Burns Dinner is January 23, 2011. Because reservations are still available, NCS is extending the pre-2011 prices of \$35.00 for NCS members and \$40.00 for non-members. Some members of the House of Scotland are staying at the Carlsbad La Quinta Inn and going to breakfast on Sunday.

The Queen Mary Scottish Festival is Saturday, February 19, and Sunday, February 20. A one day pass is \$18.00 and a pass for both days is \$24.00.

Housekeeping: It was reported that the missing tea kettle was located in the back of our storage shed.

Audit Committee: The audit committee will be meeting at the cottage on Thursday, January 13, after 6:30 P.M. The audit results will be available at the February meeting. The audit committee is Dani McGruer, Andrew Keith and Jim Scrimgeour.

Other Old Business: Dianne read a thank-you note sent to the House by Kathy Kough. A sympathy card from the House of Scotland had been sent after the passing of Kathy's father.

Cherie reports that our Articles of Incorporation have been returned by the State Of California due to the manner in which the papers were signed. It was suggested that we have Rodney Solenberger, who is an attorney, complete the work. The members voted to do so.

Kristi Keith brought up the matter of our jammed flag pole. The City of San Diego is supposed to fix it, but in the mean time, it's impossible to take our flag down.

New Business: First Vice President Dani moderates

New Members: Linda Stolliker, who is also a member of House of Ireland, was attending her first meeting as a prospective new member of House of Scotland. Linda's Grandfather MacLeod, was from the highlands and her grandmother was from Ireland.

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 13** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am
- Feb. 19** House Concert
- Feb. 19 & 20** Queen Mary Highland Games
- Mar. 13** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am
- Mar. 19** NCS Casino Night
- Apr. 2** Tartan Day
- Apr. 10** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am

Hosting

- Feb. 6 McGruer Clan
- Feb. 13 Doris Greeson & Joni Rossi
- Feb. 20 Andy & Melissa Keith
- Feb. 27 Holly & Mike Stewart
- Mar. 6 OPEN
- Apr. 17 Earth Day

If you can host, please call Melissa at (619) 206-6478 or send an email to: MKeith@missionbayhilton.com.

House Concert

HOUSE OF SCOTLAND CEILIDH BAND
HOUSE CONCERT
8 PM FEBRUARY 19

TICKETS \$12

CONCERT WILL BE HELD AT
1621 KRAFT ST. OCEANSIDE

FOR INFORMATION CALL KATHLEEN MCBAIN 760-583-5624. (David McSwain collect the money from Kathleen and deliver it to Cherie.)

RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY!!

TO ASSURE YOUR SPOT, SEND YOUR CHECK (MADE OUT TO "House of Scotland") AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:

KATHLEEN MCBAIN
PO BOX 2445
OCEANSIDE, CA 92051

Saints & Sinners

Liz Pickering looks at some of the more colourful characters in Scottish history

Every country has its share of heroes and villains, legends and folklore, and Scotland is no exception.

The dark and salacious tales of Scotland's villains are probably the most exciting as a starting point. What news editor would print good news over bad?

You don't get much darker than the tale of Sawney Bean, the head of a family of cave-dwelling cannibals who preyed upon passing travelers in Ayrshire during the 16th century. Sawney Bean is said to have deserted his family and taken up residence in a cave near Bannane. Together with a like-minded woman, he robbed and murdered countless people as his incestuous clan multiplied over 20 years to 48 in number.

However, there is a degree of doubt about whether Sawney Bean even existed, given the fact that the earliest record of the story in print dates from the 18th Century and there are no contemporary records confirming the executions or the disappearance of travellers, or even the involvement of the King. Many believe the tale was more likely a work of fiction by the English, designed to shock the 18th century public and vilify the Scots.

Nevertheless, even such an unlikely story may once have had a gem of truth, growing out of some earlier Scottish folklore.

Beyond any doubt is the villainy of William Burke and William Hare, the notorious 'body snatchers' of 19th Century Edinburgh. The study of anatomy was becoming more popular, and ironically there were not enough executed murderers for autopsy purposes. It was a time when grave robbing was a realistic option for some, but Burke and Hare, two Irish immigrants, had a more pro-active approach and murdered 16 people, just for the value of the corpse.

This gruesome series of murders could not go on for long, especially given the dislike personal between Burke and Hare, and their distinct lack of criminal genius. Once arrested, Hare turned informer on Burke, and Burke was hanged. Neither Hare, nor the female partners of the two men, were ever

convicted of the crimes but lived out the rest of their lives shunned by all who knew them.

Most of the famous rogues we might class as villains were not such clear-cut and unambiguous criminals. Take John Paul Jones, the boy from Kirkcudbright who founded the US Navy in the 18th Century and is said to have flown a US flag made from women's underwear. To the Americans he was larger than life, a hero, but to the British he was a brutal and terrifying pirate. There is something about the idea of a pirate that goes beyond the greed and violence that the real job no doubt entailed. Captain William Kidd could have stayed wealthy and respectable in New York, but this Scottish pirate could not resist the allure of piracy even when he was supposed to be working as a pirate-catcher for the British Government. He was hanged in 1701, incorrigible and unrepentant to the end.

Emerging from centuries of feuds, political and religious unrest, oppression and bloodshed, it isn't really surprising that some of Scotland's 'heroes' were not such pristine characters, any more than its villains were all evil. Whether a person is called 'saint' or 'sinner' often depends on your point of view.

Sir William Wallace, immortalized by Hollywood, was the archetypal freedom fighter, rising from relatively low beginnings to a position of massive power in Scotland. He was inspirational in his own time and afterwards, because he reinforced Scotland's national pride and independence in the face of tyrants. But Wallace was a military man who did not only rise up to defend his homeland but also pushed into the north of England, leaving a trail of destruction behind him.

So are there any undeniable good guys in Scottish history? You might look to the Celtic missionaries who first brought Christianity to the Picts. But even if you accept that their aims were right and good, the mysterious tales of those saints are often more bizarre than enlightening. St. Fillan, for instance, so diligent in his night-time work for God that his left arm emitted a miraculous light to save him the tiresome task of using candles.

To think of Scotland's great heroic characters is usually to think of fighting men such as William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, or Rob Roy MacGregor.

However, that is to concentrate on only one aspect of Scotland's 'heroic' past

Why not think, instead, of Mary Slessor, who immersed herself in the tribes of West Africa in the 19th Century, learning the native language and working tirelessly for the rights of women and children. Or David Livingstone, who helped to abolish slavery in Zanzibar in 1873.

Then there are those who have saved lives through their contributions to modern medicine, such as Alexander Fleming, discoverer of Penicillin, Sir James Young Simpson who pioneered Chloroform, or Patick Manson, who made the link between parasitic disease and insect bites.

You could argue that these are the real Scottish heroes, but ultimately, does it matter? National heritage is valued in all its permutations, for better or for worse. We all love a good story, even a tall tale, whether the subject is gruesome or whimsical.

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Gaelic Giggles

A salesman from another country was making a pitch to the furniture buyer of a Glasgow department store.

"And if you carry our new line of dining suites, I'll have the pleasure of presenting you personally with a case of fine wine," the salesman said.

"Oh, we're not allowed to accept gifts," said the buyer. "That would be a form of bribery."

I'll tell you what," said the salesman. "Just to keep it all above board, I'll sell you the wine."

"How much for?"

"Say a pound for the case."

"Oh well," said the buyer, writing out the purchase order, "At that price, I'll take two cases."

Hearth of the Kitchen



Makeover Oatmeal Bars

Ingredients:

2/3 cup sugar
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/3 cup canola oil
1 Tbsp maple syrup
2 cups quick-cooking oats
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground allspice
1/2 cup raisins

Method:

In a large bowl, beat the sugar, applesauce, oil, and syrup until well blended. In a small bowl, combine the oats, flour, baking soda, salt, and allspice; gradually beat into applesauce mixture until blended. Stir in raisins.

Spread batter into a 13 X 9 in. baking pan coated with cooking spray. Bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Cool completely on a wire rack. Cut into 20 bars.

Nutrition facts: 1 bar equals 127 calories, 4 g fat (trace saturated fat), 0 cholesterol, 123 mg sodium, 21 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 2 g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 1 starch, 1 fat.

Recipe from *October/November 2009, Taste of Home Healthy Cooking Magazine*

House Officers

President:	Steve Knight	(760) 741-3909
1st VP:	Danielle McGruer	(619) 884-3928
2nd VP:	Melissa Keith	(619) 206-6478
Secretary:	Dianne Schultz	(760) 717-5108
Treasurer:	Cherie McGruer	(619) 425-3454
Trustees:	Graham McGruer	(619) 425-3454
	Krisit Keith	(858) 453-9640
	James Logan	(619) 252-3780