

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE of SCOTLAND

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

Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101

September 2011

Highlights from the August Meeting:

August Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Graham McGruer, John McColly, David McSwain, and Archie McAllister all have birthdays in August. Kristi and John Keith celebrate an anniversary in August. Liz and Dan Beaty celebrate 17 years of marriage and Liz Beaty turns 43 on August 23.

Prayers and Remembrances: A moment's silence was observed for those members of the military who are serving in harm's way.

Pipe Band Report: Dane Chambers gave the Pipe Band report. The Pipe Band is planning to record the program that was performed with the Spreckels Organ and Saint Paul's Cathedral choirs. The recording will be done at Saint Paul's. The band is also participating in the Poway Day's Parade again this year. Members of the House of Scotland were invited to carry the American and Scottish flags for the parade.

HPR Report: It was reported that the maximum price a cottage can charge for a “complete meal” is \$8.00, instead of the \$10.00 previously stated. HPR is in the *exploratory stages* of planning a raffle what would raise money for the Hall of Nations kitchen remodel and other future expenses. The tentative plan is to sell raffle tickets at \$100 each with a goal of selling 2,000 tickets. The grand prize would be airline tickets to all of the HPR member nations (with the exception of Iran) and \$10,000 spending money. A cash option would be a prize of \$50,000. Lesser prizes would also be awarded.

It was also announced that the new Queen of Queens is from the House of Mexico.

Old Business: Steve moderates.

Hosting: Melissa reports that she needs people to host on August 28 and September 4. Kristi and John Keith have volunteered to host on September 4.

Upcoming events:

The final Summer Movie Festival will be Friday, September 2. The film to be shown is “Stone of Destiny” about the theft, on Christmas Day 1950, of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey, and its return to Scotland.

First Vice President Dani McGruer is planning a Fall Pub Crawl (tentative date Saturday, November 13) with stops at a number of pubs in the Gas Lamp Quarter. Pubs mentioned were: The Field, Blarney Stone, Henry's, Patrick's, and Prohibition SD, which is a speakeasy. The plan is to have participants stay overnight at a nearby hotel, have breakfast as a group, and then all proceed to the November House of Scotland meeting and election of officers. More information will be available at future meetings.

Ceilidh Band: David McSwain reports that the band is practicing the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The band will be playing at our Lawn Program.

New Business: Steve moderates.

New Members: Sharon Boskovich was attending her first meeting as a prospective new member. Sharon is also a member of the House of USA. She says that her mother's family was Scottish.

Other New Business: It was decided not to move the October membership meeting from its normal second Sunday this year. While some members are attending the Seaside Highland games, there should be enough people to hold our meeting.

Don Stewart requested prayers for “the Grandfather” as Holly prepares to deliver wee Seamus Edward on August 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15
Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Schultz, Secretary



Upcoming Events

- Sep. 2** Movie Night, 6:30 pm
- Sep. 11** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am
- Oct. 8-9** Seaside Highland Games
- Oct. 9** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am
- Oct. 30** Lawn Program
- Nov. 13** HOS Meeting, 11:30 am
- Dec. 10** HOS Christmas Party

Hosting

- Sep 4 John & Kristi Keith
- Sep 11 Bob & Sharon Maxton
- Sep 18 V. Anderson, B. Clarke, & D. Swearingen
- Sep 25 Kit & Joni Brainard
- October Band hosts

New hosting incentives: to thank our hosting volunteers, if you host four times during the year, your membership dues for the following year will be waived. If you host six times during the year your membership dues for the following year will be waived and the cottage will pay for your Christmas party dinner. **So sign up now!** (There will be a limit of 4 hosters per Sunday.)

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



HOS Pipe Band Calendar

- September 3rd and 4th:** Pleasanton Highland Games
- Saturday September 10th:** Poway Parade

The band is looking for volunteers to march and carry the banner. Contact Peggy Yuile if you are interested.

- Saturday October 22nd:** Borrego Springs Parade (tentative)



Hearth of the Kitchen



Whisky and Apple Jelly

Ingredients:

- Six pounds of cooking apples
- Granulated sugar
(quantity depends on amount of juice extracted)
- Water
- Whisky (quantity depends on personal taste)

Method:

After washing the apples and removing any over-ripe brown elements, quarter them and just cover in a large preserving pan. Boil the apples until they are soft (but not pulpy). Scald a jelly bag (layers of cheesecloth), suspend it over a bowl and pour in the fruit and liquid. Allow to drip overnight. Don't be tempted to squeeze the bag as this will produce a cloudy jelly.

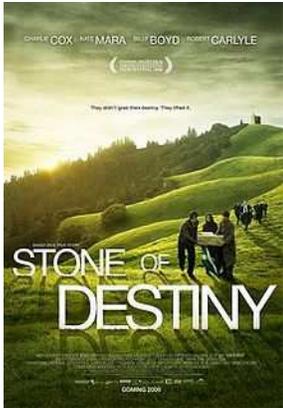
Allow one pound of sugar for every pint of juice (2 cups of sugar for every 2½ cups of liquid). Put both the juice into a pan and stir in the sugar over a moderate heat until all the sugar dissolves. Then, stirring continuously, bring to a boil, and boil rapidly for about ten minutes. Remove any scum which forms. You can check to see if the jelly will set by dropping a little on a cold plate. Once the setting point has been reached, remove from the heat and allow it to rest/cool for a few minutes. Add about a tablespoon of blended whisky (vary the amount according to taste). Then pour the jelly into warm, clean jars, cover, label and store. It is best not to use the jelly for at least three months.

Recipe from http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_whiskyjelly.htm

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
- Kristi Keith (858) 453-9640
- James Logan (619) 252-3780

**Come and join us for Movie Night
Friday, September 2
6:30 pm potluck, movie at 7 pm.
This month's featured movie:**



The Stone of Destiny

Stone of Destiny is a 2008 British-Canadian adventure/comedy film directed by Charles Martin Smith. It stars Charlie Cox, Billy Boyd, Robert Carlyle, Kate Mara and Brenda Fricker.

The film is based on real events and tells the story of the theft of the Stone of Scone on Christmas Day, 1950. The stone, supposedly the pillow stone used by Jacob in the Bible and the stone over which Scottish Kings were traditionally crowned at Scone in Perthshire, was seized by the English King Edward I in 1296 and placed under the throne at Westminster Abbey in London. In 1950, a nationalist plot succeeded in removing it from Westminster Abbey and returning it to Scotland where it was placed symbolically at Arbroath Abbey, the site of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath and an important site in the Scottish nationalist cause.

Pro-independence surge in Scotland

By Tom Gallagher

Speculation has been rife ever since elections for Scotland's autonomous parliament on 5 May that the landslide obtained by the Scottish National Party (SNP) will create an unstoppable momentum leading to the break-up of the United Kingdom.

Committed support for the 304-year old Anglo-Scottish union is fading on both sides of the border.

On 8 May, all predictions were confounded when the SNP obtained an outright majority of Scottish seats, winning in all regions and among all social groups.

The party's main asset is its shrewd and charismatic leader Alex Salmond who fought a presidential-style campaign, obtaining massive donations from industry

and backing from key media outlets. With a competent leader and the campaigning skills of highly-motivated activists, the SNP combined the role of protest movement and party of government.

The Liberal Democrats were decimated due to their unpopular decision to keep the Conservatives in office in London. The Labour Party, previously the dominant force in Scotland, directed its fire against the Conservatives rather than the SNP for the first time in its 77-year-old history captured many of its strongholds.

This was as much a rejection of a lacklustre opposition as an endorsement for the SNP which ruled only with a one-seat majority when it took charge of the administration of Scotland in 2007. Now Alex Salmond can call a referendum on independence at a time of his choosing. He rarely mentioned independence in the election campaign and many commentators are convinced they will prefer devolution to separation.

Memories are still fresh of the near collapse of Scotland's two main banks in 2008; only the injection of £80 billion from the British Treasury saved them, money unlikely to be available for a post-union Scotland.

The SNP insists that independence could be viable thanks to the oil wealth in Scottish waters but oil prices fluctuate wildly and the supply is now depreciating. There is also growing confidence that technological breakthroughs will shortly enable Scotland to become 'the Saudi-Arabia of renewable energy' thanks to harnessing wind and wave power.

It is possible that the SNP will make its goal a looser union rather than complete independence. With the EU considering the removal of important tax-raising and budgetary powers from eurozone members, full national independence appears increasingly out-of-reach.

Legislation at Westminster to allow Scotland greater fiscal autonomy is already near to completion. Rather than the asymmetrical form of devolution existing currently (with parliaments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland while England with five-sixths of the population remains a unitary entity ruled from London), a federal Britain could be the basis for a new political settlement but little backing exists for this concept anywhere in England.

The SNP now has to deliver on the lavish spending promises which contributed to its victory. Vocal

demands in England that Scotland should be encouraged to secede could become louder still if Scotland fails to absorb its share of expenditure cuts.

However, the SNP's biggest immediate challenge is to avoid becoming absorbed in the administrative grind of running a country with numerous economic and social problems: Scotland has one of the world's largest public sectors per head of population and the temptation to become the new party of patronage will be hard to resist.

Increasing thought is being given to Scotland's role inside the EU. If there is a smooth break with England and no bitter quarrels over territorial waters, defence issues, or sharing out the national debt, London is unlikely to place obstacles in the way of negotiations for Scottish entry being swiftly concluded.

But this is very much uncharted waters as there is absolutely no precedent for an EU member splitting and the component parts negotiating for membership or else being hastily re-absorbed into the Union.

The writer is professor of politics at Bradford University and author of "The Illusion of Freedom: Scotland Under Nationalism."

Article from <http://euobserver.com/843/32329>

Earl of Glasgow asks to keep graffiti mural



A peer has asked to keep a controversial graffiti mural on the walls of his family's 13th century castle in Ayrshire.

The Earl of Glasgow has written to Historic Scotland asking if the exhibit can remain as a permanent feature of Kelburn Castle in Largs.

The mural features a psychedelic series of interwoven cartoons depicting surreal urban culture.

It was completed by Brazilian graffiti artists in 2007 at a cost of £20,000.

It was permitted by North Ayrshire Council on the understanding that it was temporary.

A three-year limit was put on the graffiti, pending the start of work to replace the harling render on the exterior of the turret.

The castle is located in the grounds of Kelburn Estate, which also houses a country centre open to the public and featuring a series of outdoor attractions.

'Top ten'

Last month the mural was named as one of the world's top ten examples of street art by author and designer Tristan Manco - on a par with Banksy's work in Los Angeles and the Favela Morro Da Providencia in Rio de Janeiro.

The latest memorandum of guidance published by Historic Scotland states that owners of listed properties should only use "historically correct colours in a manner which is appropriate to the building".

The Earl of Glasgow, Patrick Boyle, whose family has been in Kelburn Castle for 800 years, has written to Historic Scotland seeking to establish whether it is likely the agency would object if he sought consent from the local authority to allow the graffiti to stay indefinitely.

He said: "In the three years that the mural has been on the castle it has attracted enormous interest from around the world and it is loved by everyone who sees it.

"It has become a landmark and a talking point and it has given the castle and the estate a whole new character."

The peer said he realised there were strict rules governing the preservation of historic buildings, but insisted the graffiti added to the character of the castle rather than diminished it.

He added: "What we now call historic buildings have always been drivers of fashion in architecture and design.

"Features that we now take for granted would have seemed radical in their day. The mural might look a bit outlandish and futuristic but if it provokes interest and makes people smile, why shouldn't it stay?"

Article from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-14700161>