



NEWS FROM THE HOUSE of SCOTLAND

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

Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101

October 2011

Highlights from the September Meeting:

September Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Don Stewart is celebrating his 71st birthday today, September 11. Dan Beaty, son-in-law of Dianne Schultz, also has a birthday today. Virginia Anderson's birthday is September 12. John Keith has a birthday on September 16. And Steve and Susan Knight will celebrate their 1st wedding anniversary on September 13. Nancy Ross has a birthday on September 22.

Prayers and Remembrances: A moment's silence was observed for those members of our military who are serving in harm's way as well as those who perished on September 11, 2001, and the families who mark the tenth anniversary of their loss.

Pipe Band Report: The Pipe Band report, received via e-mail, was read by President Steve Knight. Peggy Yuile thanked those House of Scotland members who helped carry the banner and flags in the Poway Days Parade on September 10. The Pipe Band will begin the first of several recording sessions this month with Dr. Carol Williams, the San Diego Civic Organist, and the St. Paul Cathedral Choirs, that will eventually become a House of Scotland Pipe Band CD. Lorne Cousin, Doug Miles, Dane Chambers, and Andrew Hahn will be recording solo tracks. Peggy also reports that Christina Danielson, the daughter of Mandy Danielson, made her band debut at the Poway Parade. Christina plays the tenor drum.

HPR Report: There was no HPR report. The HPR meeting is at noon today, moved from the holiday weekend.

Old Business: Steve moderates.

Hosting: There was no hosting report because Melissa was unable to be at today's meeting. However, it was noted by John and Kristi Keith that someone is needed to host on September 24.

Heather and Courtney Wilson volunteered to host that day. Members of the Pipe Band have been lined up to host in October.

Upcoming events:

- ❖ The House of Scotland Lawn Program is October 30. A sign-up sheet was circulated for both workers and for desserts to be sold. The sign-up sheet will also be available at the October meeting. Volunteers can also contact Cherie McGruer or Dianne Schultz.
- ❖ The tentative date for our Pub Crawl is Saturday, November 13. There was no additional information at this time. **(Editor's note: I believe this event will be postponed for the spring; confirmation at this Sunday's meeting.)**
- ❖ A discussion was held about continuing the movie nights into the rest of the year. No decisions were made at this time, but there were suggestions about including some more educational films about Scotland.

Ceilidh Band: David McSwain reports that the band is working on music for the Lawn Program.

Housekeeping: Kristi Keith reports that she and John found abundant evidence of rodents when they hosted on September 4. It was suggested that we need to put out bait to eliminate the rodents. David Swearingen says that House of Sweden has used bait and no longer has a rodent problem. It was also noted that our flag pole is finally repaired.

New Business: Steve moderates.

New Members: Sharon Boskovich was attending her second meeting as a prospective new member. Sharon has also already hosted in August. Due to a lack of paper ballots, the members voted by acclamation to accept Sharon as a member of House of Scotland.

Nominating Committee: Heather Wilson, Eva McCatty, and David McSwain have agreed to

serve as this year's nominating committee. They will report on nominations at the October meeting.

Other New Business: President Steve Knight reports that House of Scotland will be responsible for the Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon in September of 2012. Steve also read an invitation from the San Diego Girl Scouts for the House of Scotland to participate in a GS Brownie workshop taking place on October 22, 2011. The purpose of the workshop is to introduce the Brownies to different cultures. In the GS Brownie books one of the main characters, Grandma Elf, is Scottish. Susan Self and Heather Wilson agreed to make inquiries and determine if the House wants to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30
Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Schultz, Secretary



Upcoming Events

Oct. 8-9 Seaside Highland Games

Oct. 9 HOS Meeting, 11:30 am

Oct. 30 Lawn Program

Nov. 5 Battlefield Band

Nov. 13 HOS Meeting, 11:30 am

Dec. 10 HOS Christmas Party

Battlefield Band

4650 Mansfield Street
San Diego, CA

November 5 ~ 7:30 pm

Go to www.amsdconcerts.com for ticket information.

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



HOS Pipe Band Calendar

Saturday October 22nd:
Borrego Springs Parade (tentative)

Hearth of the Kitchen



Empire Biscuits

Ingredients:

- 2 cups butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 cup raspberry preserves
- 24 maraschino cherries
- 8 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup milk

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Gradually stir in the flour until well blended. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into rounds using a cookie cutter.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Sandwich one teaspoon of jam between two cookies. Repeat with remaining cookies. In a medium bowl, gradually stir the milk into the confectioners' sugar until the icing is of a spreadable consistency. Spread on top of the sandwiched cookies. Top each cookie with half of a cherry while the icing is still wet.

Recipe from <http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Empire-Biscuits/Detail.aspx>

Hosting



October Band hosts

New hosting incentives: 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.

Job losses in Stenhousemuir as toffee firm folds



The makers of Highland Toffee have ceased trading with the loss of more than 100 Scottish jobs, administrators have confirmed.

Production at the New McCowan's plant in Stenhousemuir was suspended last month after the firm went into administration.

Several investors were thought to have expressed an interest in the company.

But administrators Grant Thornton said staff had now been told they had lost their jobs.

As well as Highland Toffee, the sweet makers also produce the Wham bar, Pan Drops and Bonbons.

Grant Thornton said just over 100 jobs would be lost in Stenhousemuir.

Other group operations - Thornycroft warehousing based in Skegness and Bristows fudge making business in Devon - have also closed, with total job losses across the group put at around 185.

Usdaw, the union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, said it was considering legal action to reclaim lost wages.

McCowan's was bought out of receivership by current owners Thornycroft in 2006.

Administrators were appointed in mid-September after the company experienced cash flow difficulties.

Grant Thornton said the company would continue to look "at all potential options".

From: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-15175383>

Roman artefacts found at Camelon Tesco site

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of at least two Roman forts at a supermarket construction site near Falkirk.

Artefacts including bones, jewellery and coins were discovered at the development in Camelon.

Contractors Barr Construction, who are currently building a Tesco store on the site, are to put the excavated items on public display.

Experts believe the forts date back to the first and second centuries AD.

Two other excavations at the site, one in the 1900s and the other in the 1970s also found evidence of Roman occupation.

Strategic location

Leather shoes, ceramics and ovens were found in this latest dig.

Martin Cook, chief archaeologist at the site, said the fort was at the north-west frontier of the Roman empire and would have had a significant strategic role, as well as being one of the most heavily populated areas of Scotland in Roman times.

"The Roman fort at Camelon would have been one of the most important forts in Scotland," he said.

"It had a port and was a central location in Scotland."

Mr Cook said his team had dug "less than 5%" of the fort, with plenty more artefacts to be found by future generations of archaeologists.

Project manager Craig Nairn, from Barr Construction, said witnessing the archaeologist's discoveries had "captured the imagination" of the teams involved in the Tesco project.

"We hope the history hut created by Barr with help from AOC Archaeologists, Falkirk Council and Tesco Stores Limited will give people a real chance to get a glimpse of life here in Roman times," he said.

All the items will be displayed in a portable cabin on the building site for a month.

From: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-15165914>

Gaelic Giggles

A bank manager in rural Aberdeenshire went out to visit a farmer. When they had done their business, he was taken on a tour of the farmyard. In a pig pen he saw a large white pig with a wooden hind leg.

"That's the bravest, most intelligent pig in the world," said the farmer.

"What happened to it?" asked the bank manager.

"Aye, weel," said the farmer, "there was a fire, ye see."

"In the yard?"

"No, no. In the hoose. The hoose went on fire one night when we were every one of us fast asleep. The pig jumped over the wall and broke in through the back door to tell us. I woke up with his feet on the bed. A brave pig!"

"Was he injured in the fire?"

"No, no. He went back inside again and dragged out the bairns, all three of them, with his teeth."

"What a marvelous animal."

"Aye," said the farmer. "We owe our lives to that pig. There's not a finer pig in all the land."

"But how did he get the wooden leg?"

"Ach well," said the farmer, "if you have a pig of this quality, you don't eat him all at once as if he was some common animal."

From: *Scottish Jokes*, Lomond Books

