



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2011-2012

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Burns Supper starts off a bright new year

There's no denying that the Society really knows how to put on a great Burns Supper . . . and this year's event was proof of that fact.

I lost count of the number of guests who came to me during the evening to congratulate the Committee on the quality of the event.

I have many great memories from the evening.

One of them is the number of young people among the many guests who were at one of our events for the first time and how impressed I was that so many of them could do the dances.

Then there was the Doris and Brian act!

Committee members Doris LaValette and Brian McMurdo made a very impressive MC duo.

Doris also did a great job of gathering together an impressive list of guests willing to entertain us with Burns songs and poetry.

And her response to my toast Tae the Lassies was a lot of fun!

Brian, for his part, also found time to deliver the Address to the Haggis.

There were a few others who made significant contributions, such as Sandy Milligan, who delivered an excellent toast to The Immortal Memory, and the Heel n Toe Band, who kept us dancing and singing through the ceilidh part of the evening.

Of course, none of it would have happened without the hard work of all members of the Society's Committee, especially our Treasurer Diana Paxman and Vice-Chieftain Jeff Crookes.

Ken Suttie
Chieftain

Please Note: The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 19 February (see pages 3 & 5).



Tolquhon Castle

Aberdeenshire is graced by many historic castles, but Tolquhon (pronounced "toh-hoon") is one of the most picturesque.

The oldest part of Tolquhon Castle is the stump of an early 15th-century tower house, probably built by one of the Prestons of Formartine, who once held the barony.

In 1420, the castle passed to Sir John Forbes on his marriage to Marjorie, the younger daughter of Sir Henry Preston.

The Preston Tower, which still forms part of the building, was probably built by this couple, but much of the castle as it stands today was built by Sir William Forbes, 7th Lord of Tolquhon.



In 1584, he began a major rebuilding program and six years later had a house that was amongst the finest of its day.

William Forbes's architect, Thomas Leiper, had dispensed with the traditional tower-house design and instead adopted the idea of a rectangular, three-storey residential block complemented by other ranges grouped around a central courtyard.

This arrangement provided the lord and lady with a more horizontal form of living than was achievable in the old tower house.

One innovation was galleries (indoor recreation spaces) on the first floor of the west and north ranges, accessible from the family's private apartment in the south block.

Beyond the courtyard, Sir William had a formal garden and a large walled pleasance built, to complement the house itself.

Once the building was completed, King James VI visited Sir William in his new abode.

William Forbes also had a burial vault built in the nearby parish church in Tarves village.

The Tolquhon Tomb is one of the best examples of Scotland's so-called 'Glorious Tombs' of the Jacobean age.

Finely decorated, the tomb's features include beguiling stone effigies of William Forbes and his wife, Elizabeth Gordon, who are both buried there.

In 1651, Alexander, the 10th laird, was knighted for saving the life of King Charles II at the Battle of Worcester, after the king's horse had been killed.

The Forbes' cavalry shielded the king until he could escape on the laird's mount.

Later, Alexander became bankrupt through unfortunate speculation and the estate was sold in 1716.

Tolquhon Castle was later bought by the Marquis of Aberdeen and it was occupied until the middle of the 19th century.

In 1929 the Marquis of Aberdeen handed the ruins to the State and it is now looked after by Historic Scotland.

By Ken Suttie



Annual General Meeting

If you are interested in ensuring that the Society continues to promote the wonderful Scottish culture in WA, please provide your support at its Annual General Meeting.

And at the same time you can enjoy a bit of that culture at a mini-ceilidh following the business of the meeting.

The Society's AGM will be held on Sunday, 19 February, in the St Peter and Emmaus Church hall, on the corner of Green and Banksia Streets, Joondanna.

As usual, the main business of the meeting will be the tabling of annual reports and the election of office-bearers.

The Society desperately needs its members to attend the AGM in a support sense.

However, it is even more important that members volunteer to join the Society's Committee and help provide the organisation so vital to the Society's continued success.

The positions up for election are Chieftain, Vice-Chieftain, Honorary Secretary,

Honorary Treasurer and up to six general committee members.

Following the business of the day, there will be a mini-ceilidh and we're asking the members who attend to bring along nibbles and whatever they like to drink.

The AGM will start at 2.30pm and the mini-ceilidh will finish around 6.30pm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Annual General Meeting: 19 February
Venue: St Peter and Emmaus Church Hall

Chieftain's Ceilidh: 5 May
Venue: RAAFA Club, Bull Creek

Winter Ceilidh: 11 August
Venue: Scarborough Sportsmen's Club

St Andrew's Day Ball: 1 December
Venue: Kings Hotel, Perth

Burns Supper: 25 January, 2013
Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel

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Forward with Scotland's Past

Western Australia is in for a treat . . . the Scottish Folk Band of the Year for 2011 will be playing two concerts here in March.

The Battlefield Band, named after the Glasgow suburb of Battlefield, has been travelling the world for more than 40 years delivering its unique style of Scottish music under its motto "Forward with Scotland's Past".

Thanks to Heather and Jim Anderson, of the House of Tartan, this excellent band will be performing at The Charles Hotel, North Perth, on 21 March, and in Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, on 22 March.

Both concerts start at 7.30pm.

The Battlefield Band has been at the forefront of a great revival in Scottish music, mixing old songs and music with a self-penned repertoire.

It has released more than 30 albums and undergone many changes of lineup, but since Alan Reid left in 2010, there are no founder members left in the band.

A multi-talented group of musicians, the current band members can play a variety of instruments, including Highland bagpipes, Scottish small bagpipes, fiddle, guitar, various whistles, bazouki and piano.

They are Sean O'Donnell, Alasdair White, Ewen Henderson and Mike Katz.

Their music is angry, joyful, raucous and contemplative, and accessible to all.

The band is ever evolving, and over the years the various members have brought with them new ideas, music, instruments, attitudes and influences, leading to continued creativity, freshness and enthusiasm.



Several former members have gone on to have successful solo careers

Tickets cost \$45, or \$40 for groups and concessions.

battlefield band



Winner
Best Scottish
Folk Band
2011

LIVE

in Perth
March 2012

Wednesday 21st March
at Charles Hotel North Perth
bookings through BOCS www.bocsticketing.com.au

Thursday 22nd March
at Mandurah
Performing Arts Centre
bookings through
Manpac box office: www.manpac.com.au

Proudly brought to you by The House of Tartan



The Saint Andrew Society of WA



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2012

2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

ST PETER AND EMMAUS CHURCH HALL
Corner of Green and Banksia Streets, Joondanna

FOLLOWED BY A MINI-CEILIDH

BYO Nibbles :: BYO Drinks :: Dancing to recorded music

Please come along and show your support for the Society

It's time to renew your Society membership.

Annual subscriptions (\$30 per member) can be paid by mail (see below), EFT or at the AGM.

Remember you must be a financial member to vote or stand for office at the AGM.

If attending the AGM, please send in the completed form, with payment, by 17 February 2011 to
**The Treasurer, The Saint Andrew Society of WA, Midland BC, PO Box 1212
Midland DC WA 6936**

Cheques should be made payable to 'The Saint Andrew Society of WA'.

Or by electronic funds transfer to The Commonwealth Bank; BSB: 066105; Acc No: 00901144
detailing sender and items covered by payment

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I/we wish to pay my/our membership subscription.

Number of Members = \$