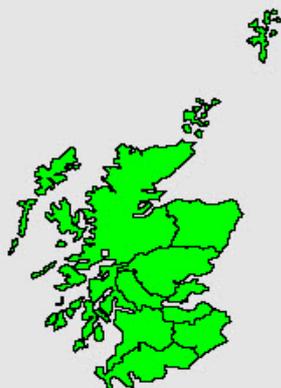




THE Saltire

No 8

July 2010



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2010-2011

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Dawn Cromb

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saintandrew.org.au

OH, HOW BONNIE IS SCOTLAND?

Hello everybody I hope this newsletter finds you all as fit and well as I feel after my wee trip hame, a visit to Scotland to see family and friends always gives us a lift in one way or another don't you think, and for me this was no exception, and believe it or not I only had one day of rain.

As usual I spent most of my time doing three things, eating and drinking, well what do you expect when there is Cullen skink, smokies, tripe, Ayrshire potatoes with herring and oatmeal, Bell's Scotch pies, butteries, Selkirk bannocks on the table, oh and the third thing was drooling as I walked round the whole of Marks and Spencer's food department.

Culinary activities aside I spent some time in Ayrshire revisiting the Kirk where I was married. It's got no right to be still standing, browsed through the Burns' paraphernalia in Alloway, walked over the beautiful golf course at Turnberry, had a wee bite to eat at the refurbished Souter Johnnie's on the way back; marvelous day.

Most of my time however was spent over on the east coast, at Elie in the Kingdom of Fife from where we travelled up and down the countryside visiting all the wee places like Crail, Pittenweem, Anstruther (where the best fish suppers in the UK are made) and of course St. Andrews where the history and culture take your breath away, Oh what a bonnie toon.

Aberdeen was also on the list, to visit Maggie's parents, where two days seemed like two months but I *was* taught how to make tea properly and the correct method of making wee brown scones. Bless.

For my last night with family and friends I made a great big traditional steak pie with cabbage and the fancy potatoes you get in IKEA (so I cheated). You should try them, they are brilliant, and for desert I whipped up a monster pavlova with Scottish strawberries and lots of cream. It was yum; there I go talking food again.

I can't believe how old my pals are looking !!

It is nice to be back to auld claes and purritch however it would be even nicer if I could find a pair of troosers that fitted.

Sandy Milligan, Chieftain



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"Haggis Club News"

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This new feature is available to all the Society members to share an interesting story with us all, for example :-

News and pictures from Scotland.

Your favorite recipe, preferably Scottish.

A special holiday destination including the hotel or B & B information to pass on.

A really funny Scottish or other type of joke (clean of course)

Your birthdays, new babies, new grand children, weddings, anniversaries etc. etc. with picture.

This months "Haggis Club" funnies

Hamish and Dougal were talking one afternoon when Dougal tells Hamish, "Ye ken, a think I'm about ready for a holiday. Only this year I'm gonnae dae sumthin a wee bit different.

The last few years, I took your advice about where to go.

Three years ago you said to go to Hawaii. I went to Hawaii and Senga got pregnant.

Then, 2 years ago, you told me to go to the Bahamas and Senga got pregnant again.

Last year you suggested Tahiti and blow me, if Senga didn't get pregnant again."

"So, what you gonnae dae this year that's different?" Hamish asks,

Dougal says, "This year I'm taking Senga wi me."

It was a terrible winter — three months of unbroken blizzards.

McTavish hadn't been seen in the village for weeks, so a Red Cross rescue team struggled to his remote croft at the head of the glen.

It was completely buried — only the chimney was showing.

"McTavish," they shouted down the chimney. "Are you there?"

"Wha's that?" came the answer.

"It's the Red Cross," they called.

"Gang awa", shouted McTavish. "I bought a flag last year!"

If you have a story or a wee joke or an interesting article you would like published in the "Haggis Club News" please send it to me:-
Sandy Milligan PO Box 479, West Perth WA 6872. or by e-mail sandy@tckd.com.au



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Christmas in July Ceilidh

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Last week 80 members and guests attended our Christmas in July Ceilidh, at the Yokine bowling club and again according to the comments, it reached the heights now expected at our functions.

The Heel'n'toe band were at their best playing for all our favourite dances with recognized Christmas tunes. Clever mob them musicians, and with their singer giving his all we were well entertained.

Again we had our raffle and it was nice to see a new member Mr. George Gault winning a prize, with no fixing either. And to show his gratitude he recited one of his own poems; very good it was too.

I presented Mr. Gault with the membership badges for him and Eva Szauter and welcomed them as new members.

The sub committee should be congratulated for the organizing of this event for again they did a very good job, and the MC on the night Brian McMurdo was at his usual relaxed self while holding it all together. Well done Brian.

There were several of our regular members unable to attend, due to prior commitments or being overseas on holiday, and this begs several questions:

Do we continue with this function at this time of the year ?

Also has Christmas in July lost it's appeal ?

The committee will give some thought to this ceilidh. Watch this space!

The new "SALTIRE" page header

While in Scotland I asked my son in law to come up with a more traditional Scottish heading for our "Saltire" news letter, and although I say it myself I think he has done a great job

What do you think ?

Sandy Milligan

2010 events

September 18th:- **Spring Ceilidh,**

venue: Osborne Park Bowling Club, cnr, Eldorado and Park Streets, Tuart Hill.

September 22nd:- Dancing Lessons—see page 6

venue: Mount Hawthorn Community Centre

November 27th:- **The Saint Andrew's Day Ball,**

venue: The Novotel Langley Hotel, 221 Adelaide Terrace, Perth

January 25th:- **Burns Supper**

venue: To Be Arranged

It would make our job much easier if we could send your Saltire by e-mail, no stamps, envelopes, address labels, lassies folding time and posting, so please send your e-mail address to :-
Brian McMurdo [bdmcmurdo@hotmail.com]



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"MEMORIES OF DUNOON"

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I was born in Glasgow in Crookston, Cardonald. The family (7 of us) moved to Dunoon around 1941 when I was 4 years old. We moved to Dunoon mainly to get further away from the WW2 bombing of Glasgow and the Clyde shipbuilding yards. In fact, as kids living in the relative safety of Dunoon, we used to look across the Clyde at night to watch the 'fireworks' (the Jerries bombing Gourock and Greenock). Mum used to yell at us to keep the blinds closed as we were supposed to maintain a total blackout every night. The US Army had troops stationed in Dunoon at the time and I remember the soldiers being very generous in handing out chewing gum and 'candies' to us local kids.

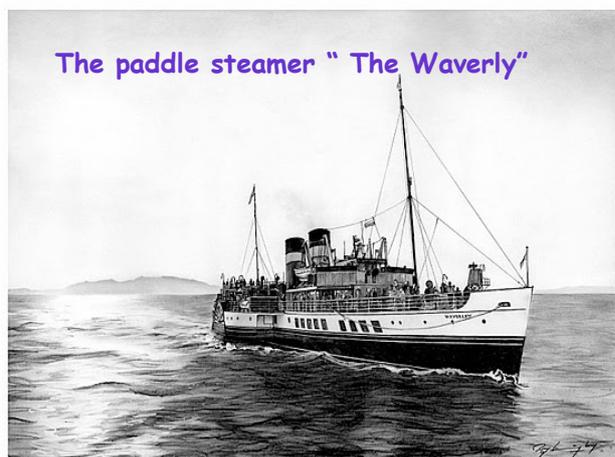
I spent my formative years in Dunoon from 4 to 18 years of age, so it had a big influence on my life. I have many fond memories. At Hallowe'en we youngsters would dress up as 'guisers' and knock on people's doors. We would be invited in but had to perform - either sing a song or recite a poem - before we would get any reward. The reward was maybe tuppence or a sweetie or an apple.

I attended Kirn Primary School then Dunoon Grammar School. The curriculum at the Grammar school was identical for boys and girls, but for some Victorian reason we were segregated and our classes were at different times.

I was a member of the 37th Argyll (Dunoon) Scout Group for 6 years and our formal dress was the kilt. I was also in the school's army cadet force and was promoted to company sergeant major in 1955, my final year at secondary school.

Dunoon is a rather sleepy town on the west bank of the River Clyde, with picturesque hills in the background. It has a resident population of about 10,000 which has hardly changed in the past 50 years. In its hey days, the 50's and 60's, it was a great holiday destination in summer when the population used to swell to 30,000. Most of the holiday makers were from Paisley and Glasgow, making their annual ferry trip "doon the watter" in the paddle steamers Jeannie Deans, Waverley and King Edward.

Many visitors had been coming for 20 years or more, always to the same room in the same hotel or guest house. They were attracted to what Dunoon had to offer such as the golf course, the Castle Gardens with its putting green and famous statue of Bonnie Mary of Argyll, Morag's Fairy Glen for



The paddle steamer "The Waverly"

romantic walks, the Cosy Corner for entertainment, the Embassy Ballroom or Burgh Hall for dancing, bus tours to Loch Lomond, the Trossacks and Oban, boat hire and fishing on the Clyde. A lot of the older people used to spend hours sitting in deck chairs on the beach at the West Bay. Sadly the beach was all stones but the folks didn't seem to mind. Dunoon didn't have a swimming pool so people, including us school kids, used to make a Saturday day trip on the paddle steamer, to the swimming baths at Rothesay

Continued next page



The bottom fell out of Dunoon's tourist industry in the late 60's when it became fashionable and economically viable to go 'abroad' to France, Spain and Italy.

A major annual event at Dunoon was, and still is, the Cowal Games. It is a traditional Scottish event, almost as famous as the Braemar Games, with competitions in highland dancing, tossing the caber, putting the shot, athletics, playing the bagpipes, etc. Competing pipe bands would come from Scotland and overseas, from as far away as Canada and New Zealand. Sometimes all the pipe bands would mass together - what a thrill it was to hear 1000 pipers playing at one time! As a 14 year old boy scout on duty at the games my job was to help carry the caber and cannon ball shot put back to the burly Scottish competitors.

Apart from the natural and sporting attractions, there is not a lot to keep young people in Dunoon. Work opportunities are fairly limited and some people are obliged to move across the Clyde to find employment. One successful industry has been the manufacture and export of pottery and ceramics.

I was working for 6 years in the Middle East (Kuwait) and was amazed one day when I went into a Kuwaiti gift shop and picked up a lovely decorated coffee mug with an inscription fired into the underside: "Made in Dunoon".

The Americans had a naval base in the Holy Loch for about 20 years in the 60's and 70's. The local Scottish lads were not much impressed at having to compete with a bunch of young US marines in uniform for the attention of the local lassies. Dunoon didn't know what hit it when night clubs, hamburger joints and juke boxes started popping up everywhere. However when the naval base finally closed, all these new fangled facilities disappeared into thin air. Today there is little trace of the American presence, but I daresay there are a few Scottish grandmothers now living in Utah, Arizona and California.

Since leaving Dunoon in 1955, I have returned briefly as a visitor 4 times - 1960, 1972, 1994 and 2005. The last visit in 2005 was for a Dunoon Grammar School reunion, "Class of 55".

The organization of this reunion was started via the Internet in 2003 by myself with local help from an old Dunoon classmate. It was a highly successful reunion, with a 3 day programme, and 48 people attended. Most of us had not seen the others for 50 years, since the day we left school. It was amazing how we just leap-frogged 5 decades and clearly recalled the things we did as teenagers. At the finish it was a rather teary farewell as most of us realised that this would be a one-off event.

The Dunoon school reunion was indeed a trip back in nostalgia but it made me realise that no matter where I live or travel in the world I will always be proud of my Scottish heritage.

Tom Weir.



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Scottish Dancing Lessons

Going to the Ball? Want to learn some Scottish Country Dancing? Dancing lessons are run every year in the lead-up to the ball, principally for those attending the ball. But useful for fitness and all the ceilidhs as well!

No experience necessary! Bring your dancing shoes!

Classes start on Wednesday 22nd September and run for 10 weeks right up to the Wednesday before the ball.

The venue for the dancing classes is again the Mount Hawthorn Community Centre, The Boulevard, Mount Hawthorn (where it meets Scarborough Beach Road)

Just to whet your appetite!

The Gay Gordons

Formation: couples around the room facing anti-clockwise, ladies on the right

Music: 2/4 or 4/4 march. E.g. "Scotland the Brave", "The Gay Gordons".



Bars	Description
1-2:	Right hands joined over lady's shoulder (man's arm behind her back) and left hands joined in front, walk forward for four steps, starting on the right foot.
3-4:	Still moving in the same direction, and without letting go, pivot on the spot (so left hand is behind lady and right hand is in front) and take four steps backwards.
5-8:	Repeat in the opposite direction.
9-12:	Drop left hands, raise right hands above lady's head. Lady pivots on the spot. (The man may set).
13-16:	Joining hands in ballroom hold, polka round the room.