

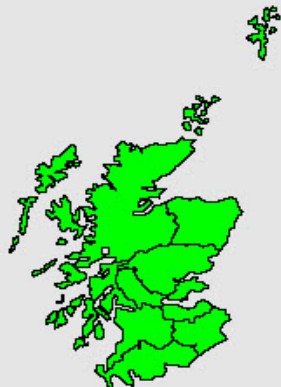


THE Saltire

No 9

From the Chieftain

Sep 2010



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2010-2011

Chieftain

Sandy Milligan

Vice Chieftain

Jeff Crookes

Hon Secretary

Brian McMurdo

Hon Treasurer

Pauline Sedgwick

Past Chieftain

Ken Suttie

Members

Cameron Dickson

Bob McGhee

Diana Paxman

Thelma Koppi

Jacqui Ure

Margaret Weir

Mistress of the Dance

Dawn Crombe

Website

saintandrew.org.au

Dear members,

We are now getting to the business end of the year with the Spring Ceilidh, the St Andrews day ball, the Burn's Supper and the Armadale Gathering just around the corner, and to organize all of these events your committee has been working their socks off on your behalf.

This year your committee have been working under an extra burden with three of our most experienced members overseas at the same time, leaving us rookies to flounder a wee bit, however we believe we are back on track with all of the above functions now well planned. Big thanks to Jeff Crookes.

The menu and entertainment for the ball will again be of the highest standards now expected by you, even the haggis has been unanimously decided on, over a few drams, of course.

So don't miss out on your favourite events by ordering your tickets as soon as they become available, the date for ordering tickets for the Ball will be shown in our next issue of the Saltire.

While we know you will enjoy the Ball. you will enjoy it even more if you can do some of the dances, so get along to the classes and have fun. There's no need to be shy, there are plenty of members who will assist our dance mistress Dawn Crombe in getting you ready for the Ball.

Lots of exciting information in this issue, but lets hear from all of you. It's your newsletter and we'd love to hear your news. We are allowing some advertising in the newsletter , to offset the costs of the bumper Saltire issues, so again a plea for email addresses to send your newsletter. The website is also being upgraded so look out for some changes there too! See you at the Spring Ceilidh!

Sandy Milligan



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"Haggis Club News"

Page 2

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

The Lone Ranger and Tonto are walking through the desert. They come across a body with an arrow sticking in it.

"The work of the Cherokee", says Tonto, looking at the arrow.

"How can you tell?" asks the Lone Ranger

"Cherokee use feather of eagle"

"Ah" Says Lone Ranger

A little later, they encounter another body, again killed by an arrow.

"Sioux", says Tonto.

"Tell by the feathers?" asks the Lone Ranger

"No, type of arrow head. Sioux use flint"

"Oh", says The Lone Ranger.



Further along, yet another dead body greets them. This time it's covered in dozens of little arrows.

"Well, which tribe did this"? asks the Lone Ranger

"Rangers fans", says Tonto decisively,

"How can you tell?" asks the Lone Ranger

Tonto replies, "Wee Arra' People"

This months "Haggis Club" recipe

Due to lack of space in this issue, Brian's Favourite tablet recipe will appear in the next Saltire.

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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ARMADALE HIGHLAND GATHERING AND CYCLE CLASSIC

(info from website: www.armadale.wa.gov.au)

Although there are sure to be Scots as far as the eye can see Celtic ancestry is not a prerequisite to join in the fun at this much loved community event. Visitors will be invited to witness some Scottish highland and country dancing, marvel at the pipe band competition, feast on scrumptious Scottish sweets and indulge in a celebratory ale - after all no Scottish gathering would be complete without a toast to the haggis.



Event photo
appearance of cow is not guaranteed!

Date: Sat 13 November 2010

Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Venue: Minnowarra Park - corner Armadale Road & Orchard Avenue, Armadale

2010 events

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

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

September 22nd:- Dancing Lessons—see page 7

venue: Mount Hawthorn Community Centre

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

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

2011 events

January 25th:- **Burns Supper**

venue: Parmelia Hilton

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]

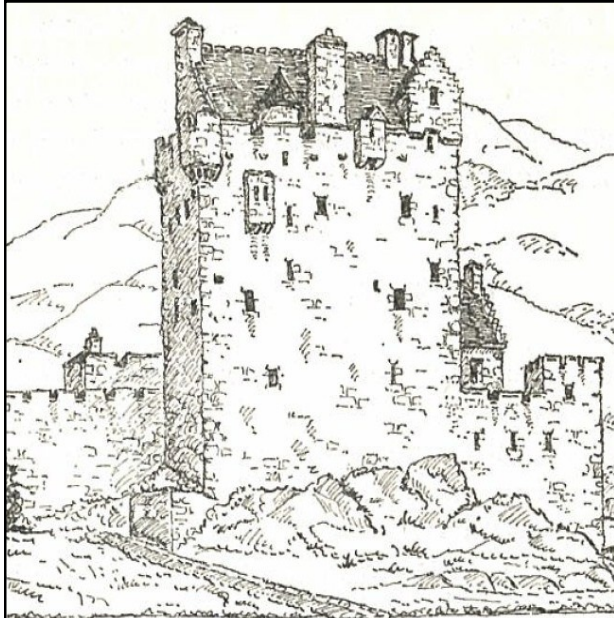


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Eilean Donan Castle, Ross-shire

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Eilean Donan would almost certainly be the most photographed castle in all of Scotland. It occupies a tiny island at Dornie, in the mouth of Loch Duich, in the West Highlands of Ross-shire. It stands close to the road leading to Kyle of Lochalsh and the modern bridge across to the Isle of Skye.

The site has clearly long been considered of military importance, archeologists having discovered evidence of there having been a vitrified Caledonian fort here. In the 13th century, the lands of Kintail are said to have been given by King Alexander III to Colin Fitzgerald, a son of the Irish Earl of Desmond, for his aid in defeating the invasion by King Hakon of Norway at the Battle of Largs. Some claim that it is from a descendant of this family called Kenneth that Clan Mackenzie takes its name.

Originally, the 13th century castle resembled many other west coast "castles of enceinte", consisting of little more than a massive and irregularly shaped wall of irregular outline, enclosing a courtyard containing lean-to buildings. In the 14th or 15th century a rectangular keep was built at the north-east angle, making use of the existing enceinte walling. This keep rises three storeys to a garret or attic, built within a parapet walk. In centuries past, the main method of transport around the west coast of Scotland was by galley. No self respecting chief was going to hike over hill and glen, through heather and bog when he could be rowed around in style! This is why so many west coast castles are built on islands or apparently inaccessible promontories, so far from the nearest modern road.

Eilean Donan was a Mackenzie property and when the MacRaes migrated to Kintail in the 14th century, they assumed the role of 'protectors' of the Mackenzies and then Constables of Eilean Donan from 1511. In 1539 the castle was attacked by a force of 50 Macleod galleys led by Donald 'Gruamach' (The Gloomy!) Macdonald of Sleat, in support of his claim to the Lordship of the Isles, but the battle came to a stop when Donald was shot and killed by an arrow fired from the castle by Duncan MacRae (well, Duncan claimed it was one of his arrows anyway!). In the summer of 1719 Eilean Donan featured in "The Little Rising", the Jacobites using it as their supply base. Three hundred Spanish troops (many more had been hoped for) were landed and along with about 700 Scots, set off for Inverness. They only got a few miles up Glen Shiel before running into a Hanoverian army coming the other way. The resulting Battle of Glen Shiel was inconclusive, but it signaled the end of the rebellion. While this had been going on, the government (you shouldn't call them 'English'!) warships Worcester, Enterprise, and Flamborough bombarded Eilean Donan, and then sent a party ashore to blow up the remains with the gunpowder the Jacobites had stored inside.

Almost 200 years later the castle was bought by John Macrae-Gilstrap, who rebuilt the castle as seen today, close to its pre-1719 appearance, except for the bridge - a modern addition made necessary by the demise of the galley service! The castle featured in the film "Highlander".

Richard Paxman



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A Plea for Your Email Address

Page 5

I hope ye like these wee brow pages
 Cause I'll tell you, it takes me ages
 Aw they papers
 Full o' Sandie's capers
 And envelopes and stamps - it's just dark ages

So have the Saltire sent by Email
 We're requesting this of male and female
 Email would save a real big wood (forest)
 An' be assured, it'll look just as good
 And better still , I know you could

Please drop an email to secretary@saintandrew.org.au with your email address to confirm we can send the Saltire email. It takes five of us two hours to print, fold, stuff and stamp the envelopes to get the Saltire out every time it gets sent. We operate on a really tight budget and getting more Saltire's sent out by email would potentially save an increase in fees - and leave more time to party. We would really appreciate your cooperation with this initiative.

Jacqui Ure, present "Saltire stuffer into envelopes" chief.

Honorary Piper Position

Can you squeeze out a bit of a tune on the bagpipes or do you know someone who can play the pipes?

The Society suffered a bit of a setback last year when our Honorary Piper of the last few years, David Steele, went to Adelaide to live. David was a good musician and an enthusiastic Honorary Piper, so his departure has left us with a huge gap to fill. We urgently need someone to take up the role.

The Honorary Piper is required to play for the guests as they arrive at the Chieftain's Ceilidh and the Burns Supper, and to play for the entrance of the haggis party at the Burns Supper. However, he or she could also play as the guests arrive at the St Andrew's Day Ball, and is usually asked to play a couple of times during the Ball, such as for leading in the Chieftain's Party. If the Hon Piper feels like it, he or she can also play as the guests arrive at the other two ceilidhs, or as part of the entertainment during the three ceilidhs and the Burns Supper.



As you can see the Honorary Piper position is an important one for the Society and, to show our appreciation, the Committee usually gives the piper a ticket to the events at which he or she plays.



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WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

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(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man, & a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.

It's funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

An 8-YEAR-OLD was asked where his grandma lived. 'Oh' he said, 'She lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit we take her back to the airport.'

Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him.



Want to Advertise? Have we got space for you!

The Saint Andrew's Society Committee has decided to make space available in the newsletter for advertising for financial members of the Saint Andrew's Society. It costs us to print the Saltire so in order to recover costs there will be a charge for this. The amount payable per quarter page of approx 8 cm wide and 10.5 cm in depth is \$25. The Saltire is published in Comic Sans MS. Only what the committee deems "appropriate" material will be allowed advertising space. We reserve the right to refuse inappropriate content and/or any material that will offend members of the society.

The Saltire is in colour and placed on the St Andrew's website and sent out to members in black and white so subtle variations in colour may not be noticed in the print version.



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The Saint Andrew's Day Ball

Page 7

Most of you are probably already thinking about the Society's annual celebration, the St Andrew's Day Ball. Held to commemorate Scotland's National Day, this year the Ball will be held on Saturday, 27 November, at the Novotel Langley Hotel.

The Ball gives everybody a chance to dress up in their finery (men as well as women) and to let their hair down in no uncertain fashion. As usual, the Ball will be excellent value at approx \$150 for Society members and \$165 for non-members being charged this year.

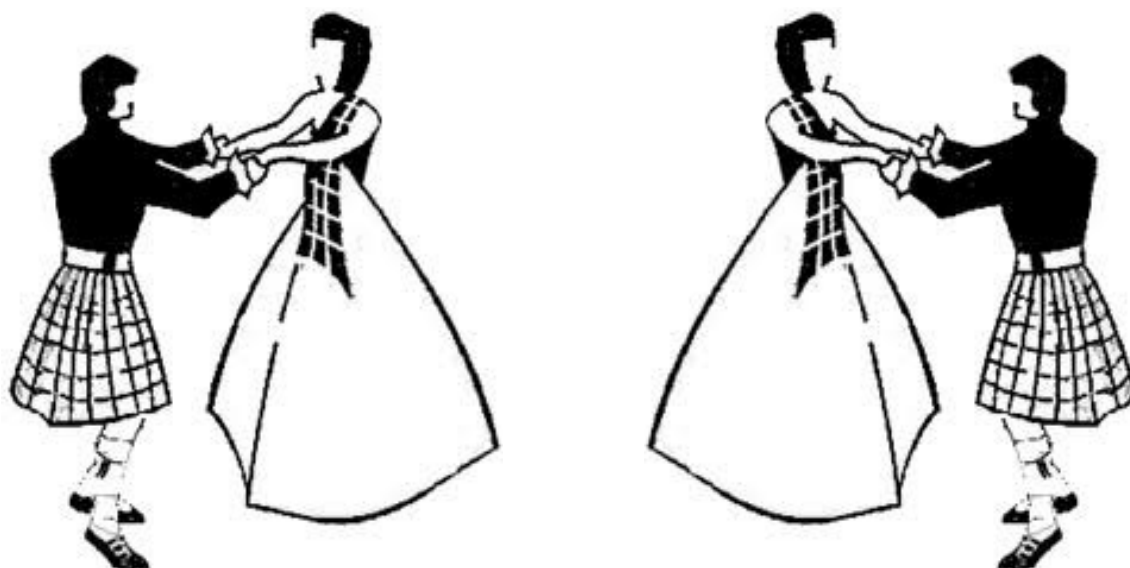
The Heel 'n' Toe Band will be there to get people dancing and for those who don't know the dances, or would like to brush up on the steps, we will have our usual pre-Ball dance classes at Mt Hawthorn Community Centre. To add to the entertainment, the WA Police Pipe Band will be there to play a few tunes; always a very popular diversion from the dancing! The dancing and entertainment will be interspersed between a four-course meal, washed down by whatever beverage you fancy from the wide range available on the evening.

This year, the Ball will be graced by a special guest who has an affinity for Scotland, the Lord Mayor of the City of Perth, Lisa Scaffidi.

The Novotel is offering a special accommodation deal to our members attending the ball. By using the link below, members can go online and book using the direct facility which recognises them as SAS members and gives them access to rooms at special rates.

<http://www.accorasiapacificpartners.com/stand123>

Do not send cheques at present. Full details and final costings and forms will be available in the next issue of The Saltire in early October.





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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. Time change is now 7.45pm. Only \$5.

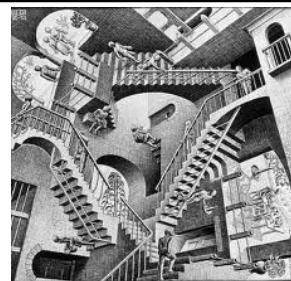
The venue for the dancing classes is again the Mount Hawthorn Community Centre, The Boulevard, Mount Hawthorn (where it meets Scarborough Beach Road)

The Canadian or Highland Barn Dance

(dance steps not as difficult as Escher's on the right!)

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

Music: 2/4 or 4/4 pipe march (not 6/8) or scottische.



Bars	Description
1-2:	Starting with the outside foot, walk forward for three steps and hop (or kick).
3-4:	Walk backwards for three steps and hop.
5-6:	Skip sideways away from your partner (men towards the centre of the room, ladies towards the edge) for two steps and clap.
7-8:	Return to partner and join in ballroom (waltz) hold.
9-12:	In ballroom hold, skip sideways to the man's left, lady's right for two steps then back.
13-16:	Use four step-hops to polka anti-clockwise round the room.