



No 4

**Message from the Chieftain**

August 2014



## "Alba Gu Brath"

### COMMITTEE 2014-2015

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## Winter Ceilidh hits high spots

Welcome to another edition of the Society's now very famous publication and, in particular, a very warm ceud mile fàilte to all of our new readers out there.

Our Winter Ceilidh, held at the Royal Australian Air Force Association's complex in Bullcreek on Saturday 2 August, featured a varied and innovative format.

The arrangement to have the meal served before the dancing started was well received, because it allowed folk to have a good natter over a wine and a fine two-course dinner.

The Committee made a conscious decision to keep the dances simple to encourage and enhance the participation of all the guests and that worked well, with all 72 people on the floor for most of the evening.

I must acknowledge the presence of the 21 Morris dancers who attended the Ceilidh and their whole-hearted participation . . . as well as an impressive success rate in the raffle!

From the views gathered from the many people I spoke to on the evening it was a great success.

My thanks go to all Committee members, with a special mention for our Vice Chieftain, Diana Paxman, her team and all of the other helpers for their work in making the ceilidh such a fun night.

Also, a big thank you to Reggie McNeill, for his sterling efforts on the pre-ceilidh dance class.

The weather on the night of the class was awful and meant that fewer than expected turned up, but those that did brave the elements had a good time.

So it's onward to the Saint Andrews Day Ball.

As has been the case in previous years, tickets for this event are highly sought after, so I urge all Members to secure tickets for themselves and their guests as soon as they become available.

Until we meet again I wish you slàinte mhath.

Douglas Melville  
Chieftain



## Your sure to have a ball at the Ball

It's time to grab your tickets for the Society's annual celebration . . . The St Andrew's Day Ball.

A highlight of the Perth Scottish calendar, the Ball is the Society's way of recognising Scotland's national day, while having a great time.

**SAINT ANDREW'S DAY BALL**  
 Saturday 29th November 2014  
 7.00pm  
 Hyatt Regency Perth  
 Dancing to the Heel 'n' Toe Band  
 Perth Metro Pipe Band  
 Pre-Dinner Drinks, four course meal with drinks  
 Tables of eight  
 Members \$145.00 non-members \$165.00  
 Ticket sales close Friday 21st November  
 Instalment payments available initial deposit  
 \$50.00pp final payment by Friday 14th November

[www.saintandrew.org.au](http://www.saintandrew.org.au) for booking form

It's a chance for ladies and men to get dressed up in their finery and get their photographs taken looking splendid . . . before getting a bit messed up as they throw themselves into the fray that is Scottish country dancing.

For the paltry sums of \$145 for members and \$165 for non-members, guests can enjoy pre-dinner drinks, a four-course meal with drinks, dancing to the Heel n Toe Band and entertainment provided by the Perth Metro Pipe Band.

What more would you need for a distinctly Scottish fun evening?

Don't hesitate! Go to the Society's website . . . <http://saintandrew.org.au/about/forms/> . . . for more information and the ticket application form.

## Pre-Ball dance classes are heaps of fun

On the subject of dancing, this year's pre-Ball dance classes will be held at the Royal Park Hall, 180 Charles Street, North Perth.

Every Wednesday night from 24 September through to 26 November, from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm, at a cost of \$5.00 per person per session, you can brush up on the dances we'll be doing at the Ball, while having a bit of fun, too.

The dance program at this year's Ball will be:

The Gay Gordons  
 The Dashing White Sergeant  
 The Triumph  
 The Duke of Perth  
 Petronella  
 Strip The Willow  
 The Reel of the 51st Division  
 The Eightsome Reel  
 The Waverley  
 Virginia Reel  
 Pride of Erin Waltz  
 St Bernard's Waltz  
 Canadian Barn Dance

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2014

**Pre-Ball Dance Classes:** Wednesday evenings, 7.30-9.30pm, 24 September to 26 November.

Venue: Royal Park Hall, North Perth

**St Andrew's Day Ball:** 29 November

Venue: Hyatt Regency, Perth

### 2015

**Burns Supper:** 25 January

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth



## Ceilidh brightened up a cold, dark night

Colours was the theme for the Winter Ceilidh and the effort made by a many of the guests to wear colourful clothes helped to brighten up a cold winter evening on Saturday 2 August.

The colours theme was extended to the RAAFA venue, with splashes of colour all around the room, coloured paper lanterns hanging from the ceiling, tables decorated with tartan runners and red napkins, and with tea light candles adding to the atmosphere.

The number of guests was boosted by 21 Morris dancers, some of whom had travelled all the way from Albany for the event.

With the help of the experienced dancers, and probably because of their dancing background, they picked up the Scottish dances very quickly and their enthusiasm added to the evening's fun.

The Heel n Toe Band played their usual major part in ensuring a great evening, despite the fact that they were only a three-piece.

As is the tradition at any ceilidh, a couple of the guests 'did a turn' . . . Sandy Milligan recited a couple of poems, one of which was The Tay Bridge Disaster by William McGonagall (Scotland's other national poet!!), while guests Kathy and Bradley sang a couple of songs.

During the evening, Rob Thompson of the Heel n Toe invited all the men onto the floor to sing Flower of Scotland to the ladies . . . needless to say, this was well received by the ladies!

Everyone was on the floor for the last dance of the evening, a Circassian Circle (a new dance for recent Society events), which was a lot of fun and with everyone already in a circle it flowed straight on to Old Lang Syne.

## St Andrews comes top in uni ratings

St Andrews University has been ranked joint first in a UK-wide student satisfaction poll.

With 93% of students studying at St Andrews declaring themselves satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of their university education, the Fife institution is ahead of Cambridge and Oxford, which both lie in joint sixth position.

The University of Glasgow, also joint sixth, is the only other Scottish university in the National Student Survey (NSS) UK top ten.

St Andrews shared the top spot with the University of Bath and the University of Keele.

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a kilt "under construction"!



## Plans for a new whisky distillery on the Clyde

Plans for a new whisky distillery and visitor centre on the banks of the River Clyde, in Glasgow, have been given the go-ahead.

The £10m project will create 300 jobs during the construction phase.

It include revamping the pump house building, which sits between the Riverside Museum and the Hydro Arena.

The distillery will house a museum and visitor centre while new buildings will contain a cafe, whisky tasting bar and the single malt whisky distillery.

A planning application submitted last year for the site has now been approved by Glasgow City Council.

Work on the Glasgow Distillery is scheduled to get under way later this year and be completed by autumn 2015.



The project has been developed by a group of industry experts led by Tim Morrison, owner of the AD Rattray Scotch Whisky Company.

"Glasgow was once home to many whisky distilleries and we think the new distillery will put the city right back on the whisky map," he said.

The distillery is expected to employ 25 people once it opens.

## 'Whisky fuel' plan to power vehicles

The first "whisky-powered" car may be just around the corner!

The price of petrol would have to climb a lot higher before it made economic sense to run a car on whisky, but Celtic Renewables has been working on the next best thing.

The company, a spin-out from Napier University, in Edinburgh, has developed a process to make biofuel from Scotch whisky leftovers.

Only about seven per cent of the stuff that leaves Scotland's distilleries is whisky and the rest is by-product, residue or waste.

There are hundreds of thousands of tonnes a year of spent barley kernels, known as draff, and billions of litres of liquid residue called pot ale.

The Celtic Renewables process mixes the two and feeds it to clostridium bacteria.

The company's founder, Professor Martin Tangney, says the result is a fuel which can go straight into a petrol tank without having to modify the car.

It already works in the laboratory. Now it will be tested on an industrial scale in Belgium.

The Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant in Ghent has been designed specifically to "scale up" processes like this from the lab bench to the factory.

If the pilot is successful, Celtic Renewables plans to build its first commercial demonstration plant in Scotland.

Professor Tangney thinks it's an idea whose time has come.

"All the countries in Europe are mandated that 10% of all fuels sold in Europe by 2020 must be biofuel," he said.

"Some can come from crops, but the preference is that as much as possible should come from waste and residues.

"Our process fits perfectly into that long-term ambition, while creating a sustainable industry in Scotland worth more than £100m a year."



## Tunnocks sales boost after opening ceremony

Sales of Tunnock's teacakes have soared after they featured in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, according to supermarket group Waitrose

Customers have been stocking up on the sweet treat after giant dancing teacakes whirled around Celtic Park, Glasgow.

Waitrose said that in the 24 hours following the ceremony, sales of the chocolate-coated marshmallow snack rose by 62%.

Fergus Loudon, operations director of Tunnock's, said they had no idea that the ceremony would feature teacakes dancing, although they had given permission for the image to be used.

He said: "We knew they were going to use an image of the teacakes, but because the ceremony was a closely-guarded secret we didn't know to what extent they were being used.

"We were absolutely bowled over when we saw there were 30 large teacakes in the ceremony.

"We were blown away by the exposure and we felt quite humbled that the producers of the ceremony felt that the brand merited the exposure."



The company was founded by Thomas Tunnock in 1890 after he paid £80 for a shop in Uddingston, South Lanarkshire.

It operated only as bakers and purveyors of "quality flour confectionery" until the 1950s, when it created the now well-loved caramel wafers, snowballs, caramel logs and teacakes.

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## Four in a row at World Pipe Band Championships

The World Pipe Band Championships 2014, which took place on Glasgow Green on 15 and 16 August, attracted some 30,000 spectators and was watched online by thousands more around the world.

The World Champions title was won by Northern Ireland's Field Marshal Montgomery for the fourth consecutive year.

The runners up were Scotland's Inverary and District Pipe Band, with third place going to St Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band from Ireland.

The event, which has been associated with Glasgow for more than 60 years, drew people from all over the world to see 8000 of the very best pipers and drummers compete.

This year more than 220 bands played in the World Pipe Band Championships.

The Worlds ended with the spectacle of the thousands of pipers and drummers who had been competing throughout the two days playing in a march past, taking the salute of the Chieftain, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Councillor Sadie Docherty, before the world champions were crowned in front of thousands of piping fans.

Councillor Docherty said: "Glasgow has just played host to the best Commonwealth Games ever and now we've welcomed the world's best pipers and drummers for what has been a sensational championships.

"It's been an incredible summer, thanks to the warmth and hospitality of the people of Glasgow."

Glasgow Green also played host to some of the strongest men in the world as part of a Highland Games competition.