



The June(ish) 2020 Saltire

Greetings all!

Although this issue of The Saltire is nominally the June issue, it is being written in July - and for a very good reason! The society has been in a state of suspended animation for the last few months, without so much as a committee meeting, but in June, like meerkats emerging from their burrows after the passing of a predator, the committee bravely decided to hold a July meeting - so at last there is something to write about!

The 2020 St Andrew's Day Ball

The most pressing subject for discussion at the meeting was the St Andrew's Day Ball. We had representation from the Pan Pacific hotel at the meeting, who explained to us how the W.A. Govt. imposed restrictions might effect our event in practical terms. To summarise:

- The Ball can proceed under the current Stage 4 restrictions, without any restrictions being imposed on the event.
- Western Australia hopes to move to Stage 5 restrictions in August (fingers crossed), which will mean no restrictions at all within the state, other than a 'hard border.'
- If Western Australia had to revert to Stage 3 restrictions, a step backwards from where we are now, the Ball could still go ahead, although with a limit of 100 guests (which would include dance bands, pipe bands etc). In practice, this would make it very difficult to hold our traditional style Ball and the event would need to be modified.

Given what we are currently seeing in Victoria, the situation could of course go backwards between now and November 27th, however due to our state's physical isolation, it is to be hoped that WA's zero community transmission rate can be protected. The bottom line for us all is that the safety and well-

being of our members, family and friends comes first.

So given the above, together with the fact that our contract with the Pan Pacific has a '*force majeure*' clause (which would allow cancellation of the event without cost to us in the event that it has to be cancelled due to the return of the pandemic), we are moving ahead with planning for the ball!

It is worth perhaps my pointing out to those that are being understandably cautious, that the Pan Pacific has not been used for quarantining since May.

Dance classes

The first dates to put in your diaries are the dance practices. For those of us that enjoy our reels, it will be nice to get out and about again and get back into the "cross country dancing"! The session dates are as follows:

Friday 2nd October 2020

Friday 9th October 2020

Friday 16th October 2020

Friday 23rd October 2020

Friday 30th October 2020

Friday 6th November 2020

Friday 13th November 2020

Friday 20th November 2020

All classes start at 7.30pm and finish at 9.30pm. The venue is the Royal Park Hall, which is in the same place it has always been, on the corner of Vincent Street and Charles Street, West Perth.

Scottish podcasts

We were contacted recently by "The Big Light", a new Scottish podcast network. They tell us that since their launch in March 2020, their 5 podcast streams achieved a combined total of over 200,000 listens across 99 countries. The podcasts streams are:

- "Talk Media" - A weekly, in-depth analysis of the big media stories making the news at home and around the globe.
- "Blethered" - Interviews with people from various segments of society, discussing serious topics with Scottish humour.
- "The Tartan Noir Show" - Scotland's killer literary writing podcast hosted by Theresa Talbot, celebrating the world's best crime-writing and storytelling.
- "Brave Your Day" - Mental health and wellbeing podcast hosted by Charley and Colin Gavigan – learn to flex your bravery muscles and be a 'warrior not a worrier'.
- "Isa Schuster's Old School" - 101-year-old Ida was the world's oldest podcaster (1918-2020)! Old School is a must-listen for her unique perspective on life, love and the theatre.

If you are interested in listening, go here: <https://www.thebiglight.com/>

Dear Saint Andrew Society,

We are a small charity based in Glasgow and I wanted to let you know about a recently published book, 'The Gods of Frequency', written in Scots dialogue and of great interest to anyone seeking to be immersed into Scottish culture, literature and society.

We have a live online launch event planned for the book at [here](#) and you would be most welcome to attend it. A great opportunity not just to connect with the book but to other people and organisations in Scotland!

Hope to see you there.

Best wishes,

Luke McWilliams
Charity Coordinator
Arkboun Foundation



(Castle Stalker, Argyllshire)



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