



Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr

(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)



In a few weeks we will farewell 2022, welcome in 2023, ask ourselves 'where has the year gone' and reflect on what we achieved over the last twelve months. Our ceilidhs and whisky tasting now seem a long time ago, we have celebrated our annual St Andrew's Day Ball and we are now preparing for our Burns Supper which is only seven weeks away. Despite the high and lows of the year it was another successful year for our Society with the overall attendance at a level we have not seen for many years.

2022 started with an outbreak of Covid which rapidly spread throughout the state and no lockdown was going to stop it. We had our dance classes leading up to the Chieftains ceilidh with masks on but thankfully the ceilidh was able to go ahead with very few cancellations. The winter season was very quiet in Perth with many of our members flying back to the UK, Europe and other destinations once the international travel embargo was lifted. We held our winter dance classes in the Irish Club but due to the low numbers many of our night had to be cancelled. Our Gin and Whisky night was held in early September but with many still away on holidays, our numbers were slightly down on last year. Thanks to Brian and our friends at Southtrade International we had a very successful night sampling gins and whiskies from around the world

The next few months will be a busy period for all the committee. Our planning for the Burns Supper next month is well underway and our secretary is already working on our Annual General Meeting in February. Tickets for the Burns Supper went on sale to members on 5th December and within 48 hours we had sold almost 60 tickets. Non-members will get an opportunity to buy tickets from 19th December. Our focus now will be on the details such as menu selection, the program for the night and the raffle prizes plus the finer details that go into making the night a success.

I would like to acknowledge the work and pay tribute to the executive team (Mark, Eoin, and our new secretary Carol) plus the committee members (Darian, Alka, Tom and our new members Brian, Adrienne and Nicola) for their outstanding contribution to the society this year. They have been instrumental in the Society flourishing, and together with family and friends put in a huge effort to ensure we had another successful year. Our membership continues to grow with a grand total of 145 members as of 1st December 2022. Unfortunately we had 30 members who did not renew their membership this year.

Our 2023 Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday 18th February in the Irish Club, Subiaco. Details are now on our website. The Society cannot exist without members and the committee cannot function without the support of the members. I take this opportunity to ask that you help us continue to serve you by renewing your membership early in 2023.

Finally, I would like to thank our Patron Lady Helen Liddell, the committee, and all our members for your support this year. I wish you, and all your family a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year and will see most of you at the pre-Burns Supper dance practice starting on 10th January in the Irish Club, Subiaco.



St Andrew's Day Ball 2021



Just a couple of weeks ago we enjoyed our premier event of the year, the St Andrew's Day Ball and what a delight it was to see so many attend this year. It was a bit tight on the dance floor with those keen to dance spilling over onto the adjacent carpet areas



Judging by the feedback from the people both myself and the committee spoke with, everyone had a great time. When we started planning for the Ball back in May / June we were not sure how many would attend this year, so we set a very conservative figure of 100. We were totally amazed to find that within four days of tickets going on sale we had reach our target. We increased the number of tickets and eventually finished up with 174 guests attending. A big thank you to all who supported the Ball..

The night commenced with our traditional Grand March led into the Ballroom by our honorary piper followed by our Chieftain, Vice-Chieftain, the committee and Past Chieftains. An audio-visual address was delivered by our very own Patron, Lady Helen Liddell, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, who set the tone for the night.

Our speakers for the night, Moira Martin (who delivered the toast to Scotland and St Andrew), and Carol Smith (who toasted The Land We Live In), provided interesting presentations and engaged well with their receptive and appreciative audience.

The evening was ably handled by emcee Brian McMurdo who made sure all went to program and on time. Entertainment provided by the Western Australia Police Pipe Band (WAPOL) and the Perth Academy of Highland Dancing was exceptional and well appreciated by all in attendance. The Heel N'Toe band were in fine form and kept us dancing all night. The dancing was exceptional, varied and great fun with many people taking to the dance floor and adjacent carpet areas. Despite the many 'train wrecks' during the dance classes, everyone did extremely well on the night. Thanks must go to both Brian and Darian for their excellent help during the nine weeks of dance practice.

Overall, it was a great night enjoyed by the many I had the opportunity to speak with. Congratulations goes to all the committee, but appreciation and acknowledgement must go to our vice-chieftain, Mark Wimshurst, and his team for all their hard work throughout the year and on the night.





Let's Celebrate Rabbie's Life



With the St Andrew's Day Ball behind us, the next event on the Society's calendar is one of our most popular . . . our Burns Supper. As always, it will be held on the date of Robert Burns' birthday, 25 January, and will be the usual mixture of celebrating the life of Scotland's national icon in the traditional way and a ceilidh to dance away the night.

In the formal part of the evening, we will have the 'Address to a Haggis' followed by 'The Immortal Memory' and finishing with the toast 'Tae the Lassies' and the reply 'Fae the Lassies'. There will also be a few Burns poems from our members and guests, and our reliable and dear friends, the Heel N' Toe ceilidh band will be present to play for our enthusiastic dancers.

The event will be held in the Pan Pacific hotel but this year we will be back in the Grand River Ballroom where we have enjoyed many great nights. Tickets for members are now on sale through Trybooking and go on sale to non-members on 19th December. If you have not received your notice to book tickets please let us know.

Membership Renewal

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Both new and renewal of membership opens in mid-January. Membership is a yearly subscription which runs from AGM to AGM, and it would assist us greatly if this could be done by early February 2023. Members need to be financial to vote and stand for office at the Annual General Meeting. Membership and Renewal Form will be available on our website. Forms must be completed on-line. There is also a link that allows you to pay without leaving the website. Simple.



House of Tartan



The House of Tartan are your local specialists in all areas of kilt hire and sales, offering kiltmaking, kilt outfit hire – both partial and full outfits, kilt alterations and adjustments, dry cleaning as well as a range of giftware and other Scottish accessories. There are over 400 kilts available in hire, with 5 different styles of outfits to choose from and if you are purchasing your outfit, your choice is much more extensive, including the option of tailor-made jackets and waistcoats from a variety of fabrics and tweeds.

Established in 1995, The House of Tartan has grown and expanded into the amazing shop it is today, with the support of the local Scottish community here in Western Australia and is now owned and run by Greg and Jennifer McAdam.

Greg and Jennifer and the staff at The House of Tartan are trained in measuring you for purchase or hire, as well as assisting in finding your clan and tartan. With sample books available you can have confidence in your purchase, and if there are any difficult questions they will contact the Scottish mills or the Scottish tartans authority for confirmation. Greg and Jennifer also have experience with woven to order tartans as well as tartan design and registration, following the success of the Spirit of Australia and Spirit of Pride tartans.



Head instore soon, to feel like you've been transported back to Scotland.

We are pleased to announce that The House of Tartan will be attending our per-Burns dance practice. Jennifer will be available to assist anyone who wishes to get measured up for a kilt to wear or need to buy accessories such as a shirt, bow tie, socks, sash, or the likes.

The story behind Glasgow's iconic Duke of Wellington statue and its now famous traffic cone hat

As images of Glasgow go, few are more iconic than the sight of a regal statue of the Duke of Wellington and his horse standing prominently on a plinth in the middle of the city – with its crowning glory, the humble orange traffic cone, placed firmly on his head. It has now been used on everything from artwork and posters to tea towels and gin bottles as a shining example of the city's ability (and pride) at not taking itself too seriously.

A much-loved part of the fabric of the city's cultural identity, Glaswegians take special pride in seeing the cone on Sir Arthur Wellesley's bronze head, and to see the statue without one is almost considered to be taboo. To outsiders though, the pride in this harmless act of irreverence can often seem confusing but it's actually a key insight into the city itself and the people who live there.

History of the Duke of Wellington Statue



Erected in 1844 at the centre of Royal Exchange Square, the bronze sculpture features the celebrated military strategist and former Prime Minister who helped to defeat Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. Sir Arthur sits proudly on his horse Copenhagen in the structure, which was sculpted by Italian artist Carlo Marochetti.



It was created in honour of the ending of the Napoleonic wars in what was considered to be the second city of the British Empire at the height of its powers.

The Famous Cone

Sometime around the 1980s, it is widely believed that drunken revellers or mischievous students began to climb the 21-foot-high statue to place a bright orange cone on the head of the Duke.

Soon, the practice became a ritual with cones mysteriously returning after they'd been taken down in the daytime by the city's council workers.

Sometimes there would also be cones placed on Copenhagen's head or ears and others there would be multiple cones placed on Sir Arthur's head (there have been pictures posted online where this number has reached ten or higher).

A battle then ensued between the local authorities and residents who began to see the cone as a symbol of the city's sense of fun and how it refuses to take famous historical figures, or themselves, too seriously.

Some of the city's provosts and senior council members have referred to it as "a minor act of vandalism", while others take a certain pride in the cone, stating that it is a representation of Glasgow's humour which is the city's "greatest selling point".

The removal of the cone by council workers has often been cited for safety reasons, both of those trying to climb the statue and also for the fact that if the cone falls from the statue's head it could do serious damage to anyone who happens to be passing by underneath.

They also say it's to protect the statue itself, which over the years, has lost its spurs and half its sword as a result of people trying to scale the structure outside the Gallery of Modern Art.

In 2013, Glasgow City Council even considered plans to raise the height of the statue's plinth to curb the "cone-ing", but they were forced to withdraw them after widespread public opposition.

It's now rare to see the statue without its trademark cone, so much so, that when it does happen, people are genuinely shocked by its appearance.

It's become so iconic, that Lonely Planet once featured it in their list of the 'Top 10 Most Bizarre Monuments On Earth', which only adds to its fun, countercultural appeal.

The ninth and current Duke of Wellington, who recently wrote a book about his ancestor, finds the cone to be an amusing tribute, speaking about the statue in 2019, he said: "I was surprised. It has become an iconic image of Glasgow. I think it's amusing in a way and bizarre in another way."





The beautiful historic Scottish town named happiest place to live



Galashiels in the Scottish Borders has been declared the happiest place in Scotland to live according to Rightmove, the UK's number one property portal.

The online real estate property portal revealed its 11th annual Happy at Home Index recently, and Galashiels topped the Scottish list, and placed second for the whole of the UK.

Galashiels, approximately 55 Km from Edinburgh and known by locals as Gala, was made a burgh of barony in 1599. Its town motto is Sour Plums, which refers to an event in 1337 in which a raiding party of English soldiers were picking wild plums close to the town and were killed by Scots.

Those who grew up in Scotland may be familiar with sweets by the name of Soor Plooms, which have come to be associated with the town. They are round, green boiled sweets with an acidic taste.

Fans of Robert Burns may know that the Scottish poet wrote two poems about Galashiels: "Sae Fair Her Hair" and "Braw Lads". The second is sung every year at the town's Braw Lads Gathering, an annual festival celebrating the town's history and traditions.

Another iconic Scottish poet and writer associated with Galashiels is Sir Walter Scott, who built the historic country house of Abbotsford just across the River Tweed from Galashiels in the 1800s. The building is now open to the public, and visitors can wander through and learn more about Scott.

Galashiels is known across the world for its rich history in the textile industry and is now home to Heriot-Watt University's School of Textiles and Design. The town, which has a population of around 10,000, grew in size in the 19th century as the industry flourished, with the creation of several mills.

Nowadays, one of its most popular tourist attractions is the Great Tapestry of Scotland, one of the world's largest community arts projects that celebrates the town's textile legacy. Hand-stitched by more than 1,000 individuals, the tapestry consists of around 160 linen panels and 300 miles of wool—enough to lay the entire length of Scotland.

The tapestry details more than 420 million years of Scottish history, starting from the country's land formation and ending in 2013 when it was completed. It is located in the purpose-built Great Tapestry of Scotland gallery & visitor centre, which also includes visiting exhibits, workshops, and a cafe.



Anniversary Year - 2023

Next year the St Andrew's Society of WA will be celebrating its 85th anniversary proudly helping to maintain Scottish culture in Perth and the whole of WA. We, the committee, will be looking at how we can celebrate another milestone in our history.

Anniversaries in Scottish History

December

December 1, 1787 - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson.

December 8, 1542 - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. Her father, on his deathbed said "It cam wi' ane lass; it will pas wi' ane lass" - a reference to the Stuart line starting when Marjorie Bruce, daughter of King Robert the Bruce, married Walter, High Steward of Scotland.

December 10, 1868 - Artist, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh born.

December 11, 1781 - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born.

December 21, 1846 - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether).

December 25, 1950 - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey.

December 28, 1734 - Rob Roy McGregor died.

December 28, 1906 - Rail disaster at Elliott Junction, near Arbroath, killing 22. Snow had caused a signal to droop, indicating the line was clear and a southbound express train, travelling tender-first, ran into a derailed goods train.

December 30, 1915 - Cruiser "Natal" exploded in Cromarty harbour, killing 405.

January

January 1, 1600 - First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (March 25 till then).

January 1, 1919 - The naval yacht *Iolaire* struck a reef on approaching Stornoway Harbour at 2am. Despite being only 20 yards from shore, 205 out of 260 Lewis men and 24 crew died as the overloaded boat sank.

January 2, 1971 - Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13.

January 4 - Handsel Monday, traditionally the day on which gifts were exchanged in Scotland.

January 8, 1661 - The first newspaper in Scotland was published. "Mercurius Caledonius" offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues.

January 9, 1811 - The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh.

January 14, 1872 - Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years.

January 16, 1707 - Treaty of Union of Scottish and Westminster Parliaments ratified.

January 19, 1736 - Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine.

February

February 1, 1708 - Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write "Robinson Crusoe".

February 4, 1716 - Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end.

February 4, 1941 - SS "Politician" ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides, creating the basis for Sir Compton Mackenzie's novel "Whisky Galore".

February 5, 1846 - John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire.

February 7, 1603 - Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns - the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name.

February 8, 1587 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle.

February 10, 1306 - Robert the Bruce murdered Red Comyn.

February 11, 1895 - Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2C at Braemar.

February 13, 1692 - Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe.

February 14, 1876 - Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted.

February 15, 1971 - Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound.

February 20, 1472 - Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway.

February 26, 1672 - Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Burns Supper in the Pan Pacific on Tuesday 25th January 2022 and at the dance practice nights in the Irish Club on 10th, 17th and 24th January 2023

Slàinte

Reggie McNeill

Chieftain

St Andrew Society of W.A.

