

BLETHERS

GUERNSEY SCOTTISH NEWS



The President's Report

The fast approaching end of 2001 will see new Christmas lights in St. Peter Port. In committee we thought the appeal worth supporting so when you are out and around town this Christmas.... check for the Guernsey Scottish Bulbs!!

I know that you know the committee works hard on your behalf providing a variety of entertainment and quality of product, and without naming names, Karen Dick-Cleland provides us with a newsletter that is simply the best.

And in 2002? What can I tell you?

Bowling, Golf, Tennis and Shooting, Beetle Drives, Quizzes and BBQs, Trips to

Jersey for Horse Racing and France for Golf. And Dancing... here and in Jersey, France, England and Scotland. Then there are the Ceilidhs at the Carlton Hotel and Burns and St. Andrews Nights at Beau Sejour and the local charities that we support. 2002 will see contributions made to the Guernsey Region of the Wooden Spoon Society, the local branch of Cancer Research and the RAF Benevolent Fund.

But the real news is about the progress we have made in other areas.

Curling. This year we came within a whisker of being able to provide curling at the ice rink over the winter. We simply ran out of time. But with the research done, contacts

made, and costs known, we very much hope and expect to be curling when the rink comes back to Guernsey next Christmas. Full details will be available with the next edition of Bletthers.

The Highland Games. We have been working on this for 12 months or more and it is all looking very exciting. We expect to make a full announcement about it in the New Year.

A Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Stuart

DECEMBER 2001

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YOU CAN NEVER START YOUNG ENOUGH



Grammar School pupils having lots of fun, some on the look out for a partner, others just having a little trouble with the sash.

GSA TIES ON SALE

These are at the great price of £15 for silk ties and bow ties. Also on offer are the lapel badges at a cheap price of £1.

Available from Committee members.



EVENTS PASSED

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

The weather threatened and the wind blew when we set sail for Herm for the Association's annual Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition. As it was, it turned out to be a lovely day.

After a brisk walk to a field in the south-east of the island, we met Francis Quin and his team who provided us with ammunition and scorecards and divided us into three groups. The experienced shots were in a group together and left to their own devices, whilst the novices were given lots of help and encouragement. Francis and Mick were very patient and must have said "You only just missed that one," dozens of times during the morning! It was good to have participants



with a range of shooting abilities, members of the Association and guests.

The experienced shots only just kept ahead of the novices in the final reckoning. The first lady was Agnese Edmonds, and Jacqui Sallis was second. The first man was Paul Sallis with James Edmonds second. The prizegiving, heavily featuring Whisky kindly donated by the Famous Grouse, was held over lunch at the Mermaid.

Stuart and Francis kept us amused until suddenly it was time to hurry back to Rosaire Steps for the boat home.



HORSE RACING IN JERSEY

The August Bank Holiday jaunt to Jersey was another success. After an early start and assortment of racing fans and shoppers made the trip to that "other Island." We lunched in the sunshine at the Old Court House studying form and swopping notes, and suitably relaxed we headed for the races.

Stuart and Sally were ahead on the day until taking advice from Tony "the tipster" Scrimshaw who recommended a wager on a "cert." from Guernsey. Sadly the nag failed to live up to expectation and everyone left the race course with a negative return on investment!

In the evening, back in St. Helier, we partook of the occasional libation before heading for Pizza Express, the ferry terminal and home.

Many thanks to Craig Alexander for organising everything.

Stuart



CONGRATULATIONS TO....

Cynthia Cormack and Samantha Maindonald on becoming Constables of their parishes.



QUIZ NIGHT AT THE WAYSIDE CHEER

Until 12 October I had never been to a quiz evening. So, led by Lesley Jennings and Tim Henderson, I arrived in trepidation at the Wayside Cheer for a session organised by Edith Mather.

Frank Cusack compered the evening while Tim and Jessica Cooper noted the

scores in an old ledger. Unfortunately our Brains Trust overstrained itself thinking up our team name ('Sham Torrents') and fell away steadily thereafter.

You will wish to know that the Vin in Vindaloo curry refers to vinegar and, oh yes, Eric Morecambe supported Luton Town.

Well done Edith.

Paul Riley

Editor's note:

There was a good turnout of 72 people competing in the quiz, with questions set by Alistair Cooke.

Congratulations to the winners—who were "Ed Mundo" very closely followed by a three way tie for second place from "Crappit Heads", "Bouzats" and "Half n"

those with...erm... the most room for improvement!

With a great deal of thanks to Paul Sallis for organising the event (we'll happily allow him the first prize he won) and to the Bowl for supplying us with prizes.

Antony Taylor

range of scores, laughs and frustrations but best of all, enjoying a good time together.

Then a retreat to the viewing gallery to share a meal and to award the prizes put up by the Bowl, along with our very own Silver Trowel award of flower bulbs and a free bowling session for

Editors note: It was indeed another good night of fun. Not one for boasting normally (I think my friends would agree?), I would like to point out that I won the first Lady's prize, but worth much more than the wine, was the incredulous look on my husband's face when he realised that I had beaten him—for the first time ever at anything in 18 years of marriage!!!

BOWLING

Friday 9 November was Bowling night with the GSA fielding three competing teams of intrepid members whose talents ranged from impressive to...well, competitively challenged!

In the friendly atmosphere of the alleys, eased by a drink or two, the teams playing for an hour and a half achieving a outstanding trio of players

CEIDILH AT THE CARLTON HOTEL

Another successful Ceidilh was held last week with 70 in attendance.

We were royally entertained by Alan Ross and Marissa Ferguson from Edinburgh on keyboards and accordion who kept the dance floor full of keen dancers.

Joshua de Kooker, at the grand old age of 12, enthralled us with several violin pieces (after having already performed at Elizabeth College earlier in the evening!) He was ably assisted by his sister acting as his music stand and brilliantly accompanied on keyboards by Lynne de Guerin.

Stuart Hardie revisited his childhood (has he ever left you ask?), by reading two of Roald Dahl's modern day interpretations of the classic stories of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Three Little Pigs."

The Morris Dancers gave us an energetic display which was exhausting to watch and then it was the turn of the Wednesday evening dancers to show us why we need to go on Wednesdays.

The food was superb, company great fun and we hope to see you at the next one in January.

POETRY CORNER



"SOCKS" BY WEE CRAIGIE

I found some socks
In a cardboard box
Thinks I "Thems is no fur an
English puff
The texture's just a wee bit
rough"
Neither are they fur Taffies
They wudnae fit in their
baffies
Wud they dae fur an Irish Col-
leen?
But there's no even a hint o'
green
Wha's they fur then them
socks in the box?
Michty tam they're socks fur
Jocks!

COMMITTEE RESIGNATIONS

As mentioned in the insert that went with the last Blethers, due to pressure of work, Martin Whittet had to stand down from the committee. His professional input was much appreciated and will be missed.

From the end of 2001, wee Craigie Alexander will be spending more time off the island than on it. As a consequence, Craig has resigned from the committee. We will miss his hard work, positive input and bizare sense of humour.

Many thanks to both.

SH

ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

It was a dreary night outside as we all took our places for this year's St. Andrew's Celebrations, but the colourful sight of the Sarnia Hall at Beau Sejour, decked with Scottish Flags hanging from the ceiling and the beautifully colour co-ordinated tables of red & yellow or blue & white with the flags at the centre, warmed you from the start. At pride of place was our new Guernsey Scottish flag on the stage behind the talented pair of musicians—Alan Ross and Marissa Ferguson from Edinburgh.

After a demonstration from the Lesley Jennings Dancers, eight handsome chaps, suitably donned in casual kilts, performed the "Reel of the 51st" which was devised in a POW camp in Germany. The history of this dance was told by Tim Henderson, who was on strict instructions to take his time, to allow the men to change between the dances!!

There were speeches from Tony Richards from the Wooden Spoon Society and from Scottish Rugby International Peter Brown, who were both extremely pleased to have finally arrived in time, after a 5 hour delay due to the inclement weather.

Conor Jennings was our Master of Ceremonies and kept proceedings to schedule. The dancing was energetic, frantic, chaotic (at times), but above all else, terrific fun.

Many thanks to Margaret Baird and Craig Alexander who made it all possible.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Stuart M. Hardie Tel: 263991

Secretary:

Colin Murdoch Tel: 256354

Treasurer & Membership

Secretary:

Tim Cooper Tel: 249441

Margaret Baird Tel: 710171

Karen Dick-Cleland Tel: 245877

Ed Duncan Tel: 242860

Jan Le Noury Tel: 710410

Edith Mather Tel: 728601

Cilla Priaulx Tel: 253677

Paul Sallis Tel: 263173

Lesley Scrimshaw Tel: 729608

PLEA FOR HELP

Has anyone a kilt jacket which would fit a nine year old boy that I could possibly hire for the day for a wedding in January?

If you can help, please call Paul Riley on 265505

SPREADING THE NAME OF GUERNSEY SCOTS



From left to right:

Kenny Lloyd, Drew Pollock, Grant Howitt, Colin Smith, Duncan Snedden and Paul Brady

A few members spreading the name at one of their trips to support the Scotland Football Team.

This was in Brussels for the Belgium v Scotland match.

The flag was donated as part of a sponsorship of the Scotland team at this summer's mini international tournament in Guernsey by the GSA.

DANCING IN BUDE

Four dancers from Guernsey, Christine Babbe, Mary Perrio, Paul and Jacqui Sallis, spent an October weekend in Bude. They went, not for the cream teas or the surfing, but for a weekend of Scottish country dancing!

Having set off from Guernsey they arrived in time for dinner and then joined about one hundred other dancers in an evening of social dancing. Next morning bright and early they set off for the first of three dancing tuition sessions where they learnt variety of techniques and, hopefully, improved their dancing skills.

A Dancers' March started the evening's fun. By midnight they were back at the hotel tired but exhilarated. Sunday morning and the final lesson before leaving to catch the flight home. They were all tired but extremely pleased at having completed the weekend's dancing successfully. They met some old friends and made many new ones.

Editor's note: Thanks to Grant for sending this in. This is exactly what I want members to do if they have any interesting news for Bletthers.

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS

The Meadow
Les Tracheries
L'Islet

Dear Scots in Guernsey,

New President

As a non Scot, but one who feels passionately about Scotland as both a beautiful country and a proud nation, I am surprised that no member of Guernsey Scottish Association has come forward to enquire as to the responsibilities of becoming President of the Association.

The only prerequisite to becoming President, apart from actually being elected, is that he or she must be Scots born. The President is the public face of GSA in the island and will act as an ambassador for all Scots in Guernsey.

Whilst Stuart, who must stand down at the AGM, has been a very energetic and innovative President, he would be the first to admit that the success of the past four years has not been due to him alone, but to the hard working reliable committee that has supported him in the development of events.

Most of that committee will still be there next year ready to organise the various events put on during the year and support any new initiatives brought in by the new incumbent.

There must be at least one of you out there who would relish the honour of continuing the growing reputation the GSA enjoys in Guernsey as an organisation that puts back into the community something that is different and can be shared by all islanders.

It would make Stuart's last few months in office much more enjoyable if he knew his succession was resolved. Please don't be modest, give the matter some thought and give him a ring to talk it through.

A volunteer is always more effective than a pressed person.

Tim Cooper
Membership Secretary

HOW TO WEAR YOUR HIGHLAND OUTFITS

It has been noticed that some of us do not wear our highland outfits correctly, so as a reminder.....

The kilt length should fall to the middle of the kneecap or above depending on the preference, and worn 2 inches above the hip bone at about the same height as the naval.

The sporran is centred to the front apron of the kilt, with the chain strap fed through the loops at the back of the kilt, and should sit approximately 4 – 5 fingers width below the top of the kilt. Where a waistcoat is worn, the sporran is centred in line with the buttons.

Kilt pins are worn on the right side of the front apron of the kilt, approximately 3-4 inches from the bottom of the kilt and 1½ inches from the front fringe of the kilt. Make sure the kilt pin sits straight following the line of tartan.

Hose (socks) should come to the top of the calf muscle. Kilt flashes are worn on the outside of the leg and tucked under the fold of the sock. The ribbing on the hose should be straight.

Wear a dress shirt that has covered buttons (fly front), plain or pleated front, wing or standard collar, all being acceptable.

How to Wear Your Kilt—continued.

Ghillie Brogues are worn with most styles of outfits, when tying the laces we recommend:

- Pulling the laces tight. Start off in the usual manner by crossing the two laces and pull tight.
- Holding this foundation, criss/cross (twist) the laces four times and pull tight (this will produce a vertical thong of approximately 1 inch).
- Cross the laces around the back of the ankle, bringing both laces back round to the front.
- Tie in a normal bow, at the front or to the outside of the ankle, leaving remaining lace and tassel to dangle.

Prince Charlie Jacket and Vest is an evening jacket and usually worn with a bow tie. If a waistcoat is worn no belt is required.

Argyll/Craik Jacket is a semi formal jacket and can be worn with a dress sporrans or semi dress sporrans. A bow tie or self-coloured tie or a silver wedding tie can be worn depending on the occasion. A Montrose belt or an Argyll waistcoat is worn.

The Sgian Dhub is normally worn down the outside of the right leg inside the hose, although a left-handed person could wear this down the left side. Only the top 1 inch should show above the hose.

Belts and Buckles – your belt requires to be 2 inches bigger than your kilt waist. The belt should take place of a waistcoat, they should not be worn together, and it should fill the space between the shirt and the kilt. The belt does not go through the loops at the back of the kilt; they are for the sporrans chain. The buckle should be centred with the sporrans.

WEARING OF SASHES BY LADIES IN EVENING DRESS



The manner of wearing tartan sashes or light scarves had customary significance even two centuries ago, and whilst the wearing of sashes in any particular manner has so far no legal significance, a due respect for tradition suggests that uniform practice, and implication consistent with custom is desirable.

No. 1 Style worn by clans-women

The sash is worn over the right shoulder across the breast and is secured by a pin or small brooch on the right shoulder.



No. 2 Style worn by ladies who have married out of their clan, but who still wish to use their original clan tartan.

The sash usually longer than No. 1 style is worn over the right shoulder secured there with a pin and fastened in a large bow on the left hip.

No. 3 Style worn by country dancers

or where any lady desires to keep the front of the dress clear of the sash. It is buttoned on at the back of the waist, or is held by a small belt, and is secured at the right shoulder by a pin

or small brooch, so that the ends fall backwards from the right shoulder and swing at the back of the right arm.

CALENDAR 2002		EVENT		VENUE
Fri. 25 January 2002		Burns' Night		Beau Sejour
Sat. 26 January 2002		Ceilidh & Supper		Carlton Hotel
Fri. 22 February 2002		Bowling & Supper		The Bowl
Fri. 15 March 2002		Beetle Drive & Supper		Wayside Cheer Hotel
Fri. 26 April 2002		Ceilidh & Supper		Carlton Hotel
Sat. 27 April 2002		Supper & Dance		Vale Church Hall
Mon. 29 April 2002		AGM		Duke of Richmond
Thurs. 2 May 2002		Golf & BBQ		La Grande Mare
June 2002		Tennis & BBQ		St Martins Tennis Club
Fri. 16 August 2002		Clay Pigeon Shooting & Meal		Herm
Mon. 26 August 2002		Horse Racing & Lunch		
Thurs. 12 September 2002		Golf & BBQ		
Fri. 13 September 2002		Ceilidh & Supper		
Sat. 14 September 2002		Channel Highland Games		
Sat. 14 September 2002		Caledonian Ball		
Fri. 11 October 2002		Quiz & Supper		
Fri. 8 November 2002		Bowling & Supper		
Fri. 29 November 2002		Ceilidh & Supper		
Sat. 30 November 2002		St Andrews Night		
Wed. 18 December 2002		Dancers Xmas Party		

The above calendar may well be altered, fliers are usually sent out well in advance of events. For further information, please contact a committee member.

WHISKY CORNER

Springbank ... will make the perfect dram for this festive season.

Springbank 10 Year Old Single Malt Whisky introduced earlier this year.

Colour: Amber gold.

Nose: Extremely aromatic with hints of sweet fruit, honey and a slight note of peat.

Taste: Sweetness and malt drifting to wards sea-salt tanginess (a hallmark of Campbeltown) – then a delicious spicy-sweet finish.

Finish: Complex and intriguing with a long finish.

Both sherry and bourbon casks are selected for this bottling with the latter making up approximately 70% of each vatting. This helps give the whisky its gorgeous colour. As with other Springbank products the 10 year old is bottled at 46% abv without chill-filtering or artificial colouring. The 10 year old is currently being sold throughout Europe, the USA and the Far East. In the UK it is available through all good wine and spirit retailers.

SMH

MEMBERSHIP

GUERNSEY SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Membership Classes & Rates: Single: £5.00, Couple: £10.00, Family: £12.00, Overseas: £5 per household.

I/We wish to become Members of the Guernsey Scottish Association and acknowledge that our details will be maintained on a computer mailing list under the control of the GSA.

Full name/s: _____ DOB _____, _____ DOB _____

Full address: _____

Postcode _____ Tel No (H) _____ (W) _____

Children: _____ Age: _____, _____ Age: _____, _____ Age: _____

When completed, please return to:

Tim Cooper, Membership Secretary, The Meadow, Les Tracheries, L'Islet, St. Sampson's, Guernsey GY2 4SP
together with your cheque or completed standing order below.

Signature(s) _____

To: _____ (name of Bank) Address: _____

Please pay **immediately** and on 1st May **annually**, the sum of £ _____ to Barclays Bank PLC Guernsey
(20-35-32) for account of Guernsey Scottish Association, account number 80424994 until further notice from me/us
in writing.

Account Name: _____ Account Number _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

ANSWERS TO BRAIN TEASERS

Here are the answers to last issues puzzles. Thanks to those of you who enjoy them.

Do you want some more?

1. Egg, fish etc.

fish - you can't lay a fish.

2. McIntoshes in car etc.

Yes - there are only 4 of them: Mr and Mrs Brown and their 2 sons. The other 16 have married names.

3. Australian called Bruce?

The other two were called Mary and Lucy.

4. Something with no legs and some teeth?

A comb I hadn't seen in a while.

5. Wetter as it dries?

A towel.

6. Casting no shadow?

You should all have got this answer!!

It was a winter's afternoon in Scotland and it was already dark.

7. Dropping a cup more than a metre?

If I hold the cup 2 metres off the ground, it will fall 1.99m without breaking.

The final 0.01m will, however, cause it to shatter into

tiny pieces.

8. C Y G T....

S - they are the first letters of each of the words in the question.

9. How many 3's?

15 times - 3, 13, 23, 30, 31, 32, 33(two 3's), 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 43.

Well done to those of you who guessed correctly.

P.S. It was Robert Sinclair on the front cover.

DANCING CLASSES

Don't forget about Lesley Jennings' Scottish Country Dance classes on Wednesdays from 7.30-9.30pm at Amherst School Hall.

Everyone is welcome, from Beginners to Experienced. It's very sociable and great fun.