



NEWS FROM THE HOUSE of SCOTLAND

“Sgeoil nan Taigh”: Scots-Gaelic for
“News From The House”

Balboa Park, San Diego, California 92101

December 2011

Highlights from the November Meeting:

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sharon and Bob Maxton are celebrating their 52nd anniversary this month. Melissa and Andrew Keith's younger daughter, Emmy, will be three in November.

Prayers and Remembrances: Virginia Anderson's mother has passed away. We send Virginia our prayers and condolences. David McSwain's stepmother is now home after undergoing emergency surgery while on a trip. Ben Hesse, an old House of Scotland member, is under hospice care at home. (As of the printing of this newsletter, Jim Scrimgeour's wife, Evette, is in the hospital.)

A moment's silence was observed for those members of our military who are serving in harm's way.

Pipe Band Report: Tim Peterson gave the Pipe Band report. Jeff Hahn, Dane Chambers, and Andrew Hahn all won solo piping events at the Seaside Highland games. Andrew won two gold medals and the Grade 2 aggregate. Dane won three gold medals and the Grade 3 aggregate. Jeff won two gold medals and the Grade 4 aggregate. Andrew Hahn has been invited to compete at the 5th annual Balmoral Classic on November 12, 2011, at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh. This event is the only solo piping and drumming competition in the United States exclusively for those under 18 years of age.

The band will be piping the House members in on December 10 at the King's Inn. The Pipe Band is playing at December Nights on Saturday, December 3. A request was made for House of Scotland members to staff the cottage while the band tunes and plays. Thanks were again extended to the House of Scotland for our donation of \$1000 towards the production cost of the Band's CD. The Pipe Band will be performing

with Dr. Carol Williams at the Organ Pavilion on Sunday, January 1, 2012, at 2:00 pm.

HPR Report: Jim Scrimgeour reports that Hannu Mikkonen from House of Finland has been elected HPR President for 2012. Beth Connelly was elected Treasurer.

Hosting: Heather and Courtney Wilson have volunteered to host on Sunday, December 11.

Upcoming events:

The House of Scotland Christmas party is Saturday, December 10, at King's Inn on Hotel Circle South. Cocktails are at 6:00 P.M. with dinner being served from 7:00 to 8:30. The gift auction will follow with John McColly again serving as our auctioneer.

Housekeeping: Cherie McGruer has proposed putting pots with artificial flowers in the metal planter rings on the outside of the House. The flowers could be changed on a seasonal basis and no maintenance would be required. Mention was also made of a hinged display board to be mounted on the wall inside the House between the French doors. Further discussion was postponed until a later meeting.

Other Old Business: Heather Wilson and Susan Self report that the Brownie Scout event on October 22 was a big success. The House of Scotland was the only International Cottage to participate. The Brownies were taught simple Scottish dances and Scott Montgomery, from the Pipe Band, explained the bagpipes and played some tunes for the girls.

Any discussion of future movie nights was tabled until after the first of the year.

Other New Business:

New TV: The discussion of a new TV was also delayed until January.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45
Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Schultz, Secretary

Hosting

Dec. 4 Susan Self & James Logan
Dec. 11 Heather & Courtney Wilson
Dec. 18 **OPEN**
Dec. 25 **CLOSED**
Jan. 1 **CLOSED**
Jan. 8 Gwenda Measel
Jan. 15 **OPEN**
Jan. 22 N. Ross, J. McGhee, & C. Hoffmann
Jan. 29 N. Ross, J. McGhee, & C. Hoffmann

New hosting incentives: if you host four times during the year, your membership dues for the following year will be waived. If you host six times during the year your membership dues for the following year will be waived and the cottage will pay for your Christmas party dinner. (There will be a limit of 4 hosters per Sunday.)

If you can host, please call Melissa at (619) 206-6478 or send an email to: minipeaves@gmail.com.

Super Hosters for 2011

We would like to thank John & Kristi Keith, Andy & Melissa Keith for hosting 8 times; Jim Scrimgeour for hosting 5 times; David McSwain, Susan Self, James Logan, the Knights, and McGruers for hosting 4 times in 2011. These members will receive free membership for 2012. The Keiths Christmas Party dinner is on the House!



Upcoming Events

Dec. 10 HOS Christmas Party & Meeting

2012

Jan. 8 HOS Meeting 11:30 am

Feb.12 HOS Meeting 11:30 am

House Officers

President: Steve Knight (760) 741-3909
1st VP: Danielle McGruer (619) 884-3928
2nd VP: Melissa Keith (619) 206-6478
Secretary: Dianne Schultz (760) 717-5108
Treasurer: Cherie McGruer (619) 425-3454
Trustees: Graham McGruer (619) 425-3454
Kristi Keith (858) 453-9640
James Logan (619) 252-3780

Hearth of the Kitchen

Mrs. Fettes' Plum Pudding



"This is the recipe used by my housekeeper, Mrs. Fettes. My children loved this pudding and, when small, often helped to prepare it by grating the carrots and squeezing the lemon. I still make it for my Christmas pudding as it is full of flavour and yet not at all heavy or difficult to digest."

Ingredients:

- 4 oz self-raising flour
- pinch of salt
- half a nutmeg, grated
- 4 oz. sugar
- 4 oz. shredded suet
- 4 oz. currants
- 4 oz. sultanas
- 2 oz. chopped peel
- 4 oz. grated carrot
- grated rind and juice of one lemon
- 2 eggs beaten with a little milk

Method:

Mix all the ingredients together and stir thoroughly until the consistency of a thick batter. Steam in a well-greased pudding basin for 2-3 hours.

Recipe and comments from *Ena Baxter's Scottish Cookbook*