

December '09 Newsletter



THE SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW'S
SOCIETY OF ABU DHABI

Dear Members and Friends of Scotland

BOOK NOW FOR CAROLS ON 11 DECEMBER

Keeping in touch with members

Our web site continues to attract attention and if you Google 'Scots in Abu Dhabi' it normally is at the top which means that you the members and your friends are doing the right thing – keeping up to date with our business.

<http://www.scottishsocietyabudhabi.com>

Membership Forms online

Remember you have to re-join each year @AED100.

Three of our members, David Connolly, Olivier Frediani and Caroline Kastner are currently upgrading the site to make it more user-friendly.

SUGGESTIONS ALWAYS WELCOME

Grant Management, Edinburgh, is sponsoring the web site.

Google [RampantScotland](#) and you will find many Scottish web sites including our own.

St Andrew's Ball, 20th November held at Crowne Plaza Hotel

According to all reports it was a very successful evening. We had 311 guests and members.

The Crowne Plaza and all the Sponsors and Donors did us proud. **Crowne Plaza Yas Island** gave a huge prize.

We raised AED 20,000 for our two charities:

* [St Andrew's Church Charities for those in need.](#)

* [Big-Hearted Scotland](#)

This was a magnificent effort by all guests who gave generously.

Below you see the District Manager of Emirates Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, Houssam Weiss, presenting two tickets to Glasgow to the lucky winner on his left. On his right is Samantha Dockerty the Senior Sales Executive - Corporate



I'm the other one - Chieftain

I am enormously grateful to a huge team of people who made the night a success:

The committee of course, Alister Macmillan, Colin and Darlene McLundie, MC John Norton, Pipers Olivier Frediani and Calum Scott, Janice Galloway and her Dancers, Madalyne Smith, Samantha Araz and her helpers for the raffle, Messrs Connolly and Galloway who carried the whisky, all those who gave prizes, The Crowne Plaza staff and Chef, Whisky Kiss Band and **YOU** the members.

Feedback

If you have some important feedback on the Ball to give to me please let me know. We do try to get it right.

I heard for example that the sound wasn't well heard on the fringes.

I also heard that the interim music during the dinner was poor.

It is important to us to know where to make improvements and changes in our arrangements for future functions.

Photographs of the night will be available online very soon.

Weekly Scottish Country Dancing

Janice Galloway our Dance Instructor welcomes all those who are interested in learning new steps. It takes place in Fortress Compound Clubhouse at the corner of 23rd street and 8th street on Tuesdays at 6pm. Phone Janice 0506147587. A small charge is made.

New Committee Members

We have recently had a number of new members join our committee. Do you know them?

We welcome

Colin McLundie – new Vice Chieftain

Fiona Wilson

Samantha Araz

Sharon Crighton - Treasurer

Liz Othman

Vicki Skipper

We retain

Cathryn Herriot

Caroline Kastner - Events

Isabel Macmillan - IPC

Janice Galloway – Dance Instructor

Jennie Hill - Secretary

Michelle Hughes - Membership

Olivier Frediani - Piper

Ken MacLeod

We have said good bye to

Tom Smillie

Paul and Kathi Cleaver

Susan Niven

Calum Scott

Karen Mackie

Gail McGilvray

And we say a big thank you to these people for volunteering and giving of their time. If you are interested in joining us please call me on **050 288 4980 or Michelle, 0501309286.**

New Charities

As you all know we supported CLIC Scotland last year and a Kindergarten in Al Gharbia and this is well documented in our web site.

This year we have decided to support Big-Hearted Scotland and St Andrews Church Charities here in Abu Dhabi. We now know that you dug deep at the St Andrew's Ball to support these great causes. **A very big thank you.**

What's Next – Upcoming Events

Carol Singing with Santa is on **Friday 11th December** at the Rabbit Hutch in the British Embassy club for mums, dads, grannies and the kids. Mr Claus will be there and you will be fed and watered with the very best of seasonal fare, mulled wine and all other goodies, catered by The Club. The Embassy Club has a cash bar for all tastes and thirsts. We will see to it that the kids get what they need.

****Very, very important:**

You must book your place to come to this event. **NOW.** You must send me the names of all those who will attend including children as those will be the names that will allow entry through security at the British Embassy. You need to verify those names using a passport or some other official means of identification on arrival at the security gate.

There will be signs once inside the Embassy Grounds to point to the Rabbit Hutch Club. It is a short walk.

Adults will be charged AED40 and children will be free.

We plan to start at **6:00pm.** It will be a candle – lit evening of Carols and Christmas music with a visit from Santa for the kids. Helen Alexander will sing and Marianne Campbell will accompany on the Scottish fiddle.

Email: aherriot@cfbt.com, 0502884980

Burns Night is on Friday 22nd January 2010 at the British Embassy Gardens. The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns will be delivered by Rev Howard Haslett a well known Burns scholar from East Lothian in Scotland.

**** Very, very important:**

We have already sold 14 Tables. It was announced in the November Newsletter. The maximum will be 28 tables.

The cost is AED400 for members and AED450 for non-members. Pay AED500 and you become a member.

To book tables with full names, please contact

vicki skipper theskipper@hotmail.com

copied to Caroline Kastner, ckastner@tdic.com

Ticket costs can be paid directly into the Society bank account:

ADCB Airport Road Sheikh Rashid Branch
Account no: 419323010001
Official Account name: Andrew Herriot

OR cheque/cash to a committee member.

You must pay in advance - essential.

Dhow Trip on 18th February (doon the water and along the Gulf). Enjoy a balmy February evening with your friends and witness a different perspective of Abu Dhabi. More information later but put it in the diary.

Scottish Day on Yas Island will be on 26th March “SD1 on Yas”; (OK, Rhys, I know it's not F1 but it's our version) Stalls, Scottish Fare, pipes and drums, grand march, tartans, Scottish Dancing, Highland Dancing, films, Scottish malt tasting, ceilidh music, games (hurlin' the haggis and chuckin' the wellies), our Sponsors, information about Scotland, Scotland's heritage, and all things Scottish. More information will follow. Let me know if you can contribute to **SD1 on Yas. Whatever you are good at...you can help**

Chieftain's Ball at Al Raha Beach Hotel on Thursday 27th May. More news later.

Sponsors for the NEW YEAR 2009-10

GHM Architects, Abu Dhabi



Emirates Airlines, Abu Dhabi



Grant Management, Edinburgh



We are very grateful to our sponsors because without that extra funding and attractive raffle prizes, we could not hold our functions and do all the things that we provide for our members at such economic rates and also give support to our charities for the year.

Four members are running the RAK half marathon in February; Caroline, Karen, Colin and the Chieftain – MAD! STUPID! CRAZY! INSANE!

Slainte

Andrew Herriot

Chieftain

Just in case you missed the last Newsletter showing yours truly with that great man below here it is again!!



Chieftain and one of Scotland's National Treasures – Sir Jackie Stewart