

**SELANGOR  
ST. ANDREW'S  
SOCIETY**



# **The Selangor Scotsman**

**December 2011 Issue**



# The Selangor Scotsman

The Journal of the Selangor St Andrew's Society

[Visit the SSAS Website - Click here](#)

## CHIEFTAN'S CHATTER

Here we are again another year coming to a close and the seasonal holidays fast approaching so I hope you have your list prepared and as they say "Been Good", but whether one year older or one year wiser looking forward to hogmanay and the new year will hopefully be as successful as 2011.



Its been a busy year for the society overall with our annual events and also changes or should I say welcomed additions to the committee where we have had Elaine Cameron, Kathleen Whyte and very recently Lynn Maitland joining a historical honours list of committee members since our founding.

We also have the recent addition of Alan Bernard taking over as our new Editor of our newsletter from resident Past Chieftain Patrick Russell whom I am sure we would all like to thank for his contributions and hard work in bringing you all the society's and members news and also other interesting topics from the homeland. I am sure with Alan's background and experience we have some exciting new content to look forward to.

Well we have had a bumper year since our AGM in February with the new addition to our calendar of our Society Dive Adventure in Palau Tenggol in late April, which was a great family trip for our members and also we had our new members night in May at J&R's in Damansara.

Least we forget that our golf team stood up to the challenge once more and won the Inter-Society Golf tournament in May at Bukit Unggul Golf & Country Club and who could forget the Bags of Rock concert also in May with comedians Craig Hill and Daniel Sloss, what a night of entertainment that was...

Our traditional welcome Back Night at the beginning of October was a musical feast with traditional Scottish pipers and traditional "dhol" Punjabi drums, where I must admit was an interesting combination and unique sound. I honestly believe it brought a whole new meaning to "keep the noise down".

Following the success of the Great British Ball in October and our society whisky tasting night in early November we recently had our Annual Celebration at the Hilton Hotel where our members and guests were treated to excellent food and a rendition of the address to the Haggis by our resident past chieftain John Thomson and if you missed it I can only say you missed a real treat, as it was the best address to the wee beaste I have seen for many a year and a performance second to none.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy Hogmanay and don't forget to get a good bowl of soup inside yer sail before first fittin, and dinna forget tae bring yer bottle.

Hope to see abody at the next shindig which will be the Burns Supper,

So n till anither time  
Johan

Newsletter sponsor -



Tel: 603 9222 9688

Fax: 603 9222 9788

[www.asiantigers-malaysia.com](http://www.asiantigers-malaysia.com)

## ABOUT THE SELANGOR ST ANDREW'S SOCIETY

### CHIEFTAIN

Johan Murison

### VICE-CHIEFTAIN

Ali King

### Hon Sec

John Thomson

### Hon Treasurer

Hector Ingram

### COMMITTEE

Ilona Russell

Yvanka Jeffery

Jeff Ross

Lorna Mair

Bernie Williams

Elaine Cameron

Zoe Shuttleworth

Kathleen Whyte

Lynn Maitland

### Newsletter

Alan Bernard

### Dance Convenor

Richard Thompson

### Alice Smith School Rep

Yvanka Jeffery

### RESIDENT PAST CHIEFTANS

Stewart Forbes (1987), Tristan Russell (1989), Patrick Russell (1997, 2004)  
 Roger McGowan (2005), John Thomson (2006), Hector Ingram (2007)  
 Paul Henderson (2009), Richard Thompson (2010)

[Visit the SSAS Website - Click here](#)

[Join our FaceBook page - Click here](#)



The Society's aims include fostering of matters of Scottish interest, the celebration of St. Andrew's Day and the organisation of social events for our members. In addition to our formal annual events – The Burns Supper and our St. Andrew's Celebration, we organise ceilidhs, golf days, highland weekends, pub nights and whisky tastings.

The Society has, in recent years, staged a series of concerts with Scottish musicians such as the Battlefield Band, Capercaillie, Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Bags of Rock. In addition the Society has also engaged Scottish comedians Craig Hill and Daniel Sloss to perform at Society events.

Our next events will be the [Family Hogmanay Bash](#), followed by the [Burns Supper](#) on January 28th.

### 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue
31st December 2011	Family Hogmanay Party	Overlooking KLCC
28th January 2012	Burns Supper	Intercontinental Hotel
23rd February 2012	AGM	Royal Selangor Golf Club
April 2012	Inter Society Golf Day	TBA
26th May 2012	Annual Concert	Hilton Kuala Lumpur

WHISKY KISS ARE CONFIRMED FOR THE MAY 2012 CONCERT !

# WHISKY KISS

Whisky Kiss - have played at the World's 3rd Largest Fashion Show in New York (jamming with Keifer Sutherland and Paolo Nutini), their music has been used by Vivienne Westwood in her Autumn Collection, and on Channel 4's "Come Dine With Me". The band have appeared at least 3 times at major events like Scotland's biggest festival (T in the Park), Scotland's biggest party (Edinburgh's Hogmanay) as well as at international events like New York Tartan Week and the Dubai Ball.

There's a new generation of world music mixing the coolest contemporary beats and grooves with the finest underground folk tunes, using the fabulous native instruments like the pipes, whistles, fiddles and accordions. Donald Trump described Whisky Kiss as "Scotland's part of this new generation".

## Fiddle

Siobhan Anderson - recently opened BBC's Children in Need guesting with the Bluebells on Young at Heart (a mere 20m nationwide audience) Siobhan comes from Killin in Perthshire and recently graduated with a first in Music in Glasgow. Siobhan has played with Whisky Kiss for 3 years including at all of the above listed events.

## Bagpipes / Whistle / Guitar

Chris Waite - Chris is the band's multi-instrumentalist, giving the band an added edge in our diversity. An amazing player on each instrument, Chris is a Borderer. In addition to his work with Whisky Kiss (where he has appeared at T in the Park, New York, Oman, Dubai and elsewhere) Chris also has a number of solo projects (being nominated for a prestigious Trad Award in 2011) and he has recently opened his own recording studio in Glasgow.

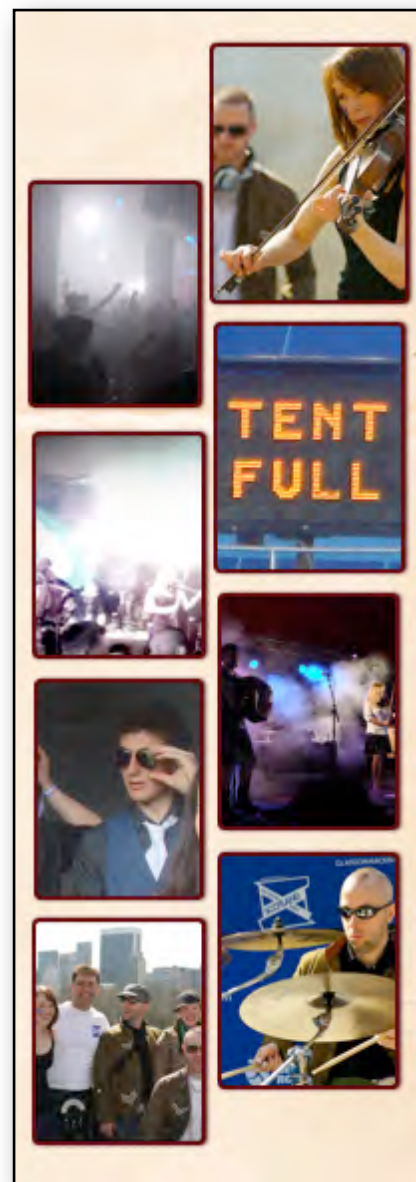
## Accordion / Bass / Dance Caller (For Dances)

Iain MacPhail - a founder member of Whisky Kiss, Iain comes from a famous folk music family, his father being the Queen's accordionist, playing at Balmoral 3 times a year. A former winner of BBC's The Weakest Link, which he achieved even with a raging hangover the day after his stag do, Iain has played at all of the events mentioned above.

Ewan Laing / Martyn Hodge - both provide a great modern edge to Whisky Kiss's music with fabulous modern rhythms and block rockin' beats.

Rachel McLagan & Lianne Wilson - the current and former world champion Highland dancers, these two fabulous talents have added enormously to Whisky Kiss's show since first teaming up with the band in New York for the World's third largest fashion show and for the Tartan Day Parade After Party. They not only excel at Highland dancing, they have a brilliant modern style and pots of attitude, to add spice to any dance-off against dancers local to the KL area.

Rachel Lightbody - a fabulous talent, widely regarded as one of the rising stars of the scene in Scotland, Rachel has recently graduated in Music in Glasgow. Has performed with Whisky Kiss at major events including for Trump in New York.



## THE 2011 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

By John Thomson

The skirl of the pipes resonated throughout the Hilton Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday evening of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011. The sound welcomed all the guests to the Annual Celebration of St. Andrew's Day. But not everyone was appreciative of the music, as it apparently disturbed a wedding party in the small Sentral Ballroom of the Hilton which is adjacent the Grand Ballroom. One might have thought the presence of pipers would have added some colour to anyone's function, but it has to be understood that bagpipe music isn't everyone's cup of tea!

The event was a formal black-tie dinner with dress kilt outfits in abundance. The foyer and ballroom were decorated with tartans, saltires and lion rampants, while clan banners adorned the walls around the ballroom. In keeping with the best of traditions, it should be noted that earlier in the day, most of the work to decorate the room was done by the ladies of the committee, while the men stood around and debated the correct sequence of events for the Haggis Ceremony!!

The event was staged in two sections of the Grand Ballroom which offered an ideal venue for an event that needs a large dance floor for Scottish Country Dancing. However, the turnout from members was less than anticipated so the room seemed a bit too big for the numbers attending. Having said that the Society has to commit to venue bookings about one year in advance and it is extremely difficult to gauge the response to any particular event so far ahead. Those that did attend certainly appeared to enjoy the evening, which opened with the MC, Paul Henderson, welcoming members and guests and then delivering the Selkirk Grace after the Chieftain's Party and Top Table guests had been piped-in.

The Society was pleased to welcome His Excellency, the British High Commissioner and his wife, plus VIP guests from St. Patrick's and St. George's Societies. And let us not forget our very own Datuk Tristan Russell and his wife Datin Joan who joined the VIPs on the Top Table.

Early in the evening the assembled company was treated to a display of Scottish Country Dancing by the Children of ISKL. This has become something of a tradition at the Annual

Celebration and is always a delightful addition to the evening's entertainment.

One of the highlights of every Annual Celebration is the Haggis Ceremony and this year was no exception. The haggis was piped in by the pipers from the St. John's Alumni Pipe Band with Past-Chieftains, Roger McGowan, Richard Thompson and John Thomson as the bearers. Past-Chieftain, John Thomson gave an impassioned address and duly "stabbed" the haggis with more than a little flourish and gusto, while reciting the lines "*Trenching your gushing entrails bright like ony ditch*".

However, as Robert Burns once wrote:  
*The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men  
 Gang aft agley,  
 An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,  
 For promis'd joy!*

The haggis party, somewhat to their dismay, discovered that the haggis had not been cooked due to a complete misunderstanding in the kitchen, but they carried on regardless as they rightly took the view that an uncooked haggis on a silver platter was probably better than no haggis at all! One had to sympathise with John Thomson who was faced with the unenviable task of addressing a cold, raw lump of offal wrapped up in an unappetising sheep's stomach. It was indeed a wonder that this apparition did not,  
*"... mak' him spew wi' perfect scunner."*



## THE 2011 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

By John Thomson

The haggis was obtained from McSweens in Edinburgh and the Society is indebted to Lily and Gordon Crighton who lugged 20 kilos of haggis back from Edinburgh in their suitcases. Fortunately the haggis that was served to guests was cooked to perfection as many people commented that the haggis was delicious and beautifully presented as a plated dish.

The main course was introduced by dramatic entrance music as the theme from Conquest of Paradise by Vangelis was played. One might ask what on earth Vangelis has to do with a traditional Scottish event as he was from Greece? On reflection, not much! But Richard Thompson did advise that he once visited Edinburgh, and let us not forget that St. Andrew is also the Patron Saint of Greece!

While the main course was being served, the company was entertained to a performance of Pipes and Drums by the St. John's Alumni Pipe Band. This local band gave an excellent performance and the sound filled the banquet room. They continue to improve and expand their repertoire with some excellent marching and drumming routines. They were also sporting pipe-banners which had been supplied by the Society.

The Chieftain, Johan Murison, gave the Welcome Address and Toasted the Guests, while Dee Grimshaw, President of the St. Patrick's Society gave the Reply on behalf of the Guests. With the formal part of the evening over, the company was then entertained to a rendition of Scottish songs and music by the Gan Airm Celtic Band who had travelled from Singapore to perform at the event. This performance seemed to be rather flat and it was evident that guests were impatient to begin the dancing. So the band's performance was cut short and as soon as some Scottish Country Dance Music was played, the dance floor was full.

Past-Chieftain, Richard Thompson, did a fantastic job of calling the dances and keeping everyone right. Not an easy task as the night progressed and everyone became a little mellow. However, the dance floor was full right up to the end when the whole company came together to sing Auld Lang Syne.

Paul Henderson, the MC for the evening, did an excellent job of holding everything together with apparent calmness and flashes of sparkling humour. All-in-all a most successful evening and many people left feeling that they wanted more.

[Click Here to view more photos from the evening](#)



## WHO WAS ROBERT BURNS AND WHY ALL THE FUSS?

By John Thomson

Robert Burns is one of the most famous characters in Scottish cultural and literary history. His importance is immense, not only in terms of his fascinating story and his work, but also as a living tradition, carried on from generation to generation throughout the World. Everyone, everywhere, who joins in any celebration of Scotland, Scottish heritage or Scottish culture, will witness references to Robert Burns.



Many people who would like to know about Robert Burns find it initially quite daunting. Much of the material available on Burns assumes a certain starting point. For instance, most books on Burns assume that the reader has a basic understanding of who he was, where he was from, and why he had such an impact.

The first reading of any Burns Poem might give the impression that it had been written in an unknown foreign language! How can newcomers to Burns' poetry, with no knowledge of the old Scots language, possibly begin to interpret, and hence appreciate and enjoy the work? Of course, the final straw is the spoken word itself....how on earth does anyone, who is not Scottish, pronounce the words!

Many people can potentially be discouraged when they first pick up a Burns book in the perception that the subject is cumbersome and heavy going. The reality is quite different! Robert Burns would be astonished at his fame today, but would be gravely disappointed that so many had access to his writings, yet could not understand his message!

### ***Who was Robert Burns?***

Most will describe Robert Burns as one of the world's greatest Poets, but this description does not serve him well. He was much more than a great poet. Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759, in the village of Alloway, Ayrshire, near to the town of Ayr on the West Coast of Scotland.

His father, William, was an extremely poor man and in 1750 had moved to the area in search of work and eventually became a tenant farmer. He met and married Agnes Broun, a local girl, and built a small cottage at the farm. Robert Burns was born in this cottage, the eldest son of a poor farming family. Life was extremely harsh and the farm was not a success. Even as a small child Burns was to work long hours with his father, and many evenings were spent huddled round the fire listening to his mother's stories and his father reading from the bible.

Burns father recognised the importance of education and together with other friends, contracted the services of a local teacher, John Murdoch. At an early age, it was apparent to Murdoch that the young Robert showed the potential of a gifted scholar.

For Robert, the combination of poverty, hard work on the farm, story telling, the influence of the Kirk, his studies, and a tremendous ability to observe life in general, were all factors in his development to manhood. He had a wicked sense of humour, a controversial frankness decrying hypocrisy, a tender and thoughtful creativity, an alleged thirst for drink, a deep nationalist pride in his beloved Scotland, and an insatiable passion for women.

## WHO WAS ROBERT BURNS AND WHY ALL THE FUSS?

By John Thomson

Burns died on 21st July, 1796 aged 37 at Dumfries in the South of Scotland. During his short life he would aspire to great things. After his death, he became a legendary figure, and perhaps unknowingly, has evolved from a mere man into a symbol for all things Scottish. He is one of the corner stones of modern Scottish literature and his life and times are celebrated annually throughout the world.

What made Burns Famous?

Burns' rise to fame began in July 1786 when at the age of 27, his first work was published by John Wilson at Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, entitled "Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect". This book, known as "The Kilmarnock Edition", was the catalyst for his celebrity status, but was far from being the sole contributing factor.

Robert's motivation for publishing his work was initially financial although undoubtedly, being an egotistical man, he relished the thought of seeing his poems in print. He had been courting a local girl, Jean Armour, (later to be his wife) who had become pregnant by him. The girl's father and the local community were outraged. Such was the sway of opinion against Burns, that he became deeply dejected and was intent on emigrating to Jamaica in the West Indies. The publication of his work was to pay for his passage to Jamaica, but events changed and Robert Burns remained in Scotland.

When copies of Burns book reached the socialites of Edinburgh, it was met with curious wonder. The literati were astounded at the quality of the work, and could not perceive that an apparently ignorant farmer could write in such a manner. They were unaware that Burns had excelled as a student. It was clear during his formative years that he was of considerable intellect, as he threw himself eagerly into Shakespeare, Pope and other masters. At the age of 15 years he was fluent in French, spoke Latin, studied philosophy, politics, geography, theology and of course, the Bible. He was an accomplished mathematician and would in later years add significantly to his impressive list of subjects.

"Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect" was considered to be one of the greatest poetical collections ever written. Its appeal was obvious not only to the educated, but more importantly, to the common people in Scotland.

### ***What was special about his work and why is it so popular?***

Firstly, and most importantly, Burns work is the continuing story of an ordinary Scotsman, his background, his encounters, his observations and thoughts. His poems and letters give a detailed account of the life and times, culture and politics of the day, all of which are readily apparent. His words still ring true today and arouse the great passion.

Secondly, the content, quality, interpretation and variety of his work are quite remarkable. When you understand the words, which can in fact be quite simple to do, it's easy to understand the whole piece. Remember, Burns wrote for himself, his friends and his fellow countrymen, not for the academics!

Finally, and briefly for those more academically gifted, it is clear that the very structure of Burns poetry is unusual in itself. Just try looking at the phraseology and rhythm to any of his poems.



Robert Burns

## RARE BOTTLE OF WHISKY FETCHES £46,000

By Patrick Russell

A rare bottle of 55-year-old single malt has set a new world record after it was sold for £46,000, auctioneers said.

The bottle of Glenfiddich Janet Sheed Roberts Reserve fetched £46,850 at Bonhams in Edinburgh yesterday, topping the previous auction record of just under £30,000 for a bottle of single malt whisky.

It is the first of 11 bottles of the 1955 tippie to be released to the public to honour Janet Sheed Roberts, the granddaughter of William Grant who founded the Glenfiddich distillery.

Mrs Roberts, who celebrated her 110th birthday in August, is the oldest living person in Scotland, distillery bosses said.

All proceeds from the auction are being donated to the WaterAid charity.

Bonhams said the Glenfiddich sets a new record for a bottle of single malt sold at auction.

Last year a 64-year-old Macallan malt and Lalique crystal decanter fetched 460,000 US dollars (£298,000) at an auction in New York, prompting distillers to say they had smashed the world record for the most expensive whisky ever sold.

Bonhams said they too have broken a world record with their £46,850 auction total, which includes the buyer's premium, explaining that the Glenfiddich sets a new global record for a single malt whisky in a standard bottle.

Bonhams' head of whisky, Martin Green, said: 'This is the most valuable whisky we have ever auctioned here in Edinburgh and we're thrilled to have helped raise such a significant amount of money for WaterAid.'

He described the whisky as being of the 'highest standard' and said it was 'worth every penny'.

He added: 'It's certainly a collector's item, which should only grow in value over the years. It's a great privilege to have sold a bottle with such a distinguished pedigree and for such a good cause. We are all delighted.'

Bonhams said the whisky sale attracted interest from around the world. In total, it raised £215,000. Glenfiddich is made in Dufftown, Banffshire, using a single source of water: the Robbie Dhu spring.

Peter Gordon, Glenfiddich chairman and great-nephew of Mrs Roberts, said: 'We're thrilled the sale of this very special whisky raised such a significant amount of money for WaterAid.'

'The Glenfiddich Janet Sheed Roberts Reserve is one of the rarest and most precious whiskies we have ever made.

'It's a truly remarkable liquid which would be impossible to make without the purity of Robbie Dhu spring water. It seems fitting to use our most special whisky to raise money for such a special charity.'



The Bottle of 55 yr old Glenfiddich 'Janet Sheed Robert' named after the oldest person in Scotland, held by Bonhams Dan Roberts



The Bottle of 55 yr old Glenfiddich 'Janet Sheed Robert' named after the oldest person in Scotland, held by Bonhams Dan Roberts

## A SMALL TASTE OF THE AMBER NECTAR

By Johan Murison

Whisky Tasting Night November 2011

It wasn't a cold November night in Kuala Lumpur and most certainly not a dry night either even though it did not rain for a change. The society held its annual Whisky Tasting Night at the Chieftains home where members and guests enjoyed an evening of fine Scottish fare and select Single Malt whisky.

The evening's entertainment was provided by the pipers and drums of Desh Mesh and it would be fair to say that the tunes carried all over Ampang.

The home cooked food again was popular with all who attended with good old-fashioned chicken soup, mince and tatties with the rare appearance of skirlie, which the chieftain had to cook on the fly to keep up with the demand.

To help along with the whisky some fine stinky cheese rounded off the evening's meal and for those connoisseurs of fine Scottish baking there was Dundee Cake as a treat.

There was a slight change to this year's format with the inclusion of a quiz for the non-whisky drinkers, where some of the questions stirred some debate but with overall hilarity as to the potential answers.

Also there were alternative beverages for the non-whisky drinkers so that everyone could enjoy the celebration of Scotland's biggest export, it's a bit of shame we couldn't get McEwans Export or Tenants Lager and a couple of bottles of thunderbird or buckfast to round off the drinks list.



The society was fortunate to have some of the tasting whisky sponsored by Old Pulteney and also the first prize for the whisky tasting which was selected from across Scotland.

The bogie "which was a whisky from Scotland pretending to be a single malt" and the imposter "a single malt but not from Scotland" both of which proved to be somewhat a challenge to the tasters on the night.

The whisky tasting night has now become a firm fixture on the annual calendar with the society's members and their guests and I am sure we all look forward to the next one which I am sure will provide another fine fair of food and single malts for all to savour.

## ALICE SMITH SCHOOL - TOP OF THE WORLD AWARD

The long-awaited British School Overseas (BSO) inspection devised by the Department for Education (DfE) for England has finally arrived in Malaysia.

The purpose of BSO inspection is to inform parents of pupils in British schools overseas how standards in their school measure up when compared against a common set of standards applied to independent schools in Britain. Prior to BSO inspections there was no clear, standardised means of inspecting British schools overseas. This serves as an aid for comparison with other schools in the region and in the UK.

In the recent inspection by Tribal Education, one of the six approved inspectorates of DfE, the Alice Smith School passed the inspection with flying colours and is now an accredited British School. We are one of the first schools in Malaysia and one of the earliest in Southeast Asia and wider afield to obtain this accreditation.

The Secondary Campus at Equine Park was assessed as being Excellent, Grade 1 and the Primary Campus at Jalan Bellamy was assessed as being Good, Grade 2. The school is well on the way to achieving its vision of being a consistently outstanding school by 2015.

“The students are provided with an outstanding British education that prepares them very successfully for an international future. The school meets all the requirements for British schools overseas,” said Sheila Nolan, the Senior Inspector for Tribal Education.



She added “The broad curriculum of the school offers outstanding opportunities for the students to grow and mature in their academic work. There is excellent provision for enrichment activities, ranging from sporting activities to whole-school projects, productions and overseas visits.

With regard to how much David Collard, the Managing Inspector of Tribal Education had enjoyed himself whilst communicating with the primary students during the inspection, he has this to say, “The students told us how much they enjoyed school and we can see why. There are just so many things to do we wondered how they fit it all into the day. The students also told us that they think they make good progress through the school-we agree. They are taught well and the teachers try very hard to make sure that they keep the students interested and challenged.”

The school has also ended the year in another high note as our secondary students were recently awarded by the University of Cambridge International Examinations

Board, the best performing students in the world and in Malaysia in the recent June 2011 IGSCE examination.

For two years in a row, our students have been awarded Top in the World for Additional Mathematics.

Kayla Chiew, the recipient for Top in the World for this year’s Additional Mathematics shared her secret of success, “I think being a well-rounded student is very important, not only to build on your skill sets academically but also for personal development and being a more wholesome individual.”

The recipients for the other awards are Azril Zulkiflee for Top in the World for Foreign Language Malay, Emily Scanlon for Top in Malaysia-History and Lisabel Tanner for High achievement- Foreign Language Dutch.

**For enquiries, please** visit the School’s website at [www.alice-smith.edu.my](http://www.alice-smith.edu.my).

## The "Thrifty" Scots

The Scots have the [unjustified] reputation of being stingy. But what they do have is the ability to laugh at themselves:-

Double glazing is doing great business in Scotland in hope that the children cannot hear the icecream van when it comes round.

A young Scottish lad and lass were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, gazing out over the loch. For several minutes they sat silently.

Then finally the girl looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin'...perhaps it's about time for a wee kiss."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek.

Then he blushed. The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

Minutes passed and the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus." "Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's noo time about time for a wee cuddle."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds.

Then he blushed. Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

After a while, she again said, "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's about time you let me put my hand on your leg."

The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her knee. Then he blushed. The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch before the girl spoke again.

"Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

The young man glanced down with a furled brow. "Well, noo," he said, "my thoughts are a wee bit more serious this time."

"Really?" said the lass in a whisper, filled with anticipation.

"Aye," said the lad, nodding.

The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush, and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request.

Then he said, "Dae ye nae think it's about time ye paid me the first three pennies?"

How many Scotsmen does it take to change a light bulb?

Och! It's no that dark!

One day Jock bought a bottle of fine whiskey and while walking home he fell. Getting up he felt something wet on his pants. He looked up at the sky and said, "Oh lord please I beg you let it be blood!"

A Scotsman and a Jewish man were having a magnificent meal at one of the finest restaurants in New York. At the end of the evening the waiter came over to present the check and a Scottish voice said "that's all right laddie just gae the check to me". The headlines in the local newspaper next day proclaimed "Jewish ventriloquist found beaten to death".

## THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT

By Scuba Haggis

Diving Raja Ampat Archipelago Indonesia



Overlooking Raja Ampat Marine Park

Living in Asia has some key advantages and being located in Malaysia has the added benefit of being located on the edge of the coral triangle and with low cost travel now makes some of the most remote scuba diving locations easily accessible.

Raja Ampat in West Papua of Indonesia is no exception which is in easy reach from Kuala Lumpur via Makassar or Jakarta, with its stunning scenery and famous for its diversity of marine species and is dubbed by some as ***“The Caribbean of the East”***.

On a recent dive trip we ventured out to explore as Raja Ampat features on the main bucket list of most recreational scuba divers with the added advantage that within the marine park the Indonesian government has banned all fishing to protect both the coral reefs and large marine species which are in abundance.

Leaving Sorong harbour it is quite an adventure with the magnificent sunsets behind you as you sail towards Raja Ampat which is a good 8 hours sailing from Sorong.

To get there one typically travels by boat and stay on a live aboard which makes it both easy for reaching as many dive sites as possible in the park and hassle free accommodation.

Known for its diversity the most striking sight on ones first dive is the variety of soft corals both in colour and species which should be no surprise given the currents which vary considerably due to the small islands situated in close proximity to each other, but one can only say it is as breath taking as the scenery at the surface.

As the sun goes down everyone prepares for their first night dive which can be intimidating at the best of times with being new to the area and changing currents some of us were a bit hesitant but the excitement of what was to be discovered overcame any hesitation quite quickly.



Tricolour Soft Coral

## THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT

By Scuba Haggis

Diving Raja Ampat Archipelago Indonesia

Raja Ampat is famous or should I say infamous for its unique nocturnal species of marine life but all divers have the Wobbegong shark at the top of their list. They are bottom-dwelling sharks and spend much of their time resting on the sea floor and species have a maximum length of 1.25 metres (4.1 ft) or less, but the largest, the spotted Wobbegong, *Orectolobus maculatus*, and banded Wobbegong, in Raja Ampat reach up to 3 metres (9.8 ft) in length.



Wobbegong Shark

As we descended into the darkness of the night and soon reached our 16m target and touched down on the bottom, my buddy and I got our cameras set up and signalled that we were ready to start the search.

Wobbegong's are well camouflaged with a symmetrical pattern of bold markings, which resembles a carpet and because of this striking pattern, Wobbegong's and their close relatives are often referred to as carpet sharks.

After 20 minutes into the dive taking some test shots of crabs, scorpion fish and enough shrimps to fill a large bucket we finally spotted our target of the dive, straight in front of us was our Wobbegong and both myself and my buddy could hear each others excitement even with a regulator in ones mouth.



Nocturnal Frog Fish and Crocodile Fish

## THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT

By Scuba Haggis

Diving Raja Ampat Archipelago Indonesia

We both took as many pictures as possible without disturbing the Wobbegong but we didn't have to signal the other divers of our find as it was soon transparent to everyone we had found something special with all the strobe flashes from both our cameras.

On surfacing from the dive we were all on a major high and couldn't wait for the next night even though we had some spectacular day dives the next following days including the schooling Mantas. But these were also to prove just as spectacular with the other nocturnal fish and each time getting closer to completing my bucket list and finally on our last night dive captured a sighting of a raja Ampat bamboo-walking shark.



As the sun set behind us on the last day we all looked back and wondered when we would be returning to Raja Ampat for another adventure into the darkness of the night and having some great photos of the experience the memories will stay with us for quite some time.

On the success of last years Scuba Dive Adventure the society will be planning another adventure for its members in 2012. This is open not just to the diving fraternity of the society but also as last year is for families with beach and social activities.

***If any members are interested to join this trip please contact Johan Murison or Lorna Mair as available places are limited due to resort size so don't wait.***

## DR HAROLD TRAIL SKAE AND THE PERAK ST ANDREWS SOCIETY

By Patrick Russell

The Society recently received this appeal for information -

“Can you tell me please how to contact the Perak St Andrews Society if it still exists as I am researching the background to Dr Harold Trail Skae who was Chieftain in 1931 and bought the Tanjong Perak Rubber Estate in 1928.” – Maurice Taylor

A brief follow up resulted in the following images being sent:-



The inscription reads – [Presented to Mr Harold Trail Skae – Chieftain – by the Perak St Andrew’s Society]

“Perhaps you can see from the attached pictures how my interest in Dr Trail Skae started? The Chieftain's badge of office has been in my family for some 50 years it came as a gift to my younger daughter.

I have always been intrigued by the name and the Perak connection. Back in the dark days ‘54-57 I was an Auster pilot flying out of Taiping for a year then KL for a year and finally Sembawang for another year....after 3 years searching the Ulu for CTs I think I knew every tree in Malaya? I am sure I did pay drops at Tanjong Perak Rubber Estate at one stage.

I have been in touch with the Estate who tell me they have no records from before the war and can tell me nothing about the Doctor. Now using the internet I have found him mentioned once in

the following article published by Cambridge University” , J.B. Scrivenor

“In 1928 the owner of the Tanjong Perak Rubber Estate, Dr. H. Trail Skae, noticed a white, porous, and friable rock near the Estate buildings and took specimens that were ultimately sent to the Geological Survey Department for report. The rock proved to be entirely new to British Malaya and of great interest, while in view of its complicated composition I suggested in a local publication that it should be called "Vitrite".

Dr. Skae registered the name "Vitrite" as a trade-mark for this rock, which has possible uses in commerce, but it has since been discovered that the word was used during the war by a Dutch firm for a particular kind of glass used in electrical work, so the name has to be abandoned, and the only attempt I have ever made to inflict a new name on petrologists has been signally defeated.

So my research is really based on curiosity and just wondering what happened to the Doctor and if his family are still around in Malaya.” , Maurice

Anyone with any knowledge of the Perak Society or Dr Skae, please contact Patrick Russell at [pdr123pdr@yahoo.com](mailto:pdr123pdr@yahoo.com) or Maurice Taylor at [mauricetaylor114@btinternet.com](mailto:mauricetaylor114@btinternet.com)



# OUR WULLIE! YOUR WULLIE! A'BODY'S WULLIE!

REPRODUCED WITH THE PERMISSION OF DC THOMSON





By Ma Bernard

## Stovies

Stovies is traditionally a left over dish from the Sunday Roast, using the tatties, meat and dripping leftovers all thrown into one pot. The origins of stovies are said to come from a time when masters would give their servants the left over food from Sunday lunch. They would take this home or to their quarters and make a dish that could last them all week and was easy to cook.

### Ingredients

3lbs tatties (potatoes)  
 1 large onion or 2 small  
 1lb steak mince or lamb (or meat, cheese or vegetables)  
 2 oz beef dripping or lard or butter or olive oil  
 1/2 pint of water  
 Meat stock cube or veg  
 Pinch of salt and pepper

### Method

1. Chop the onions into a pot, add fat, and gently cook for 4-5 mins until soft.
2. Add meat, stir into the onions and cook until a light brown.
3. Peel, slice and dice your potatoes as you'd normally do.
4. Hurtle them into the pot with the onions and meat. Add the water, stock, salt, pepper.



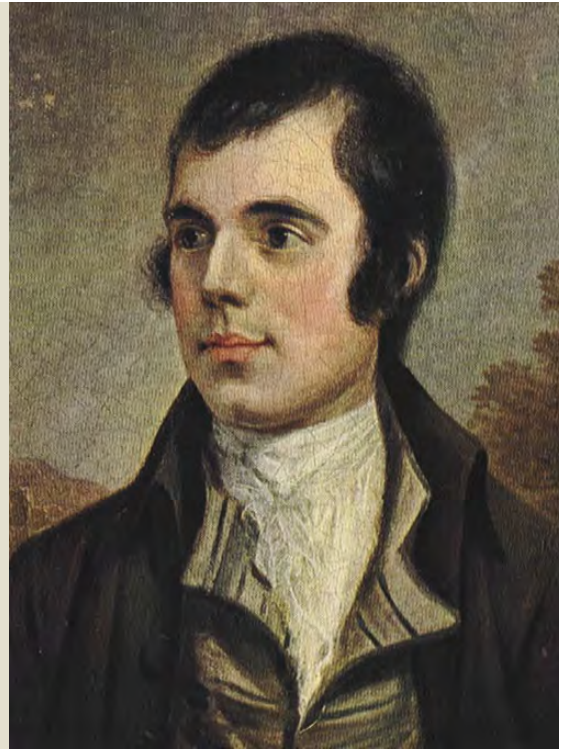
**Stovies cooking on the stove**

5. Bring to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes with the lid on, shoogling (shaking!) or stirring the pot occasionally to make sure it doesn't all stick. Cook until the potatoes are soft (push a table knife through a piece to test).
6. Serve with Oatcakes

# SELANGOR ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY

## BURNS SUPPER 2012

January 28th 2012  
The Intercontinental Hotel  
Kuala Lumpur



### Presenting Raymond Mearns Comedian, actor, writer & musician

As of 2011 Raymond has completed a successful mini tour of venues across Scotland. He also appeared in the new series of Rab C Nesbitt and in the BBC's Scottish soap opera, River City.

His second DVD was released in April 2011 and he then went on tour with Pete Doherty doing support slots at The Shepherds Bush Empire and various venues in the north of England.

Raymond continues to do live stand-up most weekends at various clubs across the UK.



THE BURNS SUPPER  
2012 IS KINDLY  
SPONSORED BY  
OLD PULTENEY



### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

**MEMBERS: RM 280**

**GUESTS: RM 320**

Contact Yvanka Jeffery on 012 279 7396  
or email [yvanka@vdbergasia.com](mailto:yvanka@vdbergasia.com)

Ticket price includes pre-dinner drinks, traditional Scottish dinner with haggis, wine and whisky. Wine and beer supplied while sticks last.

The hotel will provide a cash bar for other drinks.





Bring in 2012 with family fun and games overlooking KLCC and the spectacular firework display. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Soft drinks for the kids, Lentil soup and stovies supper provided. Bring your own booze.

Dresscode: Kilt/Casual and swimsuit if you want to get wet!

Members and guests RM20 entrance fee per adult. Kids free.

Book tickets online at [ssas-online.com](http://ssas-online.com)  
or email [lynnmaitland@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lynnmaitland@yahoo.co.uk)