



PO Box 765, Rapid City SD 57709
Black Hills Celtic Events.org
Info@BlackHillsCelticEvents.org

December 2010

Serving the Celtic Communities of: Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall (England), Galicia (Spain), Brittany (France), Scotland and Ireland

MARK THOSE CALENDARS

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 14th 7pm Regular Member Meeting/ Elections
Raben Realty Board Room
302 Main St. Rapid City
- Dec. 31st Hogmanay 6pm
Knight's House
- Jan. 4th 2011 Board Meeting
Jim Byrne's Office 2525 W.
Main Suite 204 Rapid City
- Jan. 22nd Burn's Dinner
United Church of Christ



President Jim Byrne

President's Message

Meeting Notes

Office of Jim Byrne
12/7/2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Jim Byrnes. Old minutes were read. No corrections.

The Hogmanay Celebration is a potluck at Knight's home. Warm clothing is a must.

Treasurer's Report: \$1864.60 in checking.

Old Business:

The proposed amendment to SIS by-laws to redefine the cadet membership requires a thirty day notification. Pat Hamilton sent the information by email to SIS members. This will also be included on the voting ballot.

Celtic Connection storage move:

Siaryn Duggan had previously asked SIS for help in moving their stored items to another area in Celtic Connection's basement during the 6th street remodeling. However, construction will be removing at least 15 ft from her basement and therefore Siaryn has requested that SIS relocate. Carole Conrad volunteered to call the storage unit that SIS previously used.

New Business:

Elections on 12/14/2010. Pat Hamilton is running for president. Josh Ellis for vice president, Carole Conrad for treasurer, Marlene Wilcox for secretary. Two positions are needed for the board. Susan Kaines, John Burke, and Ron Balster will run.

Hogmanay will be at the Knights house on Dec. 31 starting at 6:00 pm. Potluck. Warm dress required.

Burns Dinner is on January 22 at the United Church of Christ. Board members voted to reduce ticket prices to: \$20 for members and \$25 for non. The committee will be John Burke, Gary Hamilton, and Carole Conrad. Members will bring desserts. \$125.00 has been allotted for the silent auction.

St. Patrick's Day event will be March 12, 2011. The committee will be Pat Hamilton, John Burke, Winnie Balster and Jim Byrne.

Next Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Member meeting will be Tuesday December 14, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm. Sally Knight, secretary.

ADDENDUM TO DECEMBER 7 BOARD MEETING. December 11, 2010

December 8, Jim Byrne called Bill Knight to request he call other storage units for prices.

December 9-10 Carole Conrad had rented a 10X10 storage unit (The Attic) and gave the key to Siaryn Duggan at Celtic Connection.

Siaryn has requested to recruit members for the move at the next general member meeting.

Date and time will be discussed at the meeting.

Sally Knight, secretary.

Irish Blessing

May joy be your companion
Through each and every day
Bringing lots of Irish luck
And happiness your way.

Officers

<u>President</u>	Jim Byrne info@BlackHillsCelticEvents.org
<u>Vice President</u>	Pat Hamilton
<u>Secretaries</u>	Heather Williams & Sally Knight
<u>Treasurer</u>	Carole Conrad
<u>Board Members</u>	John Duggan, Susan Peterson, Jim Byrne, Bill Knight, Paul Smith & Winnie Balster
<u>Past President</u>	John Burke
<u>Web Site</u>	Gary Hamilton
<u>Newsletter</u>	John Burke jburke67@rap.midco.net

If you would like to contribute an article or story, list an event, submit a photo, etc. to the newsletter, please email the item to me by the

5th of each month.



The Burn's Dinner is going back to its Rapid City roots. The members plan on cooking the meal and the event will be held at the United Church of Christ. Address and instructions to get there will be supplied at a later date.

Celtic Trivia

Supplied by Sally Knight

WREN DAY

Wren day also known as **Wren's day**, **Hunt the Wren Day** or **The Hunting of the Wrens** (Irish: *Lá an Dreoilín*) celebrated on 26 December, St. Stephen's Day, on the Isle of Man, Ireland, Wales and Newfoundland. The tradition consists of "hunting" a fake wren, and putting it on top of a decorated pole. Then the crowds of mummers or strawboys celebrate the Wren (also pronounced as the *Wran*) by dressing up in masks, straw suits and colourful motley clothing and, accompanied by traditional

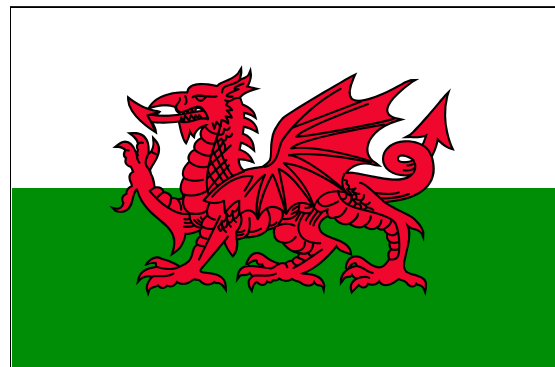
[céilí](#) music bands, parade through the towns and villages in remembrance of a festival that was celebrated by the [Druids](#). These crowds are sometimes called **wrenboys**.

HISTORY

In past times, an actual bird was hunted by Wrenboys on St. Stephen's Day. The captured wren was tied to the Wrenboy leader's staff pole, sometimes dead, sometimes alive (to be killed after the parade). The parade song, of which there are many variations, asked for donations from the townspeople. Often, the boys gave a feather from the bird to patrons for good luck. The money was used to host a dance for the town, held that night. The pole, decorated with ribbons, wreaths and flowers, as well as the Wren, was the center of the dance. Over time, the live bird was replaced with a fake one that is hidden, rather than chased. The band of young boys has expanded to include girls, and adults often join in. The money that is collected from the townspeople is usually donated to a school or charity. A celebration is still held around the decorated pole.

Some people^{[[who?](#)]} theorise that the Wren celebration has descended from [Celtic mythology](#). Ultimately, the origin may be a [Samhain](#) or [midwinter](#) sacrifice and/or celebration, as Celtic mythology considered the Wren a symbol of the past year (the European wren is known for its habit of singing even in mid-winter, and sometimes explicitly called "Winter Wren"); Celtic names of the Wren (*draouennig*, *drean*, *dreathan*, *dryw* etc.) also suggest an association with [druidic](#) rituals. The tradition may also have been influenced by Scandinavian settlers during the [Viking](#)

invasions of the 8th-10th Centuries. Various associated legends exist, such as a Wren being responsible for betraying Irish soldiers who fought the [Viking invaders](#) by beating its wings on their [shields](#), in the late first and early second millennia, and for betraying the [Christian](#) martyr [Saint Stephen](#), after whom the day is named. This mythological association with treachery is a possible reason why the bird was hunted by Wrenboys on [St. Stephen's Day](#), and/or why a [pagan](#) sacrificial tradition was continued in Christian times. Despite the abandonment of the wren killing practice, devoted Wrenboys continue to ensure that the [Gaelic](#) tradition of celebrating the Wren continues




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302 MAIN
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rwbalst@rap.midco.net
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Celtic Connection of the Black Hills

From the Island in the Plains to the islands across the Pond!

Siaryn Duggan
Celtic Artisan and Owner
517 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

gaelictrader@rushmore.com
www.celticconnectionbh.com

605-716-9014

