



LEICESTER CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Winter 2017/18
(Dec '17– Jan / Feb'18)

Founded 1877
No.461 Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Find us at www.leicestercaledoniansociety.btck.co.uk

NEW YEAR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE

TO THE MUSIC OF

GEORGE MEIKLE

Saturday 6th January 2018
Avenue Road School,
Avenue Road Extension,
Leicester. LE2 3EJ

7.00pm until 11.00pm

- | | |
|--|--|
| J <i>New Year Jig (book 51)</i> | R <i>The Rutland Reel</i> |
| R <i>The Whistling Wind</i> | S <i>Minister on the Loch</i> |
| S <i>Swithland Woods (Leic Silver Coll)</i> | J <i>Chequered Court</i> |
| J <i>A Capital Jig</i> | R <i>Countess of Dunmore's Reel</i> |
| R <i>Flight to Melbourne</i> | S <i>Autumn In Appin</i> |
| S <i>Miss Milligan's Strathspey</i> | J <i>The Hazel Tree</i> |
| J <i>McLeod's Fancy</i> | S <i>Hello-Goodbye (book 51)</i> |
| R <i>Plantation Reel</i> | R <i>Blooms of Bon Accord</i> |
| S <i>The Duchess Tree</i> | S <i>City of Belfast</i> |
| R <i>Castle of Mey</i> | R <i>Mairi's Wedding</i> |
| J <i>Seaton's Ceilidh Band</i> | |

Extras:-

West's Hornpipe

Belle of Bon Accord

Pelorous Jack

ADULTS:- £ 10.00 SPECTATORS:- £ 5.00

BRING AND SHARE SUPPER

Tickets from: Doris Buchanan, 9 Alcester Drive, Evington, Leicester LE5 6LB.

Tel: 0116 2415857 email: doris.buchanan@virgin.net

Cheques please, to be made payable to: Leicester Caledonian Society

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The membership numbers are keeping steady at present with three new members, one leaving and sadly one death to report recently. We are pleased to welcome Mr Chris Ronald and Sue Ronald from Quorn who joined us from the Monday dancing class and have been active with them for some time. Also Mrs Lilian Bickerdike from Glenfield who was a member earlier has rejoined and we are pleased to say “welcome back” again with her dancing shoes on.

On the downside, we have lost Mrs Yvonne Cocks who has moved to Somerset and has discontinued her membership.

We were sad to hear that former Chairman of this Society, Mr Peter Drane had died in June this year and an appreciation will follow in this issue.

If you have any good news of members’ activities that would be of interest we would be glad to hear from you and as ever always welcome new faces to the Society.

Most of our members have paid the **annual subscriptions** including a dozen by banker’s Standing Order but 22 members have not yet kept their membership up to date. The reminder below may help or you can get details of the Standing Order approach from our Hon Treasurer.

Membership Subscription Payment **DUE: 1st March 2017 to 28th February 2018**

I enclose a cheque made payable to **Leicester Caledonian Society** for:

£10.00 (Single member)

£17.00 (Couple)

Name (Please print)

Date

Please send to:

Dr E H Mackay, Membership Secretary, 68 Leicester Road, Markfield, LE767 9RE

Dr Hugh Mackay,
Membership Secretary

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



As this year draws to its close
The President & Council
Would like to wish all
Our members, families & friends
A very Merry Christmas & a Prosperous New Year.



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INCREASE IN FEES

It is with extreme reluctance that the Council have had to ask for an increase in fees for the Monday night dance classes.

From 23 October 2017 the cost will rise by £1.00., there may also have to be a further increase in the New Year. This increase is due to Avenue Road School increasing their prices for the hire of the hall quite markedly. They have not increased the prices since 2010.

The Council will investigate other possibilities of keeping the cost as low as possible. We do apologise for the necessity for this price increase and hope members will continue to support the Monday Night Dance classes.

Gina Ferrier
Hon Secretary

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On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me:
'I'm glad we bought fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.'

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey - a most delicious bird!

The third day we entertained the people from next door;
The turkey tasted just as good as it had the day before.

Day four relations came to stay. Poor Gran is looking old. We finished up the Christmas pud, and ate the turkey cold.

The fifth day of Christmas outside the snowflakes flurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, for we had our turkey curried.

The sixth day I must admit the Christmas spirit died;
The children fought and bickered, and we had our turkey fried.

The seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down to table and was offered turkey mince.

Day eight and nerves were getting frayed - the dog had run for shelter. I served up turkey pancakes and a glass of Alka Seltzer.

On day-nine our cat left home, by lunchtime dad was blotto;
He said he had to have a drink to face turkey risotto.

On the tenth day the booze had gone, (except our home-made brew)
And as if that wasn't bad enough, we suffered turkey stew!

The eleventh day of Christmas, the Christmas tree was moulting,
The mince pies were hard as rock and the turkey was REVOLTING.

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love had a smile upon his lips,
For the guests had gone, the turkey too, and we dined on fish and chips.

SKITTLES NIGHT 29TH SEPTEMBER 2017

THE WHEATSHEAF INN -THURCASTON

Our Skittles match started at 7.30 pm on the dot.

We had four teams of 6, we played two rounds then had a break for our meal. Which was served on right on time. It was a very tasty meal, of Faggots, Sausage, Black Pudding, cheese and onion mash and or chips and or mushy peas and baked beans. After our meal and a raffle, the match continued.

We played a further 3 rounds, which I must say were close.

The winning team with a score of 134point, consisted of:

Mrs Margaret Gregory (non-playing)

Daryl Varnam, Mary French, Iris Bentley, Bob Nelson, Samantha Varnam, Murdo Ferrier.

There was a play off for both the Best Lady & the Best Man prizes between;

Gill Mouncer & Samantha Varnam (Ladies), Daryl Varnam & Bob Nelson (Men)

Gill Mouncer won the play off and was best Lady Player with a score of 30

Daryl Varnam won the play off for Best Man Player with a score of 27

The winner of Leicester Caledonian Trophy was Gill Mouncer with a skill of 30.

Congratulations to the Winners.

Many Thanks to all who attended for supporting the event, and those who kindly donated raffle prizes.

Special thanks to Maureen Ellis & Georgina Varnam for doing the raffle tickets and Eve Varnam for doing the score board.

Gina Ferrier
Hon Secretary

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Peter DRANE,

Life member – an appreciation

Peter Brian Drane and his wife Jacqui joined this Society as Full members in December 1980 when the annual subscription was just £2.00 and well worth it. They lived initially in Oadby but both of their families had Scottish roots and Peter's origins were from the Edinburgh area. Both Peter and Jacqui served on Council from the mid 1980s and Peter was Chairman in the late 1980s while Jacqui was Hon Secretary in that time.

Peter had a coronary at Birmingham airport when due to fly off on holiday in 1994. On his return, I remember saying "It was lucky it didn't happen while away" but Peter's reply was that he wished they'd had the holiday and the coronary waited 'til they got back! A trip up to Scotland was a consolation and gave them the impetus for a life change and a move to Perthshire where they settled at "Jamie's Place" in Strathtummel by Pitlochry.

He had a full and active life becoming a Water Bailiff for local angling clubs and licenced for the Scottish Salmon Board combining work and a hobby. He was also a Tour guide for a local distillery again combining work and pleasure. Peter was very involved with the Pitlochry highland games and although a voluntary Director it became a labour of love.

They welcomed several Caledonian Society members to their home and enjoyed keeping in touch through the Bulletin. Peter and Jacqui had just returned from a cruise celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with more parties planned when he suddenly became ill and passed away in June. He went out in style as the planned celebrations continued in his honour and he would be humbled to know how much he was missed by so many.

Thank you Peter for your support in Leicester. Our thoughts are with Jacqui and the family.

RIP

Dr Hugh Mackay.

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AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL



MISS NELLIE BRYMER AND
MR. GEOFFREY PEARCEY

IF you want to know how to stay young then Miss Nellie Brymer has the answer — Highland dancing.

Nimble Miss Brymer of Bushby, has been a member of the Leicester Caledonian Society for more than 40 years and their weekly Highland fling evenings have been a regular date for her diary.

Requests

"It keeps you young and takes your mind off everyday problems," she said.

She says she prefers to keep her age a mystery but is over retirement age and under three figures.

Miss Brymer learnt her dancing at an

early age with her family in Forfar, Scotland. She was by profession a nurse and moved to Leicester in 1936 as assistant Matron at the Towers Hospital. She retired in 1961.

"I kept my dancing up," she said. "The music sets my feet tapping and even when I hear it on the radio I can't help wanting to dance."

Such dances as Muirland Willie and Peat Fire Flame are popular requests with the 50 dancers that attend every week.

"I love the activity and have made many friends of all ages," said Miss Brymer.

And what of the future? She just wants to keep on dancing. 13-5-81

My previous article entitled "The Coronation book", naming over 200 Scottish dances, featured Miss Nellie Steele Brymer, who was a stalwart of the society for many years.

When looking through some paperwork recently, I came across a 36 year old cutting from the local newspaper. Dated 13th May 1981. I thought it would be a happy reminder to those of us who attended the earlier Scottish dance sessions at Avenue Road School, of the fun we used to have on Monday nights.

Here we see the sprightly Miss Brymer dancing with Mr Geoffrey Pearcey, just before her 80th birthday. She was indeed an inspiration to us all. Miss Brymer was a friend of the family for many years and attended my wedding in 1983. She was born in Forfar, Scotland on 12th June 1901, just after the death of Queen Victoria. Miss Brymer once told me that when she was a youngster being confirmed, along with other girls of a similar age, She found herself kneeling at the Alter rail with a Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, our late Queen Mother, who was 10 months her senior. I always remember that story as it must have been a unique experience for Miss Brymer at such a tender age.

Just before her retirement in 1961, I remember going to the Towers Hospital with my father, to deliver a number of chromium and glass lanterns, containing candles that were suspended from long metal rods. He had borrowed them from his place of work, at Miss Brymer's request. They were for a Christmas concert that was to be staged at the hospital, where the choir would parade through the chosen wards, carrying the lighted lanterns and singing many of the popular and favourite carols, in order to entertain the patients.

Sadly Miss Brymer passed away on the 30th January 1990 aged 88, but thankfully she has left behind a legacy, which should inspire and remind all Octogenarians that one is never too old to do the "Highland Fling"!

Glyn Hatfield

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Sudo ku Puzz le

Here is the answer to the last puzzle.

This new one is a bit tricky

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QUIZ NIGHT 20TH October 2017

Our annual Quiz night took place at 7.30 pm at St Stephens Church.

Sadly, only twenty members attended this year, which did not detract from the enjoyment of those taking part. There was the usual, good natured banter between rival team and the Question master.

Mr Colin Harrison Quiz Compiler provided us with his usual testing questions. Mr Graham Harrison our resident Question master was unavailable this time. Gina & Murdo Ferrier made valiant attempts, but it was not quite the same. At 8.30pm the questions ceased whilst we enjoyed a very good fish & chips supper, provided by Grimsby fisheries.

After supper there was a small raffle and then back to the questions.

Following a tie breaker Question, the results are as follows.

The Winning team: - with 75 ½ points

Mrs Val & Mr Don Weynberg,
Mrs Maureen & Mr Colin Headley

Second: - with 74 ½ points

Mrs Lillian & Mr Tony Bickerdike
Mrs Muriel & John Long

Third: - with a score of 64 points

Mrs Joyce Brown, Mrs Dorothy Rice
Mrs Rona & Mr Brian Stevens

Fourth: - with a score of 58 points

Mrs Diana & Mr John Niblett
Mrs Anne Tarratt & Mr Bob Dorward

Well done everyone. Mr Coin Harrison is now wondering if he made the questions too easy this year, as the scoring was very good, over 75% the best yet. My sincere thanks to Colin for providing the questions, my right-hand girl Maureen Ellis, for collection the money and doing the raffle. Murdo for collection the fish and chip suppers and assisting with the task of Question master.

Special thanks to the RSCDS for coming to our rescue with a set of keys to enable us to gain entry to the hall. Thank you to those members who supported the evening and assisted in setting out the room, due to the delayed entry to the church hall.

Hopefully we will have more entrants to our quiz in 2018, but beware, I have a sneaking feeling that Colin might make them harder. Let's hope fish really does improve the brain.

Gina Ferrier
Convenor & Hon Secretary

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69th EMASS AGM – Bedford

Three delegates from Leicester attended the above. Mr Sandy Aitken (Derby) the EMASS President chaired the meeting. He welcomed and thanked delegates and observers for attending. A list of names of recently deceased members of the Societies was read and a moments silence followed. Mr Aitken read the report of his 1-year term of office. He described his year as very stressful and frustrating as he received very little feedback from societies to his queries. The wind of change was blowing through EMASS. He thanked the Secretary/treasurer for his work and the members for their support.

There followed a review of Derby's successful Summer Outing. Mr Less Barr was re-elected to serve as both Secretary & Treasurer to the Society. No candidate from Bedford was proposed as President. This resulted in a change to the Agenda running order.

A lengthy discussion on the future of EMASS commenced. Should EMASS continue in its current form or a revised format, or cease? This situation has been developing for some years and has now become more pressing due to the Corby Society closing its doors after many years. It now seems that Bedford is also likely to be leaving EMASS in the future. There are many reasons for this sad situation they are: -

Due to age and infirmity, and lack of interest by younger people in joining societies, numbers of members are in decline. Failure to support social events; this is due to people not liking to travel after dark or any long distance and giving up driving or transport problems. Younger people do not share their parents interests and have many calls on their spare time. Members are not willing to join committees or take office and the same people continuing in posts because no one else will take them on.

Corby found they were booking functions for the club to find only a handful of people would turn up. They could not keep losing money. Mr Hamish and Mrs Vida Brown have been alternating as presidents for many years as no other members would take on the tasks. They decided enough was enough. Bedford is in a similar position. The people who have been carrying the load are now feeling someone else should take the jobs on, and are standing down. Kettering society left several years ago for the same reasons.

Suggestions were made by some societies that EMASS might be able to continue in a New format. It was suggested that Market Harborough might be a good location to hold both the Summer Outing and AGMs. It is a reasonable distance from most societies being around 1 hour travelling time as opposed to the 1 to 2 plus hours it can be depending on traffic etc. A "Bring and Share Meal" would save societies having to do catering. There could also be a team of members from the societies to manage the events. It was also mentioned that some societies put a lot of emphasis on solely Scottish dancing at these events, which can be off putting to some people; making the event more of a ceilidh might help. It was suggested that rather than an immediate closure if that was the result of the vote, we could spend the next 12 months researching the viability of Market Harborough area. After this discussion a vote was taken of the future of EMASS, should it continue in a revised form for 12 months or cease.

Northampton's delegates had a mandate to vote for the cessation of EMASS. **The results of the voting were 11 votes for the 12-month continuation of EMASS, There were 9 votes against.**

Following the vote, a new EMASS president was required and after some discussion Mrs Pam Franklin (Huntingdon) was proposed and elected as EMASS President for 12 months. In view of the likelihood of Bedford possibly leaving EMASS there will be NO Summer Outing 2018. Huntingdon and District being the next District of rotation will take over.

Mr Sandy Aitken as outgoing President requested that his nominated Charity for his year should be the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Teams. This was approved and a donation of £200 will be made.

Dates for 2018 Presidents Nights will be advised later. The next AGM will be in Huntingdon. Votes of thanks to Mr Les Barr and Mrs Nancy Barr for all their work were expressed. Mr Aitkin was also thanked for all his efforts and hard work during this very difficult and trying year.

Gina Ferrier
Hon Secretary

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Sketch - New Year's Day 1790

by Robert Burns

This Day, Time winds th' exhausted chain,
To run the twelvemonth's length again:-
I see the old, bald pated fellow,
With ardent eyes, complexion sallow,
Adjust the unimpair'd machine,
To wheel the equal, dull routine.

The absent lover, minor heir,
I vain assail him with their prayer;
Deaf as my friend, he sees them press,
Nor makes the hour one moment less.
Will you (the Major's with the hounds,
The happy tenants share his rounds;
Coila's fair Rachel's care to-day
And blooming Keith's engaged with Gray;
From housewife cares a minute borrow-
That grandchild's cap will do to-morrow-
And join with me a-moralizing,
This day's propitious to be wise in.
First, what did yesternight deliver?
'Another year is gone forever'.
And what is this day's strong suggestion?
'The passing moment's all we rest on!'
Rest on – for what? What do we here?
Or why regard the passing year?

Will time, amused with proverb'd lore,
Add to our date on minute more?
A few days may- a few years must-
Repose us in silent dust.
Then is it wise to damp our bliss?
Yes-all such reasonings are a miss!
The voice of Nature loudly cries,
And many a message from the skies,
That something in us never dies:
That on this frail, uncertain state,
Hang matters of eternal weight;
That future-life in worlds unknown
Must take its hue from this alone;
Whether as heavenly glory bright,
Or dark as misery's woeful night,-
Since then, my honour'd first of friends,
On this poor being all depends;
Let us the important *now* employ,

And live as those who never die,
Though you, with days and honours crown'd,
Witness that filial circle round
(A sight, life's sorrows to repulse,
A sight, pale envy to convulse),
Others now you claim your chief regard;
Yourself, you wait your bright reward.

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Scottish Fun Quiz

- 1) To within 1 year, when was Television first publicly broadcast in Scotland?
Answer _____
- 2) Who popularised the song, "*I belong to Glasgow* "?
Answer _____
- 3) Which King's dying words were, 'It came with a lass and it will go with a lass'?
Answer _____
- 4) By which name is poet, Christopher Murray Grieve much better known?
Answer _____
- 5) Which creature does Robert Burns refer to as an 'ugly, creapin,blastit wonner'?
Answer _____
- 6) How many Oscars did Braveheart win at the 1996 Academy Awards ?
Answer _____
- 7) By what name are Scottish Hills between 2,000 ft and 3,000 ft classified?
Answer _____
- 8) Name the American actor from 'The X-Files' who claims Scottish ancestry?
Answer _____
- 9) What was particularly notable about 50's motor racing champion, Archie Scott Brown?
Answer _____
- 10) Which nut is named after Scotsman John Macadam?
Answer _____

Not sure how to give you the answers so I will do the same as I do for the Sudoku and give the answers in the next bulletin, hope you don't mind.

Colin
Quiz Compiler

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CLOOTIE DUMPLING

Try this recipe, I am assured it is delicious.

Ingredients:-

*1 lb. self-raising flour, 4 oz. fresh breadcrumbs, 4 oz. sugar , 4 oz. shredded suet
½ tsp. salt, 1 tsp. mixed spice, 1 apple, grated, 8 oz. currants, 12 oz. raisins, ½ pint milk, 1 tbsp. treacle*

Method:-

Mix flour, breadcrumbs, sugar, shredded suet, salt, and mixed spice. Add grated apple, currants, and raisins. Mix well. Stir in milk and treacle until well blended. Scald cloth in boiling water, dust with flour. Place mixture on cloth. Tie securely, leaving room to swell. Have ready a saucepan of boiling water. Place a plate on the bottom of the pan and put the pudding on it. Boil for 3 to 4 hours. Never allow water to drop below half the depth of the pudding. Have a kettle of boiling water handy and add some to the pan about every hour. When dumpling is ready, remove cloth gently and dry pudding off in the oven. Serve with custard if liked.

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BURNS NIGHT DINNER.

Due to the falling numbers attending the evening function to celebrate the birthday of Robert Burns at Birstall Golf Club it has become unviable.

Therefore, to continue with the tradition for those who have supported this function in the past, it is intended to hold a BURNS LUNCH of Haggis, bashed Neeps and Tatties, at the Belmont Hotel, De Montfort Street Leicester on the same day Friday 26th January 2018 at 12.30 pm.

Due to this change the function would not be as formal and to that end it is envisaged that it would be along the following lines.

Once all are present the Haggis would be piped in and addressed in the usual manner. Then after the meal a poem or two from the bard with a “toast to his memory”, but this is all subject to change.

The cost would be £20.00p, per person for two course meal (main & sweet, with coffee & shortbread)

If you are interested in this function would you, please book early with the President to enable final arrangements to be made.

Murdo M Ferrier
President.

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