



LEICESTER CALEDONIAN SOCIETY BULLETIN

February / March 2017

The Leicester Caledonian Society

Invite you to their traditional

Haggis Supper

&

Presidents Evening

At

Countesthorpe Village Hall

Station Road, Countesthorpe,

Leicester. LE8 5TB

On

Saturday 11th March 2017 7.00pm for 7.30pm – 11.00pm

Music and Dancing to CANNA'LAIGH

Performances of Scottish Dancing, Piping & Singing,

Dancing

Raffle & Quiz

Bar

Vegetarian option for the Haggis

Car Parking available on site

Tickets £15.00, available from

Mr. R. Gregory, 8, Purbeck Close, Wigston, Leicester. LE18 2JY

Cheques to be made out to The Leicester Caledonian Society

Please enclose a S.A.E. with ticket request,

or Telephone 0116 2888107 / e-mail gregsaway@gmail.com

Closing date for tickets 5th March 2017

(Admission by Ticket only).

Booking early is recommended as this is always a very popular event.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

May I wish all of our members a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year for 2017 and many more to come.

Our total membership now stands at 112 full members plus 2 junior members in the overseas section and the total is drifting slowly downwards. Our members include the very active dancers, a moderate number of active but non dancing members and a fair number of others who like to hear what is going on but are rarely seen and generally not heard. It would be good to hear some news directly from the membership and even better to hear of or be introduced to new members to keep us going.

We had a Christmas card from our overseas section of Eleanor, Kelvin, Elizabeth and Georgina Ng in Canada where the little ones were clearly getting into the Christmas spirit and sent greetings to everyone at Leicester Caledonian Society.



Sadly we lost two long term members just before Christmas. Val and I attended their funerals as Society representatives. More detailed reports are included in this Bulletin.

We are coming close to the end of the Society's financial year and to the best of my knowledge nine members have not paid their membership subscriptions for 2016 which were due from 1st March 2016. If you are one of them, could you please let me or our Hon Treasurer have your payment as soon as possible please?

If you have paid recently, it may be in the system but my computer was attacked by a virus which encrypted all my files and is still undergoing repair (I hope) so I am not up to date just yet.

Hugh Mackay
Membership Secretary



St Andrew's celebrations 2016



Our Society celebrated St Andrew's day a bit early this year on 27th November 2016 with a service at St Stephen's UR church lead by the minister Rev Lynn Fowkes. There was a good attendance of Society members and of course quite a few church members are also Society members and we were in good voice.

A number of kilts were on show as we celebrated the role of St Andrew in the early Christian church and as the day was also the first Sunday in Advent that was celebrated as well. Appropriate lessons were read by Murdo Ferrier and me in the service

After the service 49 Society members and guests including church members gathered for a private Sunday lunch at the Belmont house hotel. The hotel was also starting its Christmas period so tables and the room were decorated accordingly. We were piped into the dining room by Carl Wilkinson, our Society's Hon Piper whose skills were much appreciated. He also piped in



Murdo Ferrier, our Society President and me as the recently installed President of the Scottish Presidents Association. What style!

After some concerns had been raised about the lunch last year, the latest meal was much improved in portion sizes and service and was generally considered the best for some time. Our President, Hon Secretary and I all toured the room separately and got only good reports from the guests present.

After the lunch, President Murdo Ferrier proposed the Toast to St Andrew which was supported with appreciation.

Tables were identified with names of mountains in Sutherland (my father's home territory and therefore also mine) as a change from old Scottish counties or towns.



Given the success of the 2016 celebrations I expect that we will continue this format in 2017 and hope to see you again.

Hugh Mackay
Past President



Condolences

In Memory of Miss Eileen GUMLEY

5th Sept 1928 to 28th November 2016



I regret to report that one of our long-term members passed away recently after an illness born with fortitude. She was of Leicester origins but joined the Society in September 1990 and enjoyed Scottish Country Dancing in her younger days. Her membership application form does not show any links to Scotland but she had a brother in the Seaforth Highlanders which must have implied a link to Scotland. At her funeral service some church members seeing my kilt wondered if I was her brother.

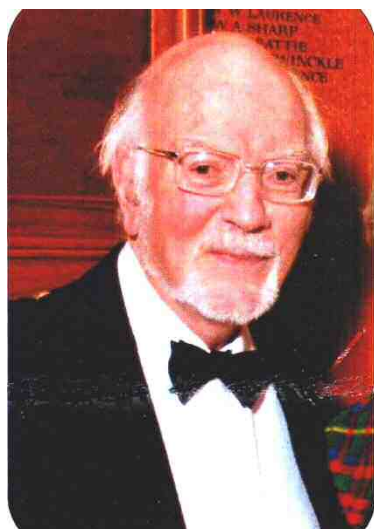
In recent years she was a regular attendee at the St Andrew's celebration lunches but not as I recall the services. She was a lifelong Methodist and attended the Mayflower Methodist church off Ethel Road where she was also well known and liked as Guide and Brownies groups leader.

Our sympathies go to her family at this time.

Hugh Mackay
Membership Secretary

Also an appreciation of Kenneth WOODFIELD

7th October 1930 to 1st December 2016



It is with great sadness that I have to report the loss of one of this Society's stalwarts who passed away recently. Ken could trace his family roots back to Roxburghshire in the Scottish borders, an area famed for the ruins of Kelso and Melrose abbeys as well as the home of Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford. Ken was proud of his roots and wore a Roxburgh district tartan kilt to our events.

His initial contacts were with the Scottish country dancing section with his wife Elisabeth and he joined us in February 1970 and thereafter they were actively involved in virtually all our activities. He was Bulletin Editor from 1996 to 2000 and Council Chairman 1999 to 2000. In addition, he was elected EMASS President in 2007/08 and oversaw a successful year of events in his Presidency.

He had wanted to be an artist from schooldays but his school had no art teacher to further his ambitions and he joined the NHS as an administrative trainee in London progressing via Chichester and Portsmouth (where he met Elisabeth), Surrey, Norfolk and Leicester. I first met him in the early 1980s at Leicester General when he introduced my wife and I to join the Society in 1990.

The NHS had undergone numerous upheavals of reorganisation in the past 30 years or so and eventually enough was enough and he retired to devote his considerable energies to his art. He was a first-class watercolour painter and then very successful with pastels, exhibiting many times in recent years with many of his works sold and displayed widely.

With Elisabeth, he continued to support Caledonian Society functions, especially Burns night dinners and St Andrew's day celebrations, until his health failed in the last couple of years. He served the Society well over 46 years and we are grateful for all his support. At his moving funeral service at Great Dalby church he was piped in by former Society piper, Don Jarram playing "Highland Cathedral" and out with the pipes playing "Dark Island".

We extend deepest sympathies to his wife Elisabeth, Robert his son and Jane his daughter as well as their families.

Hugh Mackay
Membership Secretary

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Sudoku Puzzle

9	7	3	6	2	5	1	4	8
5	4	6	8	1	7	9	2	3
1	8	2	3	4	9	5	7	6
8	3	1	9	6	2	7	5	4
6	9	5	1	7	4	8	3	2
7	2	4	5	8	3	6	1	9
4	1	9	7	3	6	2	8	5
2	6	7	4	5	8	3	9	1
3	5	8	2	9	1	4	6	7

*Here is the answer to
the last puzzle.
This new one is not
difficult can be classed
as easy*

		1	6		8	9		
		6		4		7		
8	4						1	2
7			2		4			6
	5						4	
6			7		1			9
1	9						7	3
		5		8		2		
		7	9		3	8		

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Leicester Caledonian Society New Year Dance

This year's Society dance, held on Saturday 7th January, was a great success. There were many members among the 54 dancers, and two spectators for the evening, and we also had lots of visitors from around the Midlands. Most importantly we were delighted to welcome our musician for the evening who had travelled down from Scotland, accordion player George Meikle. George provided us with some great lively tunes and kept us dancing enthusiastically all evening, it was fantastic to have live music. We were also entertained by our Society's honorary piper and a drummer who played for us at the start of the evening and during the supper break, including an impromptu dance of the Gay Gordon's which was a fun addition to the programme.

Colin and Lynda did their usual sterling job of setting out the supper and serving lots of much welcomed cups of tea and coffee to accompany the great variety of delicious food which had been brought for the "bring and share" which refuelled us for the second half the evening.

We had a very successful raffle during the break and I was fortunate to win a spectacular "triffid" which now has pride of place in my dining room.

It was particularly pleasing to see the number of less experienced dancers who came to their first proper dance and showed how well they had learned their steps and figures with the support of our superb local teaching team, we look forward to welcoming them at many more events in the future.

Many thanks to Doris Buchanan for organising this event with her usual efficiency and flair to ensure it was such a success, and to all the members and the MCs who assisted.

Margaret Spence

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The Tea Dance

*It's the Tuesday tea dance – and they'll all be here today,
Aches and pains forgotten, dance the afternoon away*

*Strathspeys, reels and jigs, some are slow but some are still nifty,
With memories of how it was way back in 1950s.*

*Norman's in the toilet and he's struggling to pee,
He's got trouble with his prostate and he'll likely miss the tea!*

*Eddy's got a new love that he met in Thornton Heath,
She does a lovely strathspey but she hasn't any teeth!*

*His latest fancy footwork nearly broke his partner's neck,
She mistook his outside stepping steps for an all-round pousette.*

*Ida's had her hair done and she's ready for a polka,
She had a vinaloo last night and its coming back to haunt her.*

*Florry's mini kilt's revealing when she's whirling round.
She really shouldn't wear a thong, when approaching ninety-one.*

*They've had their tea and cake and chat and had a little laugh,
And gamely rise with creaking knees to face the second half.*

*Norman's made it back in time for a really fast reel,
His setting is very neat, but he's left his flies undone.
Vera's fallen over in quite a twisted heap.
Bert's got indigestion and Mabel's fast asleep.*

*To finish off the night it's
Auld Lang Syne and home to recline*

*From Mrs Iris Bentley
The author is Unknown*

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