



The Scots' Society of St Andrew, Bedford

www.bedscotsoc.org

Newsletter..... March 2018

A Message from the President March 2018

I regret to say that we have not been able to find any way of going forward with the Society. The committee do not expect to avoid dissolution at the AGM in May.

I am pleased to be able to say we had a successful Burns Night on 27th January, with Adrian Bessant stepping into George Hogg's shoes to allow us to continue in our traditional style. We ended up with a reasonable number of 75 people attending the event this year.

EMASS activities are still continuing and Ann & myself went to Leicester President's Evening on 10th March and met many friends from other EMASS Societies.

The Charity Pub Quiz on 14th March was held again this year at The Swan at Bromham. An amount of £155 was raised for our charity this year, Sight Concern Bedfordshire.

The programme will conclude with Pub Skittles at the Polhill Arms, Renhold on Thursday 12th April. I hope to see many members at this popular event.

I would like to take this opportunity of sending you all best wishes from Ann and myself for the future.

Ian Kirk

BURNS NIGHT - Saturday 27th January 2018

Held at the Addison Centre, Kempston, Bedford

Once again the Society celebrated the life of the national bard Robbie Burns.

Our members and guests were welcomed to the celebrations at the door by our pipe major, Donald Reid, and the President Ian Kirk and his wife Ann. The hall looked wonderful dressed in tartans, flags, pictures, flowers and balloons, and, whilst guests found their table places and bought drinks from the bar, Julia Tubby assisted by Roger Whitbread, persuaded them to dig deeper into their pockets/sporrans to purchase raffle tickets.

Once all guests were seated our President, and his wife and speakers were piped to their table, and our MC, John Thompson, began the evening proceedings.

John McKay carried the haggis aloft for all to see as Catherine Reid piped the 'Receiving of the Haggis' to the top table. There followed the dramatic and blood curdling 'Address to the Haggis' with much dirk slashing by pipe major Donald Reid.

The excellent meal of haggis, neeps and tatties and other tasty offerings, prepared and served by staff of Doreen Lambert, was followed by 'The Loyal Toast' by our President and reading of 'Fraternal Greetings' received from associated societies by John Thompson.

Paul Brown delivered a stirring 'Immortal Memory to the Bard', and expanded on his life as a poet of international acclaim and whose anniversary is marked across the globe. In addition to the insight into the life of the bard, Paul spoke of Burn's well-known emotive prose to the lassies in his life as well as outlining his thought-provoking social conscience of his fellow man where he championed Scottish traditions.

Richard Galley gave a very modern approach in his 'Toast to the Lassies' in consideration to the ladies present, especially with a view to coming celebrations of the centenary of the suffragette movement.

In her 'Reply for the Lassies', Thelma McNairn-Doe responded by highlighting the strong women who influenced the bard's life.

Our band for the evening, The Occasional Few, were welcomed on stage and lead all gathered in the singing of The Star O' Robbie Burns. Then it was everyone on their feet for the Grand March led by our piper Donald Reid, The President, his wife and guests.

Dance Caller, Adrian Bessant, gallantly stepped into the shoes of our recently passed dance master, George Hogg, a hard act to follow, in starting the evening's dancing with the Gay Gordons.



In an interval in dancing we were entertained by four pipers from the Bedford Pipe Band, Donald, Catherine, Paul and Richard to a medley of stirring traditional and newly written Scottish tunes.



Dancing resumed with many folk on the floor - and the elimination dance was won by Brian Paterson-Rudd & Mary Allder.



There followed the Raffle where a table laden with prizes, many of them donated, were eagerly claimed by the lucky winners.

The evening drew to a close with everyone called to the floor where the President gave his thanks to all those involved in running of the event - the committee & helpers, MC, band and caller, pipers, caterers and bar staff. He then led all in the usual hearty rendition of Auld Lang Syne and the national anthem.

Another successful and enjoyable celebration of the life of the bard, so much so that folk were slow to leave...

Maureen Mathie

Charity Quiz at the 'Swan' Bromham on Wednesday 14th March 2018

This was attended by 37 people who made up 7 teams and one quiz-master Julia Tubby.

There was an atmosphere of excitement and friendly rivalry. Halfway through the quiz, the food was brought in. Plates of sandwiches, goujons and chips were delivered to each table. The food was delicious followed by endless cups of tea and coffee. Then it was on with the quiz.

The raffle followed with an abundance of prizes and winners!

Finally it was quiz results time:-

1st prize went to 'Band on the Run' a team made up of members of the Pipe Band



2nd prize went to 'The Bedfordshire Clangers' a team who always do well



3rd prize went to 'The Three Generations' a family team of only 4 people



Everyone agreed it had been a good night and were sorry that it was the last charity quiz for our society.

Julia Tubby

In memory of *GEORGE HOGG*



As I'm sure most of you know, last December, sadly, *George Hogg* died. He had been a stalwart member of the Scots' Society for many years. His love for Scottish dancing was obvious at his weekly dance class and at the annual events such as President's Evening, St Andrew's Night and Burn's Night, when he was not only the dance caller but dance instructor too.

His humour, patience and cheerful character shone through everything that he did.

He is fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Julia Tubby

In memory of JENNY SPEARING



It is with deep regret that we learnt that Jenny Spearing passed away suddenly at home on the 2nd February. Jenny was a long-standing member of the Scots' Society, her late husband Alan being Vice-President and Secretary until he had to stop for health reasons.

She had been brought up in Leeds and qualified as a Pharmacist working at Bedford Hospital before she went into retail pharmacy. She was a keen supporter of many Societies including the Friends of Bedford Cemetery, the Rare Breeds Society, the Architectural/Local History Society and was Chair of the local Parkinson's Society. She was also very keen on conservation and recycling was one of her favourite subjects. Our thoughts go out to her son Christopher.

Ian Kirk

We have sadly learnt of the death of Dr Haydn Didier who passed away in January, a retired member of the Society who took an active part for many years. Our thoughts go to his family.

Programme of Events 2018

PUB SKITTLES *Flyer attached	Thursday 12 th April 2018	Polhill Arms, Renhold.	Contact: Ian Kirk
AGM *Notice & Nominations Papers attached	Wednesday 2 nd May 2018 7:30 pm	Putnoe Heights Church & Community Centre	Contact: Maureen Mathie

Contacts:

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Attached: Flyer – Pub Sittles Thursday 12th April 2018

AGM Notice & Nomination forms Wednesday 2nd May 2018 (note venue is different to that displayed in the Programme leaflet)