

The Scots' Society of St Andrew

Slough, Windsor & District

(FOUNDED 1933)

Immediate Past President:

MRS C E BERRY

4 Monkey Island Court

Monkey Island Lane

Bray, Maidenhead, Berks

SL6 2LL

01628 620072

0771 223 8165

President:

MR A WELSH

01344 776109

Website:

www.sloughscotssociety.co.uk

Email:sloughscots@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

MR A COCHRANE

01753 863021

Minute Secretary:

MRS U BARNARD

01784 462053

NEWSLETTER - February 2017

Dear Member

Winter is always our busy time - St Andrew's, New Year, Burns' - so there is a lot of reporting for me to do since the previous newsletter. Here goes ...

Western Highlands Evening, Wednesday 9th November: As anticipated, this popular evening was highly enjoyable and well supported. Joanna Palmer-Scott gave a delightful commentary to accompany Tony Welsh's music and photographs of a wide-ranging holiday spent in Western Scotland. A fun but testing quiz followed in the second half! Refreshments included the Scottish delicacies of smoked salmon, mackerel pate, cheeses, oatcakes, shortbread, Dundee cake. A very successful evening!

Historic Windsor Walk, Sunday 20th November: Alan Hoskins' second foray around Windsor attracted a good number of interested walkers. Thank you, Alan, for obliging those who missed the first walk.

St Andrew's Night, Saturday 26th November: Another happy and successful evening, as follows: music during dinner and for the dancing by Craigievar, with lovely fiddle playing by Stuart Forbes; genial host - our president Tony Welsh; address to the haggis by Una; young piper from Eton College; efficient toastmaster - Mike Scott; an appetising meal, the main course especially; an interesting guest speaker, John Handcock; toast to The Toons by the Immediate Past Pres.; MCs for the dancing - Carol, Lesley & Una; Highland dancing by Naomi Hennessey; generous raffle organised by Eleanor & Alan. We obviously still miss the Castle Hotel dance floor but were compensated by the excellent hospitality and helpfulness of Maidenhead Golf Club, who have guaranteed to be our hosts in November 2017.

St Andrew's Service, Sunday 27th November: The Mayor of Slough and our president were piped in by our young Etonian. Reverend Leonora conducted a thoughtful service; we thank Trinity URC for the constant support of our Society, especially for our St Andrew's service. Jimmy Edmundson decorated the hall with flags and manned the kitchen for the traditional companionable coffee and shortbread.

St Andrew's Ceilidh, Wednesday 30th November: A tot of whisky welcomed guests on arrival, which set the tone for a very Scottish evening of dances, games, readings and quizzes, plus a challenge to write an acrostic poem on SCOTLAND - many of which were then read aloud. (Note for future reference - we have poets among us!) Scottish fare in the interval included Forfar bridies, Scotch eggs, scones and shortbread. Flags and party lights decorated the hall. Well done, Lesley; a super evening.

Christmas Party, Wednesday 14th December: Mulled wine greeted the guests, as did a gaily decorated hall with crackers on the tables. The entertainment included Pass the Parcel (with forfeits), Charades, dancing and readings. Assorted cheeses and pates plus sweet Christmas delicacies, prepared by Jacqui J and Myra, were much enjoyed. Thank you, Graham, for organising the varied programme.

New Year Lunch, Saturday 7th January: With the unexpected absence of Carol and Una, Lesley and Dick Sutton managed the occasion like the 'pros' they are. Thank you! As always, a delicious lunch was prepared by Jacky Williams Catering, followed by the usual mini-ceilidh with dancing (Hogmanay Jig, of course), games, reading and singing. The customary 'free' lucky ticket raffle was also appreciated.

Games Evening, Wednesday 18th January: Tony and Lesley pooled ideas to produce a competitive evening, with a first half of Beetle Drives followed after the interval by a selection of well-known table games. Three delicious 'tray bakes' were provided by Lesley to accompany the tea/coffee.

Celebration Dance, Wednesday 25th January: Una prepared a very interesting evening to celebrate Burns' anniversary actually on the day. Milestones in Burns' life were alternated with dances appropriate to each event; a number of posters and poems were displayed for our edification and enjoyment.

Burns' Night Supper & Ceilidh, Saturday 28th January: For various one-off reasons the numbers were down this year - but the enjoyment was, if anything, up! The soup was delicious and the haggis almost too plentiful but very tasty. Una had, as always, addressed the haggis with panache and Col. David Steele did Burns proud in his Toast to the Immortal Memory. An original Toast to the Lassies was given by member Hugh Johnstone, with a charming reply by his cousin Nora who was down for the occasion from Scotland. Bill Copland, as last year, piped superbly for the processions and also twice in the ceilidh; furthermore, he gave an outstanding costumed rendition of Holy Willie's Prayer. The Three Thistles, led by David Steele, sang several rousing numbers, with choruses for us to join in. SADS kept up their tradition of performing a short silly sketch! And, of course, there was plenty of dancing. Thanks go to toastmaster Mike, dancing MCs Carol, Lesley and Una, and to Una as main convenor.

Talk, Wednesday 8th February: Sadly Neil Neville, the 'bird man', had to cancel at short notice but we hope to book him for next year. Fortunately John Handcock was free to give an illustrated talk on The Chateaux of the Loire. We took the opportunity to enjoy a French Evening, with wine, cheeses, pate and desserts from across the Channel supplementing the shared supper. It all turned out very well in the end!

Welsh Evening, Wed. 1st March: Organised by Tony Welsh for St David's Day! Our own Male Voice Choir, assorted entertainment, Leek & Potato Soup, Bara Brith, and much more. A special evening to come and, as always, to bring family and friends. £4 members, £5 non-members.

Social, Wed. 29 March: An English evening this time, featuring the Datchet Morris Men. Refreshments will be provided so the cost will be £4/£5, as above. Put the date in your diary!

Talk, Wed. 19 April: Tony Eaton, known to us from his Glenn Miller talk, will be telling us fascinating surprising facts about Rudolph Hess. NOT TO BE MISSED! And don't forget - shared supper.

Dancing: Peter Loveland will be teaching the Dance Class on the following dates:

22nd February 15th March 22nd March 5th April 26th April 3rd May

We are sure that you will enjoy the photographs on the attached pages, and we hope to see you soon.

Carol Berry