

The South East Essex Scottish Society

Newsletter July 2013

Pat Porter

When Pat Porter fell on the 12th of February and damaged her back and leg she spent several weeks in hospital before being released. On the 28th of May following an appointment with her doctor, she was again admitted to Southend Hospital for further tests. It was a shock to everyone when we heard the Pat had died on Friday the 21st of June. Her funeral took place at the Sutton Road Crematorium, Southend-on-Sea, on Monday, 1 July at 2pm, followed by a gathering at Pat's home in Warren Road, Leigh-on-Sea. A tribute to Pat will be included in our next news letter.

Friends and Family Evening

Our Friends and Family Evening was held on Saturday the 19th March 2013. At St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Westcliff-on-Sea.

This was again an excellent evening. The games were again organised by Keith and Christine Wilson. The Double Musical Chairs and the new "relay race" using chop sticks to carry "Maltesers" went down well. Although some of the Maltesers never crossed the finishing line.

The M.C. for the dancing was Archie Mackay. The quality of the dancing improves every year.

The raffle participants again ensured that with every youngster receiving at least one prize.

Caledonian Ball

The 59th Essex Caledonian Ball was held at the Blackshots Community Centre at Grays. The Ball this year was organised by Basildon Caledonian Society. Lively music was provided by the Craigevar. Band. The number of dancers was less than the normal attendance, with only 150 attending. There were 12 members and friends from our Society.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at St. Peter's Church Hall Westcliff on Friday 17th May 2013. The Retiring President, Graham Easton thanked the members of the Society for the support he had received, particularly for the support given to his chosen charity, the Essex Air Ambulance. He presented the Bon Accord Trophy to Jean Mackay, for all the work she had done to organise the Charity dances.

Keith Wilson was elected to be the new President, Ray Helliar was elected Vice President. Susan D'th agreed to continue as Treasurer and Janice Flick agreed to continue as Secretary. The two new members on the Committee were Mike Lummis and David Derbridge.

Dennis Bundy

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Dennis Bundy on the 2nd of April after a long illness. His funeral took place on the 11th of April at the Southend Crematorium. Dennis was an Honorary Member of our Society and did so much work for us,

During the period we danced at Crowstone St, George, on most Fridays, he opened the hall and set it up ready for dancing. When I first joined the Society he quickly identified that I needed some help and gave me a book of Scottish Country Dances in Diagrams by F.L.Pilling. He invited me and Jean to come to his house where Audrey, Dennis and others encouraged us to learn some Scottish Country Dances.

He was Convenor of our Society in 1991 and also on the Organising Committee for our 50th Anniversary Dance. Dennis was elected to be Chairman of Leigh Caledonian Dancers following the retirement of John Smart. As Chairman of Leigh Caledonian Dancers, Dennis, along with Doreen Raybould, set up a combined Demonstration Dance Team of members from both groups. The rules he established for this group continue to be followed.

Dennis, along with Janice Flick, helped to organise Scottish Evenings at Lulworth Court, an organisation that provided holidays for the Physically Handicapped and their carers. It was a privilege to be part of these Scottish Evenings. All of the staff at Lulworth Court joined in making it like "Hogmanay" once or sometimes twice a month throughout the season.

Dennis was awarded his Honorary Membership at the Society's A.G.M. on the 29th of May 2002. It was presented to him at our St. Andrews Dance that year. Dennis will be sadly missed by all.

Spring Dance

The Society's Spring Dance was held at St. Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Westcliff-on-Sea on Saturday, 15th of May.

It was a very successful evening with 31 people attending including visitors from other societies. The MC's were Brian Crawley and Archie Mackay. We had visitors from Upminster and Leigh Caledonian Dancers. As several of the dances on the programme were new to some of our visitors, the dances required them to be "Walked Through". This enabled all who wanted, to join in the dancing and resulted in a friendly and enjoyable evening. The refreshments went down well, a super spread of savouries together with those home-made sweets - banana and sticky toffee pavlova, a chocolate roulade, a sherry trifle and fresh fruit salad all with fresh cream, added to the evening.

London Walk

Tom Craig's London Walk took place on Sunday the 26th of May. Twenty Two members and friends met at Hammersmith Underground Station before proceeding by Bus across the river to Barnes Bridge Station. The first part of the walk was through the old village of Barnes passed the church, the Sun Inn, the Village Green complete with Duck Pond and then passed Peter Scott's Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust before reaching the footpath on the South side of the River Thames. We then went along the footpath, passing Craven Cottage, Fulham's Football ground on the opposite bank, then on the South side passed the rowing centre on Putney Embankment before crossing back across the river at Putney Bridge. After crossing Putney Bridge the walkers had a choice of visiting the All Saints Church before going on to the Bishop of London's Summer Palace. The church was worth a visit, with a welcoming attendant and the church filled with the sound of organ music. The walk then went through the Palace wall garden where there is the largest blue wisteria I have ever seen. Fulham Palace was our final stop where we had a picnic on the palace lawn. Many of us visited the Palace museum and the well stocked Tea Room. The

allotments planted during the Second World War still survive; many are still in use, allowing local people to grow their own vegetables, fruit and flowers. We finished with a short walk along the North bank of the Thames to Putney Underground Station and then home. This was an excellent walk on a brilliant summer's day thank you Tom and Joan for your hard work organising this walk.

Gillian Poland

On the 9th of May Gillian, while in her own house, tripped and fractured her left wrist. On the 17th May she had an operation to have a plate inserted. Although still in some pain, Gillian is recovering well and hopes to be playing her accordion again soon.

Sheila Carney

Sheila Carney had an at Home Evening at her house at Grove Road on Friday 7th of June. She did not know how many would come and was surprised when 21 turned up.

The weather was not good enough to sit in the garden, but Sheila did well accommodating everyone. It was a good evening, with drinks, coffee, tea and CHAT. Well done Sheila.

Sheila has made a good recovery from her operation and has now been dancing Strathspeys on Thursdays and Friday nights. She hopes to be fully fit for the start of the dancing season in September

Jean Wallace

Jean Wallace is in Milton House, Avenue Road Southend and is now gradually recovering from both her falls. She was at Crowstone St. George's Church on Sunday the 9th of June and was looking much better.

Kay Caines

On the 23rd of May we heard of the death of Kay Caines. Kay was well known to many of our older members. She frequently held garden dances at her home at Mucking Hall Cottages and although no longer a member of our Society, continued to support us at our functions and dances. Kay's funeral was held on the 13th of June at the Southend Crematorium and was well attended by most of the Scottish Society's and Dance Associations in the area

Family History

Harry Chandler gave me a copy of the paper he is composing on his research in to his family history. He thought it may be of interest to our readers.

I have attached part of this document below. Harry assures me he has more information to give on this subject, and will happy to be contacted.

My Scottish ancestors, who are they, where did they live, and what did they do?

Living in England can make it more difficult to visit places where your ancestors lived and to access local Scottish records, but with the help of your friendly computer with an Internet connection, you can access a huge amount of information about your family at little cost and unfold *your* family history.

I started to research my by enrolling on a genealogy course. I found the course to be very helpful to get my research going. There may be courses available in your area. It is worth asking in public libraries, where they still exist.

Starting your project should *always* begin with the present and then work backwards. You work forward at your peril!

The best sources of information to get started are parents and grandparents. Should they no longer be with us, consult family members for their memories.

Beware of misinformation and family stories. I am still looking for the son and daughter of two sea captains from whom I am descended, according to the family story. I have got back to 1620 on one side of the family and there has not been a hint of a sea captain yet! The only safe approach is to consult records, and preferably at least three records, to ensure you have the correct person and details in your family tree. Like all successful projects, planning is essential followed by good record keeping. Significant amounts of information is available free of charge, but you will inevitably need to spend some money to obtain some information and records. A holiday in Scotland may be combined with visiting a record centre. The easiest way of keeping records is using a computer and a "good" genealogy computer program. No program I have encountered is ideal. There is a variety of low cost programs available which are usually adequate and save the cost of lots of paper and problems of adding to or changing your tree when new facts come to light. When you have explored all the information from relatives and from records that you and they may have, I have found the best way to get going is to use data from the censuses and birth, marriage and death information for researching many of my ancestors. Should any relative or ancestor died in the armed services, especially during the First World War, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has a very useful website , www.cwgc.org . Scotland has some of the best online offerings within the British Isles to help with your family research. I have found a particularly useful site, ScotlandsPeople (<http://tinyurl.com/69p46>). The site charges for its use, see the introductory page for details. This site has records from the National Records of Scotland and the General Register Office. On this site you will find census records from 1855 and digitised images for many records. Living people's data is usually unavailable. You can also order official certificates for birth, marriage and death through this website. Should you encounter a "brick wall" in your research, you can usually find an answer to your missing data. There is lots of help around, including genealogy magazines. Family research can be both interesting and rewarding. Good hunting!

Dates for your diary

Sat. 7th Sept. Charity Dance in aid of Little Havens At St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Westcliff on Sea, SS0 0QF. Bring a plate for shared refreshments

Sat. 2nd November The President's Reception

At the Rayleigh Grange Community Centre Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh, SS6 9EH

Sat. 9th November Rayleigh's Golden Anniversary Dance At the Rayleigh Grange Community Centre Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh, SS6 9EH

Sat. 16th Nov. St. Andrew's Dance

St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Westcliff on Sea SS0 0QF

Sat. 1st February 2014 Burns Night.

At the Rayleigh Grange Community Centre Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh, SS6 9EH