

# The South East Essex Scottish Society

## Newsletter September 2014

### London Walk

Tom Craig's London walk took place on the late Bank Holiday Sunday on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Fourteen members and friends took part in the walk. It was a warm day. The walk started at Leicester Square Underground Station.

They walked through many places of interest in that area of London, including St. Martin-in-the-Field, The Queen's Chapel of Savoy, Somerset House, Covent Garden and Seven Dials Court before returning to Leicester Square.

### Audrey Warren

After a long illness Audrey Warren, a past member of our Society, has died.

Five of our members joined her many friends at her Funeral, which took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of May.

Audrey and her husband Alan were members of the Society for several years and were keen dancers. They went with other members of the Society, on dancing holidays to the Isle of Wight and Furlong's Dancing Holidays at Dunblane. They were great company on these holidays. Audrey will be sadly missed and our thoughts are with Alan at this sad time.

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held at St. Peter's Church Hall Westcliff on Friday 16 May 2014

We have eleven new members (four of which are former members of Rayleigh & District Caledonian Society). During the past few months we have welcomed up to six visitors on a Friday evening, all of which have shown an interest to becoming members.

A new membership list will be available in September and if you would like a copy, please contact Janice Flick.

### Retiring President's Address

Keith Wilson was unable to attend the AGM due to a family bereavement. In his absence his address was read by Christine Wilson

"My apologies for not being able to give this address in person, but I will be attending the funeral, in Scotland, of my Aunt, who died last week".

Keith's address went on to say that the Society had made several attempts to encourage new members. Despite the amount of effort that went into this promotion the response was disappointing.

We should all bear in mind that for someone who has no experience of Scottish Country Dancing it can be quite daunting.

This Society is fortunate in having a hardcore of dedicated volunteers, who work quietly in the background. Dave Derbridge opens up and closes the hall every Friday night, Graham Easton sends out the crib sheets each month by e-mail, and Harry Chandler each week has overall responsibility for making the tea and has done so for many years.

We also have members who are willing to call the dances each week. As the President I have been the front man and know only too well how much the work of these individuals means to our club.

It is incumbent on me not to let this occasion pass without mentioning two other people by name. Susan D'Ath who has been our Treasurer, but due to her recent illness has been obliged to step down. Not only has Susan discharged her role as our Treasurer in a most admirable way, but has been a pleasure to deal with in the running of the club's financial affairs. I know we all wish Susan well in her battle with her illness and send her our support and good wishes. We have also been fortunate in having Janice, who as well as being our Secretary, kindly volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer when Susan was forced to relinquish it. My special thanks to both of them.

. All that remains now is to wish Ray every success as your new President.

Ray Helliar was elected to be the new President, and Margaret Easton was elected Vice President.

### New President's Address

The New President Ray Helliar thanked Keith Wilson for all his hard work over the past year. Margaret Easton has agreed to be his Vice President. Margaret has been a member of the Society for some 20 years.

He then presented Margaret with her Vice President's badge of office

"Looking forward to the coming year, we shall continue trying to recruit new members.

The dates for our special dances for 2014/5 have already been agreed and Janice has produced a diary of events.

My charity this year is SSAFA, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen's and Families Association, which is a charity set-up in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to help both serving and retired servicemen and women of all ranks who require help".

As there was only one nomination for each of the following posts they were duly elected:-

Treasurer	Janice Flick
Secretary	Graham Easton
Auditor	Kate Bell

### **Pitch and Putt Competition**

On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July our annual Pitch and Putt competition was held at Belfairs. The weather was again kind to us with lots of sunshine. It was, as ever, a hard fought competition. The Ladies Rose Bowl Trophy was won by Mrs. Margaret Easton and the Men's Cup by Mr Graham Easton. The player with the most potential for improvement was Mrs .Elise Thomas.

After the competition, the competitors and some more of our members, gathered at the Greenhouse Restaurant for refreshments, drinks and a chat. It was a pleasant and enjoyable day in the sunshine.



### **Susan D'Ath**

About six months ago we heard that Susan D'ath was unwell. She last attended a meeting of the Society at our A.G.M. on 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

It was with great sadness we heard that Susan passed away on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August.

It was in the middle of the Society's Centenary Celebrations, when we lost the excellent service of Mary Mills as our Treasurer, Susan agreed to take on the position of Treasurer.

I fully agree with the statement Keith Wilson made at our AGM this year.

"Not only has Susan discharged her role as our Treasurer in a most admirable way, but has been a pleasure to deal with in the running of the club's financial affairs ".

Susan was involved in all aspects of the Society's activities and particularly the Functions Committee.

In her fight against her illness she was a brave and courageous lady.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Susan Veronica D'ath was held on the 27th August at St. Barnabas Church.

It was fitting tribute to this active lady when so many of her friends attended this service.

I have never seen St .Barnabas Church so full.

### **SEESS Charity Dance**

Jean Mackay again organised our Summer Charity Dance at St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Westcliff on Sea, on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September in aid of our President's chosen charity, SSAFA, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen's and Families Association.

Jean normally books the hall for the first Saturday in September. However as the hall was unavailable on that date, she was concerned that with a change in date a number of dancers would be unable to attend.

She was therefore pleased to get dancers from Basildon, Epping, Leigh, Little Baddow and Witham, making a total of 42 dancers on the night.

It was a lively and enjoyable night with everyone mixing well and joining in the dances.

We received donations from some of our members who were unable to attend.

St. Peter's again let the hall at a reduced rate for this charity event Thanks to this, the donations we received and the hard work done by Janice Flick at the door with Sheila Carney, who again was an excellent seller of raffle tickets, we were able to give over £350 to the charity

### **Dates for Your Diary**

#### **Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. The President's Reception**

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

#### **Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. St. Andrew's Dance**

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

#### **Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2015 Burns Night.**

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