

MID-SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY



Marilyn Millar
Newsletter Editor

E-mail

newsletter@midsussexcaledoniansociety.org.uk

Web site

<http://www.midsussexcaledoniansociety.org.uk/>

Dear Member(s),

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

A Very Happy New Year to you all!

Our first big event of the New Year is, of course, our Burns Night Dinner Dance at the Sofitel Hotel, Gatwick, and I am including the details and form which were sent out in December. Please remember to send your forms to Marian Imrie as soon as possible, and in any event before 19th January.

Burns Night Dinner Dance

Date: Saturday 26th January 2008
Venue: The Desoutter Suite, Sofitel Hotel, Gatwick Airport (North Terminal) ,
Time: 6.30 pm for 7.15 pm until 1.00 am on Sunday.
Dress: Formal. Black Tie or Highland Dress (or lounge suit).

Come and celebrate Burns Night in style! This year's event will take place in the Desoutter Suite on the ground floor of the four star Sofitel Hotel at Gatwick (North Terminal). The suite has its own bar area, where spirits (doubles only), wines and beers can be obtained and hotel staff will be on hand to take orders for wine with your meal. We shall meet here and then be piped into the attractive dining room for our Traditional Burns Celebration. The hotel's executive chef, David Woods, provided our Burns meal on several occasions in the past while at the Holiday Inn, and is looking forward to preparing our meal this year.

There is a choice of two menus as follows:-

Standard Menu

Cock - a - Leekie Soup
**

*Macsween Haggis with Bashed Neeps
And Chappit Tatties*
**

*Braised Beef, Venison and Mushroom Puff Crock
In Red Wine with Thyme
Roasted Roots & Potatoes*
**

Tipsy Laird whisky trifle
**

Fresh Filter Coffee with Shortbread

Vegetarian Menu

Vegetable soup
**

Vegetarian Haggis
**

*Mushroom and Spinach Crock
with Sussex Goats Cheese*
**

Dessert and coffee as for the Standard Menu

This year the Immortal Memory will be given by Sir John Herbecq. Mike Roberts will give the Toast to the Lassies and his daughter Emma will reply. After the meal there will be the opportunity for dancing.

The Charity Plate this year will be in aid of the Sussex Air Ambulance Appeal.

It promises to be a really good evening, so invite your friends and relations and make up a table!

The cost of the Dinner Dance will be £33.00 per person.

To reserve your places, please complete the attached form and send it together with your cheque, made payable to MSCS, to *Marian Imrie*, to arrive by Saturday 19th January, when we have to confirm numbers with the hotel.

The hotel is offering a special rate to those wishing to stay the night in the hotel after the function: double room £90.00, single room £83.00, both including full English breakfast. To reserve your room please contact the hotel direct on 01293 567 070. It is important that you quote the MSCS Burns Night Function 26-01-2008 and confirm the special room rate. Early booking is advisable.

Car Parking

The hotel car park next to the hotel is not large and, although access should not be a problem, it is important that, wherever possible, members should share transport. The Manager has agreed to waive the normal parking fee, shown at the entrance to the car park, for those attending our function.

Additional car parking in the airport car park is available, but normal charges apply as this is not part of the hotel.

Train and bus links with the airport are very good and there is direct pedestrian access to the Sofitel Hotel from the North Terminal.

Directions: *The hotel is situated at Gatwick North Terminal.*

From the M23/A23 follow signs to North Terminal. When nearing the Terminal follow signs to car parks, keeping to the RHS. The multi-storey car parks are on the left and the hotel is on the right. Go past the hotel entrance and under the covered bridge linking hotel and airport. Immediately after the bridge, turn right into the car park (barrier operated) and, if issued, please retain your car park ticket. On leaving the hotel, please call at reception in the atrium (up the escalator) for a complimentary ticket to enable you to leave the car park. Please Note: This ticket is only valid for 15 minutes from the time of collection.

Pre-Burns Dance Classes

We will be holding dance classes on the two Sundays prior to the Dinner Dance, 13th and 20th Jan at the Old School Hall, Cuckfield, 3.00 – 5.00 pm. Cost £2.20 per person to cover the hire of the hall and light refreshments. It's a very sociable afternoon and a great way to get back into shape after all the Christmas indulgences!

Manor Field School Ceilidh, Burgess Hill With Gary Blair

This event is not being organised by the Society, but members are invited to attend. At the time of going to print we have not received full details, but we will keep you informed.

Programme of Events Jan-July 2008

Sundays 13th and 20th January, 3.00-5.00 pm
Pre-Burns Dance classes, Cuckfield Old School Hall.

SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY 2008
Burns Night Dinner Dance, Sofitel Hotel, Gatwick.

Sunday 10th February
Ceilidh with Gary Blair organised by Manor Field School PTA, Burgess Hill.

Saturday 15th March, Methodist Hall, Haywards Heath
(further details to be confirmed)
NCH Fund Raising Event Chris and Lee Pratt are organising a dancing team to help at this event.

Saturday 5th April
Members' Evening with a guest speaker from The Sussex Air Ambulance (our nominated charity for the Burns Charity Plate this year).
7.30 pm – 10.00pm. Cuckfield Old School Hall.

Friday 13th June, 2008
AGM/Wine and Cheese Party, Haywards Heath Town Hall

We are still waiting for confirmation of the dates and venues for other spring and summer events including the *Family Walk* and the *Golf Day* followed by the *Barbecue*, and will let you know as soon as we have them.

St Andrew's Celebration

Outside it was cold and wet but inside the mood was warm and welcoming! The hot meal was pronounced excellent and afterwards there was plenty of time for dancing, as many took enthusiastically to the floor. We were lucky to have several dance masters on this occasion and we would like to thank Nigel Sloan, Carol and Julian Blake and Chris and Lee Pratt, who also took turns in running the dance classes. Thanks also to Laura for her lovely table decorations and to everyone who contributed to making this a most enjoyable evening.

Subscriptions

Our records show that we have not yet received the 2007/08 subscriptions from several of you (due in

September 2007). We would appreciate it if you would send your cheques (£10 family membership, £8 individual membership), made payable to MSCS, to the Treasurer, *Marian Imrie*, as soon as possible. We will be happy to provide you with the necessary form so that you can set up a Standing Order with your bank in order to make payment easier in the future- just ask Marian!

Crawley Scottish Country Dancing Club are holding a *March Dance* on Sat March 1st 2008, 7.15 – 11 pm at the Friary Hall Haslett Avenue West, Crawley. Adults £4.50, Young persons and non-dancers £1.00 plus a plate of finger food please.