

# Scottish News



**June 2016 No. 144**

## Forthcoming Events

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August – Celtic Ball 7.30pm Scottish hall (see inside for details)**

**Sunday October – Rirkin o' the Tartan 2pm St Andrews, Rangi Ruru**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Hororata Highland Games all day Hororata Domain**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – Christchurch Pipe Band & Highland Dancing competitions all day Ilam University**



**See us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/chchscottishsocietyofnz](http://www.facebook.com/chchscottishsocietyofnz)**

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# Who's Who 2016/2017

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## The Chief's Report

Thank you to all users of our hall for their tolerance over recent times. The most recent issue with the sewerage system has been particularly challenging as it has revealed systems of yesteryear where a range of properties are involved and piping crosses properties. Hopefully our problems will be resolved soon and in the interim the Portaloos have been a gapfiller. I have received many comments on how great the hall looks with the exterior fully replaced. Our thanks go to the Maiden Group who have worked around our needs allowing us to continue function as they met the challenges a 140-year-old structure presented i.e. rotted timbers and no drainage.

When reading through some old Society minute books I found that although I knew my grandfather was secretary and a Chieftain, my father and his brother were also elected to the Society as junior members in 1906. My father was 4 years old and my uncle 8 years old. Perhaps other members may learn details of their family members being part of the Scottish Society. I was able to send to a woman in Northland a copy of a tribute made to her grandfather that appeared in an early minute book. You will appreciate her delight at discovering much about a man she had never met and many details that had not been passed on. As a reminder to all users of the hall it is always much appreciated if anyone sees or finds something not working that they contact a member of the council so that it can be remedied promptly. Our hall is a very valuable asset.

*Aye*

*Graeme*

## Editorial

Well here we are middle of July sorry about lateness of this edition but as not a lot happening having trouble getting copy together. So what has happened to winter or have I spoken too soon. I keep tabs on our previous editor Nancy through facebook and Nancy and Dave seem to be having a wow of a time with their new ute and caravan currently they are up in northwest Queensland. They have just been through my old stamping ground Cloncurry etc. I strongly beseech you to consider getting a party together and coming along to our band's Celtic Ball, knowing how well the organizing committee do things it will a real "hee haw".

*Editor*

## **Scottish Country Dance Club**

Our Open Night was held on 2 April, and was most enjoyable. Our Tutors had put together a great dance program and with lots of dancers from other Clubs was a most successful evening.

On the 11 June, our Club along with several other Clubs joined together and ran an evening called 'Dance Scottish – Christchurch Ceilidh'. We had a great turn out over 150 people taking part, trying out Scottish Country Dances along with Ceilidh Dances.

It was a tremendous evening thoroughly enjoyed by all, the purpose being to show that anyone can do Scottish Dancing and just how much fun it is, along with good company.

Last Thursday a number of Club Members attended a memorial service held for Frank Slade. Frank and his wife, Olive had been members of our Club for many years, and it was with sadness that we learnt of Frank's passing at the age of 98. He had been unable to dance for some time, but we believe Frank had been dancing for 70 years. We do remember both Olive and Frank with fondness. We extend our Sympathy to Olive and family.

Even though winter is upon us, our numbers on Tuesday evening are being maintained, perhaps dancing keeps us all healthy! The Committee are now organising a 'special' supper for members at the end of this month July.

Keep warm.

Maree



## Scottish Society Pipe Band

The pipers and drummers have been hard at work learning new tunes and perfecting techniques over the winter. The first pipes/drums rehearsal is happening this week in preparation for the Celtic Ball to be held in the Scottish Society Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 7:30pm. I have already been approached for bulk ticket sales from friends – I think the word is definitely out these Céilidh's are great fun – so if you are thinking of coming get your ticket now to avoid disappointment of a finding it is already a full house! Our band will play a few items and Charlie Jemmett's Ceilidh band will host the dancing for the evening. Just call Kathie Gordon 021 979 569 and she will organise your ticket.

The band has committed to competing at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland in 2018 and fundraising is full steam ahead for this venture! The BFG movie preview was hugely successful and delighted many children and adults alike. Mary Giles has taken on the Trade Me fundraiser and welcomes anything you may have to sell for the band's benefit. Great time to have a bit of a clean-out at home – just call Mary on 027 431 7907 with your goodies whatever they may be! After the Celtic Ball the next big event will be a Quiz Evening on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Sept with an airline theme – sounds interesting!! Look out for posters closer to the event or contact Kim Eagle 021 376 282. Our Friday night raffles are also in full swing at Bailies Bar at the Edgeware Shops – thanks for the much appreciated support from the management of Bailies Bar.

The band AGM was held in late May and President Stu Gordon, Treasurer Geraldine Duncan and Pipe Major Nick Eagle were re-elected unopposed. Rachal Aspinall has stepped down as Secretary and Ed Butler has taken on the role. Phil Watson, Sharon Gaynor, Mark Weir and James Bissland have subsequently been appointed to the /executive committee. The three trustees are Mary Giles, Graeme Matheson and Graham Ryken and the Patron is Ross Fraser, who is definitely one of the band's dedicated groupies turning up at most of our competitions to cheer on the sideline. Thanks to departing officers – we really do value everyone's input over the years – Rachal Aspinall (Secretary), Murray Robinson (Patron) and Mark Middleton (Trustee).

First contest of the year will be the Hororata Highland Games on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. It seems a long way away but no doubt time will fly and we will be in the middle of contest season before we know it!

*Geraldine Duncan*



**SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF NZ  
PIPE BAND  
CELTIC WINTER BALL**

Celebrating our successes

**Saturday 6 August, 7:30pm, Scottish Society Hall**

**\$35 per Ticket**

- Supper
- Cash Bar
- Live Ceilidh Band
- Haggis Ceremony
- Highland Dress encouraged

**Purchase tickets at [eventfinda.co.nz](http://eventfinda.co.nz)**  
or contact Kathie 021 979 569

Sorry No BYO



## Robert Burns' bathing spot 'transformed' ahead of death anniversary



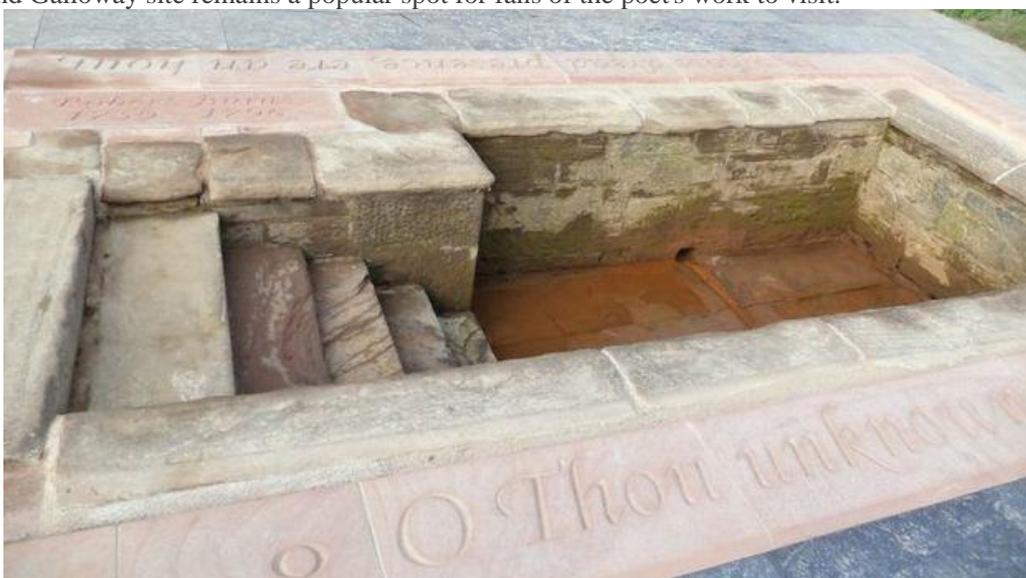
**A spot where Robert Burns bathed and drank the waters shortly before he died has been "transformed" ahead of the anniversary of his death.**

A commemorative service will take place at the renovated Brow Well near Ruthwell on 20 July.

In the 1700s the site was renowned for its healing qualities with residents of Dumfries regularly "taking the waters".

Burns himself visited in 1796 but it failed to improve his condition and he died in July that year.

The Dumfries and Galloway site remains a popular spot for fans of the poet's work to visit.



Last year the Solway Firth Partnership set up a steering group to lead the initiative to improve the site and preserve the story of this piece of Burns' history.

It has resulted in a new surround for the well engraved with poetry, a new path and interpretation panel.

The project was funded by Solway Heritage, The Landfill Communities Fund, through Solway Heritage and Dumfries and Galloway Council, along with contributions from many Burns Clubs and volunteers.

## 'Important site'

Colin Mitchell, who chairs Solway Heritage, said: "The Brow Well is an important site locally and nationally.

"It sits on the Solway Coast Heritage Trail and features on the Burns Heritage Trail.

"Solway Heritage is delighted to have been able to fund this improvement project which clearly embraces the built, cultural and natural heritage within one location."

As part of the improvement works, the path from the Brow Well to Ruthwell has also been upgraded for walkers by Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Solway Firth Partnership Manager Clair McFarlan said: "We are really grateful to all the funders and everyone else who has contributed to the improvements at the Brow Well.

"And we hope that local residents and visitors alike will enjoy this special historic site for many years to come.

"Just don't drink the water."

Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association President Mike Duguid said the annual service at the Brow Well was held in "very high esteem" by admirers of the poet.

"It offers them the opportunity to reflect on the fact that he died so young and yet left behind such a magnificent legacy of poems and songs which have helped define Scotland's place in the world," he said.



## STRUCTURE OF THE PIPE BAND

### Drum Major:

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound  
Faster than a speeding bullet  
More powerful than a locomotive  
Walks on Water  
Talks to God

### Pipers:

Leap small buildings with a run-up  
Are crack shots  
Pull railway carriages  
Ford rivers  
Listen to God

### Side Drummers:

Vault over fences  
Are allowed their own sidearms  
Can read a railway timetable  
Know how to put on fishing galoshes  
Believe in God

### Tenor Drummers:

Can open and walk through a door  
Know which is the dangerous end of a gun  
Have their own train sets  
Wear Wellington boots  
Talk to themselves

### Bass Drummers:

Trip over matchsticks  
Are NEVER allowed near firearms  
Say "Look at CHOO-CHOO"  
Play in puddles  
Nobody listens to them, and finally.

### THE PIPE MAJOR:

Lifts tall buildings and walks underneath them  
Catches bullets in his teeth and chews them  
Kicks locomotives off their tracks  
Drinks entire oceans  
He IS GOD!!!!

Published by the **Scottish Society of New Zealand (Inc)** as a service to members.

Please forward contributions to the editor at [resarf@paradise.net.nz](mailto:resarf@paradise.net.nz)

Opinions expressed within are not necessarily the official stance of the **Society** or its leadership.