

In Step



Winter 2014

St. Andrew's Night Function

The 2014 Annual Dinner and Ceilidh of the Dublin Benevolent Society of St. Andrew took place on November 28th at the National Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. Having done justice to an excellent meal, and having got 'in the mood' with a selection of well known Scottish songs accompanied by Charles Pearson, it was time to 'clear the floor' for some light-hearted ceilidh dances. These were called, in her inimitable way by Hazel. Music for dancing was provided by our chairman, John Barnes. (Both John and Hazel were to be in action again the following night, with our demonstration team, in Margaret Home.)

While the attendance of 50 was slightly down on last year, it meant that more space was available for dancing. Hazel's leadership encouraged many guests, including those who claimed that they 'had two left feet and never danced', to take the floor and enjoy themselves.

A highlight of the evening was that the dinner and raffle raised over €600.00, all of which goes to charity. Many thanks to all, Isabelle Moore in particular, who made this possible.

P. McC.

Belfast Benevolent Society of St. Andrew

The Belfast Society celebrated its annual St. Andrew's (and Burns' Night) Function on November 29th. As has been the custom in recent years the writer and his wife were kindly invited to attend as a guest of the Society's President, Mr. Hugh Wilson. The event is most enjoyable and pleasant, where all are welcomed warmly and partake of an excellent meal in the Burns Night tradition.

This is not a function at which dancing takes place but was enlivened by the light-hearted toast proposed by Mr. Rod McCowan and Mr. Colin Barkley who replied to the toast. It was interesting to learn that an initiative taken by Mr. Wilson to form closer links with both the Belfast Burns Club and the Belfast Branch of the RSCDS had come to fruition during the past year with the organisation of a very successful ceilidh, attended by over 100 persons.

Other guests of honour at the Belfast Function were Mr. John and Mrs. Patricia Blair. John is President of the Belfast Burns Club but also has his own Scottish Country Dance Band and has been down to Taney Hall for our annual dance in the past. Hugh, John and Graeme Kerr (Secretary of the Belfast Benevolent Society) expressed their willingness to support events run in Dublin or jointly elsewhere. Some food for thought here?

P. McC.

Spring Edition?

Scottish Irish Ceilidh, 12th February 2014

Once again, courtesy of Jonny Tennant and the Grand Social Centre, it was all systems go for an early St. Valentine's ceilidh on February 12th. Despite the best efforts of storm force winds to sabotage the event, a good attendance of about 70 young people turned up to learn the tricks of Irish ceili dancing and watch demonstrations of simple Scottish country dances by members of our club, led by Hazel. The music, by Jonny Tennant's group, set a cracking pace (The

Dashing White Sergeant really had to!) and a raffle for hampers of good cheer rounded off the evening. Understandably, numbers were down somewhat on last year's event but this allowed more room, particularly for the Irish dances. All proceeds were earmarked by the St. Andrew's Benevolent Society for named charities active in the Dublin area. The society extends grateful thanks to Jonny, Hazel, Grand Social Management and the dancers who took part.

P.McC.

Cork Burns Supper Dance 2014

Margaretholme November 2014