



The East London Caledonian Society

Founded 1876

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MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Address by the Federation Chief

Dear Fellow Caledonians,

April saw us welcoming the Federation Chief Jane Dyer, on her official visit. We had a Ceilidh event on the Friday evening at the Border Hockey Club House, which was well attended. This was followed by the ever-popular Tartan Day River Cruise and a committee dinner held at Dot-Com Café.

The weekend also allowed us the opportunity to present Sandra Rankin and Callum and Beryl Maclver with Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their long, faithful and dedicated service in upholding and promoting all that is best in Scottish Culture and Tradition. Below are the citations read at the presentation:

“Our first recipient has been a member of the society for 44 years having joined the society in 1974. Except for Margaret Murray, she is the longest standing member of the Society and has served the Society in every role – committee member, treasurer, secretary, lady president and chief. In recent years, she has been fondly referred to as our ‘Chief of Protocol’ – reference to the endless guidance she provides to those of us with far less experience and knowledge, and her willingness to pass this on and uphold the traditions of our Society.



Our new Honorary Life Members Sandra Rankin and Callum and Beryl Maclver together with Chief Roxanne Piderit

*She has been chief of the ECHG, manager of the ELCSPB and a Scottish Country Dancing Teacher. She has also served the Federation in various roles – as provincial lady president, provincial chieftain and chief of the federation. In all these roles, **Sandra Rankin** has worked tirelessly and tackles every task with enthusiasm. She has demonstrated strong leadership qualities and organisational skills. Her vision, foresight and dedication have been key to the ongoing success of our Society. It goes without saying that Sandra has made a real, positive and lasting impact on the Society and its members. It is indeed a great honour to award honorary life membership of the ELCS to Past Federation Chief, Sandra Rankin.”*

*“Our second recipients have been members of the society for 40 years having joined the society in 1978. They have twice served the society as Chief and Lady President, and have represented the Society at Congress on numerous occasions. They have also served the Federation as Provincial Chieftain and Lady President of the Cape Province – twice. Importantly, during their long and active service to the Society, they have become the official suppliers of the Haggis for our Burns celebrations – a role from which they have graciously retired this year. In all these roles, **Callum and Beryl Maclver** have given invaluable service to the society and always had its interests at heart – and we know they will continue to do so for years to come. It is indeed a great honour to award honorary life membership of the ELCS to Past Chief and Lady President, Callum and Beryl Maclver.”*

As I have said before, the committee is always looking for new ideas and entertainment options. I hope you will join us for the Quiz Evening on Saturday 12 May. Get a group of four people together, or join up with a group when you get there.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Firstly a warm welcome to Peter and Anne McLeod, who have joined the Society as Country Members. While on the subject of membership, many congratulations to Sandra Rankin and Callum & Beryl Maclver – our new Honorary Life Members (see photo on front page). Linda Herman’s nephew, Sean Cameron won the Junior 100 Guineas Solo Piping Competition. Ken Scott and Linda Herman have been in Johannesburg visiting Ken’s son and Linda’s niece. Maureena Middleton is attending family celebrations in Johannesburg. The Middleton twins’ hockey team has been ranked 4th in the country. Roxanne Piderit will be travelling to Durban with the Border Hockey team. Dave Rankin received an award from SA National Blood Service for 150 donations. Finally many condolences to Sue and Roxanne Piderit, on the passing of their father and grandfather, Graham Turner.

ENTERTAINMENT

12 May 2018 Scottish-themed Quiz evening at the MOTH Hall. Bring & share. Cash bar. R10 pp. Members from the Society and from other organisations will be encouraged to form teams of four. 6.30pm for 7pm.

13 June 2018 AGM at the Border Hockey Club. Please bring plate of eats to share. 7pm

PIPE BAND

The band paraded during the Federation Chief’s visit on 6 & 7 April; but unfortunately “Music in The Park” was cancelled due to rain. The Band also played at the Bowling Championship finals at Comrades Club on 28 April and 5 May, at the East London Agricultural Show on 1 May and at the Diesel Depot Run. Looking ahead, the Band will be at the SPCA Bikers’ Breakfast at Hams Club on 12 August. The band also featured in an article in “*The Rising Sun*” newspaper of 10 April (*attached to this newsletter*).

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies meeting on 4 April at ‘Breath of Life’ was enjoyed by all. The Ladies next meeting will be at 9.30am Tuesday 8 May at Oak Room, Parklands. This will be a ‘Cuppa for CANSA’ tea at which a DVD of the Edinburgh Tattoo will be screened. A minimum donation of R20 per person is requested.

S.C.D.C

Weekly meetings continue at the Hams Club from 4pm - 5.30pm on Tuesdays. The club’s performance during the Federation Chief’s visit was well received. The Federation Chief expressed her pleasure that such a club is active in East London.

HIGHLAND DANCERS

Dancers performed for the Federation Chief and at the Border HDF on 14 April. The Eastern Cape Highland Gathering Dancing Competition will be held at Port Rex Technical High School from 9am on Saturday 19 May. All welcome to come and support our dancers.

CONGRESS

The dates for the next Congress have been confirmed as 5-7 October 2018 in Durban. East London is pencilled in for the 2020 Congress. Task Team is busy refining proposals for Congress and will meet before the next Committee meeting on 10 May.

BIRTHDAYS

April 2018			May 2018		
Date	Name:	Contact:	Date	Name:	Contact:
9	Sandra Rankin	043 726 1500	8	Sheila Sanderson	
13	Liezel Cilliers	083 518 4009	13	Hannah Paterson	
19	Roxanne Piderit	082 455 8661	14	Linda Hermann	
19	Hannah Weymouth	076 572 9390	15	Andrew Weymouth	083 604 3912
28	Dennis du Plessis	082 375 8250	18	Estelle King	082 477 1983
30	Rose Thompson	072 431 7391	20	Beryl MacIver	043 722 0875
			22	Tanya Macdonell	074 446 0480
			26	Ken Scott	083 274 3349

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Committee is proposing that subscriptions will increase for next year to: Full Members: R85, Country Members: R60; Junior Members: R30. Members paying in advance of the AGM will pay at the current rates.

COMMITTEE

Next Committee Meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 10 May 2018 at the home of Roxanne Piderit, 7a Dartnell Road, Cambridge West.

Yours aye,



Roxanne Piderit (Chief)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	START	NOTES
12 May 2018	Scottish Themed Quiz	BB Country Club	18.30	R10pp. Bring & share
13 June 2018	AGM	Border Hockey Club (TBC)	19.00	Chance to join Committee !
3 Nov 2018	Halloween	McClelland	TBC	
1 Dec 2018	St Andrews Dinner	Beacon Bay Country Club	TBC	

EAST LONDON RISING SUN

EL Caledonian Pipe Band to celebrate its centenary



Some of the members of the East London Caledonian Society Pipe Band at one of their rehearsals.

By Ziyanda Sidumo

In less than a year, the East London Caledonian Society Pipe Band will celebrate its centenary.

The band, known to be the second oldest Caledonian Society Pipe Band in the country after the Pietermaritzburg band which is one year older, comprises of 12 members who keep enthralling the East London community with their pipers and drummers dressed in their Scottish outfits with kilts.

The Pipe Major, Robert Rankin, said in 1920 the Chief

of the East London Caledonian Society, James Forbes, and his twin brother, John, collected the musicians and formed the East London Caledonian Society Pipe Band.

“The band has a long history of service to the city and in 1923 led the parade at the unveiling of the Cenotaph in Oxford Street. The band has also served as the Pipe Band for SAS Port Rex and we still have the RNVR Drum Major’s mace and sash which the Band ‘forgot to sign back’ when the Royal Navy handed over to the South African Navy,” said Rankin. The band and individual

members have competed across the country and have had the honour of being judged the best Caledonian Society Pipe Band at the Royal Scottish Gathering. Members, including the Pipe Major Robert Rankin, have competed in Scotland as members of the SA Scots and paraded at the Edinburgh Tattoo by invitation of Cape Town Highlanders.

“We are looking forward to our centenary in 2020 and invite the public to celebrate the occasion with us,” said Rankin. To prepare for its centenary celebrations, the band does fundraising events.