

RES MEDICA

Journal of the Royal Medical Society



News from the Society

The Editor

Abstract

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News from the Society

Burns Night Supper • Sign Language Tutorials • Mulled Wine • Pool Competition • The Second Hall

The Annual Burns Night Supper at the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh



Above: Mr Owen Dudley Edwards who gave the "Immortal Memory."

*"Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some would eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit"*

Robert Burns

On Monday 21st January 2005 the Royal Medical Society paid tribute to the celebrated bard Robert Burns. The supper, held in the Society's rooms at Bristo Square, was attended by no less than 94 people - the largest number this event has seen in a long while! With new and long-standing members alike gathering for the annual event, we can safely say that Robert Burns has not been forgotten within this Society!



Keeping with Burns Night tradition the evening began with the piping-in of the haggis, followed by the well known Selkirk Grace (quoted above) led by Miss Sam McDonald. With the enticing smell of delicious food in the air, our first guest speaker, the Reverend Professor Kenneth Boyd delivered a flawless execution of the "Toast to the Haggis".

Robert Burns wrote over 500 poems during his lifetime and thus our guest speakers had a wealth of material from which to pay tribute to the noble bard. Mr Andrew MacKenzie gave a chilling rendition of the well known Burns poem "Address to the Deil." Mr Owen Dudley Edwards was undeniably outstanding with his unforgettable 'Immortal Memory' in which the memory of Robbie Burns was reawakened and celebrated to the full.

There then followed a section of the evening which always has the audience quaking in their boots - the "Toast to the Lassies" and the "Toast to the Lads"! Mr Edward Dunn and Miss Penny Bantanidis respectively paid tribute to the qualities marking gender differences, whether noble or infamous, and thus upheld the spirit and vivacity of Burns Night.

The evening ended with Ceilidh dancing and of course many toasts to the Bard himself. It was an excellent evening and our thanks go out to the organiser Miss Jillian Kell for all her hard work.



Anticlockwise from Top: Mr Andrew MacKenzie with piper Mr Neil MacLure; Cartoon drawn by Mr Andrew Moorehead in tribute to the other famous Burns; Mr Edward Dunn giving the "Toast to the Lassies"; Mr Edward Dunn and Miss Penny Bantanidis.



Sign Language Tutorials

Since the Michaelmas term the Royal Medical Society has been running tutorials in Sign Language at their rooms at Bristo Square. The courses are conducted by a government funded agency for the deaf and run for 12 weeks at a time. These have proved immensely popular as the phrases taught are aimed particularly for use by medical students and doctors. They have been well attended and were many times over subscribed.

These courses have been established by the effort and hard work of business convenor Miss Sam McDonald.

The Annual Pool Competition

On the 7th March 2005 the Royal Medical Society hosted the annual Pool Competition. This is usually a highly competitive event and even more so this year as 16 competitors battled it out for pride and fame.

The competition was slightly different this year as, due to the timing of the event, it was decided that all proceeds would go to the Comic Relief Fund. The night was full of dramatic turns and events as many a favourite fell at the early stages. As the night drew to an end, the list of competitors to the title were whittled down to just two. The final would be fought by the editor of this fine journal and a PBL facilitator, whom a group of first year medical students had managed to entice to the event. The winner after a long and tense match was Miss Catherine Webb who took away the prize of a small barrel of Stella Artois beer.

Mulled Wine and Minced Pies

At the end of the Michaelmas term, the Society held its annual Mulled Wine and Minced Pies evening. This is a good time for members past and present to meet and mingle in the pleasant surroundings of the Society's rooms in Bristo Square. This year was no different. It was a pleasant sight to see students having lengthy conversations with such eminent members as Professors Matthew Kaufman and Brian Frier, especially as those conversations were strictly non-medical. Once again thanks must go out to Miss Jillian Kell for organising the evening and to Miss Michelle Arora for her excellent mulled wine

The Second Hall

The Royal Medical Society is appealing to her old members and other interested parties for colour pictures of the Second Hall, which was on Melbourne Place. As many may remember, this hall was bought by Midlothian Council in the 1960's and subsequently demolished. The Society has pictures of both the interior and exterior of the Hall, however all in black and white. If the Society had some colour photographs, it has the software to artificially colour some of its own photographs so as to give a better appreciation of the style and splendour of the old Hall.

If old members are able to help or have information that may be helpful, they can contact the office between the hours of 12-5pm Monday-Friday on 0131 650 2672 or alternatively write to the Permanent Secretary, The Royal Medical Society, 5/5 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL.

The Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh - Council for the 268th Session.

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