

The Perth Guildryman

The Newsletter of the Guildry Incorporation

Scottish Charity no. SC008072



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The Lord Dean's Comments

I must begin by thanking you all for the great honour of being elected Lord Dean. It's daunting, when looking back over the history of Perth's oldest and most esteemed organisation, to realise you've been entrusted with its well-being. I will strive to ensure our good work continues and flourishes.



Alastair had a very busy and successful time at the helm, and laid the groundwork for the next few years. We acknowledge his fine contribution and thank him for his hard work; both vice-Dean Neil Dewar and I have benefited from his advice and look forward to receiving the odd postcard as he and Patsy make their way round the globe for the next few months!

It's been a busy start! The new committee had barely bedded in and we were off to inspect the farms and pay our annual visit to Guildtown School. The children were in fine voice, and showed a fair turn of speed in the races. Our tenants made us very welcome and it was a chance to catch up with their news and hear about

their labours over the past year. A fine day out finished with the Dean's Drams taken at the bridge over the Tay at Dunkeld, where we toasted the health of our tenants and the continued success of the Incorporation.

I was a guest of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society at their Fair Maid's House HQ in September when HRH The Princess Royal, an RSGS Vice-President, appointed Professor Charles Withers as Geographer Royal for Scotland – the first in 118 years. I had a chance to chat with HRH and she was very interested in the Guildry and our history. She seemed very knowledgeable on the subject of merchant guilds; it was only later I learned that she's been an honorary member of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh for many years!

I've taken part in two official events; the Kirkin' of the Council in June, and the recent Remembrance Day parade and service at St. John's Kirk. It's good that the historical importance of the Guildry is recognised and given a prominent place as part of Perth's civic life.

Of course a good deal of time during my first few months was taken up with the impending retiral of our Secretary Lorna and the appointment of her successor, Carla. Although the 'handover' period was fairly brief, the two of them worked well together and Carla has settled in very happily. We thank Lorna for her years of dedication to the Guildry, and it is my privilege, on behalf of you all, to wish her well in her retirement.



End Of An Era As Lorna Bows Out

The end of an era in the history of the Guildry Incorporation was marked with a retiral dinner held for long-serving secretary and treasurer Lorna Peacock at the Royal George Hotel.



The Dean with ex-Deans and Committee members helped Lorna and husband Hugh have a wonderful evening

She also received a floral gift from her successor as secretary and treasurer, Carla Murray, and wished her well in the role. A former pupil of Perth Academy, Lorna worked in an administrative role with Cairncross the Jewellers before marriage and the arrival of son Steven.

She recalled accepting the Guildry post and being warned to “bring your knitting” because she would have plenty spare time on her hands!

But as the organisation’s charitable role in the community expanded in the wake of the sale of the High Street Guild Hall, Lorna assumed more and more responsibility, embracing technological change and bringing her sense of humour and finely honed sub-editing skills to bear on “The Guildryman.”

A keen St Johnstone supporter, Lorna observed that her time with the Guildry matched the period one-time Saints player Sir Alex Ferguson was at the helm of Manchester United.

But diners were assured no Dean ever had to put up with “the hairdryer treatment!”

While technology advanced and charitable donations escalated to reflect the economic well being of the charity, she remained the first point of contact for Guildrymen and their families, always offering a warm welcome and adopting a sensitive and caring approach to her role.

Lorna’s input was also appreciated by tenants of our city flats, the Guildtown farmers and their families, and staff and children at Guildtown Primary School, who sent her a lovely card to mark her retiral after years of arranging the annual Inspection visit.

Lorna was methodical in keeping track of the Guildry’s financial ins and outs, and welcomed our long-time accountant Martin Howarth of Morris and Young to the dinner.

Ex-Dean Gordon Bannerman spoke warmly on behalf of the many Deans who had relied on their ever-dependable “Lady Friday” during their tenure of office, recalling how Lorna had taken everything in her stride, including floods and fires which had afflicted the George Street offices.

Her book-keeping, minute-taking and general administration was always meticulous, although Gordon did recall a Triennial Assembly when, through no fault of Lorna’s, her best-laid plans were undermined when the boat crew at Balloch, by Loch Lomond, delayed departure to swiftly swap stocks of sherry for beer and drams when they realised it was thirsty Guildrymen rather than a Women’s Guild group decanting from the coaches!

On behalf of a grateful Guildry, Gordon wished Lorna a long, healthy and happy retirement.

*Apologies were received from ex-Deans Alastair Anderson and Duncan Menzies but current Lord Dean Louis was joined by ex-Deans Bill Montgomery, Stan Carrie, Roger Ward, Graham Harding, Michael Norval, Michael Thomson, Ken Darling and Gordon Bannerman.

In the modern era, Lorna has played a key role in the development of Perth’s most historic institution, which has mushroomed since the day she was appointed by then Lord Dean, the late Ian Calderwood, back in 1989, and went on to work with 10 of his successors.

The informal dinner was hosted by Lord Dean of Guild, Louis Flood, and he was joined by eight former Deans for the occasion.

Ex-Dean Michael Thomson was “honoured” to present Lorna with a Mont Blanc watch to mark her years of service to the Guildry.

Lorna, who was accompanied by her husband Hugh, thanked the many ex-Deans and committee members she had worked with down the years.



Lorna receives her watch from the Dean

The Dean's First Annual Inspection



Guy Fenton welcomes the Dean and committee members to Craigmakerran



The Dean presents the prizes after the races and thanked the children for their entertainment



No it wasn't the one shoe race but a safe place to keep the money gathered at the scramble



Enjoying the hospitality at Craigmakerran under the watchful eye of the house cat!

David Smith welcomes Lorna on her last official visit

The new face at the Guildry



Hello I am Carla Murray, the new Secretary/Treasurer at the Guildry office.

I started mid September and so far enjoying the culture change with much appreciated input, guidance and humour from Lorna Peacock. As you all know, Lorna has a wealth of experience and knowledge which I couldn't even contemplate trying to duplicate but I will endeavour to do my best for the Guildry. Thank you Lorna. As a Perth born and bred lass I am delighted to be part of an establishment which is ingrained in Perth's history, holds a social conscience and provides assistance/aspiration for education.

I am 47, married to Alan, 3 kids Struan (17), Rhea (15), Grant (12). Educated at St Columba's HS. I commenced employment with Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society, leaving after 3 years to obtain some computer experience with General Accident. After spending 2 years in their IT department I moved into their commercial insurance department, remaining there for 25 years.

I'm a season ticket holder at McDiarmid Park, I did owe St Johnstone money as didn't pay a penny at Muirton Park, always up and over the turnstiles. I enjoy yoga, cycling, curling, volunteering, fresh air, a wee vodka and listening to live bands.

I have no doubt I will meet plenty new faces over the forthcoming months and look forward to that.

Carla

Jamie Campbell - Dancer



Jamie Campbell is now in his second year at the Dance School of Scotland in Glasgow. He worked with the Scottish Ballet last Christmas in The Nutcracker at the age of just 12 years old. The Guildry were happy to assist with his living and uniform expenses.

Headway Group - Perth & Kinross



A donation was made to the local Headway Group (the brain injury association) to help them with their expenses when attending the AGM of the association, which was held in Stone, Staffordshire.

The delegates were led by Evelyn Menzies, wife of ex Dean Duncan Menzies. They all appreciated the assistance given by the Guildry to attend this meeting as they learned a lot from the various workshops held over the weekend and found the speakers very inspirational.

Isobel Houston - A year in Honduras



Isobel Houston wrote to thank us for our support in helping to fund her year of teaching in Honduras.

Her first post was teaching a gaggle of 18 five year olds in a class called Preparatoria, the year before first grade. "Getting through to those riotous little people who didn't speak any English wasn't easy, but with the help of countless songs, dances and Samuel David Ramos, (the counting caterpillar beautifully named by the children), we managed.

My year of teaching those wonderful children has given me patience, confidence, empathy and of course flexibility".

If you are happy to receive future correspondence by email e.g. newsletters, annual accounts etc, then please notify Carla of your email address to guildryperth@btconnect.com
Carla will then be able to update your contact details. Thank you