



## **Kilmorack and Erchless Church**

### **Guild Scots Night**

**Monday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**



Monday Evening Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 saw, "The Guild", gathering in The Columba Hall to celebrate their, "Scots Night" and once again, the organizational powers of the committee pulled together an array of speakers, singers, setters out and servers who combined to feed, inform and entertain the assembled company.

In recognition of, "Rabbie" and the proximity of his 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, a fine meal of Tatties, Haggis and Neeps, followed by splendid trifle, (or apple pie), oatcakes and cheese washed down with tea and tablet was served and savoured!

In the absence of our usual Burns aficionado and Session Clerk, Derry Mackenzie, Mary Donaldson bravely took on "The Address to A Haggis" and managed to disembowel the unfortunate animal with no injuries to any of the guests sitting nearby!



Mary also regaled us with several of her much requested poems and monologues, including, I'm very pleased to say, "Giving your cat a pill!"

If you haven't heard this, book your ticket for next year as early as possible and we'll try to arrange a re-run. Suffice to say, our trainee minister, Dr Rob Barlow and his wife Gwen were in knots!



We were surprised and delighted to find that we had a couple of special guests with us on the

evening, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gow. Harry had put aside his white coat, hat and rolling pin to show us his musical talents. With his equally talented wife, Christine they sang together and individually, a selection of Scottish songs in English and Gaelic.

Rob, (Dr Barlow), had been teased by some members of the guild that he would have to hold his end up by providing a Scottish song on the evening and there were no doubt a few giggles between the perpetrators, (who shall be nameless!). They failed to take into consideration Rob's tricky mind! The man visited Derry in Raigmore Hospital and managed to get Derry to make a recording of, "Ae Fond Kiss" using the Hospital chapel as a recording studio.



On the night, Rob set up his laptop computer and some other little bits and bobs. When invited to, "do his turn", he told us a delightful story of how he had been worried about being invited to sing and had chosen to take a slightly different direction then went on to play a recording of



Derry singing his completely unaccompanied version of "Ae Fond Kiss". There wasn't a dry eye in the house. Clever guy Rob! Keep your eye on him, he'll go far!

Margaret Mackintosh was on great form giving us some stirring Scottish songs to sing along to and finished the evening with

"The Star of Robbie Burns". Very fitting indeed.

When it got too quiet, Iain Scally put on his guitar and prevented folks from dozing off!

Although there were too many people involved in the organization and preparation to provide a detailed list, a special mention must go to Eddie Mackintosh for all the work he put in and a big hand for Molly Doyle who managed, on top of everything else she did, to provide piano accompaniment and a fine job she did!

The redoubtable Emily must have had some strong-arm assistance to manage to collect the array of prizes, which were available for the raffle. I think I must have been the only person who didn't win anything! Boo Hoo!

Finally, I just want to apologise for the delay in including this item on the website. This was due to a slight technical hitch, which grew to a major panic, eventually sorted out in consultation with all of my tame computer experts who live at the end of my telephone line.

A big thanks to all of you. You know who you are!

