

MID-SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY



Editor *Marilyn Millar*

Website *www.midsussexcaledoniansociety.org.uk*

NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

I hope that you are all having an enjoyable summer and that your gardens are surviving! I am just back from Scotland having experienced something I have never experienced there before – two weeks of continuous sunshine and cloudless blue sky and temperatures in the mid to upper 20s. The scenery was spectacular. No prizes for identifying this photograph! (Answer on p2)



RECENT EVENTS

AGM with wine & cheese 22nd June

Twenty-eight members attended the AGM at Westmeston Parish Hall. As the President, Roy Horn, was unable to attend, Iain read his summary of the year's events and stressed the need for all members, whether on the committee or not, to volunteer to help with the organisation of events. We discussed new ideas and formats for future events – the Sackville visit and the Waverley outing were felt to be a good start to the new season. The committee will be meeting over the summer to draw up the programme and are actively looking at alternative venues for our Burns Night Celebration as, following the fire, Cottesmore Hotel may not be available.

Out-going committee members Sue Hose and John Dudley (Website Manager) were thanked for all their hard work on behalf of the Society, as was Roy Horn who has served his two years as President but will remain on the Committee.

The MSCS Committee 2018/19

President: Iain Millar
Membership Secretary: Marian Imrie
Treasurer: Helen Firmin
Minutes Secretary & Newsletter Editor:
Marilyn Millar

Publicity Secretary & Website:

David Paterson
Roy Horn
Marjorie
Paterson
Karen Beadle

After the formal part of the meeting, we enjoyed a glass of wine and some cheese and plenty of good conversation which all made for a very pleasant social occasion.

Visit to Sackville College & the McIndoe Exhibition at East Grinstead Museum - 13th July

We all met for morning coffee and biscuits in the common room, (the original communal kitchen and dining room of Sackville College) and this is where we started our tour. Our knowledgeable guides explained that the impressive stone building was founded in 1609 as almshouses by the will of Robert Sackville, "*for the relief of*



one and thirty single and unmarried persons, thereof one and twenty to be men and the other ten to be women..."

The conditions in the individual rooms were spartan and residents would have cooked and eaten together in this hall. The college still functions as almshouses today but we were assured that living conditions have considerably improved since the early days!

They also explained that in this context "college" did not mean an educational establishment, but a place "where people of like purpose gathered together"



We continued the tour with a visit to the wood panelled Great Hall, the Warden's study and the chapel. As well as learning much about the Sackville family and their place in English history from Norman times we also learned that John Mason Neale (the warden 1846-1866) wrote many well known hymns, including the words to the carol, Good King Wenceslas in this study.

Fortified by a good lunch at the Dorset Arms, we then made our way to the East Grinstead Museum to see the exhibition of the work of the pioneering surgeon Archibald McIndoe, who did so much to help RAF airmen who had sustained horrific burns injuries during WWII. Our guide was a retired hospital theatre technician who had worked with McIndoe and he was able to talk about some of the surgical procedures as well as the measures taken to raise the morale of the airmen and combat the depression many of them felt. The "Guinea Pig Club" was set up in 1941 and became an invaluable support network for the 649 airmen treated by McIndoe and their families.

We would like to thank David and Marjorie for a well organised and enjoyable day.

If you were unable to join us on this visit, full details of opening times etc of both Sackville

College and the East Grinstead Museum are to be found on their respective websites.

www.sackvillecollege.org.uk

info@eastgrinsteadmuseum.org.uk

Future Events

October 6th (Saturday) 2018

Twinkling Thames Cruise on the Waverley

Iain will be contacting those who have booked the cruise on the Waverley re the travel details when he receives further information from the coach company.

November 2018

St Andrew's Event *(new format) TBA*

January 13th (Sunday) 2019

Pre Burns Dance Practice at the Old School Hall, Cuckfield

January 19th (Saturday) 2019

Burns Event *venue to be confirmed*

**Answer to the photo quiz on p1:
Queen's View, Loch Tummel**