

Now we celebrate our Silver Anniversary -

On Thursday 10 October 2024 a large group assembled at Clarkston to celebrate this prestigious event and admire the cake!



It was great to see Ruth, our founder, now living in Kenilworth, back in Scotland to be with us. In her ankle length Black Watch tartan dress she looked fabulous and regal. When I tried to give her a compliment she said that she hadn't expected to match the carpet!!! Our New Vice President, Fiona McDonald was there and our very supportive Branch Chairman, Ian Johnston. Ian was soon on his feet, he donned his chain of Office to read the citation and present Ruth with a Branch Award. Past chairmen, Peter Knapman, Fiona McDonald, Margaret Sanders, and Muriel Bone and previous Branch Award winners were present for this milestone celebration along with previous Branch Award winners, Vina Barr, Fiona McDonald, Muriel Bone, Margaret Sanders [with her Branch Archivist husband, home at last from a long stay in Hospital].

Mo McCrudden introduced our entertainer Eric Finley, whom many people present knew from the classes he has taught for Glasgow Branch, his very lively warm up routines and his entertainment at RSCDS summer school Ceilidhs.

He began his program with the very traditional Song of the Clyde and the much recorded "Down in the Glen". Then turned to humour with Adam Mc Naughton's hilarious Jeely Piece Song and the very adventurous Wide Mouthed Frog, who left the security of his pond and met lots of animals and rather dangerously asked them what they ate. Of course it ends with an animal that eats – 'Wide Mouthed Frogs'.

He sang the traditional Irish/Scottish Wild Mountain Thyme and then Matt McGinn's Dundee Ghost (who comes to haunt some hooses in Glasgow toon). He told a well loved Chic Murray story about when he and his wife went on holiday to Scarborough and went for a walk after their meal, they met a man who asked politely "Excuse me but is that the moon up there?" to which Chic replies "Sorry but I am a stranger here myself."

Then Eric sang The Piper O' Dundee followed by Matt Mc Ginn's Red Yo Yo where he changed the words to modernise it "All over the country the common and the gentry had all set their mobiles to ping, and there was no hidin' when President Biden received an appeal from the King.

An interesting story followed of an Italian Bride's first night in her parents' home on the day of her wedding. She was reluctant to follow her new husband upstairs to bed, finding excuses to come downstairs where her mother was making spaghetti. Eventually it became too much for her love starved mother who said: OK, I'll go upstairs and you can make the spaghetti. Eric's final song was the 'Wee Kirkubright Centipede', one of the songs Eric loves best as he can get everyone doing the actions.

As leg number 94 gave 95 a shunt, Legs number 1 & 2 were twisted out in front,

As legs number 9 & 10 came wriggling up the side, 73 & 74 were doing the Palais Glide.

We were all exhausted with his energy! A great celebration.

Mo McCrudden & Maureen Daniel

