



**WELCOME** to the Society's second newsletter. We had very positive feedback for our May edition and continue to welcome any comments or contributions from members. Please direct any correspondence to:

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or

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With best wishes from all of the Trustees for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## Behind the Scenes at Callendar House

The Society held a very successful members event at Callendar House on 5<sup>th</sup> September. With 50 members and guests attending, the event has done much to raise the profile of the Sons of the Rock in the Falkirk area. Ian Scott, Chairman of the Falkirk Community Trust, welcomed all of us with an entertaining account of earlier visits by the Society in the 1870s and again in 1924, occasions



**The Preses alongside guests and speakers**

which were comprehensively written up in the *Falkirk Herald*. Peter Stott, curator at the Museum, gave addi-

tional historical background, and Capt Derick Forbes shared his fascinating boyhood memories of life at the House. Russel + Aitken generously sponsored the event and Bill Anderson talked about his current work on the firm's archive in the extensive Library. Provost Pat Reid also kindly supported the evening, which generated a surplus of over £500 for the Society's funds.

## Three New Trustees Join The Board

The Society is delighted to welcome three new co-opted Trustees from among the membership. Anne Wallace is former Manager of

Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health and one time convenor of Central Regional Council. George Stevenson is the current

Chairman of Falkirk Chamber of Commerce, and Shaun Nesbitt is a retired civil engineer with interests in several local arts charities.

## Annual Gathering - Auld Hansel Monday 14th 2013

This year's Auld Hansel Monday falls on the 14th January 2013. We are again meeting at The Macrobert Arts Centre on the Stirling University campus. The AGM will begin at 7pm and will include a short demonstration by grant recipients, Town Break Stirling, detailing how money from the Society has helped their clients with dementia. At 7.45pm Ian Scott, Chairman of Falkirk Community Trust, will give a public lecture on 'The Great Families of Victorian Falkirk' - ALL WELCOME. This will be followed at 8.30pm by a buffet supper with wine.



**'The Great Families of Victorian Falkirk' by Ian Scott**

We are very grateful to the majority of members who have given us their email addresses. Proxy voting forms, applications for tickets and this newsletter are being sent electronically in order to save the Society postage.

Please print off and send back to the Secretary if you are able. If you have any problems, please do contact us and we can issue hard copies.

## Recent Grant Awards

In the past 6 months, the Trustees have approved the following grants: £450 to a resident at the Blackwood Care Centre in Bannockburn for a holiday in Blackpool with her carer; £200 towards travel costs to enable someone to complete their College course for a nursing degree at Forth Valley College; £378 towards a laptop with voice recognition software for a visually impaired lady; £430 towards carpeting for a bedroom

and living room; £150 to St Ninians Community Development Trust towards the cost of the recent Roman Road archaeology survey in Beechwood

- *Holiday to Blackpool*
- *College Travel Costs*
- *Voice Recognition Software*

Park, Stirling ; £600 to the Stirling Carers Centre to purchase an Apple iPad wi-fi and tablet with accessories to support their Young Carers Project; and £357 to the Forth Bridges Accordion Band for three accordions to train younger Band entrants. As always, we are very grateful to our voluntary sector partners who have made many of these grants possible by identifying deserving individuals..

## Growing the Society 'Leaves' by Preses Alison Jack

In autumn, as I went to work, I watched with interest a man working in the grounds of the Bank of Scotland building at the top of the Mound in Edinburgh. He was picking up leaves, one by one, with a long grabber device. The area he cleared was pristine. The area he was yet to reach was covered with leaves. He started at the beginning again each morning and worked his way across the grass. It was compelling and oddly soothing to watch him.

We have had a very exciting and rewarding year as Trustees of the Sons of the Rock. Many individuals have been helped to do things most of us take for granted. Purchase a washing machine (needed because a granddaughter was coming to stay due to

the disrupted nature of her mother's life). Go for a short holiday (with a carer, a financial impossibility if you have existed on benefits for many years and have no savings to fall back on). Buy uniform for a child so she doesn't look out of place at school (when your outgoings and your income are so finely balanced any extra expenditure can tip you into debt). Pay for travel to college. .

I am very proud of the work of the Society this year, although I am conscious we are only picking up leaves, one by one, and there are many needs we can't meet, and many we don't even hear about. We would like to be able to do more, but for that to happen, we need new members and we need to generate new income. Our membership has been growing slowly but surely recently, and we are asking you, if you are

already a member, to consider asking your friends and acquaintances to join the Society. If you are not a member, please consider joining us: the minimum annual donation is £25, and an application form may be found on the website. We are also looking into the possibility of corporate membership for businesses in the area. If you know of such a business which might be interested in this, please contact us with the details.

"Helping citizens to help themselves" is our motto. Helping individuals, one by one, is what the Sons of the Rock Society has always done. Please help us to help more.