



Giving Directly to Local People in Crisis

MESSAGE FROM SARAH CHESTER

PRESES OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE ROCK

WELCOME to the Society's fifth newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading it and learning about our progress throughout the last year. We continue to encourage any contributions from members.

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I am very grateful to all fellow Trustees and members of the Society for their support over the last year.

Time seems to have flown since Auld Hansel Monday 2015 and I am pleased to report that it has been a productive year for the Society. Trustees have been active in networking with community care groups and the professionals who work directly with those in crisis.

This initiative has led to a steady increase in applications from those in most need from the Stirling and Falkirk areas. Small amounts of money from the Sons of the Rock Society can make a significant difference to people in times of strife.

It has been humbling to learn that in March 2015 there were 1,043 homeless applications in Falkirk and 334 people living in temporary accommodation - 81 of these were children. In Stirling there were 302 homeless applications and 197 people were living in temporary accommodation - 64 were children.

In keeping with its 200 year old history, the Society's challenge to support vulnerable people in financial hardship is as essential today as it has ever been. I encourage all members to persuade past or inactive members of the Society to activate their membership by either paying £25 per annum or attending the Auld Hansel dinner or other Sons of the Rock events.

In our mission to increase awareness of the Society and attract new membership amongst the Business community, Trustee George Stevenson wrote a very comprehensive article for the 2015 summer edition of the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce magazine, INcommerce. Some members from the Chamber of Commerce also attended our autumn event in the Town Hall, Bo'ness. The Trustees felt the Society needed to update its leaflet. It was agreed that it should be small enough to put into a pocket or handbag. One of our Trustees designed this leaflet and business cards and a grant from the Stirling Council's Provost's fund paid for the printing. These leaflets will be available at the Auld Hansel Gathering in January 2016. The Society continues to move forward and is in good heart. Please spread the word and continue to support us.

Annual Gathering - AGM and Lecture 2016 on Monday 18 January 2016 at 7pm.

Forth Valley College in Stirling (beside the M9 next to junction 10) is once again the venue for our Auld Hansel Annual Lecture and dinner. We are delighted to confirm that the Annual Lecture, **Music - Everything is Connected** will be given by Euan Stevenson. Euan is an award winning pianist and composer working in the Jazz classical and pop fields. He has performed throughout the UK, Europe and the USA as well as broadcast on BBC radio and television. He is much in demand as a vocal accompanist, arranger and educator. We are in for a treat. "...an inspired and brilliantly constructive improviser...a technically superb musician and gifted composer". The Glasgow Herald

With examples from Bach to Bacharach, Euan Stevenson's musically illustrated talk will introduce the audience to how the fundamental rules of composition and improvisation apply across all genres of music. He will demonstrate this in a way that will both educate and entertain. The lecture will be followed by a two course supper.

Members' Event - 'Behind the Scenes at Bo'ness Town Hall', Wednesday 30th September 2015



Sons of the Rock held a very successful "Behind the Scenes" event at Bo'ness Town Hall on 30th September 2015. Over 70 members and guests were treated to a fascinating talk by Geoff Bailey, former Curator of Falkirk Museum and a renowned speaker and expert on the history of the local area.

Woodwinters Wines presented two artisan wines and Liz Storey, family support worker at Carrongrange School, spoke about the positive impact of a Sons of the Rock grant given to help a child in her care.

We are very grateful to the Falkirk Community Trust for allowing the Society the use of the very attractive Ballroom on the first floor of this historic building and to Trustees and members of the Society who provided the canapes.



In 2014-15 we awarded nearly £6,500 in grants, which included provision for the following:

- New cooker for an elderly disabled man, endorsed by Council on Disability, Stirling;
- New shower fitting for a mother and children at risk, endorsed by Shelter Scotland;
- Bedding and contribution towards heating and food for a young woman, endorsed by Culterhove Opportunities;
- Clothing for a boy needing learning support, endorsed by Carrongrange School, Falkirk;
- Orthopaedic mattress for a disabled woman, endorsed by Council on Disability, Stirling;
- Safety upgrade of stairwell bannisters at the flat of an elderly woman;
- Window blinds, curtains and white goods for a single parent family escaping domestic violence, endorsed by Shelter Scotland;
- Double bed, bedding, clothing, heater guard and storage for two young families in poor living conditions, endorsed by Home Start – Stirling;
- Grangemouth Carers – training in dementia awareness for sessional care workers;
- Throsk Community Enterprises - transport for armed services veterans to Breakfast Club sessions;
- PLUS Forth Valley's 'Tadpoles' project, launched to provide 1:1 swimming sessions for children with disabilities across the Forth Valley area.



Clients using the Support for Learning IT suite at Action in Mind, Stirling funded by a Sons of the Rock grant award in 2014.