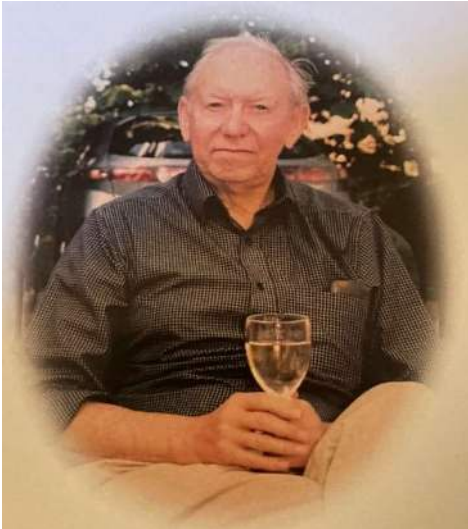


PROBUS CLUB OF ALLANDER

BULLETIN

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The passing of Douglas Orr is a great loss to the Club. Douglas was not only a highly respected, and much-loved member; he was a true stalwart of the Club in every sense. He tirelessly carried out many functions for us, not least of which was the production of our Bulletin.

I knew Douglas for some years and always found him enthusiastic in all he did; and he always did it with a smile. I will miss him, and all our sympathies go to Michelle and the family. As Douglas's obituary, I reproduce the eulogy that our secretary, Frank Cruickshank delivered at Douglas's funeral: that the building was packed with mourners is indication of the high regard in which Douglas was held by so many.

John Huntley

DOUGLAS ORR (10/2/1940 - 12/1/2023)

OBITUARY

My family have known Douglas for around 45 years and we have enjoyed many musical nights at his home as well as listening to his jazz band at a variety of venues.

Douglas joined PROBUS in 2005 and was instrumental in my joining in 2006. He joined the Committee in 2006 and arranged outings for members. He later arranged a speaker programme for his year as President in 2012 and remained as welfare officer the following year.

Douglas was a "Lad O' Pairs" with diverse talents. Foremost, he was an engineer, but also a pianist and band leader at a professional level. In addition, he was an artist and a teacher of computing at College level. All these talents he used in PROBUS to improve the Club.

As an engineer, he specified and bought our Public Address systems. He was in charge of our Digital Systems for several years.

As a pianist he was the mainstay of our many musical events and played along with our violinist, John MacMillan, at all our Burns Lunches, with the sole exception of the Covid period and this year, of course. As an artist he largely designed the layout of our Bulletin and he edited this, with some assistance, for 14 years.

As a teacher of computing, he was always ready to assist members with computing problems when wrestling with the latest versions of Windows or WORD.

At extremely short notice, Douglas took over my duties as Secretary for 3 months, when I was in hospital at Christmas in 2019. This is our busiest period, but Douglas made the transition seamless.

Douglas was a regular attender at our Coffee mornings and always livened up the conversation. Douglas was a gifted member of our Club and gave unstintingly of his energy in his many activities in the Club. He has truly been described as a "Friend of all Members" and will be sorely missed by us all.

FRANK CRUICKSHANK February 2023

SHAKESPEARE IN OPERA

12 January 2023

Jenny Turnbull, daughter of President Rob, gave us a fascinating talk, liberally interspersed with musical interludes. She was uniquely qualified for this as she had combined her twin passions for Shakespeare and for Opera in her university studies. She studied operas based on Othello and Macbeth for her PhD.

Shakespeare has inspired many musical forms – symphony, overture, ballet, and modern musical. Over 300 operas have been based to varying degrees on at least 16 of his plays. Adapting dramatic text into opera is a difficult undertaking. The text has to be shortened, with minor characters and subplots omitted, and some is subtlety lost. However, the music adds greatly to the atmosphere, expressing much about the characters, and the music stays with us. Shakespeare's plays have good stories with powerful, interesting and flawed characters facing defining decisions. The dramas explore essential truths, and Shakespeare wrote for everybody.

Opera came into being at the same time as Shakespeare was writing, but not until 1692 was Purcell's "The Fairy Queen" (based on "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and more masque than opera) produced. The first musical interlude was "Hush no more" from Act 2.

An opera based on "A Comedy of Errors" by Steven Storage, a drinking buddy of Mozart, provided a second musical interlude. Thereafter, in the 19th century several composers were inspired by Shakespeare (e.g. Rossini, Gounod, Wagner) but none more so than Verdi. Excerpts from his operas MacBeth, Otello and Falstaff were played illustrating the range and drama of the music.

The talk ended with mention of works in the 20th and 21st centuries, finishing with an encore by popular vote of "Hush no more".

The Court of the Lord Lyon

9 February 2023



Arms of Office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms

The talk was to have been given by Dr J Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms, but as he had been called away to a planning meeting for the Coronation of King Charles III, his place was taken by Roddy MacPherson. Roddy gave an eloquent and polished presentation revealing many interesting facts and snippets about the arcane world of the Lyon Court. Roddy himself is a Messenger to Arms and now Unicorn Pursuivant, having previously been Lyon Macer.

Heraldry has its origins in the Middle Ages when the design of "Arms" enabled knights to be recognised, both in battle and tournaments. An Act of 1672 set up a public register of Arms in Scotland, so giving the Lyon Court legal authority, a status not enjoyed by heraldic organisations elsewhere. The Court is responsible maintain the register, assigning new coats of arms and arranging certain ceremonials.

The Court is Scotland's Heraldic Authority; the Royal Prerogative to assign coats of arms is devolved to the Lord Lyon. He even has his own crown, approved in 2003 by the Queen. He is the sole King of Arms in Scotland whereas there are three in England. The Lyon Court has around half a dozen officers including the Lyon Clerk/ Record Keeper, Lyon Macer (carries the mace on ceremonial

occasions), Herald painter and Procurator Fiscal. In addition, there are Officers of Arms who are members of the Royal Household in Scotland - three Heralds and three Pursuivants (junior heralds).

Messengers at Arms, also part of the Lyon Court, have been around since at least 1587 and were known in earlier times as Officers of the King. There are up to 200 of them and they must be Sheriff Officers. Their primary job is to execute summonses and letters of diligence connected with the Court of Session and High Court of Justiciary. Lord Lyon regularly commissions new Messengers at Arms and awards them their insignia of office - a miniature baton attached by a chain to a silver medal bearing the royal arms. Roddy passed round his own Badge of Arms that had once belonged to his grandfather. It is a black wooden stick around six inches long, sometimes known as a "Wand of Peace". Once when he showed it the reaction was "Oh my God – it's Sooty".

Anyone or organisation can petition the Lord Lyon to get a coat of arms. If approved the arms will be drawn up and described in "Blazon", the language of heraldry. This has legal force. The grant of arms may be documented on vellum, beautifully illustrated and text put in by calligraphers.

The Lord Lyon's current chain of office dates from 1998 with the links subscribed from St Andrews Societies worldwide. The design incorporates two plants: thistles and rue (Andrew – there is a love of punning in heraldry!). Though St Andrews Society of the State of New York was founded in 1756, its current arms, dating from 2005, feature an apple in the saltire.

Coats of Arms can only be owned by one person, but can be enjoyed by descendents. You may petition the Lord Lyon to obtain your own coat of arms. It is not known whether any of our members have now applied for their own coat of arms.

The Scottish Women's Hospital (Girton and Newnham Unit) during WW1

23 February 2023

This talk was jointly given by Carol Parry and Elaine Morrison. Carol, a librarian, and Elaine, a consultant, both now retired, were colleagues of President Rob at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. While there they came across a fascinating story, one they have been researching and following up for many years.

It all started in the College library with Sister Annie Allan's photo album. Sister Annie was a nurse and her album showed nurses in exotic locations from the time of WW I. Intrigued Carol and Elaine started investigating.

Annie was born in 1888 in Airdrie and became a fever nurse at Govan Cottage Hospital, set up by the widow of the wealthy shipbuilder John Elder. Mrs Elder was a suffragiste (not to be confused with the suffragettes), campaigning for women's suffrage by legal and constitutional means. The suffragistes societies formed the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), a well-run organisation and a formidable fund raiser.

At the outbreak of WW I the NUWSS decided to provide service to the country and support the war effort. Dr Elsie Inglis had the idea of forming all women units to support the army's medical services. She was rebuffed by the UK government but the offer was

accepted by France and Serbia. The Scottish Women's Hospital (SWH) was set up with its HQ in Edinburgh with the agreement of the NUWSS. Fundraising was very well supported, particularly by the ladies colleges of Girton and Newnham. Dr Louise McIlroy, a brilliant surgeon, and Dr Sandeman, a physician were the leaders of the SWH unit together with Mrs Harley administrator (also sister of Earl Haig).

In 1915 the unit was despatched to Troyes in France, taking over a small chateau. The orangery served as the operating theatre but tents were also needed to provide accommodation. In October 1915 the SWH unit was redeployed to Guevgheli, north of Salonika in Greece. Their base was a silkworm factory but they had to live in tents. The cold was intense and many of their French patients suffered frostbite. As the military position deteriorated there were many refugees and Dr McIlroy noted the "Horrors of war ... very sad, I'll never forget." The order was given to move back to Salonika. All medical units came together and a hospital was established. Fundraising continued with donors having items named after them (e. g. Airdrie Tent). Ambulances were driven by women, several who funded their own vehicles. The very primitive conditions and inability to get home for leave made life hard. The site was not good and the summer of 1916 was very hot. Disease was rife. According to Dr McIlroy's report of January 1919 there were 3764 medical cases treated between 1915-18. Malaria accounted for nearly half with dysentery and bronchitis making up most of the remainder. Two nurses died from disease. Of the 2733 surgical cases, half were treated under general anaesthetic and there was an X-ray specialist at the hospital. The men were happy with their treatment.

The Scottish Women's Hospital was not allowed to treat British soldiers but could organise welfare for the lower ranks. On occasion the Pipes and Drums of the Argyll and Sutherlands provided entertainment. A British Medical Society was set up in Salonika and hosted by the SWH. There they also presented academic papers, so enhancing the status of the women.

Carol and Elaine have researched the SWH story closely, visiting Troyes in 2015 where there was an exhibition about the SWH, and travelling to Thessalonika in 2019.

Stephen Rodgers

AND FINALLY

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND BURNS LUNCH

At last, Covid restrictions almost a thing of the past, we were able to enjoy both events in our traditional way. Both were well-attended, the food was good, the wine (and other potables) flowed and a good time was had by all.

Notes for your diary

*We hope to visit Ross Priory on **6TH JUNE**, when the rhododendrons and azaleas should be in full bloom and to take lunch there, so look out for further notice.*

We are also hoping to run the Bowling Competition this year, so please get in touch with me if you want to take part. It's always been an enjoyable and light-hearted event.

Help!

The Club always needs help - and new members – so do get in touch with Frank if you can contribute.