

Glasgow Branch Seniors' Group - Spring Meeting 2019

The first meeting in 2019 of the Seniors' Group on Thursday, 4 April had the best attendance record to date, with 27 members present out of a possible 30 on the official mailing list. Such was the popularity of our musical guest, Scottish Accordionist **Màrtainn Skene**, seen here, who paid us a return visit from 2015 to kick-start the Seniors' Group 20th Anniversary Year ... and he gave it laldy! In addition to playing for many of our SCD classes, social dances, local and international festivals, as a professional musician with his own Highland Dance Band, was nominated in the 2018 MG ALBA Scots Traditional Music Awards 'dance band of the year', and recently the band has done a few 'Take the Floor' broadcasts on Radio Scotland. On this occasion Màrtainn began by playing mostly pipe tunes in the form of marches, jigs and reels, with a set of Irish reels, Gaelic waltzes from Skye and a slow air "Breisleach" by the famous Capercaillie band thrown in for good measure. According to Màrtainn, 'breisleach' in Gaelic means a dream-like or delirious state. I was neither dreaming nor delirious, but fairly jumping out of my seat by the end of this fabulous and flawless performance.



Pictured here with Màrtainn are three lovely lady members, Grace, Pat and Elizabeth.

Our current Branch Chairman, Margaret Sanders, was also present and briefly addressed the Group, encouraging us to write down and/or record for posterity any SCD memories of the early years thus enhancing Glasgow's rich archival history as founder branch back in 1923. Màrtainn closed the afternoon's proceedings by playing a number of tunes with a local connection to where he grew up, The Braes, i.e. heading out of Spean Bridge up through Roy Bridge toward Dalwhinnie. This final set comprised "Corriechoille's Welcome to the Northern Meeting", "Dòmhnall Mòr na Ceapaich (Big Donald of Keppoch)", "Braigh Loch Iall (Braes of Loch Eil)" and "Eilean Fhionainn (Finnan's Isle)". Our grateful thanks to Màrtainn for ending this afternoon's event on such a high and to providing a wonderful start to our 20th Anniversary year.



Daphne Davidson, Seniors' Group Organiser