

RSCDS Glasgow Branch Seniors' Group

Seniors' Autumn Meeting - Thursday 8th October 2015

On a beautiful autumnal day with the trees turning wonderful shades of red and brown, the Seniors' Group met again at the Crookston Hotel for lunch and entertainment. There was an excellent attendance of 23 members, all of whom enjoyed lunch and were then treated to a fantastic rendition of accordion music by **Màrtainn Skene** - "**Quality tunes and craic**". In her introduction, our organiser referred to Màrtainn as "*a bit of a mystery man*". Màrtainn is a young man who is making a name for himself in Scottish Country Dance circles as an amazing accordionist who also has his own Highland Dance Band and is a Glasgow Branch musician for a number of the classes.



For our entertainment today Màrtainn started with a 'melody of marches' – one of which was called "*Ladies From Hell*". As the gentlemen were outnumbered 20 to 3 on the day, maybe it was quite appropriate! We were then treated to some Irish tunes followed by a selection from the Isle of

Lewis. Màrtainn also explained to us how "*traditional mouth music*" has been put into pipe tunes and songs, a selection of which he then played. The next item was a beautiful French tune "*Triste Sourire*" and certainly brought back memories of Paris and the River Seine. We then moved back to Scotland for a selection of marches and a haunting lament "*Tuireadh Iain Ruaidh*" (Lament for Red-haired John) which raised the hairs on the back of the neck. The final selection contained some tunes from the Shetland Isles. There was certainly a lot of toe-tapping during his whole programme.

It may be that, at the beginning of the day, a number of people had not heard Màrtainn play, but this young man is truly talented and will go a long way in his field of music. It was a great pleasure to hear him perform.



Helen Wilson
Seniors' Group Member