

## Seniors Summer Meeting      Thursday 14 July 2016

The entertainer at our Summer meeting was **Selina Ross**, who has just finished her final year at Douglas Academy. Selina, a talented young fiddle player, has recently won a place on a ceilidh trail promoting Scottish Tradition and Gaelic Culture. Her performance began with a medley of a strathspey, the traditional tune *Donside* and followed it with *Marga's Moment* which Selina has described as “a funky little tune”. Next we were treated to the hauntingly beautiful slow air Neil Gow's *Lament for the Death of his Second Wife*, which Selina informed us was actually written for his fiddle! Next followed two tunes which Selina only learned last weekend at the Fèis Alba training weekend for the ceilidh trail.



After bravely offering to do requests, Selina rose admirably to the challenge before playing a set of tunes by James Scott Skinner, and a lively set of jigs. Selina then played Phil Cunningham's evocative *The Gentle Light that Wakes Me*, taught to her by Ryan Corbett, a fellow pupil at Douglas Academy's School of Music who entertained us two years ago. Then in contrast a set of tunes from the North East and further afield, including the foot tapping *Hamish the Carpenter* and *Bonnie Mulligan* which she described so aptly as a “right belter”.

Although she has composed several tunes, Selina modestly avoided playing any until our Organiser asked her, so for her final set she played *Memories of Father Angus MacDonald*, included her own *What's Your Travel?* inspired by the regular question from staff at the school about her travel arrangements home each weekend, and finished with *Ainya's*, a tune by Alasdair Taylor.

An amazing performance from an astonishingly talented musician, and all played without a note of music!! Even more amazing is the fact that Selina is not about to pursue a musical career in the near future, but has elected to go to University in China and learn Mandarin!

*Maureen Daniel, Seniors' Group Member*