

Serious Burns...

WOODGLEN BURNS SUPPER ~ 25 January 2020



The Woodglen Scottish Country Dancers meet at Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church on Friday evenings. For the last few years, they have participated in a Burns Supper, organized by the Church.

The hall and the tables are decorated with a Scottish tartan theme, and a delicious

home-cooked meal is served to between 80 and 90 people each year.

The *Address to a Haggis* was given by Norm White, who comes from the Island of Lewis. The Haggis was carried in by Woodglen dancers Jim Stark and John Clark, led by a piper. The gentlemen all sang *I Love a Lassie* and then drank a toast to the ladies. We all joined in the chorus of *The Star of Rabbie Burns*, followed by a toast to The Bard.

While the hall was cleared, everyone took part in a singsong and then Liz Stark, Master of Ceremonies, led the ceilidh. The Woodglen dancers performed three dances throughout the evening.

Our theme this year was DANCES FROM COUNTRIES WHERE BURNS SUPPERS ARE BEING HELD, THIS VERY NIGHT.

- Canada: *A Kindred Spirit* (reel – see below)
- Australia: *Glengarry Homestead* (strathspey from the *Kangaroo Paw* book)
- Scotland: *A Trip to Crinan* (jig by Mairi & Andrew Collins, Coast To Coast)

The audience was invited to join in ceilidh dances interspersed throughout the programme. We were also entertained by Highland dancers, a piper, singer, violin solo, and a Burns reading.

We all had a good time. The evening finished with a spirited rendering of *Auld Lang Syne*.
...Deirdre MacCuish Bark



A Kindred Spirit : 32 bar Reel : 3C/4C set

1 – 4 ~ 1st couple, dance a Half Figure of 8 around the standing 2nd couple

5 – 6 ~ 1W & 2M with Right hand and 1M & 2W with Left hand: half turn to change places

7 – 8 ~ 1W & 3M with LH and 1M & 3W with RH dance a full 2 bar turn:

1st couple finish in 2nd place on opposite sides, facing up & out:

9 – 16 ~ 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance reels of three on opposite sides (Mirror reels of 3): 1st couple dancing out & up to begin. On bars 15 & 16 the 1st couple dance from 3rd place on opposite sides diagonally up and across to 2nd place on their own sides, as the 2nd and 3rd couples finish the reels, 1W passing in front of her partner.

17 – 24 ~ 2nd and 1st couples dance Switch & Rotate (non-progressive form of Set & Rotate) 1-2: 2nd & 1st couples set / 3-4: 2s & 1s: pull R shoulder back and cast one place clockwise / 5-6: 2s & 1s: RH across ½ way / 7-8: 2s & 1s: chase one place clockwise to original places.

25 – 32 ~ 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance 6 hands round and back.

Deirdre MacCuish Bark, *Isle of Harris*, October 31st 2019

For Teresa Lockhart and the other followers of "Anne", in celebration marking the Scottish Country Dancers who danced in the series *Anne With An "E"*.

DEMO POOL AT VILLAGE MOSAIC ~ 22 January 2020



Phil Buddle & Keith Bark

A group of dancers from the Demo Pool performed at Village Mosaic (Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto) on Lakeshore Boulevard. Mosaic, we learned, is a place where seniors come together to share interests and make new friends through the many activities offered.

Being a Burns demo, the haggis presentation was a major part of the event. It was piped in, and reverently carried by Keith Bark and Phil Buddle. Hovering over the exotic Scottish fare with knife threateningly

in hand, Joe Shortt began his *Address To A Haggis*.

As the rendition neared conclusion, the knife, now waving around in the air above the haggis for dramatic effect, jokingly strayed in Keith's direction — a touch too close for his comfort! All done, of course, in good fun and the audience thoroughly enjoyed it.

Keith and Deirdre had organized the demo programme and the dancing began. Despite a 'cozy' dance floor area (a perfect opportunity to practise control of step length), our dances went really well. Only one minor hiccup — let's put it down to a mismatch between our laptop and the sound system — the dance came to an end, the music didn't. It happily continued for a while. We had a great audience and no one seemed to mind at all. Not only were they enthusiastic and happy to watch us perform, they were also happy when it came to the audience participation part of our program. They eagerly came on the dance floor and, despite lack of space (or perhaps because of it), everyone had great fun.

The afternoon ended with refreshments. The *pièce de résistance* was a large sponge cake decorated in blue and white icing to portray the Saltire flag of Scotland. An impressive tasty treat.

This event was another success in our busy Burns demo season, and we left feeling satisfied we'd given a lot of pleasure to a lot of people.

...Sheena Gilks



Joe Shortt

*Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a Haggis!*

A SCARBOROUGH BURNS NIGHT TRADITION

The Scarborough Scottish Country Dancers, who meet at Westview Presbyterian Church on Monday evenings, maintained their traditional Burns celebration with a haggis, and an address thereto.

