



# Heston Bletter

www.hestonscottish.co.uk

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## A.G.M.

## CHRISTMAS CEILIDH

We would urge as many members as possible to attend the A.G.M. this year. As the enclosed letter from our President explains there are significant issues affecting the Association for which we need the members input. If you are unable to get along to the meeting please speak to Derek or Rosemary with your views and any ideas you may have about the future of the Club and we will make sure that they are included in any discussions. You can also send us an email via the Association's website.

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### [SIGN UP LISTS](#)

As a number of events have been poorly attended we are now putting up a list for each event on the notice board in the Church Hall and would ask members to put their names down if they are attending. If we do not have enough names on the list for any given event by the week before we will, regrettably, have to cancel it. If you do not get along to the club night, please let Derek, Rosemary or any of the other committee members know that you wish to come along and we will add you to the list.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the Ceilidh is on 16th April. Some syllabuses show the wrong date.

19th March	AGM/Social
16th April	Ceilidh
21st May	Spring Dance* (Church Hall)
25th June	Closing Social
24th Sept.	Ceilidh Dance
29th Oct.	Hallowe'en
10th Dec.	Ceilidh
31st Dec.	Hogmanay

Club Night Thurs. 6th Jan. 2011 - 14th April inc. & 5th May - 21st July inc. 8.15 - 10.15pm



Our Christmas Ceilidh this year was at risk of cancellation due to the inclement weather. However, the snow abated long enough for 32 members and friends to get together for an evening of our traditional blend of home grown entertainment and easy (and some more challenging) dances.

Niall and Derek, in their stage persona of the East Coast Lads, gave us 2 songs, James Hill played excellently on the keyboard and Rosemary gave us some Christmas carols on the flute.



Later in the evening Derek treated us to a recitation of part of the Christmas story in the Doric and we were all kept busy in between dances and entertainment, wracking our brains to solve a Christmas Carol Wall quiz and buying raffle tickets from Margaret to swell the coffers of the association.

Barbara and her helpers produced their usual excellent buffet supper and, at the end of the evening we all went our separate ways with calls of a Happy Christmas and Guid New Year. Everyone agreeing that we had had another very successful event, and that there is no better way to spend an evening than among dear, good friends.

## MOVING DAY

As most of you know, Niall, Vera and I moved from Ashford to Gomshall right at the beginning of the snowy weather. Our move began at 8.30am on Friday 3rd December and we finally completed the move at 7.30pm on Sunday 5th December. During our first week in our new home we had power and water cuts. Our experiences moved me to put pen to paper and the following is the result:

You wake up bright and early  
on your moving day.  
Look out through the window  
at a sky of slatey grey.  
Outside the snow is falling,  
it's halfway up the door.  
Inside is full of boxes  
from the ceiling to the floor.  
Your home is packed and ready  
just waiting for the off.  
The removal van is snowbound -  
do you cry or shrug it off.

At last the lorries turn up  
We start to load our gear  
but there's not quite room for everything  
the vans are full oh dear!  
My lovely neighbour, Caroline,  
in one last friendly act,  
agrees to keep the garden stuff,  
'til we can all get back.  
We promise that we'll get it  
within a week at best,  
but the weather causes chaos  
and all our plans go West.

We arrive in lovely Gomshall.  
It's like a Christmas card.  
But the snow and ice make moving  
very, very hard.  
The men are slipping sideways  
with boxes, bags and chairs,  
It's getting dark, we're getting cold  
We're nearly in despair.  
Despite heroic efforts  
We just don't have a way,  
to unload the second lorry  
We'll be back another day.

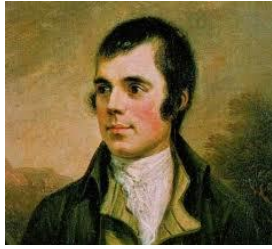
When the men have left us  
we look around and sigh,  
We've no bed, no sheets no furniture  
but still we do not cry.  
We'll have to make the best of it,  
let's see what we can do  
To make a bed with curtains  
and rugs, I'm game, are you?  
We hadn't quite expected  
our first night in our new pad  
to be such an adventure,  
but it's really not that bad.

A new day dawns with sunshine  
glinting off the snow.  
Time to clear the driveway  
hope removal men will show.  
They can't get back 'till Sunday,  
but bless kind neighbours new,  
they rally round and help us  
with quilts, and tasty stew.  
At last on Sunday morning  
our errant van appears.  
and very soon we have our stuff  
with only a few tears.

But still it isn't over,  
We have to start again.  
Now it's time to move our Vera,  
Before we go insane.  
In time the van's are loaded  
with furniture and more  
the car is crammed with people  
and a snake upon the floor.  
The dog is in the backseat  
there's just room please don't flap.  
You think you have a problem  
I've a snake upon my lap!

Eventually we're settling  
into our lovely home.  
We're emptying our boxes  
We've installed the garden gnome.  
We've just about decided  
that this moving is a lark  
When suddenly the power goes -  
We're plunged into the dark.  
Oh well, one more adventure,  
find the candles and a flame,  
It's just another normal day  
in our Gomshall, country hame!

## BURNS SUPPER



Elaine Davies treated us to some extremely graceful Highland Dancing, always a real pleasure to watch, and Derek Darnell gave us a wonderful recitation of To a Mouse, including a brilliantly evocative introduction which all but had the entire company in tears before he even started on the poem!

Our Burns Supper this year was attended by a somewhat smaller, but just as select, group of members and friends.

65 of us sat down to a wonderful supper of Cock-a-Leekie Soup; Haggis, Neeps and Tatties; Roast Beef and all the trimmings followed by Strawberry Meringue Roulade and coffee.

After the soup course the haggis was processed around the room with all ceremony and Addressed by Niall with great enthusiasm and theatrical flair.

After the meal we were treated to some excellent speeches:

Andrea Cameron gave a very good Immortal Memory, managing to give us lots of facts and dates while still making her toast extremely interesting.

Robbie Smith gave an extremely brave Toast to the Lassies which was ably fielded by Vera Mitchell - I think the battle of the sexes ended in a draw!

In a slight departure from our normal guest spot, Alan Walter replied on behalf of Joan Birrell, our principal guest representing the Association, past to an excellent debut Toast to the Guests given by Andrew MacDonald-Foster. The first time of public speaking is always a nerve wracking experience and Andrew is to be congratulated on his good delivery and calm manner.

As well as the speeches we were entertained during the evening by a variety of performers.

Sheila Underwood led the singing of the Star of Robbie Burns and also gave us 2 other songs - Ca' the Yowes and John Anderson my Jo.



Piping was provided by Johnnie Haynes as our honorary piper Alex had been under the weather and was still a bit lacking in puff.

As this was our 50th Burns Supper we had also brought out the Burns Memorabilia display and guests could browse a facsimile copy of the Kilmarnock Edition of Burns poems, a copy of a manuscript of Holy Willie's Prayer and other items connected with Burns including a wee moose, a red rose, Burns penny and more.



After the speeches and other entertainment we still had time to get on the floor and work off some of the food with a few dances before it was time to join hands and sing the international song of parting made famous by Burns - Auld Lang Syne.