



Report to Guildry & Mortifications Funds Sub-Committee 01/03/2017

Since this committee last met we have not had any cause to request any item of 'major' expenditure.

I remain enthusiastic about the suggestion of a permanent feature to recognise the Burgesses of our City. As reported earlier, this could perhaps be an ornament or plaque in the form of an interpretive panel made of granite in the area of the Robert The Bruce statue at Marischal College, the purpose would be to explain the significance of this statue and the connection between Bruce and the City of Aberdeen and also the Burgesses of the City. I think now that this project should be planned for 2019 when the Burgesses together with fellow citizens will undoubtedly wish to celebrate the granting of the Freedom Lands by King Robert the Bruce to the Burgesses.

A major initiative this year is the relaunch of the 'Burgess Awards' which is a project in partnership with Aberdeen City Council. Local educationalists and leading Councillors have been invited to the launch event to be held in the St. Nicholas Room on 6th March. The Awards guidelines allow for grants of up to £10,000 (on average, individual grants will not exceed £2,000) to support anyone resident in Aberdeen who wishes to further their scope of education or chosen career and who may be a person fit to be appointed as a Burgess in due course.

We have successfully continued with our programme of monthly lunches under the recurring theme of "A day in the life of" and have heard from Poppy Scotland, Scottish Forestry and Aberdeen Inspired. The forthcoming attractions include a local Sherriff, Scots Language, Aberdeen Harbour and Lithuania and Poland.

Our evening events have included our annual quiz, an evening at HMT and as I prepare this I am looking forward to our 'special date' on 27th February when Burgesses and friends will have the pleasure of being entertained by the world-renowned composer and Burgess, Professor Paul Mealor who will be accompanied by Friends.

Looking ahead, we hope to hear Speakers from both Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and, in September we will be privileged to see the play 'Giacamo & Glover' written by local Playwright and Burgess, Mike Gibb.

Finally, there has been no movement in respect of a revised Constitution. OSCR is a stubborn body, we have difficulty in understanding and agreeing their stance, for the time being therefore it is a 'stand-off'.

Colin G. Taylor

Lord Dean of Guild of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen