
2018



Much of the year was spent planning and preparing for another performance trip to France.

This involved considerable fundraising to subsidise member participation. We had built up some funds in the previous two years and we were very fortunate to receive funding from the LMM Enterprise Trust. This, along with additional fundraising through Saturday performances, allowed the band to reduce the cost of trip participation to

£250 per person. Unlike the trip in 2014, we decided to reduce the journey time by using the Hull-Zeebrugge ferry. The ferry journey was a very pleasant and enjoyable addition to the trip. The band performed in Dehaan, Belgium and in



the Jardin de Luxembourg in Central Paris. The weather was gorgeous and the audience was very receptive in both venues. We stayed in a hotel close to Disneyland Paris and this meant that our members could once again enjoy the



Theme Park. Other highlights of the experience was a group meal at Planet Hollywood and sightseeing in Paris (Champs Elysees, Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame cathedral).



Our band funds were greatly depleted after our trip to France, so we were delighted that we were donated a signed and framed Celtic Invincibles top by David Macdonald. As a result of a hard sell raffle ticket strategy, the band was able to make over £1,000.

The band continued their usual busy summer schedule. Additional



performances in May included the unveiling of the Model T Ford bronze statue in Cameron Square and the band also played

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In the final summer parade, the band said farewell to two long-standing members, Megan Campbell and Amber MacDonald. This

brought our piping core down to 8 pipers, largely made up of S5 and S6 pupils. The band continue to offer extra-curricular opportunities on Mondays and Wednesdays to budding performers and hopefully in due course, more members will come through to join the piping corps.

As always, Remembrance Sunday and the school concert preceding it on the Friday, remain our most important fixture in the calendar. This year the



event had more poignancy due to the 100 year commemoration of the ending of

the First World War. In the last few years the band has played suitable music while the wreath laying takes place. This is a positive addition to a respectful and solemn ceremony. This year, Ben played the solo, Flowers of the Forest at The Fort William parade and Katie did the same at the Spean Bridge Monument. Both performances were a credit to the band.



Patrick Turner was a worthy recipient of the Commando Veterans Award and received his certificate and shield at the Friday afternoon concert.

Our drumming instructor, Carolyn Groat returned to teach in Lochaber High School in September 2018. This greatly helps the development of a drumming Corps as there are now more opportunities for tuition.

Sadly, there was no Christmas concert, either in the LHS or the Nevis Centre, so the band only got the opportunity to don their traditional festive lights at practices and individual events. In addition to helping finance the French trip, the LMM Enterprise Trust also funded the purchase of B flat chanter. This will be useful for those times when the band play with other instruments.

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