



2014 proved to be one of the busiest in the band's history. It was also the first time since the 1990s that the band ventured abroad, travelling to perform at Disneyland Paris.

The band committee were keen to provide positive music experiences for its members and responded to a Disneyland request for Scottish Pipe Bands to perform. After a successful audition process, the band went into full fund raising mode. The band set up a



Just Giving Account, a Mydonate account with BT and now has gift aid status. We were fortunate to have a number of parents and supporters raise money in a variety of ways. Special mention goes to Isobel

MacPhee who raised £600 by holding raffles and baking stalls. David MacDonald raised £242 from a sponsored run and Karen Currie raised £304.55 by holding tombola stalls. In addition, groups of parents and members rose in excess of £4000



through a bag-packing weekend at Morrison's Supermarket, Fort William, baking stalls and

coffee mornings. We again benefited from the collection can at the Sweetness Shop to the tune of £135. This fantastic effort by all concerned, combined with the usual fund raising street performances, meant that the individual cost to band members was substantially reduced to ensure that money was not a factor determining participation.

All the fund-raising and organisational efforts that go into a foreign trip certainly paid off. The trip was a fantastic and rewarding experience for all concerned. The band performed a 30-minute programme at Disney's Performing Arts Stage and followed this up by being the sole group performing at Disney's early evening pre parade. This was definitely the highlight of the trip, at

least in terms of the performance. The band followed the parade route playing some rousing traditional marches. It was a local French holiday and the audience was at least 5 rows deep and it was clearly the biggest audience that they had performed to. With the backdrop of the Disney castle and characters, it was at times a surreal and exhilarating experience. The band had travelled by bus overnight and arrived at the resort in the early afternoon. While Paris city centre was nearly 30 miles away we wanted to

take the opportunity to do some sight seeing. Using the train and metro we were able to



do a whistle stop tour of the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Elysees, Notre Dame and Sacre Coeur. Parents were kept abreast of our movements via twitter and a trip video was uploaded to YouTube on our return. Members had a two-day pass for the attractions and having accommodation on site meant that they were able to make full use of them to go on the rides and see the evening fireworks. All



participants purchased a commemorative pipe band hoodie for the trip.

2014 certainly had an international feel about it and this continued in the summer with the band performing alongside bands from Belgium and Canada. On the evening of the 8th August, the Flemish Caledonian Pipe Band (FCPB) performed at the Ben



Nevis Distillery. After playing individual sets the bands finished off by playing together and with the Cameron brothers from Roybridge. The Belgian Pipe Band had earlier performed in Fort William's

High Street and at Cameron Square. One of the players of the FCPB performed a dance as a mark of respect to the Scottish soldiers that liberated Belgium from Nazi occupation.

On the 14th August, the Ben Nevis Pipe Band from Alberta, Canada who were in Scotland for the World Pipe Band Championship, travelled from their base



in Glasgow to Fort William. They had requested the previous summer to join with us at one of our parades. The weather could have been more favourable but spirits were nevertheless high and the evening proved to be a great night. It was a great experience for our members to play as part of a bigger group of pipers and drummers.

Earlier in the season, a group of teachers from Delhi, India stopped on their way to Loch Ness to listen and have photos taken with the band. Earlier that day the band had performed at 10 under the Ben



and at the Sailor's Society Three Peaks Challenge events so it proved to be a very eventful day!

In March, a mini band braved difficult winter conditions to perform with the internationally recognised multi instrumentalist, Fred Morrison at the



Glengarry Centre. This proved an inspiring event for all concerned.

The band continued to play at a number of community events. They took their turn at playing at the Scottish Six Day Trials Parade in May, the Lochaber Hope Parade in April and at the Commando Commemorative Trail unveiling in August.



In November, pipers from the band also performed at a civic reception hosted by Tricia Marwick, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, as part of their Parliament Day in Lochaber. When combined with our usual performances at the Pre-65s Motorbike Trials, Arisaig Games, Mallaig and Morar Games and the Lochaber Agricultural Show it can certainly be said that it was one of our busiest seasons!



CM
Dec 2014