



Our performance season started, as it usually does, with the Pre-65s in Kinlochleven.

This year their special guest and participant was Guy Martin. This attracted a much bigger audience than usual.

Guy was happy to pose with the band quartet on the Friday and the full band on the Saturday. The event, like the





SSDT event the following week, has a real international appeal. There are also a number of people who return year after year and it is always very satisfying when they comment how they look forward to seeing the youngsters in the band and that they are a key feature in their enjoyment of the event. They repeatedly comment on their professionalism as well as their musicianship.

The band performed at two additional primary events this year. They



performed at the newly opened Lundavra Primary's summer fete and also at Inverloch Primary School's summer fayre.

At the Inverloch event, we had two new tenor drummers performing for the first time, Emma Campbell and Jac Currie.

The band have a particular need to boost the drumming section as all bar one of the drumming corps are in S5 or S6.

Thankfully the band successful applied to the Helen & SJ MacGregor Bequest Fund and received a grant of £10,000 towards its Drumming Initiative. The band was able to purchase new drumming equipment that included smaller snare drums so that we could recruit from a younger age group. In September, new drumming classes were started in Lochaber High School targeting mainly S1 pupils and have proved popular so hopefully we will see more members coming through next season. This generous grant, along with additional funds raised by the band, enabled the purchase of 8 snare drums, 4 junior snare drums, 6 new tenor drums, 2 bass drums including hard cases, soft cases and harnesses or slings for all drums. In addition, 4 pairs of bass

beaters, 20 pairs of tenor beaters, 30 pairs of snare sticks and 20 new practice pads were also purchased.

A complete set of drums with new cases and harnesses meant that we were able to donate our old drums to a new young pipe band on the Island of Mull. They had previously borrowed our drums to take part in a competition so they were delighted to take ownership of these drums. They in turn were very kind in giving the band a donation of £500.

2016 saw the return of a Drum Major to our ranks. We were delighted to see Alice Campbell, an S1 pupil, enthusiastically take on this role.



2016 also saw the return of the Sailors Society's Three Peaks Challenge.



Yet again, they got glorious weather alas, the same could not be said for Arisaig Games which was wet for most of the day and the Mallaig and Morar Games which was cancelled due to forecasted severe weather. Other notable events that we participated in were a Lochaber High School fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis which raised over £2000, an inaugural Christmas Concert in the Nevis Centre with a strong Lochaber feel and a miniband that lead a Volunteers Parade through the High Street to raise awareness of the voluntary sector in Lochaber.

Our end of season parade saw us bid farewell to snare drummers Ryan Davies and Margaret Jane Malcolm and in September Claire MacLellan departed from our piping corps. It is always sad

to say goodbye to members that have been with us for sometime.



Sean MacDonald was this year's recipient of the Commando Award at the annual veterans concert in November and the year was rounded off with an entertaining performance of 'Wake Me Up' at Lochaber High School's Christmas Concert.