

Minutes, AGM 2016
Scottish Swedish Society
30 April 2016 at 11 am
Society of Musicians, 3 Belford Road, Edinburgh

- 1. Welcome by the Chairperson, Gunilla Hampson and Carina Dahlström Mair**
- 2. Present** Gunilla Hampson, Carina Dahlstrom Mair, Kerstin Phillips, David Sugden, Britta Sugden, Nicholas Hampson, David Stewart, Elisabet Stewart, John Phillips, Arthur Lightfoot, Stephen Hampson, Madeleine Sjobstrand, Rosemary Sutcliffe, Michael Sutcliffe, Kerstin Grant, Berit Owen, Kristel Torokoff, Lina Weckner, Helena Lindholm and one other whose name cannot be read.
- 3. Apologies:** Harris Keillar, Heléne Nordberg, Kerstin Keillar, Ulla Hipkins, Jeanette de Geer Nairn, Caroline Dow
- 4. Minutes of AGM 2015** had been sent to all members before the AGM and were accepted.

Chairs' address Gunilla Hampson, Carina Dahlstrom

There have been two general issues that the Committee has addressed this year.

We had noted that our expences had outstripped our income for some time. We have some unavoidable expenses such the Website fee and essential insurance. Our main income is the membership subscription / fees.

We therefore decided to have a membership subscription drive in October 2015. We sent out letters to a number of members who had paid fairly recently but not in the last year, in the hope that they would wish to renew their membership. This received a good response. We also had a membership desk at Lucia to encourage new members to join.

Paying by PayPal has proved difficult at times and alternative methods have been advertised.

All in all this has improved our financial situation.

The other issue that the Committee has addressed is the Website which is related to the first issue in that it is too expensive for a society of our size and income.

It is also quite complex and we have had difficulties using parts of it. Committee members and in particular Lina Weckner are currently working on a replacement.

During the year our Treasurer Lena Phalén resigned from the Committee due to the workload during her final year at University. We wish to thank her for her contribution. Stephen Hampson was co -opted as Treasurer in her place.

5. And now on to the activities of the year.....

Events organised by the committee during the year

Scandinavian Ceilidh, Lena Phalén.

On 9 May 2015 the Scottish Swedish Society and Danish Scottish Society organised a ceilidh for Scandinavians and friends at the popular venue Lauriston Hall in Edinburgh. Around 90 people danced the night away to Scottish traditional tunes, skilfully performed on accordion, bodhran and fiddle by the ceilidh band the Flaming Heather. The dancers were guided in their steps by the experienced caller Ken Gourlay.

This was the first ceilidh that the two societies organised together. The feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Hopefully we will see more joint events by the societies in the future!

Midsummer. Gunilla: *Again this year Malin and Richard Nairn kindly offered their castle for our celebration of Midsummer.*

The weather had been unsettled and we were a bit worried that it might be cold and windy. However, we were lucky as it turned out to be quite a pleasant afternoon.

The turn out was good, although not quite as many came as last year when we had really glorious weather. A total of about 40 adults and children danced “ små grodorna” and “björnen sover”, along with some other well loved games around the beautifully decorated “majstång”. Afterwards we settled down to picnics and the barbecue.

Like last year, Richard showed us round the castle, an impressive restoration project. We are very grateful to him and Malin for letting us, once again, use this lovely venue for our celebrations.

Ärtsoppa och Pankakor at Joseph Pearce. Hélène: *This was held on 11 October 2015 at Joseph Pearce. There were fewer people than in previous years and we all could sit round one of the tables which was appreciated. However, the room was quite noisy and we thought that the cost of £22 was too high for the pea soup , two pieces of pancakes each and coffee.*

It was suggested that we should try to make it cheaper next year and organise it ourselves, buying tinned pea soup at IKEA. A number of those booking will contribute with home made pancakes the way we used to do in the past. We would buy in some wine.

Carina’s home made haggis was much appreciated and we hope he/she will appear again next year to be stabbed yet another time.

! Pub evening, Lina organised pub evenings last October and November at Akva where a small group joined her.

! Lucia event. *Appendix A*

! Bellman and Burns, Carina:

This was held on 7th February at Bistro Marlayne was not as well attended as last year. The meal was fine with vegetarian options and we had an enjoyable evening. The venue is quiet and has friendly service. The space is “roomy” and can accommodate bigger groups without being impersonal. We are allowed to sing and make some “noise” if we make it clear in advance when booking. The café was happy to turn down the ambient music.

Events organised for us:

- A Pyssel event with parents and children was held before Christmas at Niddrie Castle, the home of Malin and Richard Nairn and was much enjoyed by both children and adults who were there. The songs for the Lucia procession were rehearsed round the piano after the pepparkakor had been baked.
- The Swedish church in London organised two Swedish church services , lunches and afternoon fika at Hemma and Joseph Pearce paid for by the Swedish Benevolent Trust for which we are very grateful. Anna Christopherson plays an important part in the success of the lunches.

Ongoing activities

- The Swedish School is led by Heléne Nordberg. Appendix B
- The Newsletter.
 - *Newsletters written and produced by Carina Dahlström Mair for which we are very grateful. They have become more colourful as well as filled with more material over the time with her as Editor.*
 - *The committee have discussed the cost of producing paper copies: Arthur posts about 40 paper copies, each costing £1.10 - £1.20, three or four times annually. About a dozen organisations get free copies and could receive them by email. A number of individuals asked in 2008 to receive paper copies. Most of these have not paid their membership fees. Stephen has contacted all these individuals and asked those who are members whether they still would be unable to receive the Newsletter as emails. The members who do not have email or find it too difficult to read it will still receive paper copies. Carina is willing to continue as Newsletter editor but she really wants contributions from members and pictures are welcome. People might, for example, write about the experience of moving from Sweden to Scotland or in the other direction.*
- Information is added regularly onto Facebook by Harris.
- Syjuntan meets regularly every month. The group meet at 7.30pm in the homes of various members and speak Swedish while knitting, crocheting, embroidering or learning new skills. Joint transport is arranged.
 - Coffee mornings take place in the homes of members every month between 10.30 and noon. Gunilla has invited the group for lunch in Kilmacolm followed by a visit the nearby Weaver's cottage and museum next week
 - There are three book reading groups that read Swedish authors:
 1. Classical Swedish books in Swedish coordinated by Christina Coltart *We meet every on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm. As classical books are difficult to get hold of and we have read a large number of them, we now read Swedish paper backs. We talk about the book of the month to start off with. This usually leads to other topics, which may or may not have anything to do with the book in question!. I think we all enjoy the opportunity to practice our Swedish. Somebody always has some news from or about Sweden. And, of course, we drink coffee and eat something nice, maybe a biscuit, maybe a slice of cake. We are fortunate enough to have several very good bakers in our midst.*

2. Modern Swedish books in Swedish coordinated by Kerstin Phillips *We meet monthly in somebody's house at 7.30pm. Once a year we decide which books we would like to read and vote on the suggestions. We have read some excellent books that we all liked but there have also been books that none of us appreciated and that can lead to interesting discussions. We read books that we hope will give us some insight into current issues and current language use in Sweden.*

3. Swedish books in English translation coordinated by Britta Sugden. This group is a mixture of Swedish speakers and those who would like to read books by Swedish authors but prefer to read them in translation. They also meet monthly in the afternoon or evening.

6. Secretary's Report by Kerstin

- ! There are minutes taken at of the committee meetings and distributed as well as at the AGM.
- ! A regular trickle emails are received on the SSS email address. Individuals ask advice about moving here, accommodation, jobs, schooling and how to make contact with Swedes here. A variety of organisations ask us to advertise events or services such as choirs visiting Edinburgh. I respond to all, sometimes referring people on to more suitable websites for information.
- ! Booking venue and liaising with the Swedish Church in London for the Lucia event, booking the organist, maintaining check lists and writing letters can take quite a lot of time.
- ! Events are added to the Event file on the website both about those originating by the committee and members as well as other events initiated by other organisations such as the Swedish church in London, visiting choir concerts etc which might be of interest to members. Emails are sent out with this information as well as reminders of events.

People have to actively stop their contact address being available to members on the website by informing the secretary. In the future they will be open to those who are members.

7. Treasurer's Report by Stephen and Appointment of examiner of next year's .

- ! Payments to SSS can be made by Standing orders, cheque or paying directly into out bank account as well as PayPal. *Payments can be made via Handelsbanken 405162 – 86776092 with an email informing the treasurer.*

*See Appendix C or Treasurer's report
Appendix D for Financial Report*

John Phillips was thanked for his work and was reappointed Examiner of accounts for next year.

Membership fees for 2016/2017 remain as in previous years

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| a. Single adult | £8.50 |
| b. Families and couples | £15 |
| c. Concession couples | £12 |
| d. Concession single | £8.50 |

- e. Students and children free
- f. Lifetime member, 15x the fee of the rate the person would otherwise pay

The fee structure will be revised at the next AGM.

8. Election of Council.

Current council members:

Gunilla Hampson
 Stephen Hampson, co-opted as Treasurer
 Kerstin Phillips
 Harris Keillar
 Arthur Lightfoot
 Lena Phalén who had to step down last summer due to work.
 Heléne Nordberg who will be stepping down
 Carina Dahlström-Mair who will be stepping down
 Lina Weckner

We thanked the council members who have contributed significantly over the years. Unfortunately there were no new offers from members wanting to join the committee. We really do need more members. We meet four times annually and it can be done through telephone conferencing.

Office bearers will be elected at the first meeting of the Committee.

9. Upcoming events already booked

Midsummer on Sunday 26 June at Niddrie Castle, Edinburgh

Lucia on Sunday 11 December at Marchmont St Giles church in Edinburgh

10. Reflections on the Society's activities and suggestions for future programme.

More evening talks were asked for after the enjoyable presentations by Daiv Sugden and Bruce Mair a few years ago. We would like to organise the Pea soup event ourselves so that the cost can be kept low and the ambient noise was lower. Britta Sugden offered to provide the pea soup and various members could make the pancakes beforehand.

We then had an unexpected and lovely piano recital by the professional musician Madeleine Louise Sjöstrand who has recently moved to Edinburgh and joined SSS. She played on one of the Steinway grand pianos in front of the windows overlooking the glen, far below. She started by playing Swedish folk music and Evert Taube and effortlessly sliding into playing Scottish tunes. This superb performance was greatly appreciated.

After the music we retreated to the kitchen and had a lovely lunch.

Appendix A Lucia 2015

This year our Lucia celebrations were held on 6 December at Marchmont St Giles Church in Edinburgh.

The Lucia procession was organised by Malin Hesselors Nairn who had rehearsed all the traditional songs with the children. As always this was a delightful and moving occasion.

Kristina Andreasson, Chaplain from the Swedish Church in London, conducted the Advent service. She had held a Swedish service in Dublin. This weekend was very stormy and her flight had been cancelled. Very fortunately the weather improved slightly and another flight was available later so she just made it to our service. We are very grateful to Kristina for battling on and for giving us such a lovely service. Our committee members Carina, Arthur and Harris contributed by reading Bible texts in Swedish, Scots and English.

After the service the children from the Swedish School sang for us, having been rehearsed and led by Heléne and Sandra. A charming ending.

Then it was time for fika in the hall. There were cakes and coffee for the adults and hot dogs for the children. They also had a 'fiskdamm'. Many had helped out by setting the tables in the hall or working in the kitchen before the Lucia procession. Others had generously donated home baked lussekatter and cakes.

This year we have been holding a membership drive and there was an opportunity to join the Society. Kristina also kindly signed Levnadsintyg for those of us who need them.

All in all it was a most successful event. As we know, there is a lot of work involved in arranging something like this and many people contributed in all sorts of ways. A very special thank you, however, goes to Kerstin who, for the third year running, masterminded the whole afternoon.

Gunilla

Appendix B Rapport från Svenska Skolföreningen 2016

Skolföreningen i Skottland bildades 2010 på initiativ av Heléne Nordberg och Håkan Arnlund. Vid starten blev 9 elever undervisade. 2011 fick föreningen ekonomiskt stöd av Skolverket i Sverige och blev då accepterad som en utlandssvensk skola. Under åren som gått sedan dess har antalet elever stadigt ökat. Idag är 40 elever inskrivna i åldrarna 6 år till 16 år. Eleverna är fördelade på 4 olika grupper. Dels de elever som inte kan så mycket svenska och de andra eleverna är uppdelade efter ålder och kunskap. Vi ser till vår stora glädje att det finns ett växande intresse för denna typ av verksamhet, då vi redan nu har en kölista för barn som ännu inte uppfyller ålderskravet. Ett annat krav för att få undervisning av Skolföreningen är att en av föräldrarna är svensk medborgare. Det berättigar dig till en plats i en av grupperna.

Grupperna träffas varannan söndag i Parish Wardie church där vi har helt vanlig språkundervisning. Vi gör olika typer av utflykter. Till exempel för två år sedan var den äldre gruppen i London och besökte Svenska skolan i London. Ett år var en annan grupp nere i York och besökte Vikingamuseet. Detta efter att vi hade arbetat mycket med allas vårt ursprung.

Vi har två undervisande lärare Heléne Nordberg och Sandra Svanström. Vi använder så klart svenskt undervisningsmateriel och det som är aktuellt nu är böcker från Liber utbildning. Eleverna får ganska mycket läxa, då det går långt tid mellan undervisningstillfällena. Till hösten ska en bokklubb starta för de elever som är 9-12 år.

Styrelsen för Skolföreningen träffas varannan månad. Styrelsen består av 7 medlemmar och Erika Boström fungerar just nu som vår ordförande. Vi har årsmöte den 11 juni 2016 och då ska en ny ordförande väljas. Kassör i föreningen är Linn Elder.

Heléne Nordberg

Appendix C

Treasurer's Report for the year 2015-16

I am grateful to Lena Phalén who served as Treasurer for the first half of the year and to John Phillips who again examined and certified our accounts.

The year 2015-16 saw the Society achieve a surplus of £725 and we ended the year with assets of £3,330. The recorded surplus flatters the underlying position as some expenditures in the previous year (2014-15) yielded income in the next. Nevertheless the improvement in our financial position is very welcome after deficits in the two preceding years of £960 and £230. I hope the Society is now on a sustainable path.

A number of challenges remain and need to be addressed. Chief amongst these is the need to improve our collection of subscriptions due, and to this end we will be approaching members and encouraging the use of Standing Order payments. We also need to re-consider our website arrangements, not least as our present supplier is raising the price, which is already substantial, by 40% in early 2017. Lina Weckner is very kindly exploring the possibilities.