

BURN'S SUPPER REMINDER

Have you booked your tickets yet?

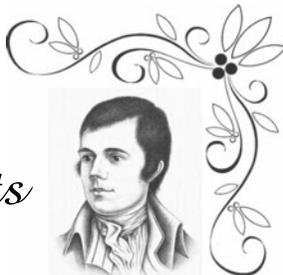
Secretary of State for Scotland Alistair Carmichael MP for Orkney and Shetland will be our guest of honour. The supper will be a traditional Burns Night event, attended by members and supporters from across the Highlands. There will be the raffle on the night, for which donation would be welcome.

For tickets or further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office on 01463 711280.

Friday 7th February 2014, 7.30pm-11pm

*Highland Liberal Democrats
Burns Supper*

Palace Hotel, Ness Walk, Inverness
£25 per person.



Robert Burns
1759-1796

GOODBYE TO KAREN FRASER

This January we say good bye to Karen after 5 years working for the party, latterly as Head of Office for Danny Alexander MP. A graduate of Aberdeen University, Karen first volunteered with the Liberal Democrats in the Gordon Constituency Office. After University she came home to Inverness where she became a receptionist in the Palace Hotel.

Karen first helped Inverness Lib Dems during Craig Harrow's 2007 Scottish election campaign. From 2009 she was a secretary with the party, dividing her time between Inverness and Ross-shire. Following staff changes two years ago she was appointed to head up Danny's staff team.

Karen has shared in developing staff. She has coordinated the work of the office, worked with the local party and handled a myriad of issues for constituents.

She moves on to work for Alzheimers Scotland as Deputy Regional Manager covering the Highlands, Western Isles and Orkney. She looks forward to both developing the post from her new office in Dingwall and to contact with volunteers across the region. A west coast 'teuchter', she and Gavin Steel are to marry in Gairloch in May.

Danny, very grateful for all Karen hard work, wishes her the best for the future.

Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey

January
2014

NEWSLETTER Edited by John Melling

HIGHLAND CAMPAIGNER TO STAND IN SKYE, LOCHABER & BADENOCH FOR SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

Highland Liberal Democrats have welcomed Cllr Kate Stephen as their prospective candidate for Skye, Lochaber & Badenoch for the Scottish Parliamentary election in 2016.



As a local councillor, Mrs Stephen has a long record of serving the people of the Highlands. She spent several years working for the UHI Centre for Rural Health, leading an award-winning project tackling issues affecting older people in rural areas.

Danny said: "Kate will be a fantastic MSP for the Highlands. I know that Kate will work for our area, and bring the focus of the Scottish Government back to the issues that matter most, like creating jobs, building homes and investing in our infrastructure locally."

Mrs Stephen commented: "I love the Highlands and value our way of life. It is a huge honour for me to be given the opportunity to represent the constituency where I was born, and where my family come from.

"We need a strong Highland voice speaking up for local people and a Scottish Government that works for us and not just for the SNP's narrow agenda."

Scottish Liberal Democrat Leader Willie Rennie MSP said: "Kate is well placed to win the seat and return it to the Liberal tradition. Kate Stephen, Charles Kennedy and Danny Alexander will make a cracking team for the Highlands.

Danny Alexander would like to wish you a happy new year and thank you for all your help and support through 2013.

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter please contact the Inverness office on 01463 711344.

LOCAL PARTY - CHANGE OF CONVENER

At the AGM of the Local Party Alan Nelson was selected as convener for 2014. He succeeds Cllr Thomas Prag, who in reflective mode, thanked colleagues and staff for their commitment over the year 2013.

Whilst more forms had been returned offering committee service, the places were again filled without an all member election. Miss Mary Dormer continues as treasurer and Stewart Mcfarlane as secretary.

The evening concluded with refreshments while on the side a raffle and a small book stall contributed to funding.



JAPANESE EVENING

Kate Stephens, Lib Dem councillor for Culloden & Ardersier, presented a picture of Japan at a Local Party social held on 8th November at the Olive Grove Cafe, Inverness. Kate had undertaken a six week study tour of Japan, during which she mastered the Japanese alphabet, learnt many phrases, visited shrines, ascended a 10,000ft mountain and assimilated a wide variety of Japanese life and culture.

Following her well organised talk she handled questions and then, looking around, dressed Helen Kell in a Kimono. Members were treated to Sushi at the close.

THE PASSING OF BOB SCOTT



Perthshire Liberal Democrat Robert Scott, who died in the autumn, helped in our constituency during more than six election campaigns. To Perth he was a local councillor, a former provost and at one time a deputy lieutenant. To us he was a friendly supportive co-worker when out canvassing together. In later years Bob brought a team from Perth to work in Badenoch at election time.

A simple service was held on 25th October 2013 in Perth's civic medieval St John's Kirk - where some 500 people from all walks of life gave thanks for a life well lived. John Melling represented the local party.

Key dates for early 2014

Regular events (do come along):

- **Weekly Phone Canvassing** - Every Thursday 5.30-6.30pm at 45 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5HR.
- **Thursday Club** - Most Thursdays from 7pm, tea and biscuits provided. (Please contact Jamie on 01463 711344 for details)

Upcoming events:

- **Friday 7th February 2014 - Burn's Supper.** Please see over leaf.
- **Friday 7th to Sunday 9th March - Spring Federal Conference, York.** Non-voting members may attend - please contact the office.
- **Friday 28th to 30th March - Scottish Party Conference, Aberdeen.** All members are welcome and are entitled to vote. Please call the Scottish Liberal Democrats, 4 Clifton Terrace, Edinburgh on 0131 337 2314.

Later events:

- **Summer games and shows including MFR's Car Boot Sale .**
- **Russell Johnston 50th Anniversary of election to parliament.**

NEW YEAR BRINGS A NEW FACE TO THE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

Graeme Littlejohn, former Director of Communications for the Scottish Party, joins us as Head of Office. Graeme, an intern for Danny and the local party back in 2007, has just returned from a year setting up an education charity in Uganda.

Graeme, glad to be part of the team, said: "I'd like to wish Karen well in her new job. She has worked so hard for Danny and the local party the last five years.



"I'm delighted to be back in Inverness during an exciting time in politics. We have lots of work to do in the months ahead, through the European elections and Referendum, to ensure we are in the best possible shape to fight a winning general election campaign next year.

"I look forward to catching up with old friends, helping you out on the doorsteps