



MID-SUSSEX CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Web site: <https://midsussexcaledoniansociety.org.uk>

NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2026

Dear Member(s)

It is nice to be able to report some good news – namely that the Mid-Sussex Caledonian Society will continue into its second century, albeit in a different form, adapting to the changing demands of modern life.

As you know, the main topic for discussion at the recent AGM was the future of the Society and below I am including a summary of the relevant sections of the minutes of the AGM so that you are all aware of what was decided.

But first a letter from the President



Reaching our Centenary is a tremendous achievement for the Society and I look forward to seeing most of you at our celebration event on the 15th August.

Having come to the end of my term in office I shall be standing down as President in September. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve the Society for the past few years, and I wish the new committee every success in the future.

With so much competition from radio, TV and social media the society must adapt to meet the changing needs of its members, but some things don't change. Face to face social contact with friends and like-minded people is still important for our enjoyment and mental health so long may it continue.

I thank you all for your support and the pleasure of your company and hope this will continue for many years to come.

Iain

Results of the discussion at the 2026 AGM on the future of the Society

"Iain stated that, having first accepted the role of President in 2015, it was now time to retire, and he is standing down as President in September. Other long serving members of the committee Marilyn, Judith, Helen and Jill also wish to stand down to make way for new members.

This seemed to be a good moment to reassess the future of the society at a time when membership of societies such as ours, everywhere, is declining, as is the number of people willing or able to join the committee to organise events.

Paul outlined the three alternatives to be discussed:

1. **Carry on as we are, with a new or slimline committee-** *see previous paragraph*
2. **Scale back and only have a St Andrew's Dinner and a Burns' Night event** – *could involve having a more informal "group of friends" a smaller committee and fewer events, and which would give us more flexibility to meet future needs. Points discussed are documented below in paragraph. "Implications of option 2.*
3. **Close the Society and donate the remaining bank balance to charity.**

After the discussion a vote was taken. **There was unanimous support for option 2.**

Implications of option 2

- **Subscriptions:** we would stop collecting subscriptions.
- **Formal Membership:** It would be better to have a list of 'friends' held centrally identifying each person's communication preference instead.
- **Committee:** It was agreed to have an informal group and Paul, Jo, Andy and Terry have agreed to be part of it together with anyone else who wishes to join
- **President:** Iain is standing down and it was agreed to disband this formal position
- **Banking:** We could keep our current instant savings account to collect and pay for events and donate any agreed amounts to charity. It would continue to earn interest, and accounts would be published annually. However, if for any reason the account was closed it would be difficult to open another one as we would no longer be a formal society or sports and social club
- **Website:** Currently this costs the Society £160 p.a. It was agreed to let it lapse when renewal is due early February 2027
- **Liability Insurance:** This currently costs c.£60 p.a. and our current policy with Zurich lapses in late October. It was agreed not to renew it but we would need to ensure that any venue we used in the future had basic liability for any negligence on their part
- **Miscellaneous:** We would need to decide on the disposal of the Society's inventory items, the chain of office, minute books and other correspondence, dance master succession etc. etc. These decisions would most probably be handled by any incoming new committee
- *In answer to a question about historical Society material, members were assured that David Anderson had already deposited a lot of information in the Chichester Archives and that we had also appealed for more in the last year, in preparation for the Centenary Souvenir booklet. If anyone has anything of interest, they should contact the committee."*

Election of New Committee

Paul then asked for volunteers to join him, Jo, Andy and Terry on the new committee. David Kennedy agreed to join the committee and Marie Fraser agreed to help with any Facebook/social media page. Leila Wilson offered to help in the future when her workload is less onerous. We thanked them all.

FUTURE ACTION FOR MEMBERS

We will no longer be collecting subscriptions so **if you pay by standing order, please cancel this with your bank.**

Apart from this you need take no further action for the moment. The new committee will be meeting after the Centenary Celebrations and will contact you all then.

We are all very happy that the MSCS will continue and that we will keep in contact with the friends we have made through the Society and I am sure that all members will want to wish them well and support them in the future.

I am signing off on my last newsletter, so thank you all for your support over the years and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Best wishes,

Marilyn

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