

A Greek Day in Aberdeen

The organisers of "A Greek Day in Aberdeen" in May 2016 (a joint meeting of the four Scottish Hellenic Societies and the Friends of the British School at Athens) were very grateful for the grant received from the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies. This allowed us to make places available free of charge to full time students for the main meeting on Saturday 7 May and to subsidise particularly local students to attend the social and musical event in the evening. While we had limited success in attracting students to the main meeting, we had a significant number at the evening event. We will be getting representatives of the five societies together to discuss how we can encourage greater participation of students and young people in future events of this kind and indeed, more generally, in the ongoing activities of the societies.

The main meeting on Saturday 7 May attracted some 70 delegates from all over the country who enjoyed a varied programme of talks (as summarised in the attached programme) in the impressive surroundings of the Town and County Hall in the Aberdeen Town House. The evening event had almost as many present, including a number of students, who had the opportunity to meet in less formal surroundings and to hear a very well received concert of Greek music by three talented musicians from Athens. On the Sunday morning, some 40 delegates were privileged to hear Professor Elizabeth Moignard give a fascinating talk on the Greek Vases in the Marischal Museum in Aberdeen; Professor Moignard had written the definitive description of these very fine vases in a volume of the British Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum.

The feedback from the whole weekend has been universally positive and it was another landmark in the continued efforts to encourage co-operation across the five societies. We intend to ensure that this continues and also find ways of attracting even wider participation.

The "A Greek Day in Aberdeen" was worth every drachma of the Society's generous grant. I was privileged to give the first of the four talks, which were very well attended and received. Students particularly enjoyed the social and musical evening that followed the talks. The organisers - and especially Dr Hamish Wilson - are owed a huge vote of thank. Paul Cartledge

