

Former school rector speaks at guild meet

ANN Gray welcomed members to Strathbogie Drumblade Guild and introduced John Swan, former rector at The Gordon Schools.

Mr Swan gave members a most interesting and informative talk on the stained glass window at the school.

The War Memorial Window, designed by J A H Hector and commissioned by D M J James MA, rector at the time of the First World War, was unveiled on August 23, 1921, by former pupil Sir Edward Troup, permanent under-secretary of state at the Home Office.

The window contains the names of 140 ex-pupils and four members of staff who were killed during the conflict. Their names also appear on the war memorial.

Mr James was also responsible for writing the words of The Gordon Schools song.

John chose at random George Emslie Raeburn, one of the names inscribed on the window, and with great enthusiasm and dedication to the task researched Mr Raeburn's life from his birth in Marnoch to his service with the 6th Battalion Gordon Highlanders in the trenches in France.

It was a sad tale with many hardships encountered by all the young men who fought for freedom.

To conclude, Mr Swan played a recording of a spoken version of the school song by Paul Anderson.

To everyone who had sung the school song many times before, it gave a completely new understanding of the poignant words.

Janet Gordon proposed a vote of thanks and members enjoyed a lovely supper.