

Exeter & District Caledonian Society visit Exeter Guildhall

On Saturday 24th April a group of 16 Society members, led by our President, Stewart McKinlay, made a visit to Exeter's historic Guildhall.

The group was welcomed by the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor - Councillor John Winterbottom and his wife, Joëlle.



After coffee in the Lord Mayor's parlour, itself a fine example of 16th century architecture, the group was taken on a visit of this magnificent building, by two of the macebearers.

We were told about the history of the building, a Guildhall has stood on this site since 1160 and the many changes that have been made over the years. A new oak door being installed in 1593 for the princely sum of £4.10.0d.

We had the opportunity to view the ancient regalia and the cabinet containing a spectacular display of civic silverware, before touring the main hall, with its panelled walls incorporating the Coats of Arms of past mayors.

The tour ended with a visit to the cells used until recently as part of the City's Law Courts.



The Society would like to thank the Lord Mayor and staff at the Guildhall, for making it an enjoyable and memorable visit.