

Northampton Town & County Scottish Association

Founded 1920

Centenary Year 2020



NT&CSA NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Member welcome to the first newsletter of 2021 and as always we hope that you are keeping safe within the confines of your “bubble” and that the recent news regarding the lifting of all restrictions from June 21st has provided you with hope and confidence in a return to normality, as well as freedom from self isolation.

Therefore, it was with a mood of new found optimism that the Executive Council met for our first “Zoom” meeting of the New Year on 24th February and we begin our newsletter with the usual update.

Council members were delighted to welcome Mary back in great form following her recent “wee heart attack” on Boxing Day, including a number of days spent in the NGH Cardiology and Heart Centre. Confirmation of Mary’s successful treatment came when she survived the excitement of our Scottish Rugby side giving the English a right good walloping at Twickenham recently!

Well done Mary and congratulations to our lads in blue, a great start to the New Year.

Social Calendar 2021/22 : *unlike last year we are unable to publish a defined social calendar for this year however, given the most recent update on the possible lifting of ALL restrictions from 21 June 2021 it is hoped that we can announce a few impromptu social events to include a members’ lunch as well as revisiting our more familiar events including our AGM. The council agreed to review the situation at the next Council meeting. Watch this space!!*

Continuing on a positive note, we agreed that our Annual St Andrews Day dinner/dance should take precedence and that we should prepare for the eventuality that restrictions will be eased “post” 21 June, sufficient to allow for large social gatherings. To that end we have allocated Saturday 27th November for a special evening and revival of the Scottish Association in this our 101st year.

Although still a long way off, our Burns Night in January 2022 will be given a similar precedence and further details of both events will be communicated to you nearer the time. In the meantime, why not dust off those dancing shoes and place Saturday 27th November into your social diary!

Membership Fees : *On reviewing the annual subscription fee for the year ahead, the Executive Council agreed that the current fee be reduced, in consideration of the lack of activity during the past months. Therefore we are pleased to inform you that subscriptions for 2021/22 is £5.00, reflecting a 50% reduction on the previous year. The closing date for renewing subscriptions will be **March 31st** and a separate reminder will be sent out in due course. Whilst the past few months have restricted any social activity, we remain positive that our Association will thrive once more following the easing and eventual lifting of restrictions. As a member we will keep you fully informed of news and activities via our regular newsletters and website as well as priority for social event tickets.*

Ladies Lunch :

Hello Ladies. This is just a reminder that our monthly lunch club is at present replaced by a monthly coffee morning via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month and is open to all the ladies. An invite is sent by email.

I'm aware that not all of you have the facilities to join a Zoom meeting and hope to see if I can find out how to also do a telephone link for you to listen into and speak to all who are there, should you wish to join. However, please don't hold your breath on that one; my technology knowledge is not what it used to be! I'll do my best. Perhaps you could let me know if you are interested in doing this telephone link. It would help to know how many are interested in doing this. Whether you join in the Zoom or on the telephone, you'll be assured of a warm welcome.

The next date is Tuesday, 9 March 10.30am. There is no agenda – not that we need one, the chatter never stops and we're never short of laughter. Having said that, at the next coffee morning you might like to share what books you'd recommend or programmes/films on TV or radio programmes. Just a thought! See you soon. Best wishes, Margaret Jones

Members News:

It is with sadness that we have to pass on the news that Jean Campbell died at 7am on Tuesday morning (23.02.21). Many of you will remember, Jean was the wife of our Past President (1997-98), Duncan Campbell, our previous Piper. Both Jean and Duncan moved into Collingtree Park Nursing Home about a year ago and both suffered with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Jean was taken into hospital the previous week with Covid-19. She leaves Duncan, her son Sandy and daughter, Janet, as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Thanks to Ian and Eveylyn Scott who took the time to drop off a copy of the Sunday Post to my home address. Its been a long time since I enjoyed the antics of Oor Wullie and The Broons and nothing's changed!!Bill Lockerbie

On 7th February 1587 Mary Queen of Scots was executed at Fotheringhay Northamptonshire and we have included a short summary of her execution on the next page.

Mary, Queen of Scots, was a prominent figure in 16th century Europe who reigned over Scotland from 14 December 1542 to 24 July 1567. She was also Queen Consort of France for a brief period through her marriage to Francis II of France. Mary, who is considered to have been very beautiful, married multiple times during her life. She first married Francis II of France; then Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley; and finally James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Her last marriage was controversial as the Earl was suspected of murdering her second husband Lord Darnley. Mary was then imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle. She managed to escape and sought protection from her cousin Queen Elizabeth of England. However, Elizabeth kept Mary prisoner for eighteen and a half years; and finally had her executed.

That's all folks until the next Newsletter in April where we hope to be better informed on the lifting of restrictions, even more so to confirm some dates for a long awaited coming together, possibly our AGM and then "lift off"!!

*Bill Lockerbie, Communications Officer
On behalf of the Executive Council*

Robert, Margaret, Mary, Val, Shirley and Bill

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Mary, Queen of Scots Anniversary of her Death on February 7 1587

At Fotheringhay, on the evening of 7 February 1587, Mary was told she was to be executed the next morning. She spent the last hours of her life in prayer, distributing her belongings to her household, and writing her will and a letter to the King of France. The scaffold that was erected in the Great Hall was draped in black cloth. It was reached by two or three steps, and furnished with the block, a cushion for her to kneel on, and three stools for her and the earls of Shrewsbury and Kent, who were there to witness the execution.

*The executioner Bull and his assistant knelt before her and asked forgiveness, as it was typical for the executioner to request the pardon of the one being put to death. Mary replied, "I forgive you with all my heart, for now, I hope, you shall make an end of all my troubles." Her servants, Jane Kennedy and Elizabeth Curle, and the executioners helped Mary remove her outer garments, revealing a velvet petticoat and a pair of sleeves in crimson brown, the liturgical colour of martyrdom in the Catholic Church, with a black satin bodice and black trimmings. As she disrobed Mary smiled and said she "never had such grooms before ... nor ever put off her clothes before such a company". She was blindfolded by Kennedy with a white veil embroidered in gold, knelt down on the cushion in front of the block on which she positioned her head, and stretched out her arms. Her last words were, *In manus tuas, Domine, commendo spiritum meum* ("Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit").*