

Northampton Town & County Scottish Association

Founded 1920

Centenary Year 2020



NT&CSA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Member, welcome to the fifth in our series of Centenary Year Newsletters. Once again, on behalf of the Executive Council, we hope that you, your families and friends, remain in good spirits despite the continuance of lockdown measures.

Similar to our previous Newsletter we have few happenings within the Association to report since last time although some exposure on BBC Northampton is worth mentioning further down the page.

We begin however with an update on our most recent Council Meeting.

The Executive Council: *our planned council meeting on 26 August, scheduled for the luxurious surroundings of Shirley Morrison's back garden, was re scheduled to a ZOOM meeting on the same date, due to ongoing covid -19 restrictions. This wee virus is becoming a nuisance!*

*We are delighted to announce the **newest addition to the Executive Council**. Long standing Association member Valerie King has agreed to join Mary, Margaret, Shirley, Robert and myself in helping to ensure the longer term future for our Association. Welcome Valerie!*

*However, It was with considerable regret that we learned of the decision by long standing council member **Margaret McKee** to resign her position from the Executive Council due to personal reasons. On behalf of everyone in the Association we take this opportunity to thank Margaret for her sterling work and significant contribution to NT&CSA over many years, as both member, Honorary Secretary and President. We are hopeful that Margaret will continue her support of the Association as an active member. St Andrews nights could never be the same without her! Thank you Margaret, we send you our very best wishes and hope to see you soon!*

*Regarding events scheduled for the remainder of this our **centenary year 2020** it has been decided that, in consideration of ongoing lockdown measures, all outstanding events have been postponed. It is however our intention to revisit our 2020 calendar and reschedule all centenary celebration events, during the course of 2021*

Burns Night 2021 *we remain committed to holding our annual Burns Night on 23 January next year and despite the obvious current restraints, we are preparing "as normal" until we hear different from the various Government sources.*

Creation of a “Events Support Group” we are delighted to announce the creation of a “Events Support Group” for the purpose of assisting the Executive Council with arrangements specific to our social events callandar. The group consists of members who previously assisted with table arrangements, raffle sales, cloakroom duties and etc

The purpose of creating such a group was to create a more formal database of members who can be called upon at the appropriate time by the Executive Council prior to a social event, whose skills and expertise were already known and who remain willing to assist when called upon.

The database is by no means definitive, therefore if you would like to join the group and offer assistance in any way, please respond via e mail to Bill Lockerbie or Mary Roach in the first instance where more information can be provided and your name officially added to the “Events Support Group” database.

As we aim to make up for lost time in 2020, we hope next year 2021 will be particularly productive in terms of social activity and therefore any help and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

The Executive Council would like to hear from anyone in need of any type of assistance during these difficult times. We are confident that within our wider membership there will exist skills and resource to provide those who need it, support, encouragement or a friendly face!

Mary Roach on Our Scottish Quiz June 9th 2020: A huge thank you to Shirley Morrison for organising our last Quiz and what an interesting and challenging quiz it was too. As most of you already know, I am not a quizzer and at the Scottish Association Annual Quiz, I can usually be found looking after the Pies and Beans in the kitchen but for some reason I got hooked on this quiz and needed to complete. I suppose lockdown can take responsibility for the rise in many new pastimes and this was the case for me with Shirley’s quiz. Addictive! The highlight was when Shirley and her son Jamie (lovely young man) landed on my doorstep with my prize. And I wasn’t even a winner! We enjoyed a wee cup of tea and plenty of laughs. The following literary work was included in my prize bag, courtesy of Shirley.

“Mary in second place, you’ll find an intriguing prize
Free alcohol, literally before your very eyes
We haven’t a clue what they’ll taste like at all
So you may want to palm them off
To the next visitor who calls”

So if you are not into quizzes, please give them a go, you may just be pleasantly surprised.

Thank you Shirley and well done to you for your efforts on behalf of our Association.

Mary

Get Well Soon to Pat Schofield current languishing in bed due to a broken ankle caused by a fall near her home. There is every reason to believe that Pat will be jigging with the best of us at our Burns Night in January. She is being looked after, hand and FOOT by her daughter Cindy!

Margaret Jones on Law & Language: *When a Judge ordered a man he had put on probation at Birmingham Crown Court that he should learn English, a community worker is quoted as asking the question, "Where does it say in the statute books that somebody has to speak English to be a British citizen?"*

The answer can be found in schedule 1, paragraph 1(1)(c) of the British Nationality Act 1981, Welsh or Scottish Gaelic will suffice in place of English.

NOTICE ON FENCE OF THE AYRSHIRE COASTAL PATH

*"Be ye man - or bairn - or wuman,
Be ye gaun - or be ye comin',
For Scotland's pride – no Scotland's shame
Gether yer litter – an'tak it hame!*

Now **that's** telling them!!

Bill Lockerbie on his experience with Facebook: *For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.*

Therefore every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, stand in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does every day.

I also listen to conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them.

And it works, just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist!

*And on that subject, thanks to **Marjorie Bissett-Entwistle** for offering some Scots themed books to interested parties FOC. An offer taken up by two quick responding members then uplifted and delivered by yours truly! An added bonus for me was to meet a few members on their own territory (Pat Schofield through her window) whilst adhering to current guidelines of course! It's great that our membership network can be utilised in this way! Who needs Facebook??!!*

BBC Interview. *I hope you all enjoyed listening to my spiel on Sunday 23rd August during the John Griff morning show on BBC Northampton. I hope also that I was able to adequately raise some exposure for our Association across the county and that the public are slightly more informed of our existence in the community, our long standing heritage, our traditions and our culture. They will be encouraged also by the fact that I don't play the bagpipes!*

Given that our Centenary year celebrations were obliterated this year, we can be grateful to John Griff for providing us with this unique opportunity. Hearing the massed pipes and drums with "Flower of Scotland" was an introduction well worthy of our Association.

Great Photo sent to me by Rae Webster of the Tay Bridges in Dundee whilst spending a few days in the North East. The photo will appear on our website in due course, thanks Rae!

Marguerite Bissett

It is with regret that the Council have to announce we have recently received word that Marguerite died at Easter (not Covid-19). Marguerite had been in Cliftonville Care Home since Christmas, having been moved from other homes over the last 2 years.

Marguerite arrived on my doorstep unannounced many years ago asking if this was where the NT&CSA Strawberry Cream Tea was being held, holding a tin of Edinburgh Tea in her hand for the Bring and Buy Stall. That was the start of her long membership.

Marguerite had an outgoing, adventurous spirit all her life – as did her late husband, Morrison, and she was 'as bright as a button' right to the end. After they married in Edinburgh they moved to Devon. However when Marguerite was pregnant with her two daughters there, she was insistent that she returned to Edinburgh each time for their births so that they claimed their Scottish nationality.

Their next adventurous step was to New Zealand. They planned to travel there for five years. They actually stayed there over 15 years and in that time they had a son then another daughter – both of whom returned with them to Holdenby Estate just outside Northampton. . The two Scottish daughters are still in New Zealand married with their own families.

The youngest daughter, Marjorie has been, and still is, a member of our Association and we have come to know her and her husband, Andy, over the years as they would bring Marguerite to our events.

Marguerite was a truly lovely lady and a proud Scot who will be dearly missed by all her loved ones and those who knew her. Marguerite has just made her final journey back to Scotland to be laid to rest next to her husband.

A letter of condolence has been sent to Marjorie on behalf of the Association.

MDJ

Ladies Luncheon Group

Ladies, you have not been forgotten and your Council hopes you are all well and safe. As soon as restrictions for this Covid-19 virus have been lifted, I shall be sending out details of our next lunch together. Let's hope that will be sometime soon, all being well. My love and best wishes to you all. Margaret Jones

Well, that's all folks until the next edition of our Centenary Newsletter in November when hopefully we will be publishing further details on our Burns' Night Dinner/Dance 2021.

Until then, on behalf of all who serve on the Executive Council, may we wish you continued safety, health and good spirit as, hopefully, we begin to see light at the end of an extraordinarily long tunnel.

Fuirich Sa'bhailte/ Stay Safe!! And stay in touch!

Bill Lockerbie, Communications Officer,

On behalf of the Executive Council

Website: www.northamptonscots.org.uk E Mail ; membershipntcsa@gmail.com