

Northampton Town & County Scottish Association

Founded 1920

Centenary Year 2020



NT&CSA NEWSLETTER June 2021

Dear Member, better late than never, welcome to the third in our series of newsletters for 2021 and as always, we hope it reaches you with spirits raised and with a new found optimism for the lifting of restrictions on 19 July, or in the immortal words of William Wallace “FREEDOM”!!!!

The Executive Council met once again via Zoom on 23 June but with two of our members unavailable on the day and with one other being “beamed in” from the South of Spain and a dodgy broadband connection, there was very little to discuss.

However the recent passing of members Fred Wilson and Jean Campbell were acknowledged by the Executive Council and representation by the Scottish Association would be made to family members as appropriate.

Please see separate “obituary” newsletter attachment.

We also acknowledged the forthcoming 100th birthday of Betty Sheppard on 24th June and the Executive Council were delighted to hear of Betty’s centennial gift to the Scottish Association of an inscribed skein dhu (or dagger) to be used at our forthcoming Burns Nights. On behalf of everyone in the Scottish Association, congratulations Betty and thank you for your many years of support to “the Scottish” and hopefully the skein dhu will be put to good use in January at our Burns Night Dinner/ Dance.

*Please see a full commentary by Margaret Jones on the concluding page, also see **our website** for photographs of Betty’s amazing day at Westonia Court.*

Our next Council Meeting is scheduled for the 22nd July where it is hoped that we will be discussing “post pandemic” business, including plans to re unite our members in the “time honoured” traditional Association manner. Watch this space?!!!

Moving on,

In response to our call for personal accounts on how you spend your time during lockdown, we were delighted to hear from Dorothy Nicholson.

Hi all

Thanks for the newsletter and updates on what members are currently spending time doing and making

I have been trying to focus on getting rid of unwanted and unused Magic kitchen “helper things” from visits to Ideal Home Exhibitions. For example, a hardboiled egg slicer, a tool which cuts vegetables into exciting shapes, ice cubes into exciting shapes, even your fingers into exciting shapes, I have a drawer full! I also have a myriad of pieces of paper with recipes on, given to me over the years by friends in whose houses I have eaten said pies, cakes and puddings. Only but rarely have these delights ever made it onto my own table thereafter, but I still might have a go one day. (In my dreams). I have though, found the handwritten family recipe book in which I wrote my then favourite things. This goes back 50 years before I left Scotland to come South. If anyone wants grannie Robertson's Clottie dumpling recipe or how to make stovies, or auntie Norah's tablet, let me know. I also found my mums lemon cordial and lemon curd recipes which are worth a revisit. The common theme of the above dishes seems to be suet or bags of sugar, not together in the same recipe. Thinking of it, actually deep fried Mars bars probably do.

It's a grand life

Regards to all

Dorothy Nicholson (nee) Robertson, daughter of the borough of Bo' ness

Thank you for Auntie Norah's Tablet recipe Dorothy.....Bill Lockerbie

Thanks also to Vida Brown who writes,

Thank you for the April newsletter. I can certainly sympathise with Margaret and her multitasking. I do that too, but have had to consign the chocolate to the fridge out of reach as I cope with the problem of my husband playing Scottish dance music and my knitting needles trying to work to the dance beat!

A wonderful image Vida but you CANT get too much chocolate!!

Thanks also to Pat Schofield with a wee funny.....!

Jesus looked across the table at God and asked “where have you been these last months?” God replied “I've been in Scotland!” Jesus, with a shocked look said “so there has been a pandemic raging for the last year and you've been in Scotland! Doing what?!! God leaned over and whispered “ Working from home son, working from home!”

A wee word on the European Football Championships and congratulations to England for progressing as they have done, albeit in the easiest section and all but one match played at Wembley! No sour grapes, honestly!!

*Margaret Jones asks the question **WHY DO WE SAY THAT?***

In the nick of time

Something that happens in the nick of time is a last moment reprieve from failure, like a goal at the end of extra time in a soccer match. And when the giant computerised scoreboard at a stadium like Wembley flashes up the message “Wow, what a goal” it is only a modern version of a man with a stick of wood.

For hundreds of years the scores in games similar to soccer were kept by a man who would nick the side of a tally stick each time a team scored. If victory came for one of the sides at the last moment, it was known as the nick in time.

Raining cats and dogs

Steeped in ancient legend and superstition, this saying means that we are facing another downpour of drenching rain.

In medieval times it was believed that Satan loved to appear as a black cat. That is why his disciples – witches – also took that form when riding the sky in their favourite conditions: torrential rain, crashing thunder and flashing lightning.

A couple of funny’s from Bill Lockerbie

Lady to Gentleman meeting for the first time “do you have any children?”

Gentleman to Lady “yes, I have one that’s just under two”

Lady to Gentleman “I may be blonde, but I know how many one is!!”

I don’t know if this is a scam or not, but I just received a phone call saying I had won either £250 cash or 2 tickets to an Elvis tribute night....

It said, press 1 for the money or 2 for the show!!

Comments made in the year 1955

I’ll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it’s going to be impossible to buy a week’s groceries for £20!!

Did you hear that the post office is thinking about charging a shilling for a stamp!

Have you seen the price of the new cars coming out next year? It won’t be long until £500 will only buy a USED one!!

Have a go at this ?!?!?!?!

Three men go into a hotel. The man behind the desk said the room is £30. So each man paid £10 and went to the room. A while later the man behind the desk realised the room was actually only £25 and NOT £30 and so he sent the bellboy up with the £5 to give to the three men. On the way up, the bellboy couldn't figure out how to split £5 evenly between three people and so he decided to give each man £1 each and simply keep the £2 to himself. This then meant that each man had only paid £9 each which is a total of £27 (three x £9) but when you add the £2 which the bellboy kept, the total amount is £29 (£27 plus £2) so WHERE is the other £1?!

Top Tips from Bill

Before attempting to remove stubborn stains from a garment, always circle the stain with a permanent marker pen, so that when you remove the garment from the washing machine you can easily locate the area of the stain and check that it has gone!

Weight watchers, avoid that devilish temptation to nibble at a bar of chocolate in the cupboard, by not buying it in the first place!

Corsa drivers, attach a lighted sparkler to the roof of your car before starting a long journey. You drive the things like dodgems anyway, so it may as well look like one!

Finally, don't waste money on expensive binoculars. Simply stand next to the object you wish to view!

Useless facts

“I am” is the shortest complete sentence in the English language!

The letter A is not in any number from 1 to 999!

That's all for now folks, stay safe and stay positive

Until next time “Fuirich Sa'bhailte”/ Stay Safe!!.....And please, keep in Touch!!

Robert, Margaret, Mary, Val, Shirley and Bill

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HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, BETTY!

There aren't many in our Association who does not know Betty Sheppard, a well known figure at all of our past events and a member for many years. Betty celebrated her 100th birthday on 24 June 2021 at Westonia Court where she has lived independently for the past nine years. She still does her own shopping at Aldi near her flat and also takes trips to the Weston Favell Centre. Betty, as many have commented, is always an immaculately dressed lady, "well turned out" as they say – and why not? Age should not deter this; Betty you're a shining example to us all.

Her birthday started with Bernie Keith of Northampton Radio ringing her for a live radio chat and later with a party for the other residents. On the following Saturday afternoon, she had organised a garden party for groups of friends including a few of our Association. It was delightfully organised with one friend in charge of the background music, another on the photo shoots, whilst others were ensuring that everyone had enough food and refreshments. Richard, her friend and one of our members, had decorated the garden beautifully and most professionally with balloons etc. He also said a few words as well as read out a letter from Betty's daughter in California before inviting Betty up to ceremoniously cut her birthday cake. Luckily the weather was fine.

Betty was born in Northampton and has lived here all her life. She and her husband, Ernie, enjoyed 69 happy years together. Ernie was a Scotsman and one of our Past Presidents (1976-77).

Betty, as ever, wanted to give our Association a gift to celebrate her 100th birthday and she very generously presented Robert Perkins, our Membership Secretary, a nicely designed horn handled skein dhu, suitably inscribed, to be used at our Burns' Suppers to cut open the haggis during the recital of "To a Haggis" by Robert Burns. She took the skean dhu to Steffan's Jewellers to be engraved and Steffan, amazed at her age, said we will engrave it now while you wait to save you returning to collect it. When she asked for the bill he said "Nothing to pay. We don't charge 100 year olds!!" Robert accepted skean dhu on behalf of the Association and said few words recalling Betty's years as a member and how she has been such an active and supportive member. Betty had made it known that she did not wish to receive gifts but if anyone so wished they could donate to the Stroke Association. I personally presented Betty with a cheque for this charity on behalf of all our members.

Many photos were taken of which a few have been selected for placement on to our website, I'm sure Betty will treasure them as a reminder of a wonderful week.

Margaret Jones

