

NORTHAMPTON TOWN AND COUNTY SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

Newsletter March 2020

Dear Member, in this the second of our Centenary Year Newsletters the committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Spring 2020 and in the hope that the coming weeks bring you sunshine, warmer days and blooming gardens!

Since our last newsletter we celebrated our first event of our Centenary Year on Saturday 25 January at Moulton Community Centre with our traditional Burns Nicht Dinner and Dance.

If you did or didn't make it this year, here's a quick recap. We had some great speakers and it is fair to say that the younger generation definitely did us proud with the Toasts to the Haggis, the Lassies and the Laddies all being delivered by under 18s - well done to James, Jacob and Heather whose Scottish heritage and talents for public speaking were evident in abundance. Murdo's Immortal Memory taught us all something new about Burns and he was even able to make a link to his own family name - that's going to be difficult to beat in the future ! As always, Alan's piping recital stirred the soul and was a chance to catch our breath between lively dancing to the toe-tapping live music from "The Occasional Few"! Just as well then, that we had Ian Slatter on hand to shout the instructions ensuring that the dance floor was permanently full.

No surprise then that the feedback from all who attended was overwhelmingly positive and therefore the Committee would like to thank all who attended, especially those who took an active part and who contacted us with their personal experiences.

Whilst all this was going on our Communications Officer Bill Lockerbie and his wife Lorraine, enjoyed a similar experience in of all places, the Andalucían town of Nerja Southern Spain proving that our Bard is celebrated the world over

If you want to do it all again next year or if you don't want to miss out again, put the date in your diary now - Saturday 23rd January 2021

And if you fancy having a go at one of the toasts, please contact any member of the committee as we would like to get the bookings done as early as possible.

No sooner had we recovered from a rousing evening of celebration when we were subjected to some much needed mental stimulation at our annual Quiz Night on Saturday 22 February at Moulton Community Centre. Eight teams of six members and guests competed, with our resident quiz master Charles Bond asking the questions. We are deeply indebted to Charles and to our scorer Dave Mills for giving of their time and expertise each year. With an abundance of Scotch Pies and beans served up to feed the brain, an enjoyable, highly sociable evening was had by all, so once again, thanks to all who came along and took part. The winning team was ***Living Badly!!***

You may have noticed also that our website is being regularly updated with photographs and video clips of the above events, now posted on to view, as well as a wee Scots poem you may enjoy. Our thanks go to Simon Hogarth for acting so promptly to our Communications Officer's constant demands!

In a separate communication you will have been advised of the renewal date for membership fees and we, the Committee, take this opportunity to thank you for your past support of the Scottish Association in Northampton and appeal for your continued membership. The committee are determined to ensure that we provide a varied menu of events of a traditional Scottish nature throughout the year and will continue to be motivated by the support from our members.

Appropriately then, please see some important dates for your diary in the coming weeks of our Centenary Year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association with Finger Buffet Lunch at Moulton Community Centre on Saturday 25 April commencing 12 noon until 14.00 Please do not miss this opportunity to voice your opinions on how the Association operates going forward. Should it not be possible to attend the meeting in person, we welcome your written comments via our dedicated Scottish Association email address (see below) a response is guaranteed!

Centenary Thankgiving Service St Benedict's Church West Hunsbury NN4 9UG on Sunday 10 May commencing 15.30 The service will be conducted by the Reverend Anne Davis and attended by our Mayor of Northampton Mr Nazim Chowdry. Please consider your attendance at this important event for the Association and put the date in your diary. We very much hope to see you on the day.

Centenary Celebration Lunch Northampton Marriot Hotel NN4 7HW on Saturday 7 June commencing 12.30 (for 13.00)

More details of the above events will be circulated on a separate communication nearer to the dates in question.

And so we conclude our brief update on Association "happenings" past and planned and we hope that you have enjoyed reading our latest "Spring edition" Newsletter. We leave you with this:

Question of the month: WHERE (on which farm) did Robert Burns write "To a Mouse" ?

Feel free to respond via Association email. Answer will be revealed on the next Newsletter .

'I read farming books; I calculated crops; I attended markets; and in short, in spite of "The Devil, the world and the Flesh", I believe I would have been a wise man; but the first year from unfortunately buying in bad seed, the second from a late harvest, we lost half of both our crops: this upset all my wisdom... My brother wanted my hare brained imagination, as well as my social and amorous madness, but in good sense and every sober qualification he was far my superior.' Robert Burns

As aye

The Committee

Website: www.northamptonscots.org.uk

E Mail : membershipntcsa@gmail.com

