

Northampton Town & County Scottish Association

Founded 1920

Centenary Year 2020



NT&CSA NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Member, welcome to the final newsletter in our series of Centenary Newsletters 2020. We very much hope that you have enjoyed our literary ramblings, brought to you throughout a difficult and challenging year, as we attempt to lift the doom and gloom and general melancholy, whilst at the same time keeping you informed of Executive Council business and other interesting topics.

We begin as usual, with an update on our most recent "ZOOM" Council Meeting held on 28 October.

Calendar 2021: *it is with heavy hearts that the Executive Council have admitted defeat to the ongoing pandemic and therefore reluctantly inform you that our Burns Night Dinner/Dance in January is officially postponed and ongoing arrangements now suspended. A proposal to hold an alternative Burns Night in July on the 225th anniversary of Burns' death, remains under consideration.*

Regretably, whilst the future remains uncertain in regards to the lifting of restrictions, the Executive Council feel it is unwise to commit to diary dates for social events in 2021. We will of course review the situation recurrently and communicate as and when things improve and restrictions ease.

Goody Bags : *the council members were delighted with the success of the goody bag initiative judging by the feedback from across our membership. Our thanks go to the "delivery drivers" from both the Executive Council and the Events Support Group. It was an uplifting experience to say hello on the doorsteps and add a little cheer at this time. Answers to the quiz are available to see on our Website.*

Other news : *our member in Corby, Vida Brown (Vida & Hamish Brown), has been making scrubs for NHS staff since the lockdown and continues to do so. She is an accomplished seamstress and has also made a quantity of face masks. Vida has kindly offered to anyone who wants any face masks just to let her know and she will get them to us for distribution. They have two layers but with an opening to put in a third layer of anything if you wish. Interested? Simply send your request via the Association E Mail address (below) and we will contact Vida on your behalf.*

Our thanks to Vida for making this offer and especially for the excellent work she and her granddaughter, an intensive care nurse, undertake on our behalf for the NHS particularly at this difficult time. Ladies, you have our utmost respect !

Mabel Keith : a bouquet of flowers and a card on behalf of the Association have been sent out to Mabel who has just celebrated her 100th birthday on 17 September! Congratulations to Mabel who resides at Bethany Homestead. We have gathered a few photos of your special day and will upload them on to our Association website over the next few days. Members will be forgiven for thinking that it's more likely it was her 50th birthday, when they see the photographs. What's the secret Mabel?

A Freckle in Time: we have received a communication from Ms Kyle Granite from Glasgow who has recently established a Scottish History Channel called "A Freckle in Time" across YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. Kyle explains that the channel will "look at all aspects of Scottish History, the good and the bad, the well known, and the popular misconceptions." Those of you with access to the required technology should take some time to view her efforts on the various platforms to judge for yourself!!

Monthly Ladies Lunch : although suspended for obvious reasons, the ladies lunch has taken on a new format to adhere to current restrictions and on Tuesday 13 October a ZOOM coffee morning was held, organised and co-ordinated by Margaret Jones. Our thanks go to all nine members who were able to master the technology and for joining in for a "guid auld blether"! Margaret hopes to continue with this initiative on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10.30 so please look out for further "invites"! Should you not have access to the required technology, try to keep in touch with your Association friends on the phone, a card or a letter even, just a few minutes of conversation can cheer us up!

Congratulations: to new grandparents Robert and Carole Perkins on the birth of their grandson, yet to be named, on 18 October, weighing in at 8lbs 15ozs. A son to Laura and "Peppe" proving that even in these most difficult times, we can find reasons to be cheerful. Congratulations to all the family!

Anglia TV : Following Bill's infamous "appearance" on BBC Radio Northampton, not to be out done, our very own Executive Council Member, Val King, appeared (for two minutes only!) in an Anglia TV article during October under the headline "Historical Supernatural". Val regaled us with spooky goings on at Delapre' Abbey from past years. Despite their moment of worldwide fame our two celebrities have confirmed that they have no intention of breaking into the world of media full time and will remain on the Executive Council until a better offer comes along! The media's loss is the Scottish Association's gain, so let's hope they DON'T get a better offer!

Pandemic: did you know that the current pandemic is not the first to visit our shores when in August 1900, there was a series of deaths in GLASGOW of all places, initially attributed to typhoid but on further investigation it was discovered that the cause of death was in fact bubonic plague. Now I bet that has cheered you up!!

Spooky "Goings On" : the research staff at Delapre' Abbey are on the lookout for anyone who can recall personal accounts of ghostly goings on or strange manifestations in or around the Abbey, factual or otherwise! Meeting Bill or Val at the Abbey does NOT count. Drop an email on the Association email address and we will pass your story on to the relevant ghostbusters!!

St Andrews Day : Monday 30th November we remember our Patron Saint and although we are unable to come together, we can instead reflect on past celebrations and perhaps to say a wee prayer that St Andrew himself may intervene to ensure we enjoy future celebrations in Northampton once again. Look out for an article by Margaret McKee on St Andrew to be uploaded on to our website soon.

A Wee Laugh 1: as we await the result of the Presidential Election in the USA here's a wee story about a new security man employed recently to guard "The Donald"
On his first day guarding the President as he walked to the Presidential helicopter from The White House, the security guard spots a would be assassin pointing a gun at the President from behind a tree. The security guard shouts out "MICKEY MOUSE" and then immediately apprehends the assassin. The following day the new security guard's boss compliments the new man on his quick thinking on his very first assignment but questions him as to why he shouted out "MICKEY MOUSE"! The new man explains that he was so nervous that he got all confused when he meant to shout "DONALD...DUCK"!!

A Wee Laugh 2 : Thanks to "the Alex" Alex Berry for this wee story;
The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees was absent but had not phoned in sick! So he dialled the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper. 'Hello?' 'Is your daddy home?' 'Yes, he's out in the garden' ' whispered the small voice. 'May I talk with him?' 'The child whispered, 'No'
So the boss asked, 'Well, is your Mommy there?' 'Yes, but she's out in the garden, too'
The boss then asked; 'May I talk with her?' 'Again the small voice whispered, 'No'
Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, 'Is anybody else there?' 'Yes' whispered the child, 'a policeman'
Wondering what a policeman would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, 'May I speak with the policeman?' 'No, he's busy' whispered the child.
'Busy doing what?' 'Talking to Mommy and Daddy and the Police Dog Man'
Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background, the boss asked, 'What is that noise?' 'It's a helicopter ' answered the whispering voice
'What is going on there?' demanded the boss, now truly apprehensive.
'The search team just landed in a helicopter' 'A search team?' said the boss. 'What are they searching for?' 'Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle.....'Me'!!

Well that's all folks and we hope you have enjoyed this final edition of our Centenary Newsletter. Perhaps, one hundred years from now someone will look back on these amateur scribbles and reflect on how we made the best of a bad situation and in keeping with the intentions of our forefathers did what we could to keep alive the spirit of the Scottish Association in Northampton.

On behalf of all who serve on the Executive Council, may we wish you continued safety, health and good spirit as we prepare to enter yet another National lockdown. Hopefully, we may soon 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

Robert, Margaret, Mary, Bill, Val and Shirley

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Tae a Goody Bag by Bill Lockerbie (with apologies to Robert Burns)

**We hadnae seen oor freens since Burns'
Seems crazy but its true
We ZOOMED tae talk and tak oor turns
And find something we could do!**

**Fae' writing letters and funny lines
Tae website and BBC
Whit mare tae dae in these troubled times?
Could VISITS hawd the key?**

**The cooncil pit oan their thinking caps
But ideas wur few tae find
Its just too much fur us perhaps?
Then a plan it came tae mind!**

**It wiz Val wha said a "goody bag"!
Wi nice things for awe tae share
Include a letter wi a Scotland flag
"That's magic" we did declare!**

**And so the bags they did arrive
Tae folks we miss sae much
Oor Association will remain alive
Fae a simple moving touch!**

**So enjoy the gift and mak the most
O the bag upon yer flair
Go oan, raise a glass and mak a toast
That we meet again once mair!**

For Auld Lang Syne?

Judging by the feedback, letters and cards received from members across the county and beyond, this simple initiative, to raise morale at this difficult time, has been an unmitigated success. So thank you all, stay safe and keep in touch until we "meet again once mair!!"

The Executive Council *Robert, Margaret, Mary, Bill, Shirley, Val*