

Northampton Town & County Scottish Association

Founded 1920

Centenary Year 2020



NT&CSA NEWSLETTER MAY2020

Dear Member, welcome to the third of our seasonal Centenary Year Newsletters. Since our previous newsletter in March we have been faced with circumstances quite unprecedented in our lifetimes and we very much hope that you, your families and friends have remained in good health and good spirit throughout. When constructing our March newsletter, we could never have imagined that we would issue a follow up mail confirming a complete cessation of activities, including our Annual General Meeting and Centenary Church Service. An unpleasant milestone in this our Centenary Year!

Well, there hasn't been too much to report since March but we very much hope that you enjoyed the light hearted poems, quizzes and video "what a wonderful world" designed to lighten the mood and keep us in touch. Thank you to everyone for the positive feedback, which is always appreciated.

Meantime, your committee have taken to employing the latest of technology to keep in touch with each other, be it emails or video conferencing, as we attempt to make some light of our situation and hopefully create a strategy for our Association in preparation for the long awaited lifting of government restrictions.

We agreed that our first priority to our members is to keep you informed of the status of our calendar of traditional events, whether to postpone indefinitely or identify those events that can possibly be salvaged, following our hopeful emergence from these current restrictions.

Most obvious casualties of the pandemic crisis are the **Bowling Day**, the **Strawberry Tea** and the **BBQ Fun Day**, regrettably now confirmed as cancelled for this year.

However, the **Annual General Meeting**, previously postponed, is scheduled to go ahead by year end subject to the lifting of government restrictions with a date and time yet to be determined. The same applies to the **Centenary Church Service**, both of which can be accommodated with minimal notice and preparation.

The Centenary Church Service will take on an additional poignancy as we hope to celebrate and give thanks for our emergence from this "plague that blights our land" as well as remembering those who came before us during 100 years of the Scottish Association in our county.

We believe also that the traditional **St Andrew's Dinner/ Dance** is too much of a gamble to proceed with, especially since we have no idea when FULL restrictions may be lifted. As an alternative however, we are considering holding a **Members Lunch**, along the same lines as our intended Centenary Lunch at the Marriot Hotel but serving two purposes ie to celebrate our centenary, as well as (hopefully) celebrating our emergence from government restrictions. Once again, this event will be subject to the lifting of restrictions and a date yet to be agreed.

More details and confirmation of all of the above events will be communicated to you as soon as we are in a position to do so but if you have any questions meantime, please do not hesitate to respond to this mail.

Regarding Membership Fees the committee would like to remind all members that the date for renewal of membership is now past, however we are happy to extend the renewal date for those as yet undecided, until Sunday May 10th 2020 when we will update our member data base. We would like to thank all who have already renewed thereby placing their faith in the emergence of our social events calendar in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you too, to all past members.

On that note, we extend a warm welcome to our latest member, Barbara Creffield, introduced to the Association by Tony Hutton. Unfortunately Barbara joins us at the most difficult of times and as a result, may have to wait a wee while before enjoying the comradeship and hospitality of the Association. Nonetheless, welcome Barbara, or as we say in Scotland "Fàilte" and hopefully it will not be too long before we make your acquaintance!

Scam e mails: Sad to say but there are people out there who are looking to take advantage of our vulnerability during lockdown. Coincidentally, we have just received some interesting stuff distributed to U3A members about scams in general. "The Little Book of Scams" is issued by Met Police (although I think others like Thames Valley Police issue it as well) and can be found on Google search under that title. It contains some interesting tips on how to spot scams, especially useful at this particular time.

New Poem: The Jelly Piece Song is now included in our library of Scots poems on our website, take a look, reminisce and have a wee chuckle. Thanks to Margaret Jones for sending it to me.

Now, the answer to the question on our previous Newsletter "Where (on which farm) did Robert Burns write "to a Mouse" The answer of course is Mossgiel Farm in Ayrshire where Burns lived between 1784 and 1786. Congratulations to Alex and Sandra Berry, right first time!

We leave you with another Scottish teaser. To which famous Scotsman do we owe the immortal lines "O what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive"

Drop me a line if you know the answer!

Finally, on behalf of all of us serving on the committee may we wish you continued safety, health and good spirit throughout these difficult times.

"Afore ye go" Try a Mixed Up Scottish Quiz

A 'Munro' is the name for a Scottish mountain above which height?

Where did President Eisenhower of the United States have a residence in Scotland?

The Gaelic for whisky is Uisge Beatha. What is its literal meaning?

Where do the smoked haddock known as 'smokies' come from?

Which famous US novel based its title from a poem by Robert Burns?

Which castle is said to be one of Scotland's most haunted?

Roughly, how many golf courses does Scotland have?

In the Scots language what does it mean to 'haver'?

Gerard Butler is one of Scotland's most successful actors, but what did he originally train to become?

The first ever Scotland football team was made up entirely of players from which club?

Which famous Scottish figure was depicted in the film Braveheart by Angus Macfadyen in 1995?

Towards the end of the Victorian era, Dundee was famous for its three Js - Jam, Jute and what?

Slains Castle in Aberdeenshire is said to have inspired which tale of horror?

What is the longest river in Scotland?

What Scottish title was given to Prince William and Kate Middleton once they married?

St Andrews is Scotland's oldest university. When was it founded?

Andrew Carnegie made his fortune in the USA. But where was he born?

McCaig's Tower overlooks which Scottish town?

On which Scottish Island did George Orwell write his novel 1984?

What are curling stones traditionally made of?

Queen of the South - but what was the question!?

ANSWERS (but mixed up!!)

The correct answer is 'Catcher in the Rye' by J.D. Salinger The correct answer is Queen's Park Football Club The correct answer is Earl and Countess of Strathearn The correct answer is granite The correct answer is 3,000 feet. The correct answer is Water of Life The correct answer is Glamis Castle in Angus The correct answer is a lawyer The correct answer is Robert the Bruce The Question: who plays football at Palmerston Park?.The correct answer is 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker The correct answer is Dunfermline, Fife The correct answer is Jura The correct answer is Culzean Castle, Ayrshire The correct answer is Arbroath The correct answer is 550 The correct answer is Talk nonsense The correct answer is journalism The correct answer is River Tay The correct answer is 1413 The correct answer is Oban

Six o the best Tae cheer ye up!!

Man lost in Edinburgh says to a policeman, "Excuse me is there a B&Q in Leith? "Policeman replies, "No sir, but there are two Ds and two Es in Dundee."

A Glasgow woman goes to the dentist and settles down in the chair. "Comfy?" asks the dentist . "Govan," she replies.

The Queen hosts a garden party in Scotland. When the Scottish waiter arrives with a tray of cakes, she asks, "Is that a scone, or a meringue?" The waiter replies: "Naw, yer quite right, that's a scone."

A man takes a pair of shoes back to the shop and complains that there is a lace missing. "No," argues the assistant, "look at the label - it says Taiwan."

"They French cannae count – you ask for twa rolls and they give ye three."

What's the difference between a lawn mower and a bagpipe? You can tune a lawn mower.

And to end on a more serious note, should the call come for the mandatory wearing of face masks, perhaps this website may be of help: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Soraidh!

Stay safe and stay in touch please, until we all meet again!

As aye

Bill Lockerbie on behalf of The Executive Committee

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