

The Chanter

Nottingham Scottish Association Newsletter
December 2017



The Queensferry Crossing

The **Queensferry Crossing** (formerly the **Forth Replacement Crossing**) is a road bridge in Scotland. It was built alongside the existing Forth Road Bridge and carries the M90 motorway across the Firth of Forth between Edinburgh, at South Queensferry, and Fife, at North Queensferry.

Proposals for a second Forth road crossing were first put forward in the 1990s, but it was not until the discovery of structural issues with the Forth Road Bridge in 2005 that plans were moved forward. The decision to proceed with a replacement bridge was taken at the end of 2007 and the following year it was announced that the existing bridge would be retained as a public transport link. The Forth Crossing Act received Royal Assent in January 2011, and construction began in September 2011.

The Queensferry Crossing is a three-tower cable-stayed bridge, with an overall length of 2.7 kilometers (1.7 miles). Around 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) of new connecting roads were built, including new and upgraded junctions at Ferrytoll in Fife, South Queensferry and Junction 1A on the M9.

The bridge was first due to be completed by December 2016, but this deadline was extended to August 2017 after several delays. It is the third bridge across the Forth at Queensferry, alongside the Forth Road Bridge completed in 1964, and the Forth Bridge completed in 1890. Following a public vote, it was formally named on 26 June 2013 and opened to traffic on 30 August 2017. The official opening was carried out on 4 September 2017 by Queen Elizabeth II, fifty-three years to the day after she opened the adjacent Forth Road Bridge.

From the President

Well, did you manage to avoid getting a black eye or even worse, a broken bone!

Where from, you ask, was it at the football on Saturday afternoon or in the Market Square late on a Saturday. Not that any of the readers of this refined publication would be seen in either location.

No, I refer to BLACK FRIDAY. That import from the States (well it came over in 2013). For those who do not know, BLACK FRIDAY was started in the USA in 1932. Traditionally it was the period immediately after Thanksgiving and heralded the start of the period of Christmas shopping, It's now seen as the busiest trading day of the year with plenty of bargains to be found.

When I see the fights that broke out during last years Black Friday, do the Americans not know that over here we know how to, and prefer to queue! I am sure in the past, at some schools you could actually get a qualification in queuing. Imagine, after waiting for hours in line outside John Lewis for the latest TV at half price, it's your turn and it's the last one. You look behind you and it's someone who looks like your sweet grandmother. "After you", you utter and walk away, empty handed but proud to have done the British Thing. Not now, its knuckle dusters at the ready, a snarl on the face and the meek shall only inherit a 10inch black and white TV not the 55inch 4G 3D that makes you a cup of tea during the commercial breaks.!!

Talking of Christmas, when do you start doing your Christmas shopping?

I start mine on the 27th December by going to the shops to buy wrapping paper that they are selling off at 1/3 of the price ready for the following year. A bargain, and I'm not even Scottish!

Another thing we also do throughout the year is buy each member of the family a charity shop present. On Christmas Day they love trying to guess which one it is, and they rarely get it right!! It's amazing what people donate and even sadder that we have so much that someone can go to the trouble of giving us gifts and then they reach the shelves of the charity shops unopened!

What else do you do at Christmas, I understand the sales do very well on line on Christmas day; we even have a friend who had a phone call from someone to come on Christmas day and view their house that was for sale!!

And what do we then get on Christmas afternoon? After we have opened all our presents, put to one side the ones to send to the charity shops (if appropriate) or take back to Marks and Spencer's, finished the Turkey and Christmas pudding and listened to the Queen's speech. HOLIDAYS!!!.

The last thing I want to think about then, is where to go on holiday.

All joking apart, tis the season to be jolly (sounds like a title for a song).

So, from Kate and myself, can I extend the Seasons Greetings and wish you all a very...

...MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

David

From the Editor

Dear Friends, as many of you might know, this will be my penultimate edition of the Chanter.

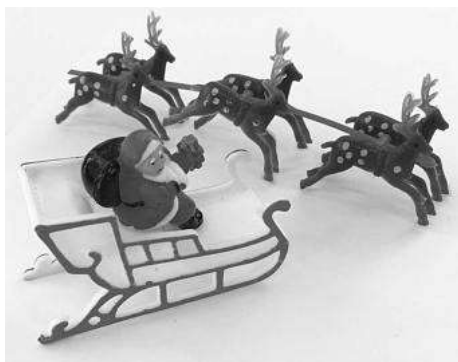
As they say, "I came this way by chance" when one of the past presidents asked if I would like to edit the magazine I jumped at the chance. The reason because it gave me the opportunity to improve my desk top publishing skills and to learn new ones.

So, I am really grateful to the Nottingham Scottish for giving me the opportunity to do so.

I have also made new friends such as Joan Lamb who I think is an amazing lady.

Along the way I have been slightly envious of the determination that people of Scottish heritage try to keep their culture alive and relevant to today. Examples of this are the dancing and Burns night which has formed a great deal of material for the Chanters I have edited.

However, when reading the articles that people have written on the above, I have come to realise how little I celebrate my own culture. I am a Nottingham girl and feel I should be celebrating the culture and researching that of my own city with stories of Nottingham and Nottingham Shire. Not just the famous like Robin Hood or Lord Byron, but more unsung heroes like the Hucknall's legend of Joey the Crow and recording them so they do not get forgotten.



This issue was especially bought to my attention in an article written by a Chanter reader. If I had not been for this article, reminding me of the wonders of the local shop windows, before the days of plastic and flashing lights, the snow scene made from toy figures and chalk Christmas cake decorations surrounded by cotton wool I would have forgot this magical feature of my childhood. Happy days.

AND A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

Chris Vincent - Editor

.....

Scottish Country Dance Day School, Methodist Church, Beeston

Our thanks go out to Garth Dring who organised a Day School to promote Scottish country dancing and provide some tuition for the beginners and novices in our Association and also for the members of the Beeston U3A group that Andrew and Sue are developing.

Garth has many contacts in Scottish Country Dancing and, as a result of his efforts, over 30 people attended from The Nottingham Scottish, Beeston, Soar Valley and Grantham U3A's and Market Harborough SDC.

He was also able to persuade friends to give their services as teachers free of charge and fortunately his daughter Deborah plays the fiddle in a Ceilidh band! Norma Wheeler came down

form York and was accompanied by Deborah. Unfortunately, Pamela Hood from Narborough, the afternoon teacher, injured herself the previous week whilst exercising her dog and Garth and Jeanne came to the rescue by taking on the session.

Lunch was provided by Kate and Marina, together with large portions of gateaux as dessert. "How are we going to dance now" everyone asked!!

At the end of the afternoon flowers and a gift voucher were presented to Deborah and Norma.

The event was very successful in that it enabled dancers from various local groups to get together (I think the modern word is networking) and also obtain some tuition in basic Scottish Country Dancing.

Thanks once again Garth for all your hard work in making this day happen.

.....

Joan's 90th Do!



In the last Chanter we had an article about Joan who was due to celebrate her 90th birthday. Joan is an inspiration to us all and continues to dance most Thursdays, putting us younger one's to shame.

On the 28th September, at the regular Thursday night dancing we managed to give her a surprise party. Nearly 30 members arranged a bring and share supper and we toasted her achievement with Prosecco and made a presentation of a bouquet of flowers. Peter informed us that it was down to Joan that he had taken up Scottish dancing.

The hall was adorned with balloons and various dances were performed including some of Joan's favourites and one aptly named Joan's Jig.

Joan thanked us all for the evening and told us to put another date in our diaries for her 100th!

Appeal

For once, we don't want your money, we don't want you to make something for a bring and share, we just want you. Or to be more precise we want somebody to take over the role of editor for the Chanter.

I think you will all agree it makes a good read and is a welcome drop on the mat or hand out at dancing once a quarter.

Our current editor Christine is going off to pastures new and will be producing a more personal and regional style publication after the end of March. It goes without saying we will be sorry to see her go and she will be a hard act to follow.

What does the job entail you might ask? Well firstly you won't need to worry about having any salary made through an offshore tax haven 'cos there isn't any. But seriously, if you think you could be interested in doing this please contact Christine or myself. If you do it now, you can get an idea of what's involved as we prepare March's Chanter which will be Christine's last.

David

So what did the Scots ever do for us?

The average Englishman, in his home he calls his castle, puts on his national costume - a shabby raincoat patented by Charles MacIntosh of Glasgow, **Scotland**.

He drives a car fitted with tyres invented by John Boyd Dunlop of Dregthorn, **Scotland**.

At the office he receives his mail with adhesive stamps which, although they bear the Queen of England's head, were invented by John Chambers of Dundee, **Scotland**.

During the day he uses the telephone, invented by Alexander Graham Bell of Edinburgh, **Scotland**.

At home in the evening he watches his daughter ride her bicycle, invented by Kilpatrick MacMillan, a Blacksmith from Dumfries, **Scotland**.

He watches the news on television which was invented by John Logie Baird of Helensburgh, **Scotland** and hears an item about the U.S. Navy founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean, **Scotland**.

He has now been reminded too much of **Scotland** and in desperation picks up the Bible, only to find that the first man mentioned in the good book is a Scot - King James VI - who authorized its translation.

Nowhere can an Englishman turn to escape the ingenuity of the Scots, he could take to drink but the Scots make the finest in the world, he could take a rifle and end it all but the breech-loading rifle was invented by Captain Patrick Ferguson of Pitfours, **Scotland**.

If he escaped death, he could find himself on an operating table, being injected with Penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming of Darvel, **Scotland**, and given an anaesthetic, discovered by Sir James Young Simpson of Bathgate, **Scotland**.

Coming out of the anesthesia, he would find no comfort in learning that he was as safe as the Bank Of England which was founded by William Patterson of Dumfries, **Scotland**!

Tam o' Shanter illustrated by Joan

As you are aware I have included this ripping yarn illustrated by Joan Lamb in the last three editions of the Chanter

Hope you have enjoyed it.

One N.S.A member must have done as they contacted me with an updated version: **Tam the Bunnet: A Modern Tam O'Shanter** from '**Still Flows the Burns**' by **Hugh J. Waters (Script writer for STV)**

There are actually quite a few references to Tam the Bunnet on the Internet. Several clubs have used it at their Burns suppers.

However, I have a copy of it (4 A4 sheets) and I also have a copy of Still Flows the Burns - the book it is in. It's classified as a rare book and the only one I can find now is £52!!! When I bought mine, they were being sold at anything up to £145. But I persevered and eventually got one for about £6.99 - it's just a small paperback.

If you are interested, I can photocopy the poem for you or maybe even type it up so that it is available also to others. I would be willing to lend out the book to anyone keen to read the rest. It ends with instructions on how to run a Burns' Supper!

Christine Oldfield

What do you call a Scotsman with one foot
inside his house and one foot inside his
house?

Hamish!

Greens Windmill Sneinton / William Booth

On Wednesday 6th September some 13 NSA members met at Greens Windmill - after a cup of coffee we ensconced to The William Booth Birthplace Museum just down the road [100 yards] - well, after waiting for Chris who had organised the trip but who got lost leaving the Windmill.

At the Museum we were met by Julie Obermeyer - the Museum's curator - now I have lived in Nottingham for over 60 years and vaguely knew that William Booth was born here [1829] and nothing about the work the Salvation Army does. Julie gave a very interesting talk on the early days of William and why and how he set up the Salvation Army and the amazing work it does across the world.

The Museum, besides telling William Booth's story, includes four rooms reconstructed as they may have looked when he was born here. As we were leaving the Museum I'm sure I heard someone say [I think it was me]" If you are saving loose women save one for me"

I thoroughly recommend this Museum.

Back to the Windmill we went, where a fresh pizza was being baked along with a salad picked from their vegetable garden for our dinner - someone once told me that you can tell your class by whether you call it "breakfast, lunch and dinner" or "breakfast, dinner and tea". Naturally I'm of the latter class however more of that next time.

As the NSA contains experts of every shape and hue there was a lively and intense debate over dinner about the flour produced by the Windmill. Milling is the process by which wheat is ground into flour. The exponents of the machines that had a capacity of 300-400[KG/H], power of 7.5+1.5KW (380v50hx), a roller diameter of 220(mm), weight of 675 Kg and dimensions of 3250x1500x3250 mm completely won me over.

Many thanks to Jamie Duff the Development Officer and John the Miller for making the visit so special.

Dave Vincent

Tourist: " I'm sorry, waiter, but I only have enough money for the bill. I have nothing left for a tip."
Highland Waiter: " Let me add up that bill again sir."

Scottish Country Dance Evening, 4th November 2017



After the days dancing on 21st October, in Beeston with a morning learning session, excellent lunch, and afternoon of dancing, here was the opportunity to put into practice all we had learnt.

Over twenty dancers came to Sutton Bonington Village Hall for an evening of Scottish dancing, with 'live' music (something of a novelty for we beginners) provided by Blinkbonny (David Page and

Debbie Hammond) and Deborah Blewitt. Dancers came from the Nottingham Scottish Association, Beeston and Soar Valley U3As, Newark Scottish Dance Society and Nottingham RSCDS.

The men looked very dashing in their kilts, long socks with Sgian Dubh tucked in, or tartan trews and plaid cravat. Ladies could not really compete, but did their best!

The programme, supplied well in advance, to give we beginners the chance to immerse ourselves in videos of the dances and despair, was an excellent mixture of easy, very easy, difficult and almost impossible. We also were provided with crib sheets, on the night, but however much you think you have understood and digested these, when you stand up and the music starts, you realise that actually you are still not too sure of what you should be doing. We (beginners) were allowed to sit out the impossible, and watch the experts demonstrate how to perform, and then applaud, having been thankful that we were sitting comfortably, watching.

It was, however, encouraging, that the majority of the dances were easy enough for us to feel a certain sense of achievement, as we got through them, without completely ruining the set and actually feeling that we had learnt one or two, much to the relief of our long-suffering partners. To whom, very many thanks, for helping us to have a wonderfully enjoyable evening.

Hopefully, Garth, who organised everything, under the auspices of the Nottingham Scottish Association, will feel pleased with the outcome, and, once he has recovered, will organise another such event. Thank you, Garth, on with the next!

Liz Matthews (Beginner)

.....

Children in Need Walk



On the 7th November 14 of us met up at the Gedling Country Park for a walk, in aid of Children in Need. The idea had been inspired by The Countryfile Programme.

For those of you who do not know it, the Country Park is on the site of the old Gedling Colliery which closed in 1991 when the former colliery and its slag heaps were allowed to revert back to scrub land. The site has since been developed into a beautiful 240 acre piece of countryside nestled in between Mapperley, Lambley and Gedling.

The site commands spectacular views of Gedling and from its highest point there are impressive

views across Nottinghamshire and into neighbouring Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. On a clear day you can see as far as Belvoir Castle and Lincoln Cathedral.

There are four trails in the park that are named after the coal seams that existed underground at the former Colliery and are graded for various levels of ability.

Tuesday the 7th of November was, in terms of its weather like a thorn between two roses. Monday and Wednesday were forecast to be sunny, dry and with little wind. Tuesday however was quite the opposite. The forecast was for heavy rain and wind but not till late morning.

We met in the car park and, after a coffee in the Cafe 1899 (named after the year Gedling Colliery was opened) off we set.

The plan was to complete the moderate 1.7 mile walk but to keep an eye on the weather and extend it as much as possible on the various paths within the park. At one point someone was heard to exclaim "we can carry on, the rain's still in Lambley" Thankfully the weather turned out to be in our favour and eventually we covered most of the paths and had walked a total of 3.5 miles. A lovely site which, whilst still in its infancy was very picturesque and yes, the views were very impressive.



After the walk we all retired to Treetops restaurant on Mapperley Plains for a well-earned meal. As we started on the first course someone told me it had started to pour with rain. Timed to perfection!

Thanks to everyone who came on the walk and to those who donated money who couldn't make it. We raised a total of £130 which has been sent off to Children in Need on behalf of the Association.

David.

Said the Englishman to the boastful Scot. Take away your mountains, glens and lochs and what have you got?

"England" replied the Scot!

PROGRAMME UPDATE

2017

December 12th: Christmas walk and Dinner . Colwick Country park followed by the Toby Inn.

December 14th: Dancing party night. St Andrews Church Hall. Bring and share.

2018

January 3rd: New Year walk around Attenborough Nature Reserve. Meet in the cafe at 10.00 for a 10.30 walk. Optional meal afterwards at local pub. Contact Dave for details

January 20th: Burns Supper Dinner and Dance. Belgrave Rooms. Goldsmith Street

February 6th: Walk. Contact Dave for details

February 24th: Quiz night. St Andrews Church Hall. Details to follow.

March 6th: Walk. Contact Dave for details

**For updates and more information re the above:
Please check out our facebook page and our web site.**

To Keep in the NSA loop!

Find us on our web pages

<https://nottinghamscottish.org/news>

or on  facebook

under The [Nottingham Scottish Association](#)

If you would like anything to be included in the next Chanter then please send it to vincent.christine@ntlworld.com or The Chanter c/o 20, Devitt Drive, Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 8BL. Telephone: 0115 952 3006 **by the last day of February 2017**

Chris Vincent

**We know it is early, but we would like to take this
opportunity to wish you a
Happy Christmas and Guid New Year.**

(and please do not get 'fou as a puggie'!)