

# The Chanter



**Nottingham Scottish Association**  
**Newsletter**  
**June 2018**

Find us on our web page at

<https://nottinghamscottish.org/news>

or



under The Nottingham Scottish Association

If you have anything to be included in the next issue of

The Chanter

please e-mail it to:

[chanter@nottinghamscottish.org](mailto:chanter@nottinghamscottish.org)

or send it by post to

The Chanter  
13 Haileybury Crescent  
West Bridgford  
Nottingham NG2 7BH

Latest date for receipt of submissions: 15th August



***Are you like the coo's tail – aye ahint?***

Annual subscriptions were due on April 1st. If you have not yet paid, please do so now.

## From Your New Editor



I take on this role with some trepidation, having spent the last year trying to offload some commitments (as age catches up with me). So I'm not quite sure why I volunteered. Maybe I was persuaded by the attractive salary on offer but, more realistically, it was the need to keep my brain active. I do have some writing pedigree, being the author or co-author of a dozen or so books, some self-published. Subjects include computing, birdwatching, walking and running. I have also had many articles published in various magazines and journals and, for almost three years, I wrote a fortnightly birdwatching column for the Gulf Times, Qatar's daily newspaper.

I will be relying heavily on you, the members, for material to fill the pages of this newsletter. I thank those who have contributed to this issue and those whose photographs I have used. I will continue to seek volunteers to provide accounts of the Association's activities but I would also urge you to put pen to paper (or fingers to keys) and submit anything else that you think would be appropriate and of interest to members. And please do feel free to comment or make any suggestions you might have regarding any aspect of The Chanter. I promise I will listen.



I welcome our new President, whose words follow, and wish you all a wonderful summer .... but see below!

Christine Oldfield

Anyone going up to Scotland for their holidays this year? If you are, choose your time carefully, taking note of something Billy Connolly claims - "*There are two seasons in Scotland: June and Winter*".



# Why Chanter?

*Chanter* is defined in Chambers Dictionary as

“a singer; a precentor; in a bagpipe, the pipe with fingerholes, on which the melody is played; one who cries up horses”

I asked Margaret Barnes why our newsletter was so-called. In her words “The chanter is the mouthpiece of the Scottish bagpipes. In the same way, The Chanter is the mouthpiece of the Nottingham Scottish Association”. Obvious really!

The issue of April 1972 bore the name, and a drawing of a chanter. The fact that it was labelled Vol.4, No.6 suggests the name was in use much earlier. Issues from 1984 to 1997 were undated and merely entitled ‘Newsletter’ with a picture of a shield. The picture reproduced on the cover of this current issue first appeared on the front cover in March 2011, was repeated in the following issue and appeared again in September 2012. In between those times, then right up to March 2016, covers featured the drawing of a chanter superimposed on a piece of sheet music for a Scottish song. More recently, the picture of a chanter has disappeared, and the cover has borne a picture of an interesting person or feature which has been described inside.



If you want to take up playing the bagpipes, you start with the *practice chanter*. Nobody should attempt to play the actual bagpipes before reaching a certain level of proficiency on the chanter. Experienced pipers still use it to practise the melodies for new tunes.

The chanter is a double reed woodwind instrument and is traditionally made from hardwood such as African Blackwood. When, in the 60s, it became scarce, an Irish bagpipe maker began using a strong, plastic material, polyoxymethylene, which was, at the time, used for making police truncheons.

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*What's the definition of a gentleman?*

*Someone who knows how to play the bagpipe and doesn't.*

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## President's Page

If you were at the AGM, you will already know that I was nominated and elected as The President of the Association, which I consider a great honour. I look forward to seeing each of you at some, or all, of the future events which are listed later in this issue.



On behalf of us all, I would like to thank David, ably assisted by Kate, for the excellent work they have carried out on our behalf over the last two years. Fortunately for us all, he remains as a member of Council and I look forward to his continued support.

The AGM was well-attended and there were several points raised that Council discussed at our meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May. It was decided that we needed more time to discuss and evaluate them, so our proposals and solutions will be in place for the next edition of The Chanter.

At our next Council meeting, as well as our normal business, we will be discussing the following items from the AGM.

- Implementation of the proposed fee increase which was accepted unanimously.
- The wording of the rules
- Postage costs for distribution of The Chanter
- Ideas to increase attendance at St Andrews Night celebrations

If you studied the balance sheet supplied by our treasurer, Sylvia, you will have seen that in the last year we have spent more than our receipts. Although this doesn't look good, it's not a true reflection of the account as some items had not been finalised before the meeting. Next year's AGM will be held in May (Date to be decided). This will allow us to present the whole year's accounts.

This year we have two new members of Council - Sue Morrison, our new Vice President, and Edwina Lambourdiere. I'm sure that everyone will make them very welcome and I look forward to their contributions to The Association.

In addition to The Chanter we have other ways to keep existing members up to date and to attract new members. Our web page has been revamped at <https://nottinghamscottish.org> and the Facebook link is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197249863657225>.

To comply with the changes introduced in the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR) you will all be receiving a document from David. This will ensure that we are compliant and reassure you that we are dealing with your details correctly. It would be appreciated if you complete the document and return it to him as soon as possible.

Gach dùrachd (Kind Regards)

Don

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Ed: There has recently been some talk about charging for paper copies of the Chanter and encouraging members to read it on the website instead. There **is** precedent for both, as these two extracts from previous Chanters show:

The Chanter of **April 1972** listed the new annual fees as follows:

Ordinary Member	75p
Junior Member (16 – 21)	40p
Old Age Pensioner's Option	50p

To this should be added for each household 25p to cover part of the cost of The Chanter.

And the issue of **March 2011** carried this secretary's request:

You may be aware that The Chanter is available on our web-page at

[www.nottinghamscottish.org.uk/Newsletters.htm](http://www.nottinghamscottish.org.uk/Newsletters.htm)

We are increasingly being asked to e-mail Chanters to members rather than sending them by post. Therefore, I ask that if you would like to receive your copy of The Chanter electronically, rather than through the post, please tick the appropriate box on the membership renewal form.

# A Walk in Wollaton

Tuesday March 6th



A small group of us met in the car park of the Wheelhouse Pub, all of us grateful that the weather was far better than it had been the previous week.

Andrew had prepared the route and, first of all, took Don, Lyndsey, Hugh, Sid, Sue, Ellen and myself around the well-hidden Martin's pond, a local Nature Reserve, which, thank you, Andrew, had only minimal mud!!



We then crossed the road and entered Wollaton Park. The sun made a brave attempt to shine and we enjoyed the fresh air and the beautiful views of the park. We chanced upon some twitchers who were excited because there had been sightings of woodpeckers, but it was uncertain as to whether they were lesser or greater spotted. [Ed: my resident birder tells me it is extremely difficult to tell the difference]

En route to the Camellia House we passed a herd of graceful deer. It was a little early in the year to catch most of the Camellias in bloom but they were all full of buds and a couple of red/yellow ones were out and looked spectacular. The house will be well worth a visit in a couple of weeks when it should be a brilliant display.



Time to continue through the park to make our way back to the Wheelhouse, where we all enjoyed a well deserved drink and lunch, which was declared delicious and very good value. One of us even had pudding!

It was a great day and thanks to Andrew for leading us.

Enid Bloom



# Easter Walk by the River Trent

**Tuesday April 3rd**

Well, it was actually the Tuesday after Easter and we all met at the Ferry Inn at Wilford for an 11 o'clock walk along the Trent. It was a dull day, so coats were needed but, amazingly, we never saw rain until we were approaching the door of the Ferry Inn on our return for lunch. Lucky or what!!

We set off over the old Wilford Toll Bridge and turned along the river towards Trent Bridge. The river was really high and I think none of us had ever seen it running quite so fast. The daffodils were mostly all out, so it felt as though spring was on the way. We all chatted as we walked, but no one admitted to having eaten too many Easter eggs!



We called in at the TBI (Trent Bridge Inn) for coffee and comfort breaks and walked back along the other side of the river for a lovely lunch at the Ferry Inn where a warm welcome awaited. Our reward was a hearty meal and a drink. Thanks to all who came. and we look forward to the next walk in May.



Lyndsey Lyas  
(Walk leader)

[Ed: I can't resist including the Facebook conversation after **Andrew** prefaced his photograph with this comment: "Our April walk managed to miss the rain and enjoy the flowers - but no puddings this time!"

**Enid Bloom** Who are you calling a pudding?😂😂😂😂😂😂me!

**Andrew Morrison** I couldn't possibly comment...😂😂]



# Saturday Dance

## April 21st, St. Andrews with Castle Gate Church

This social dance, organised by Garth Dring, was the third of three, the intention being to bring Scottish dancers in the area together to enjoy some Scottish dancing - with food at a suitable interval.

It was certainly a very lively and interesting evening; dancing with the music at the 'wrong' end of the hall was quite a novel experience with



lots of puzzled expressions and some 'interesting' turns. [Ed: and I can vouch for the fact that, for someone who usually dances as a lady, dancing as a man made this doubly confusing!]

Thank you to Blinkbonny's David and Debbie who provided live music and to

the callers who were very clear with all the instructions and quite amenable when asked for more than one walk through.

The enormous quantity of delicious food brought for our bring and share supper was most welcome as we took a breather at half time. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.



Sylvia Hale



[Ed: There were about forty dancers from several different groups – Beeston U3A, Soar Valley U3A, Nottingham RSCDS, Grantham, Newark, Bingham and our own NSA. Dances were chosen to suit the full range of dancers from

beginners to experts. The photos show how well the evening was received.]

# President's Night

## Saturday April 14th

Competition was the order of the night and in no time the preliminary rounds of the Kurling were in full flow. Six teams took part, with Jeanne and Bill keeping everyone in order and doing the scoring.

In addition to Kurling, the twenty-six people in attendance played Scalextric, Subbuteo and Putting and tried their 'steady' hand at Swap the Ball, a German game brought along by Don. They also had to tax their brains to complete the President's quiz.

There was a variety and plentiful supply of pies for supper, served with mushy peas, beans or salad – followed by delicious desserts. Thanks go to Kate, Norma, Lyndsey, Sue, Don and Graham for all their hard work in preparing this.

Some scores in the Kurling during the evening had been as high as 40 and after supper the final took place. With the crowd cheering both teams on, The All Stars took on Stone the Crows, who won by 7 points to 5. Prizes and gold and silver medals were presented, with the bronze medals going to the Pukka Pies (so named because they ate them all). Prizes were also given to the joint winners of the President's quiz.

Our thanks go to David and the Council members for an enjoyable evening; and to Jeanne and Bill for organising the Kurling.

Marian Pierce

[Ed: Does Andrew's Facebook appreciation of the evening suggest an obsession with other people's eating habits? "*Thank you, Mr President – and who ate all the pies?*"]



There weren't any brooms in action in the Kurling, but Linda Smith, in a comedy show, once described the Olympic Sport of curling as "Housework on ice".

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**The President** keeps his eye on proceedings  
.... and on the pies!



# 38th ASCDS Dance Festival

Saturday 12th May 2018

Another year, another venue – up north at Retford Oaks Academy. We easily found the school and our places in the large dining hall which was to be used for the dancing. We were all pleased to find a good luck card from Margaret Barnes, prevented by ill health from

playing her usual part in our team. Last year it was Sue who sustained a horrific injury at the final dancing practice. It was good that she was available this year. First time with our team were Marion and Ann who had previously danced



in the Festival for Watnall ladies, Anita and Liz, who have made such progress since coming from U3A, and Garth and Andy. The veterans completing the line up were Andrew, Jeanne, Keith, Margaret Livens, Norma and Rosie – and ourselves, Iris and Peter.

Soon we assembled for the traditional piper-led march round the hall. Some of the veterans can remember when this was outside! On a cloudy, cool day we were glad to be indoors. The dances then began, with those danced by the mass teams interspersed with individual teams doing more advanced demonstrations. During these, we were glad of the chance to rest and swot up the next dance!





After three massed groups there was an interval when we presented Andrew and Sue with bottles of wine and a thank you card for all their hard work in organising practices. We were amused by Schuggie and Pip's little lads racing round in their kilts – future recruits?



Three more groups and demonstrations followed, and we finished about 5pm, all quite pleased with our performance, including Andrew. Quite a few of us moved

to another hall to eat our picnics (though we could have ordered fish 'n' chips.!) A few departed, but those who stayed for the Evening Dance thoroughly enjoyed themselves, dancing to the lively music of Chris Dewhurst's Band.

Chesterfield managed the afternoon and Retford were good hosts throughout. Same venue next year – hope we are all fit!



Iris & Peter Dale

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**Ed:** The team had practised over and over again for this big occasion. The hard work paid off and you can see how much fun they all had.

They enjoyed themselves again on May 24th at the lively end of season party for the Scottish Country Dancing group. And the jigging and reeling will resume again on 6th September. If you've never tried Scottish Country Dancing, or haven't done it for years, why not plan to come along and join us? You will be made very welcome.

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# Strelley Hall Walk

Wednesday May 2nd

Tuesday was beautiful, Wednesday afternoon fine and Thursday was glorious. But when was the walk scheduled for? Of course, it was Wednesday morning and it rained; not just rained, it poured.

We'd planned a three mile walk and, at 8 o'clock, the weather looked as though it would clear. It didn't. So, at 9 o'clock a decision was made to cancel, and an attempt made to contact those we knew would be going. Despite this, nine of us turned up at Strelley Hall, because some couldn't be contacted and others just came for coffee. We all descended on the Mulberry Tree Cafe and whilst we were there we noticed a few people turning up for a guided walk to view the bluebells in the nearby



Oldmoor Wood. We decided to do likewise, in the hope of salvaging something out of the day, and, when the rain

eventually eased, we set off. I've never seen such mud in the woods but, despite that, we were treated to the most beautiful display of bluebells. It had been well worth it.

Lunch had also created a problem. The original plan to visit the Broad Oak was thwarted by a booking for a 70-strong funeral party, but the Mulberry Tree Café managed to accommodate us.

Despite everything, we did get a walk in, and I offer profuse apologies to those I managed to contact to cancel. I should have remembered what one of our members said: "*there's no such thing as a bad day, it's just that you don't have the right gear on to enjoy it.*"

Dave Potter (Walk Leader)

# Future Programme

## NSA Activities

**Thursday 14th June, 4pm** Afternoon walk and BBQ at 31 Nottingham Road, Trowell. Contact Don (07917 038817)

**Thursday 12th July, 7pm** Garden Dance with Andrew and Sue. Bring and Share Supper. Contact Andrew (0115 9164691)

**Sunday 22nd July, 11am** Walk/Treasure Hunt around Holme Pierrepont. Tea and cake afterwards at Lyndsey and Graham's in West Bridgford. Contact Dave Potter (0115 8490638)

**Saturday 4th August, 10.30am** Peak District Walk and Pub Lunch. Parwich (near Tissington) area. Contact Andrew (0115 9164691)

**Thursday 6th September Scottish Country Dancing begins**

**Monday 10th September Crazy Golf. Contact** Dave Potter (0115 8490638)

**Looking further ahead:**

**Saturday 24th November** St Andrew's Night Dinner

**Saturday 26th January 2019** Burns Night Dinner

**Both of the above** will incorporate a Ceilidh Dance.

## Other Events

**24th June, 15th July & 19th August:** Springy Reelers, 10.00 - 12.00

Scout Hall, St Michaels Square, Bramcote NG9 3HG. Family dance session. Come on your own or bring the kids and practise and learn Scottish Country and Ceilidh dances. No experience required. Adults £2.00, kids free. Join us for a 12.30 lunch at The Nurseryman.

Contact Schuggie@Ceilidhcalling or on 07875718702

**Saturday 22nd September** Nottingham RSCDS Social Dance  
7.30 – 11pm Lowdham Village Hall