

The Chanter



Photo: The Sunday Post

Newsletter

March 2020



The Nottingham Scottish Association

Honorary Patron Sir Andrew Buchanan Bt. KCVO KStJ

President's Page



As I sit here preparing this piece for the latest version of The Chanter, I'm also thinking over the past two years of my Presidency of The Nottingham Scottish Association.

It has been a great honour to serve as President; Sue and I have thoroughly enjoyed filling that role. Thanks to the assistance given to us by many fellow members it has been very enjoyable.

The formal dinners for St Andrew's and Burns' Nights have been highlights especially the speakers, who have reminded and enlightened everyone about all things Scottish. Working quietly in the background my fellow members of Council have also provided fantastic support.

I would like to thank some other special people who help make our formal events run smoothly, namely Bill, Bob, Andrew and Schuggie. Hopefully they will be able to continue doing this for the Association in the future.

The Chanter edited by Christine has become a great read, with lots of interesting articles. However, producing it is not as easy as it may look. Christine would welcome more reports and articles from **you**, which don't necessarily have to be about the Association, but, ideally, they should have a mention about something Scottish.

Like all community/social groups it's often a small group of members that work to keep things going. Sadly, although, we are all generally fit and healthy, we are not getting any younger. Collectively we need to try to encourage younger members to join and to become involved with the administration of the Association.

Going forward, there is one thing that we should continue to do. That is the Toast with Highland Honours on Burns' Night. The speakers during my Presidency thoroughly enjoyed witnessing it. Both were seasoned speakers at Burns' Dinners, but neither of them had witnessed this Toast at previous Burns' Nights that they had attended.



Finally, an apology. I'm not a dancer, as displayed at St Andrew's and Burns' nights, so have been a bit remiss in not attending any of the Thursday night sessions. It is a strong part of our Association and thanks are due to those who continue to encourage and recruit new members.

Gach dùrachd, **Don**

From the Editor



Many thanks to Bob and Sue for their reports this quarter and to Andrew, Dave, Ann, and John for the abundance of photographic contributions. You'll find reports of six events, but too many are written by me, some with help from material from Andrew's web text. I know there are a few of you who will always oblige if necessary, but I don't like to take advantage too often. Next quarter there will be about eight events to report. Why don't **you** take the (Highland) bull by the horns and volunteer? Submissions should be sent to me by post to The Chanter, 13 Haileybury Crescent, West Bridgford, NG2 7BH or attached to an email to chanter@nottinghamscottish.org to reach me by mid-May.

- And now that we are out of the EU, remember the old Scots saying –
Be happy while yer livin', 'cause yer a lang time deid

Christine Oldfield

Stars!

(With apologies for the poor quality of the TV clip screenshots)

Will Hollis, of Notts TV, visited us at dancing on 23rd January to see how we 'practised' for Burns' Night and what that night would entail. The four members interviewed gave eloquent accounts whilst the rest of us worked through our programme. Will declined to have a go at the more complicated dances but joined in with a grand circle. And all of us enjoyed watching the short TV clip on the 24th. Hopefully the publicity will have generated some interest. **Ed.**



Margaret Barnes
Secretary, Nottingham Scottish Association



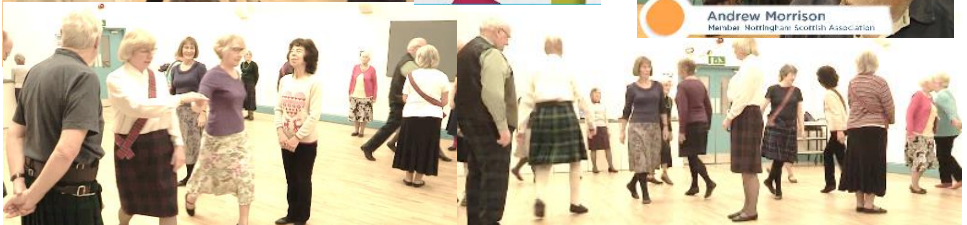
Bill Dall
Former President, Nottingham Scottish Association



Joan Lamb
Member, Nottingham Scottish Association



Andrew Morrison
Member Nottingham Scottish Association



Christmas Walk and Dinner

Friday 6th December

Just eight keen and hardy souls turned up at Colwick to partake of the first course that Don had organised. And they were very lucky to dodge most of the rain as they meandered around the river and the lake.



These walkers, at least, deserved Don's second course - Christmas Dinner! In all, twenty-two sat down for the meal at Toby's Carvery and, as Andrew's (slightly doctored) photos indicate, made merry with crackers, paper hats and a drink or two!



New members

The Nottingham Scottish Association is delighted to welcome four new members. Three of them have already made their presence felt at dancing and we look forward to seeing them all at some of our other activities too.

Teresa Allen Elinor Fisher Valerie Garvey Jean Heeson

New Year Walk around Attenborough Nature Reserve

Monday 6th January



It was dry, overcast and windy for the twenty-two folk plus two dogs who gathered for the annual 'walk off the extra pounds' event. Some fuelled up with coffee at the Visitor Centre whilst others just made use of the facilities before setting off. Just outside, the large flock of Canada and Greylag geese had been infiltrated by several distinctive Egyptian geese.

On their recce, Dave and Kate (seen keeping watch over us from above) had come across an unsafe, closed footbridge, so the main walk had to be re-routed. This involved a bit of road walking which took us across a few level crossings and past the house where John spent a good part of his childhood. But plenty of the 3.7 miles was along the waterside where we were lucky to see, not only a little egret, but also a great white egret. Largely unidentified tits were obvious amongst the bare branches of the trees lining the path, but the Slavonian grebe recorded on the sightings list in the Visitor Centre refused to show itself.

Apart from bikes with no bells and a swan which had a go at Graham's dog, it was an uneventful walk. It is recorded in one of the earlier Chanters that "Lyndsey's pear drops" always helped sustain weary walkers - and this is still true! But there were still nineteen who were ready for a hearty lunch at the Cornmill. Thanks are due to Kate and Dave for a very enjoyable winter day out.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have cared for and managed the Reserve for over 50 years, but the site remained in the ownership of the company that had mined it for gravel. The Trust needed to raise £1m by the end of January to be able to buy the land, and on the 5th of February it was announced that they had reached their target.

Christine Oldfield

Hindu Pipe Band

Almost anywhere you go in the world you will find bagpipes and pipe bands. Their attire and musical offerings vary but they all include Scottish tunes in their repertoire. The Shree Muktajeevan Swamibapa Pipe Band is one of them. Their website tells that the band was established in honour of Gurudev Adya Acharyapravar Jeevanpran Shree Muktajeevan Swamibapa.

With the guidance of Acharya Swamishree Maharaj, the band has become a unique Indian international Pipe Band sporting the full Scottish regalia and playing both Indian and Scottish tunes. The group's five



bands are based in India, Kenya, USA and UK – where there are two.

Their London band was established in 1972 and has become renowned around the world as being a civilian band with military style and discipline. The band has performed at important national events including Queen Elizabeth II's Golden and Diamond Jubilees and at numerous charitable functions, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for the needy. They also performed at Wembley Stadium to welcome Prime Minister Modi for the first time to London. And there's a special Cadets Corps where over eighty aspiring band members learn the disciplines from the age of three.

The pipe band in Bolton was established in 2002 and has become famous in the North of England as a unique fusion of cultures with performances of Indian and Western beats and music. This band has also performed at charitable fundraising events and has become a welcome sight at the Reebok Stadium when their local football team, Bolton Wanderers, plays.



The BBC have made a programme about Darshil, a band member, who leads the pipe band through the streets of North-West England to showcase this unusual blend of Scottish and Hindu culture. He says that playing the bagpipes is the perfect way to honour the teachings of his Hindu guru.

Burns' Night Dinner and Dance Saturday 25th January



More than a hundred members and friends joined together to celebrate the birthday of our famous bard, Robert Burns.



The Haggis was ably addressed by Past President Bob Logan, then we all helped ourselves from the platters delivered to our tables. The main course was gammon and a pineapple pudding followed. During the meal we toasted the Association and the Queen, and two guests won a bottle of whisky each. We received Fraternal Greetings from thirty two Burns Clubs.



Once the meal was cleared away, we listened to a very informative and detailed Immortal Memory given by Donald Macarthur. The Toast to the Lassies was given by Past President David Potter. This was quickly and comprehensibly shot down by his niece-in-law Fiona Shore, who gave the reply. I believe that the outcome was that David received a suspended sentence! The lassies always have the last word.



The formal part of the evening over, the dancers boisterously took to the floor and were kept in check with the directions of Past President Andrew Morrison. A very friendly and happy evening was then rounded off with Auld Lang Syne around midnight.

Bob Logan



[And some of the dancing was not quite so boisterous! Ed.]



Mapperley Walk Monday 3rd February



We had a bright windy day for our walk, with a turnout of thirteen keen walkers, all well-wrapped up against the elements.

The walk, just under four miles, and pretty flat, was mostly on good paths and roads.

Mapperley Reservoir was passed and we walked through part of Shipley Country Park.

We stopped for a welcome hot drink at the Derby Lodge coffee shop and eleven of us stayed and enjoyed a well-earned lunch at the Newdigate Arms with friendly and efficient service.



Sue Morrison

A Schoolboy's Lament

By Colin Millar, aged 11

Previously published in the Newsletter of 19th October 2000, this heart felt poem perhaps deserves another airing following on from the recent Burns' Night celebrations

Ah dinnae like ye Rabbie Burns
An aw this writin' aboot yer life,
It's kept me aff ma "Gameboy"
And gied me nowt but strife!
I've read yer poems and sung yer sangs
Till they're birlin' in ma heid.
Ah ask ye whit's the point o' it
For, come on man, yer DEID.

Why **should** ah like ye Rabbie Burns?
Yer words are queer an' soppy.
Yid hae been better playin' fitba'
Than writin' "Tae a Poppy".
The Mouse, The Louse, The Exciseman,
They were no too bad.
But love songs to the lassies?
Man! That's just doon right sad.

Aye, ah like ye Rabbie Burns
For yer birthday tea gans doon a treat,
Wi' haggis, neeps and tatties,
The Highland Fling wi' twa left feet,
An' a chance tae birl the lassies.
Yer words hae crossed twa hunner years -
Aye that's a good long while.
I hope you like my poem.
Dae ye recognise the style!

To a Camel

From a Newsletter of the Qatar Hash House Harriers
St Andrew's Day 1992 (with apologies to Robert Burns)

Gret, reekin'. moldie, mangie beastie,
O. welcome tae oor humble feastie!
Who wad hae thought ye quite sae tastie,
Wi' neeps an' tatties?
Come, set we doon and gobble hastie
Oor camel patties.

Snowdrops at Hodsock Priory

On the 12th February BBC East Midlands television featured an interview with our Patron, Sir Andrew Buchanan, on the Hodsock estate. At the start of this new decade the snowdrop display seems to be as magnificent as ever.



Some of you will remember the trip north to view the spectacle some years ago when Sir Andrew welcomed a group from The Nottingham Scottish Association to Hodstock.

Since then we've had some new members and we have another invitation - he says "Do come to Bluebells which will be in the first week of May".

If this can be arranged it would make a lovely day out. **Ed.**

The following excerpt is from an item which appeared last year, but it is still relevant:



Dumfries & Galloway News

Haggis Worrying is An Offence Dog Owners Warned

SCOTCH (ie Stop Cruelty Of The Common Haggis), the organisation behind the protection of all of Scotland's wild Haggis breeds, has issued a warning to dog owners that after the 25th of January the Haggis hunting season is closed as the breeding season starts, and

any dog found worrying Haggi in their nesting grounds will be prosecuted.

Officers from SCOTCH have been given the power to prosecute anyone who is caught with their dog off their lead worrying the nesting Haggi. The fine could be up to at least one case of malt whisky! So be warned.

Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd February

Seeing the number of bottles already on the tables as we arrived, it was obvious that most people had taken full advantage of the permission we had been granted to partake of alcohol during the evening. I'm not sure whether this helped or hindered the functioning of brains and memories.

Almost thirty of us were settled at our tables by the time Dave gave out the RULES of competition, our answer sheets and questions for the Serious Scottish Quiz which was to be filled in whenever we had a minute to spare - "especially during the break". Was this, then, not intended to be a light-hearted event? Whether it was or not, we made it so (as did Dave) and all thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and the banter.

The main quiz tested our knowledge of recent news, words beginning with R, inventors, food & drink, geography and the Wipe-out round – general knowledge. Tactics were needed here as there were 5 bonus points for 10 right answers, but a wipe-out of all points scored if even just one answer was wrong. Clearly guessing was not sensible.

Did you realise that a bibliophile is *not* a lover of bibblies? That crossing a blackberry and a raspberry yields a Tayberry (it was first produced around the River Tay in 1977)? And what reason can anyone have for knowing, not just the first and last name, but also the middle name of the Scotsman, John Boyd Dunlop, who popularised the pneumatic tyre?

Some of the Serious Scottish questions taxed even the Scots amongst us. Why should a caber not be made from Scots pine? Larch sounds a bit weak. And did you know that The Clockwork Orange can transport you around under the streets of Glasgow? I was pleased to remember that the statue of Wojtek in Edinburgh's Princes Street gardens was of a brown bear which I had seen most years of my childhood at Edinburgh Zoo. Dave told us of his interesting history - it's worth looking up.

Well done to the *The Exiles* who won both the main quiz and the Serious Scottish Quiz. They say they "won by pure luck!". The noisiest celebration, though, was from *Nora's Numpties* who took the wooden spoon.

Supper, simple but sumptuous, was served after the fourth round - pies, peas and beans were followed by red velvet gâteau, carrot and walnut cake and profiteroles. The chefs (including Don in his tartan pinny), the serving staff and all the other organisers are to be thanked and highly commended. If they so wish, they will have no problem filling the vacancies left by the absence of overseas workers after Brexit! And Dave, as Quiz Master, was a natural – when does John Humphrys retire?

Christine Oldfield

Future Programme



NSA Events

Wednesday 4th March Walk from Strelley Hall. Start at the Café, 10am for 10.30am. Lunch there afterwards. Contact Dave Potter on 0115 8490638 or davekatepotter13@gmail.com

Saturday 14th March Murder Mystery Fully booked

Saturday 4th April President's Evening Indoor Kurling etc. Food provided but BYO drinks and nibbles. Contact donpringle@sky.com or phone 07917038817. It's a FREE night except for Raffle Tickets.

Saturday 18th April Dance Social £5, pay at the door, 7pm - 10pm St Andrew's with Castle Gate Church Hall, Bring & Share supper

Wednesday 29th April Walk around Netherfield Lagoons. Meet (and lunch) at the Ferry Boat Inn, Stoke Bardolph, NG14 5HX, 10.15am for a 10.30am start. Contact Christine & John Oldfield, 0115 945 2166.

Thursday 30th April AGM Upper Hall of St Andrew's with Castlegate Church, 7.30pm. Coffee and tea available in the lower hall afterwards.

Saturday 9th May ASCDS Festival, Retford Oakes Academy, Retford

Friday 15th May Walk To be confirmed

Wednesday 17th June Walk and BBQ Contact Don on 07917 038817

Other Events of Interest

Nottingham RSCDS Dances Saturdays 21st March & 16th May, 8pm to midnight, Lowdham Village Hall. See <https://nottinghamrscds.org/events>

Leicester RSCDS Saturday 4th April Social Dance St Peter's Church Hall, LE3 8DP Music by George Meikle 13th Mar, Contact 0116 241 5857

Contact Schuggie@Ceilidhcalling or on 07875 718 702 for the following:

Friday 6th March North Sea Gas 40th Anniversary Tour 7.45-10pm. Boat & Horses, Beeston Tickets £10, or £8 to NSA Friends & Family.

Friday Ceilidhs 13th Mar, 24th April, 15th May, Boat & Horses, Beeston

Springy Reelers, Sundays 10-12noon, 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May

**You will soon receive your Membership Renewal form.
Please fill it in carefully and return it promptly with your fees
Thank you!**

THE COUNCIL 2019/2020

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