



The Chanter

Newsletter



Calanais Stones, Isle of Lewis

December 2024



The Nottingham Scottish Association

www.nottinghamscottish.org

Sir Patrick Spens

(Anonymous)

The king sits in Dunfermline toun
drinking the blude reid wine,
"O whar can I get a skeely
skipper,
To sail this ship o' mine?"

Up and spak an eldern knicht,
Sat at the kings richt knee:
"Sir Patrick Spens is the best
sailor
That sails upon the se."

The king has written a braid
letter,
And signed it wi his hand,
And sent it to Sir Patrick Spens,
Was walking on the strand.

To Noroway! to Noroway!
to Noroway oer the faem!
The king's daughter to Noroway
'Tis thou maun bring her hame.

The first line that Sir Patrick red,
A loud lauch lauched he;
The next line that Sir Patrick red,
A teir blinded his ee.

"O wha is this has don this deid,
This ill deid don to me,
To send me out this time o' yeir,
To sail upon the se!

"Mak haste, mak haste, my mirry
men,
Our guid ship sails the morne":
"O say na sae, my master deir,
I feir a deadlie storme.

"Yestreen I saw the new moone,
Wi the auld moone in her arme,
And I feir, I feir, my master deir,
That we will cum to harme."

O loth, o loth,
The Scots lords were
To weet their cork-heild schoone;
Bot lang owre a' the play wer
playd,
Thair hats they swam aboone.

O lang, lang may the ladies sit,
Wi' their fans into their hand
Or ere they see Sir Patrick Spens
Come sailing to the strand.

O lang, lang may the ladies stand,
Wi thair gold kems in their hair,
Waiting for thair ain deir lords,
For they'll see thame na mair.

Haf owre, haf owre to Aberdour,
Tis fiftie fathom deip,
And thair lies guid Sir Patrick
Spens,
The Scots lords at his feit.

From the President



I am writing this feeling, still, a little jet lagged though full of beans. We've just returned from a wonderful trip to Southern India crossing from Bangalore to Kerala in the west and back to Pondicherry and Chennai in the east.

On the way we visited Ooty and, as is usual on our travels, the Scottish connection is very evident. Scottish settlers played a crucial role in turning the Nilgiris, and Ooty in particular, into a modern hill station. Scots came to India as writers, traders, engineers, missionaries, tea and indigo planters, jute traders and teachers. By 1771, almost half of the East India Company's writers were Scots.



Whilst in Ooty we visited St Thomas church where we saw the gravestone of a famous Scot, Patrick Adam. Though his tenure was short, Governor Adam was popular in the Nilgiris and citizens remembered him with a statue in his name at Charing Cross - a busy crossroads in the centre of town.

Adam Fountain



Among the gravestones in St Stephen's Church is a marker for W G Mclvor, who introduced cinchona to fight malaria and laid the foundation for the botanical garden at Ooty. We visited the botanical garden which, while not being to the same standard as in its heyday, is still very well kept and a sight to see.

Botanical Gardens

Whilst enjoying our holiday very much indeed, I was sorry to miss our Nottingham Scottish Association St Andrews Night dinner dance. I have heard from Council members that it was a very enjoyable event with good food, exuberant dancing and a short but humorous speech. My thanks go to our Vice President, Dieter, for so ably standing in for me in hosting the event and to all of those who worked so hard to make the event the success that it was.

We look forward to our next major event of the year, namely our Burns Night dinner dance on 25th January.

Rosie

Council members plan ahead

Our next AGM is not until May, but we need to think ahead as we have big changes to cope with:

A number of Council members will be standing down and so there will be general vacancies to fill. However, a key position is that of Secretary to the Council. Margaret Barnes has held this position for the past 11 years and has given us plenty of notice that the time is right for her to lay down her pen in 2025. She is very happy to support a new person whilst they settle in so no one need feel overwhelmed.

Please consider this request seriously as this is one role we cannot do without!

Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome Cherie Edwards as a new member. She has already begun to enjoy herself by attending St Andrews Night.

From the Editor

Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Lunch and Walk
Wednesday 8th January:	New Year Walk and Lunch
Thursday 9th January	Scottish Country Dancing restarts
Saturday 25th January :	Burns Night Dinner and Ceilidh Dance.
Saturday 15th February:	Quiz night (to be confirmed)
Friday 7th March:	North Sea Gas at the Boat and Horses, Beeston

From the Editor

Thanks to all for their contributions to this edition of the Chanter. This is your newsletter and we need members' contributions! Please, if you have not contributed a piece before, think about doing so. Your experiences are so always interesting. Have you enjoyed a recent visit to Scotland or elsewhere? Do you have a childhood reminiscence to share? Do you have a quirky piece of Scottish history to recount? All welcome

You can send them to me at chanter@nottinghamscottish.org

Andrew Morrison

Isobel Logan

15th April 1944 - 26th August 2024

It was with great sadness that we heard that Isobel had lost her fight with Myeloid Leukaemia on the 26th August.

Isobel had been a member of The Association for many years since she arrived in Nottingham in the late 1950's with her parents, Robert and Jenny Young, from Loch Winnoch near Glasgow. Robert came to Nottingham to continue his career as an Accountant and Jenny pursued her interests as a local historian into areas of Nottingham.

As with lots of Scots at this time they looked to join a Scottish Association and a Scottish Church: hence a 60 year plus relationship ensued with both the Nottingham Scottish and St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church.

Isobel met Bob and his family, who were also Church and Association members, and they were married at St Andrew's Church.

Alan and then Neil came along and eventually they too married and the resulting grandchildren were a source of great pleasure and pride to both Isobel and Bob

Isobel constantly supported Bob, the Association and the Church and was always there to help when needed. She enjoyed the Scottish dancing, walks and the many social functions that were a constant part of their lives and was also a volunteer at the St Andrew's Church Stroke club.

Isobel started off as a Nursery Nurse and later as a library assistant at Gedling Comprehensive and finally at the High School.

Isobel was a great baker, and it was always a delight if, when visiting, she would say "I've just made a few cakes"

Bob describes her as a "crafty person" but only because of her interest and expertise in the arts and crafts, Isobel was gifted with needlework, quilt making, bobbin lace, crochet, knitting and even making items with card.

She had a passion for flowers and led the team at the Church in producing the Sunday Church Service flower displays and for funerals and weddings.

When she and Bob decided to acquire a holiday property where else would they chose than Madeira with its temperate climate and abundance of Flora!

Isobel, we shall miss your smile and gentle personality and a large gap has been left in many people's lives.

David Potter

The Nottingham Scottish Open Championship Wednesday 4th September



It was early morning on Wednesday, the 4th of September and the big day had arrived.

All over Nottingham and Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire alarm clocks were sounding. heralding the day when the competitors futures would be decided.

After weeks of intense practice and deep felt frustrations over their lack of game time, it was the day of the...

Nottingham Scottish Association Crazy Golf Open Competition 2024.

After a hearty breakfast of all bran and prunes (to help the older digestive system) all the participants travelled to Highfield's on University Boulevard using trams, buses, cars and on foot, due to climate considerations planes were not considered appropriate!

Meeting of the 19 combatants was to be in the cafe adjacent to the course at 10.00 (actually, only 16 managed to find this, the others went directly to the course). Cups of steaming hot coffee and chocolate provided a stimulating start to the event, considering the early hour of tee off time, and gave an opportunity to discuss tactics.

Having carefully selected their respective partners and adversaries, The Crazy golfers* teed off at 10.30.

The next hour and a half tested everyone's metal and skills as they overcame the obstacles of slopes, rivers, piles of books, bridges and scattered sporting equipment, all aimed to deter, frustrate and hinder the ultimate aim - to get a hole in one!

The crowd (comprising of Margaret Barnes) followed all the shots avidly giving full vocal encouragement at times for some very difficult shots.



The occasional roar from the crowd and fellow competitors declaring that indeed some holes in one were being achieved.

After the activities were completed all the competitors and crowd descended on the Nurseryman Public House for a post competition dinner when everyone was able to reflect on how well (or not) they had played.

Unfortunately, no final scores were able to be ascertained as the organiser was unable to cope with such high scores and everyone was declared a winner.

There was however a result that reflected the improvement of all competitors since the last Open Championship of 2021 in that there were a total of 9 holes in one recorded.

Everyone concluded that the day was worthy of repeat in 2025 and left the venue satisfied and determined to keep practicing.

**("Crazy golfers" refers to the golf – it doesn't mean the golfers are crazy....I think... Ed)*

Dave Potter

With thanks to Dave Potter for organising this event.

Papplewick Walk Wednesday 18th September



Well, what a turnout! I had enormous problems taking the register in the car park of the “Griffin’s Head”, the starting point of our 5.5 mile walk. There was Hugh, Sid, Marie ... and me.



The 4 of us set out at a good pace, first heading towards Linby. We then walked along the Linby Trail until we turned right at Newstead and followed the road into Newstead Abbey. We met up with Jan and David, who joined us for a coffee at Newstead and later for lunch at the pub.

Refreshed by coffee and some cake, we set off on the final lap back to Papplewick and enjoyed a good lunch in the Griffin's Head where we were also joined by Alasdair and Christine Baxter.

A nice morning, good weather, pleasant company - just a shame that not more could take part.

Dieter

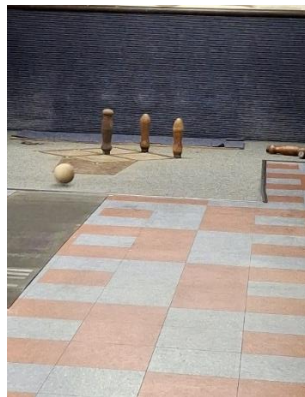
With thanks to Dieter for organising the walk.

Skittles Evening Friday 18th October



After last year's skittles championship, we were all keen to show how much better we would be now we knew what we were doing. Rosie kindly arranged another session for us to showcase our skills.

Come the evening, we gathered in the bar to fortify ourselves while Rosie allocated us to our teams. After a warmup roll or two, off we went!



The competition was fierce as the semi-finals started – yes, we all earned a bronze medal by qualifying for the finals night! The skittles went down to cheers from the audience (and the occasional boo). It was neck and neck after the first round. The second round was even tighter but eventually the two finalists came through as winners. Time for refreshments!



Excitement rose as the final got underway. Tension was rising, forcing mistakes. Some balls missed entirely, drawing groans from

the crowd. It was close, but eventually the winners came through and were awarded their gold medals



Congratulations to the winning team and thanks to Rosie for organising such an enjoyable evening.

Scottish Country Dance at the Arnold U3A Tuesday 5th November



Months ago, in the person of Dieter Hecht, we received an invitation to give a presentation and demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing to the Arnold U3A.

So, as the fireworks exploded in memory of the gunpowder plot, we arrived at Arnold to spread the word about Scottish Country Dance (and, of course, the Nottingham Scottish Association). A large audience turned out, and, as we later found out, one of the biggest they have had. Clearly our fame as Scottish Country Dancers has spread through the community!

The presenting duties were shared between Dieter, Andrew and Margaret Barnes – with each speaker taking on a different aspect of the topic. This included some of the history of the Association, the origins and nature of Scottish Country Dance and some personal accounts of how we came to be dancers.

The finale and highlight was the demonstration, involving 13 of our members. We started with “The Birks of Invermay” one of the oldest Strathspeys dating at least to the middle of the 18th Century. We then changed the tempo to the stirring Reel “Mairi’s Wedding” giving a stirring performance to finish with.

Thanks to Dieter and the whole team for a highly successful afternoon.

Compton Acres and River Trent Walk Saturday 16th November



Iremongers Pond

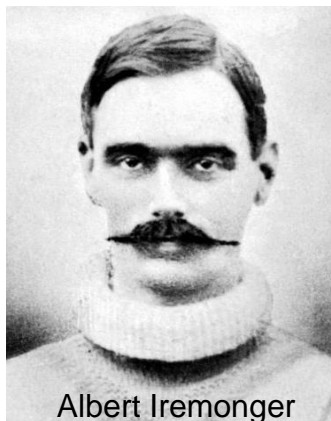
Well, this has been the season for small group walking! Carol, Sue and I met in West Bridgford on a drizzly day for a walk through Compton Acres and along the River Trent.

Bearing in mind the persistent rain we've experienced this year, Carol had planned a route which avoided the worst of the mud – for which we were grateful!

We passed the Becket School heading towards the river and reaching Iremongers Pond – a little wildlife haven, previously unknown to me.

The pond was originally created during the construction of the Great Central Railway, possibly to provide soil for the embankment. You can still see the stonework which once supported the railway bridge which was demolished in 1985.

Named 'George's Pond' at the time, after the then landowner, it was renamed in honour of the famous sporting brothers Iremonger, one of whom, Albert, took over as landlord of the nearby Ferry Inn.



Albert Iremonger

Albert was widely regarded as one of the best goalkeepers of his time and made 564 appearances for Notts County. It is also believed Iremonger was the tallest player in the league at the time, measuring 6 ft 5in!

His brother James was a highly successful all-rounder for Nottinghamshire and was a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1903. He also played football for Nottingham Forest and England!

After the walk, we returned to the Wolds in West Bridgford for lunch where we were joined by Alasdair and Christine Baxter. After a good lunch and pleasant conversation, we set off for home. Many thanks to Carol for organising the walk.

Andrew

The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens



The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens is a traditional Scots ballad, first published in a collection of Scots ballads in 1765. There are many different versions – and the version in this edition of the Chanter is one of the shorter of these.

In all versions, the basic story is the same: the King sends Sir Patrick Spens to bring home to him the daughter of King of Norway as his bride.

A storm is brewing – foreshadowed by the omen of the ‘new moone, wi the auld moone in her arme.’ Sir Patrick and his accompanying nobles are then drowned – together with the Maid of Norway.

The ballad may have been inspired by the tragic fate of Margaret of Norway who died, aged 7, in Orkney on the way to Scotland where she was the recognised queen of Scotland. Her death precipitated a dispute over the throne and ultimately led to the Scottish War of Independence, which ended with the victory of Robert Bruce.



Although there is no direct evidence of Sir Patrick's existence; 'in the little island of Papa Stronsay, one of the Orkney islands, lying over against Norway, there is a large grave or tumulus, which is known to the inhabitants, from time immemorial, as the grave of Sir Patrick Spens'. (*William Aytoun, Mid-19th Century*)

The image shows a stained-glass window by Charles Cameron Baillie (1930)

THE COUNCIL 2024/25

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