



AFFILIATED TO THE  
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## NANTWICH & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Founded September 1958

Newsletter – Summer, 2014



Dear Members



*Sheila receives her First Prize Certificate from the Arts & Crafts Festival, 2014*

One cold, dark, Monday evening in January, five years ago now, Marilyn and I poked our heads round the door of the Memorial Hall, and the rest, as the saying goes, is history. We were made very welcome; Cynthia saw to it that we signed the Visitors Book each week until our membership applications had been approved by the committee. This seemed to take an age, but in reality was until the next committee meeting, a few weeks hence. We recognised several faces from our time dancing with U3A and soon learnt to put names to other faces in the Society. The machinations of the hierarchy system, which can seem very remote to new members, became obvious over time. I know that our History group are planning to produce a booklet outlining the past fifty five years of our existence and wonder if we should also produce a leaflet explaining “Who’s Who” within the current Society.

I hesitate to say that I am obsessed with Scottish country dancing, but have certainly been bitten by the bug. I do hope that those who have joined the Society since Marilyn and I are enjoying their time dancing. New members are our life-blood; we should all be looking to the future and shouting about our Society from the treetops. Liz does a tremendous job with her demonstration team, attending fetes etc, but we need to broadcast our achievements to a much wider audience. Sheila Clews, for example, won First Prize at the Lancashire & Cheshire Federation Arts and Crafts Festival with her beautiful wood carving. Many Congratulations. A photograph of Sheila receiving her certificate, published in the local paper, might have sparked interest from potential members.

Photographs of Eileen being presented with her "Wistonian of the Year" award by Charles might also have enticed potential new members to make enquiries. Do we have a budding journalist / photographer / publicist in our midst who would be willing to promote our activities?

My first official outing as your President was to attend the Memorial Service for Maurice Robinson. At ninety three years of age, Maurice was dancing until the week before his passing. I shall remember him as a quiet, genteel person with a beautiful smile and sense of humour. We will all hold our own memories of Maurice and the time he was with the Society – over fifty years.

He and his late wife, Marjorie “Robbie”, taught our dance classes in the 60s and 70s; much later (1990s) Maurice accompanied Marjorie in her role as President of the Society, representing us at events throughout the area. Maurice’s family have asked that I pass on to you their grateful thanks in enabling Maurice to continue to enjoy his love of Scottish dancing until the end of his life. They give special mention to Stuart and Marjorie, Charles and Noreen, and Neil and Jennifer for their acts of kindness, helping ensure that this could happen. May I extend my thanks to all who were able to attend the service and for wearing tartan in whatever guise.



*From our Archive - "Robbie" and Maurice Robinson*

At the recent Federation AGM the Federation Chieftain, Rev. Sandy Mailer, led prayers for Maurice, who will be remembered by us all as our "gentle man".

As I write this, we are being subjected to thunder storms and heavy rain. I hope that the weather didn't deter you from attending Pamela and Andrew's garden party on Saturday 14 June. Once again, they opened their home to all who enjoy Scottish country dancing, preparing a dance list, providing the music, offering liquid refreshment, not forgetting preparing the lawn, and of course, clearing away after we have all left for home.

This is one of the events which make our Society what it is – so much more than a dance class. Your committee met a few weeks ago now, and have planned many events over the coming year. We have our usual highlight, Burns Night in January, our annual Ball in March, a Christmas party, charity raffles, and a New Year ceilidh. My first President's and Visitors' Night is in November and I am in discussion with Liz as to which dances to include on the programme. I have refrained from including The Elephant's Stampede – for this year, at least! We also have two walks and a Treasure Hunt planned.

I hope you all enjoy the summer months – whatever the weather throws at us!

A Membership Renewal Form is enclosed/attached for the 2014-15 season. It really would be helpful if you could renew your membership *before* we return to dancing as Sylvia (our Treasurer) is away on holiday from mid September. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you on September 8th.

*Maureen*

*16 June, 2014*



*55th Anniversary Ball, March 2014*



*55th Anniversary Ball - Luke Brady & His Band*



***Dates for your Diary 2014-15***

- Mon Sept 8<sup>th</sup>** – start of season
- Thurs Sept 25<sup>th</sup>** - countryside walk
- Mon Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>** - President's & Visitors' Night at Nantwich Civic Hall
- Mon Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** - Hamper raffle / last dance before Christmas
- Mon Jan 12<sup>th</sup>** - resume dancing following Christmas / New Year
- Sat Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** - Burns Night at the Masonic Hall, Willaston
- Sat March 21<sup>st</sup>** - Annual Ball with Lindsay Weir & Her Band
- Mon April 27<sup>th</sup>** - AGM
- Mon May 18<sup>th</sup>** - last dance of the season

Plus another countryside walk in the Spring and a Treasure Hunt in June 2015



*The beautifully decorated Masonic Hall  
Burns Night 2014*