



AFFILIATED TO THE
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NANTWICH & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Founded September 1958
Spring 2020



Dear Members

I do not think any of us could have imagined the crisis the world is in at the moment. I am sure all of us are experiencing difficult times and people like myself who live alone and also people who have duties towards vulnerable relatives are finding it very trying. The one thing that I am certain about is that we will get through this. As soon as it is thought to be safe, we will meet again.

We have a booking at the beginning of November for President's and Visitors Night, all earlier events having been cancelled. The more we stay at home the sooner this will be over. I send all best wishes.

Jackie x



President's and Visitors' Night 2019

Spring and Summer Scottish Dancing Events that never were!

Normally at this time we would be writing about the *Wyche Ball* which should have happened at the end of March and then looking forward to the Easter Break and our Summer Dance at Worleston - the Coronavirus has put paid to all of these and much more.

However, we did have our Ceilidh on the 6th January and our Burns Night on 25th January before the world changed.

Reflecting back to the beginning of our season in September 2019, when we began practising dances for our **Presidents/Visitors Night** held on Monday 28th October at the Civic Hall. This was a great success with once again tasty food provided by everyone but masterminded by our superb Catering Committee, an excellent programme and wonderful atmosphere. Little did we know that our events programme would just fizzle out in the middle of March – just like that!

However, it was shortly after our Presidents/Visitors Night that very sadly we lost Stuart, a vital mainstay of our Society. At Presidents/Visitors Night he was his usual energetic, busy and involved self, putting up the tartan and the music equipment.



Charity Hamper Raffle

Once again at Christmas we had seven or eight full charity hampers, the contents of which were all very generously donated by members of our Society. The proceeds of the raffles went to a very well-deserving local charity – **Team Lewis Trust** - and we donated one hamper to Nantwich Food Bank, which was very gratefully received.

New Year Ceilidh – Monday 6 January 2020

The Memorial Hall was full of the hitherto undiscovered talents of the Nantwich Scottish Society put together by Liz and the Entertainments Sub Committee. A lovely evening with a perfect bring and share supper, excellent quiz from David Beattie and a wrapped prize raffle.

Burns Night – Saturday 25 January 2020

A lovely Burns Night in the perfect setting of Sandbach Town Hall with Bernice's lovely candelabra and Maureen's superb table flower displays making the room unbelievably magical and when Carl Harvey served his superb meal to such excellent company the mix was perfect.



Burns' Night Floral Display



Our Top Table at Burns' Night 2020

Key players - Ken Unsworth piped in the Haggis; Liz gave the Address to the Haggis; Sheila Holdsworth spoke about another aspect of Burns in 'The Immortal Memory'; David Horsman: Toast to the Lasses and Paula Wright gave the Reply. All very good stuff. If you haven't sampled one of our Burns' Nights – it's well worth a try!



Members and friends at Burns' Night 2020



The Gay Gordons at Burns' Night

Countryside Walk from the Anderton Boat Lift with meal at the Stanley Arms in Anderton village.

We were very fortunate to fit in our Countryside Walk on Friday 13th March – it was the last thing most of us did before lockdown and certainly the last meal OUT.

We had a perfect day – the beginning of the amazing weather we have enjoyed since lockdown. The ground underfoot was beginning to dry out and we had an easy walk along the canal from the Boat Lift. The Boat Lift was closed when we went but should have opened during the week several days later. A fascinating construction and well worth a visit when it re-opens.

Lockdown has resulted in the postponement/cancellation of so many events; all the Federation events – **Arts and Crafts Festival at Rainhill** on Saturday 21st March; this is where our gifted members would have won quite a few awards; In May the **Bowling Afternoon at Wallasey/New Brighton** - a fun afternoon which everyone can enjoy to the full - even the talentless! Highly recommended for next year. Also, in May the **Federation Weekend in Fleetwood** – a good weekend with superb food and we wake up Fleetwood. Did you know that Fleetwood was a new town in the early 19th century?

Also cancelled for this year - our **AGM** at the end of April. As it is difficult to plan for our return, the Committee will continue in their present roles until next year's AGM. Our **Summer Dance** at Worleston in June also had to be cancelled – we are hoping to re-book for 2021.

Peter's very popular Charity Dance in July has had to be cancelled but he has already booked the Civic Hall for 2021 again with the must-dance music of Marian Anderson.

Peter writes of last year's Charity dance “...which was enjoyed by just over 100 people. Marian Anderson's music was absolutely superb with many favourite tunes enjoyed by dancers from across the North West, Midlands and North Wales. Many members of Nantwich Scottish Society helped in setting up the hall and arranging the Bring and Share Supper; Cath and Jane very kindly prepared table centrepieces; many people brought raffle prizes and I was very appreciative of the great help from my wife Anne and our family who helped with the evening. As well as being a great dance I was delighted that £850 was raised for MacMillan Cancer Support in ticket sales, donations and the raffle.”

We're all looking forward to Peter's next dance on Monday 5 July 2021.

Meanwhile, enjoy the quizzes that David and Kim have given us; Christine's updates; chats on the WhatsApp Group; the Facebook Group. (If you want to know more about the WhatsApp and Facebook Group please contact either **Christine** or **Kim**.) There is so much to do - once the jungle has been taken out of our gardens, we can all join in. There is also lots of reading we should do – at least ten pages each day; it doesn't matter what, just read. We have a lot of Jigsaw fanatics too. Anyone learning a new language? That's supposed to be the ultimate way of improving your mind and keeping occupied! A new instrument or dance routine in preparation for our 2021 Ceilidh? It doesn't matter what you do - just enjoy whatever you're doing.

Last but not least, we now have a brand new website – <https://nantwichscots.org>. This has come about because of a large increase in 'hosting' fees by our previous provider, BT. The new site includes all the information available on the old one but with a more modern feel. It will be easy to view on a PC, a tablet/iPad or a phone. We have a new email address too – nantwichscots@gmail.com.

We do hope everyone has as lovely a Summer as possible and we look forward to meeting again as soon as we all can.



Dates for your Diary – all provisional until we know more about 'lockdown' arrangements.

Mon 7th Sept - Start of 2020-21 Season – this is at present looking unlikely but keep your fingers crossed

Weds 23rd Sept – Informal lunch at Poppy's Café – date to be confirmed – Cynthia is working on this

Mon 2nd Nov - President's/Visitors' Night at Nantwich Civic Hall

Mon 4th or 11th Jan – New Year Ceilidh

Sat 30th Jan – Burns' Dinner & Dance at Sandbach Town Hall

Please be assured we will keep in touch with you to let you know our plans for returning to dancing.

Jackie

May, 2020