



AFFILIATED TO THE
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NANTWICH & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Founded September 1958
Spring 2021



Dear Members...

When we last met, we had no idea what lay ahead. I thought we would probably be able to have our President's Evening on 2nd November; of course, that was not to be. We seem to have come a long way since then.

Now as the days grow longer and warmer and a little sunshine, it looks like there could be some light at the end of the tunnel. I expect that most of us have had our first job and now we can look forward to meeting up with family and friends again. By playing by the rules, we have all helped in the battle to beat the pandemic. I would like to extend all our good wishes to you. Stay safe until we meet again.

Jackie Spence x

22 March 2021

Looking back over the last year...

Who would have known we would go so long – more than a year now – without getting together to dance and socialise?

Who could have predicted we would be dancing with imaginary partners in imaginary sets on Zoom? Many thanks to Kim for adapting our favourite dances so that we can do jigs and Strathspeys in our living rooms and to *all* members who have devised quizzes and brainteasers to keep us entertained.

As the year went on, we became more ambitious. Liz talked us into performing our party pieces at a St. Andrew's Night ceilidh on 30th November – most enjoyable!

We were determined that lockdown would not stop us celebrating Burns' Night – oh no, we held a *virtual* Burns' Night on Zoom with all the traditional ceremonies and toasts. Ken Unsworth piped in the Haggis from his sitting room in Rainhill; Liz and Sheila shared the Address to the Haggis with Liz wielding her kitchen knife to stab the beast; Pam Neill gave us her poem about Harry the Haggis; an amusing Immortal Memory was delivered by Jenny Perry (Past President of Northallerton Caledonian Society) and the Lasses were toasted by Ken Unsworth with his wife Mary giving the Reply. We even had some Burns' songs with fiddle accompaniment by Frank and Clare Park in St. Helens. A memorable evening, every bit as entertaining as the real thing and much appreciated by our many guests.

Our charitable efforts were not neglected either. Maureen organised a 'knitathon' and we produced over 20 blankets, hats and tiny cardis for the Premature Baby Unit at Royal Stoke Hospital. We were unable to hold our usual Christmas raffles and Hamper Draw, but that didn't stop us raising money for Nantwich Food Bank. We set up a Virgin Money Donation Page and our members raised a grand total of **£728.45** (including Gift Aid and a few donations by cheque via our Treasurer). This amazing generosity was greatly appreciated by the Food Bank.



So What's Planned for 2021-22?

As the end of lockdown is in sight, your Committee 'met' on Zoom on Thursday 18 March to plan ahead for the new Season.

We have to comply with the requirements of the venues we use and they in turn are guided by the government and by ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England). We have been told that dancing will not be permitted *before* 21st June. This, unfortunately, is too close to our planned Summer Dance, so we have decided to cancel that event – however we shall be holding a **Zoom Ceilidh on Friday 25 June** and Ian Slater has agreed to entertain us with live music. Hopefully, we can treat this as a celebration of the start of Summer and the end of lockdown! Look out for your invitation nearer the date.

All being well, here are the highlights for the year ahead.

- Friday 25th June 2021 – Summer Celebration & Ceilidh on Zoom (joining instructions to follow)
- Monday 6th September 2021 – start of term at Wistaston Memorial Hall. As we have not danced for over a year, our Autumn classes will be two hours 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
- Monday 25th October 2021 – Stuart Ross Tribute Evening. This was planned last year around Stuart's birthday but had to be cancelled. There will be a programme of dances written by or for our friend Stuart, who was a stalwart of the Society for many years.
- Monday 1st November 2021 – President's & Visitors' Night at Nantwich Civic Hall
- Monday 10th January 2022 – New Year Ceilidh
- Monday 24th January 2022 – Burns' Dinner & Dance at Nantwich Civic Hall
- Saturday 26th March 2022 – The Cheshire Wyche Ball with music by Frank Thomson at Sandbach Town Hall (it is our turn to organise the Ball in 2022)
- Friday 24th June 2022 – Summer Dance with music by Ian Slater at Worleston Village Hall

Countryside walks and other social events will be added during the year.

Some Admin Matters

You may be wondering what we are doing about the AGM. Our 2020 AGM was carried forward to 26 April 2021, but we will still be under restrictions on that date. As we are a large Society the Committee felt that a Zoom AGM would prove unwieldy and that there was a risk that many members would be excluded as a result of being unfamiliar with the technology. We decided to postpone the AGM to the Autumn when we have returned to dancing. The likely date is Mon 4th October, but this will be confirmed nearer the time.

Please consider joining the Committee – we have three vacancies, and we need 'new blood' and new ideas.

We hope that you will all renew your membership of the Society. Membership Renewal letters will be sent out in the Summer and, as usual, it would be a huge help if you could return these with payment to Sylvia before the end of August. The membership fee remains £10 per annum.

Those of you who paid your weekly dancing subs in advance last year are owed eight classes. We have a record of that, and we will make sure you don't lose out.

Hoping to see you all soon,

Liz, Christine & Sylvia

P.S. Don't forget to keep an eye on our website – <https://nantwichscots.org>. When anything changes – dates for your diary etc. – it will appear there.

Zoom Socials to take us up to the end of the Season



Mon 12th April – first Zoom Social after Easter - 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.

Meeting ID **831 0264 4341** / Passcode **276110**

Mon 26th April – Mon 10th May – Mon 24th May and Mon 23rd Aug (to get us ready for the new term)

*Note the meeting ID and passcode are the same for the whole series of Monday meetings. (If you are unable to join on a computer or tablet/iPad it is possible to dial in from a phone – tel: **0131 460 1196** or **0203 901 7895** and follow the instructions.)*

Dates for your Diary – Peter Marshall’s Dances

Weds 14th July 2021* - Charity Dance with Marian Anderson at Alderley Festival Hall

Sat 11th Sept 2021 – Charity Dance with Iain McPhail at Alderley Festival Hall

Sat 16th Oct 2021 – “Golden Wedding + 1” Dance with Nicol McLaren at Alderley Festival Hall

**note change of date and venue*