

The Chanter



Newsletter

June 2019



The Nottingham Scottish Association

From the Editor



At the end of another successful NSA year we are looking forward to our summer events and hoping the weather smiles kindly on them, as it seems to do quite often. It would have been a glorious day for the Netherfield Lagoons walk and lunch in May - but, having only three takers, it was cancelled.

May is obviously a popular month for holidays and other events. I hope it wasn't the thought of walking close to the sewage works that put people off!

The major event of the last quarter was the ASCDS Festival. Whilst I was not present myself, I was pleased to be represented by my two tartan sashes which Liz and Anita paraded round the dance floor very successfully. It's a nerve-racking experience having to remember so many dances and my congratulations go to all those who took part.

Echoing what The President says in his address, I will be more than happy to receive contributions from any of the members. For example, if you are visiting Scotland over the summer, why not share some of your experiences with the rest of us by writing a piece for the next issue? Send contributions to chanter@nottinghamscottish.org or The Chanter, 13 Haileybury Crescent, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG27BH by mid-August.

If you're reading this you will be doing so on the website and enjoying the facility to be able to enlarge, download or print it if you wish. You will also find a mention of the closing dance party which didn't make the print version! At the AGM in May, a decision about electronic copies was taken and is explained towards the end of this issue. Please make sure you read it carefully, think about it and act on it if you wish.

Christine Oldfield

T.F.C. Walker

We were sorry, in March, to hear of the death, in December 2018 at age 93, of Thomas F. Coventry Walker. Known as Covie, he served as President from 1981 to 1982 and was a life member. He died of pneumonia after a short illness. His daughter says that when they lived in Nottingham, they very much enjoyed the social life and events of The Association.

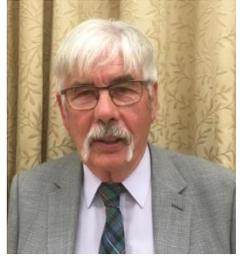
New Members

Ian and Susan Law have recently joined the Association. They are very welcome and it is hoped that they will participate in some, if not all, of the activities on offer.

President's Page

Time just flies past. I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone. But it has been a particularly enjoyable one, full of activities organised so ably by our members.

I'm sure everyone knows that we have two particular Council members who work tirelessly and quietly in the background all year long. Margaret and David haven't had the best of times lately but, despite this, they have both carried on and ensured that all our functions are publicised and administered well.



I would also like to thank another group of members - they know who they are! Between them they produce/print many items that we all appreciate, but often take for granted, in no particular order: The Chanter, Menu Cards, Table Cards, Place Cards etc, that just appear quietly without any fuss.

The Chanter has also had a good year. All activities are written up, mostly by volunteers – though occasionally after they've had a little nudge from Christine our Editor. If anyone has an interesting story or bit of history that would be of interest to our fellow members, please feel free to write about it and send it to Christine, I'm sure she would appreciate your contribution.

If you came to the AGM, thank you, it was good to see you all. Next year I'll ensure that I only have one piece of paper to follow, rather than the three that confused me slightly this year.

It is already time to start looking forward to our next St Andrew's Night and Burns' Night events. We will expect them to be at least as enjoyable as they were last November and January (and please note that when Margaret and I have our next meeting with the Hall manager we will be addressing the fact that, on Burns' night, the dancing was cut a little short by the time taken to serve the food). The speeches are always good, and we are seeking volunteers who would be happy to speak and have a good story/subject about our great country. I would love to hear from you. A speaker from within the membership keeps our costs down for the night!

Finally, I would like to mention our dancing members, they are very loyal, and annually visit the ASCDS Festival with a full team, demonstrating their skills to all the other attendees.

I hope my new photo at the top of the page is considered more suitable than the last one!

Gach dùrachd, Don

[Much more Presidential! The member who commented will be pleased! Ed.]

North Sea Gas – Scottish Folk Concert

Friday 1st March

The Morrisons managed to miss this as they got home from Costa Rica just as the band played their last song. But The Nottingham Scottish Association



was well represented as Dave, Ronnie and Grant stirred up fond memories in *The Boat & Horses*, Beeston.

The floor shook and the rafters creaked as we joined in the choruses, tapping (or stamping) our feet as we sang.

Macpherson's Rant and *Hey Johnnie Cope* - rousing, fighting

songs - were balanced with ballads picked up on the band's tour in America

and Canada. And, to get us chuckling, there was *I Don't Look Good Naked Any More* (well, most of us empathised with *that!*) and a song about being 'on the brew' (the dole) which culminated with a none too subtle dig at the politicians on the Holyrood gravy train.



Several of us recognised that some of the jokes and comments came from the famous Corries. *North Sea Gas* isn't quite in their league, but nevertheless it was a grand night of entertainment. They had learned from the best!

Thanks go to Schuggie for organising everything – it was a great education for his bairns who sat right up front throughout, appreciating every note.

Christine Oldfield



Sponsored Walk - Motor Neurone Disease Association

Saturday the 9th of March, Gedling Country Park

Did you know that there is up to a 1 in 300 chance of you developing Motor Neurone Disease? We all saw Stephen Hawking and looked at the brilliance of the man, although he was trapped in an almost completely disabled body. He is the exception, and currently Motor Neurone Disease kills a third of people within a year and more than half within two years of diagnosis.

To date there is no known cure.

If you want any further information, please visit www.mndassociation.org

The Nottingham Scottish Association agreed to promote a sponsored event in support of this charity as my brother-in-law, David Shore, has recently been diagnosed with MND. David and his friends and family have supported the NSA in many ways over the past few years and his father, also David Shore, was a Past President.

The response from NSA and friends was overwhelming. Fourteen of us turned up and completed the sponsored walk. After meeting for coffee at the Country Park Café, we were waved off by Bill and Jeanne.

Through rain, sleet, very strong winds and conditions resembling the Arctic - (OK, I'm exaggerating a little) - we completed the course and moved off to a well-



earned lunch at the Treetops pub.

With generous donations from members and friends, and through a *JustGiving* page that was set up, a total of £650 was raised. When gift aid is added in, this brings the grand total to just over £750.



On behalf of David and the

MND can I say a heartfelt thanks to everyone

David Potter

Walk around Southwell and a Workhouse Tour

Wednesday 10th April



The Walk and Lunch

The day was sunny and ten of us met up at the Hearty Goodfellow. Dieter and Marie first led us through the grounds of Southwell Minster, one of England's gems. A Church, in various forms, has been on this site since 627AD. Also, in the grounds, are the ancient ruins of the Archbishop of York's Palace, set in beautiful gardens.

We continued through the grounds of the Minster School to the site of the original Southwell Workhouse, established in the early 1800s by the Rev. John Thomas Becher a local preacher and advocate for the poor. He was quite an opposite to other members of his family from Bristol who were involved in the slave trade. This workhouse was active until 1824 when the new and much larger workhouse opened on the outskirts of Southwell. The design of the new building was based on the same concept as the original one and perpetuated the segregation of men and women. It is currently the home of Southwell Baptist Church.

As we carried on through the many lanes and passageways that seem to criss-cross Southwell, we came to a landscaped area in a new housing estate where we stopped for photographs. The estate was themed on the Bramley Apple, which originated in Southwell, and all around the area where we stood were espaliered apple trees, providing a very interesting change to hedges!

The first Bramley's Seedling tree was grown by Mary Ann Brailsford who planted pips in her garden in Southwell in 1809 when she was a young girl. The tree in the garden was later included in the purchase of the cottage by a local butcher, Matthew Bramley in 1846. In 1856, a local nurseryman, Henry Merryweather, asked if he could take cuttings from the tree and start to sell the apples. Bramley agreed but insisted that the apples should bear his name.

As we carried on with our walk, we passed a pub housed in a former Railway Station aptly named The Final Whistle and arrived back at the Hearty Goodfellow to enjoy an extremely good and well-earned meal.

Many thanks to Dieter and Marie for an interesting and well researched walk.

David Potter

A Memorable Afternoon 'in the Workhouse'

"It's just money for old rope" is a saying that we use scornfully nowadays but it was first coined to describe a profitable Workhouse activity – fancy that! In the 19th century 'able-bodied' women slogged away for ten hours daily, unpicking the stained coils of old ships' rope to obtain oakum fibre that could then be resold as a sealant (with tar) for the timbers of wooden boats. Painfully wounding work for their poor hands!



Southwell Union Workhouse

Seldom have I felt drawn so close to ordinary people's lives from a bygone age as during this tour of the Workhouse, Southwell, thanks largely to the expert commentary given by Dieter and Marie Hecht. As National Trust volunteers they re-enact the institution's daily routine for visitor groups. Dieter sometimes performs the role of the stern, all-seeing/all-knowing Master while Marie plays the schoolmistress who oversees

the lives and learning of 'pauper' children aged 7 to 15. As we climbed the stairs from floor to floor of the building's impressively restored interior, there were a few surprises! Down in the cellar a rat appeared to dart across the floor into the gloom but, hearing our gasps, Dieter calmly pointed out that the shadowy rat was actually an electronic special effect.

Homelessness and poverty continue to be Big Issues in our modern society, therefore the National Trust is in the process of developing currently-relevant exhibits at Southwell that will allow visitors to 'compare and contrast' 19th and 21st century attitudes and remedies. For all that we tend to view the post-1834 workhouses as a harsh, semi-penal means of exploiting the poor, they were in several respects a stepping stone towards our Welfare State, e.g. in housing and feeding destitute children, the elderly, the infirm, vagrants and seasonal job-seekers. When we visited the kitchens, Dieter mentioned that the standard diet contained 3000 calories/day – definitely not the Soviet Gulag! We're fortunate to have the Southwell Workhouse so close by, especially as a reminder of ways in which charitable people have sought to alleviate human suffering in their local area. Easing poverty is still a challenge for us here and now.

David Chapman

A note of interest - Each September the Southwell Running Club hosts a 5-mile road race where their members compete with athletes from other running clubs - Holme Pierrepont, Notfast and Newark Striders - for the Bramley Apple Trophy. This was hand-carved some years ago by Richard Michelak of Holme Pierrepont RC. The run heads off from Caythorpe Cricket Club and returns to their bar for the presentation. It is claimed that the criteria which determine the winning club require complicated mathematical calculations, but nobody seems to mind which club wins, just so long as there are sufficient sandwiches, chips and cakes!



The Bramley Apple Trophy

Ed.

**From the song *Freewheeling Now*
by Ed Miller (The Edinburgh Rambler)**

I'm getting' o'er the hill, it seems
though my heart it still feels young;
But they say when half a hundred's here,
your flings should a' be flung.
But I some flings have yet tae flung,
before I end my days,
So, I don't want tae hear ye use that
"Och ye're past it" phrase.

Association of Scottish Country Dance Societies Festival 2019 - Saturday 11th May



When April comes around, dancers from all over the East Midlands and South Yorkshire can be found hard at work preparing for the annual ASCDS Festival. The Nottingham Scottish Association is no exception.

Initial preparations start in January, when the programme of dances is published. Over the next few weeks we try out the dances, some of them new to us, and start to iron out some of the wrinkles. The squad is then organised, and it is decided who is dancing in each set. Serious practice follows, involving memorising the dances and polishing our performance. Andrew and Christine oversaw the practice programme – and each received thanks from the team in the form of a very welcome bottle!

Circumstances conspired against us again this year and two dancers had to drop out - Andy, due to pressure of work and Andrew with a bad back. But we did have Sylvia and Margaret Barnes (who both missed last year's event) and we welcomed Jan, for her first festival. Peter and Iris, Sue, Rosie, Jeanne, Keith, Ann, Marian, Liz and Anita completed the line-up.

When the big day arrived, we all set out on our trek up the road to the Retford Oaks Academy. After the opening parade, in which we were piped into the Hall by Hugh Mackay, we duly lined up with the other 15 teams for the dancing. This was presided over with his customary skill by Godfrey Cozens and the music was provided by the Alan Ross Scottish Country Dance Band. The dances, a mix of reels, jigs and strathspeys of differing

tempos and degrees of difficulty, presented quite a challenge. But our team acquitted themselves creditably, albeit with the odd wobble or two! Between the massed dances we witnessed some excellent demonstrations, 'The Rose of Glamis' performed by our friends from the Nottingham RSCDS being a particular highlight.

The afternoon, as always, passed in a rush and finished with a round-the-room dance involving all the dancers. For us, however, the day was not yet done – it was our turn to provide the tea! Jeanne, Ann and Marian (with help from others) did a fine job in coping with somewhat primitive facilities (no sink, no tap!) and serving up to 200 thirsty dancers. Many thanks to them, and to Rosie and Sylvia for rushing out to replenish supplies.

After a break to eat our sandwiches and draw breath, we headed for home – except for stalwarts, Peter and Iris, who were gearing themselves up to be the only NSA representatives at the evening of social dancing. No doubt we will all be back again for the 40th anniversary dance next year.

Many thanks to our hosts, Derby Scottish Association and Burns Club, and all who made this such an enjoyable occasion.

Andrew Morrison



Festival Favourites

Aren't they cute?

The wee laddie on the left, Schuggie's son Archie (now sporting a royal name!), had been practising *The Lion Gate*, the round-the-room dance to finish off the afternoon session. So, he joined in and managed it perfectly.

And the wee laddie on the right made sure that our name placard wasn't left behind at the end of the day - thanks Andy!



News from Scotland

Back in June 2017, following three years in the making, the aircraft carrier
HMS Queen Elizabeth

sailed from Rosyth Dockyard for the first time. Since then she has crossed the Atlantic to conduct historic trials with F35 Lightning test fighter jets in the USA and worked up towards her official in-service date of 2020.

She has just been back in Scotland for six months of major maintenance works, but on 21st May she left her birthplace, the Rosyth dry dock, once again and a day or so later sailed out into the Forth.

As she left, the pole mast was lowered so that she could safely sail under the three bridges – the Forth Bridge, Forth Road Bridge and The Queensferry Crossing.

The ship will conduct a period of sea trials and training in preparation for her deployment to the east coast of the USA later this year.



Photo: Edinburgh Evening News

Looking forward to The Garden Dance ...

Fresh Air and Fun by Pat Batt



I'm remembering garden dances,
Those evenings in July
When the trees all nod a welcome
And the grass is smooth and dry,
And the flowers are bright in the borders,
Their scent all summery sweet,
And the music drifts on the fragrant air
Entrancing the ears and feet.

When the weatherman forecasts showers
And you're hoping the weather will hold,
You've forgotten to bring out a woolly
And the evening's unusually cold.
But the midges come out in their hundreds
And nibble us here and there,
It isn't too good to be wearing a kilt
With your knees irresistibly bare.

And the wasps home in on refreshments
And the ants line up for each crumb.
Look! a small folding chair has just folded
And mangled the owner's right thumb.
Now somebody sprains an ankle,
A rabbit-hole caused it, of course,
And there's something else we have to avoid
Which was carelessly left by a horse.

There's a picturesque pond in the garden
Where mosquitoes are breeding like mad.
They consider the dancers provide them
The best supper that they've ever had.
And the rhythmic beat of the dancer's feet
Reach down where the earthworms hide
And they all wriggle upwards to join in the fun
And have to be thrown aside.

Now our kindly host has a helpful word
"You must look out before you leap,
If you go too far down the end of the set
You'll end in the compost heap".
Looking back on those heavenly evenings
There is something I cannot recall.
The actual dancing we did out of doors
I do not remember at all.

If you're dancing.....

What you should do

A Boston Publication of 1858
advises:

"In giving the hand for a ladies' chain or any other figures, those dancing should wear a smile, and accompany it with a polite inclination of the head, in the manner of a salutation."

... or shouldn't do

In Michigan, the mayor of the city of Kalamazoo passed a law in 1923, forbidding dancers to stare into each other's eyes.

On the wearing of the kilt, from *Scotland Through her Country Dances* by George S. Emmerson (pub 1967)

"It is a strange fact that non-Scots tend to wear the kilt too long, and the hose too high ("choking the knees"). The kilt should not extend below the knee-cap, nor droop excessively at the back."

And Fred MacAuley, Scottish comedian, says

"A lot of people wonder what a true Scotsman wears under his kilt. Well, I can tell you that a true Scotsman will never tell you what he wears under his kilt. But he will show you at the drop of a hat."



AGM

Thursday 16th May

Around 40% of members attended the 2019 AGM – a pretty good turnout in comparison with many other clubs. With some nudging reminders and shuffling of papers, matters proceeded more or less according to protocol.

Reports were read and approved. It was noted that our membership at the end of April 2019 stood at 71 which was down on last year, despite having welcomed a few new members. But we've made inroads into our deficit and, with this year's increase in subs, we should in future be able to live within our means. [But see the note below, regarding subs].

A new (well, partially new) Council was duly elected [see details on the back cover]. The existing Office Bearers are joined by Rosie as Membership Secretary (allowed within our Rules since we no longer have a Dance Secretary). Sylvia looked relieved that Ann was joining the Council to shadow her for a year as Treasurer with a view to taking on the role next year, and Marian completes the new blood. The many members who happily give up their time to organise and run all our events were thanked profusely and an exhortation to 'keep the dancing going' was heartily supported.

The bulk of discussion was (again) on the matter of whether paper copies of The Chanter should continue to be provided free of charge. Various options were put forward and the decision that was made, which seemed to best satisfy everyone, is detailed on the next page.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were provided after the meeting as usual and eventually the dancers were left on their own to Jig to the Music. **Ed.**

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Note: Quite a few people have not yet paid their subs for 2019/2020. Please do so soon – so that I won't have to do what Bob did in 1976, Jubilee Year! Read on

Snippets from the Association's Archives

In 1976, Bob Logan put out a supplementary Newsletter saying "It may be necessary to increase subs because 72 members have not yet paid for this year up to 31st March, (they will soon owe two years)!"

And an interesting fact

In 1904, the accounts of The Nottingham Scottish Association were audited by a Mr Robert Burns who lived at 86 Mona Road – the street in which two of our long-term dancers, Iris & Peter Dale, now live.

End of Season Scottish Country Dancing Party

Thursday 23rd May

It was a great turnout and everyone looked good! Party frocks had been asked for, and out came quite a few. The men too had made an effort for the occasion, with Peter resplendent in his kilt, Bill in his tartan trews and Keith in his best shorts.

The start was a little delayed while the tables were located and filled with all the goodies that everyone had brought, so we only managed to fit in four dances before supper. After 'Allo 'Allo and The Rose of the North, A Trip to Bavaria became a trek as the music (unaccountably) lasted twice as long as it should have done. Nevertheless, an encore was requested.

"Nobody told us that we'd be dancing in a sauna tonight!" was Dieter's comment. Jumpers and cardigans were set aside, brows mopped and the fire door flung open in an attempt to cool down.

After a slow sail up the Swan and the Tay, the tea was made, all the food wrappings removed and chairs set in a horseshoe. Then the real business of the evening began - having a good natter and failing to resist the huge temptation of the delicacies before us. How anybody managed to dance afterwards I don't know.

But we did, starting with a reel, named **20-20 Vision**, which will be our group's entry into the ASCDS 40th Anniversary competition in September. They asked for submissions of a new dance from each group in the area and the winner will have their dance included in the 2020 Festival. Our internal competition had five entries and this one, compiled by Andrew, was voted the best of them. We have all enjoyed practising it and have high hopes of it being chosen by the ASCDS.

And then, as if we hadn't had enough of fast reels, we danced Nottingham Lace twice through, had a taste of Butterscotch and Honey and celebrated Mairi's Wedding. Farewells were said and we all hope to see each other at the Garden Dance – as long as nobody takes the poem too seriously!

THE COUNCIL 2019 - 2020

Office Bearers

President	Don Pringle
Vice President	Sue Morrison
Past President	Dave Potter
Secretary	Margaret Barnes
Treasurer	Sylvia Hale
Membership Secretary	Rosie Allen

Members

Norma Smith
Lyndsey Lyas
Edwina Lambourdiere
Ann Widdowson
Marian Pierce

The Chanter

From now on, The Chanter will be delivered to you electronically. You will not receive a paper copy unless you **opt in to request one** (see below). There will be no extra charge for this, but we would like to encourage as many members as possible to consider going 'paperless'.

There are several reasons for this:

1. To reduce cost. The printing and posting of The Chanter represents a significant proportion of the Association's expenditure each quarter.
2. We should be more eco-friendly and consider the impact of using more paper than we need to.
3. The electronic version of The Chanter is easy to read; photographs look much better; pages can be magnified to whatever size you find comfortable and their number need not be restricted.

If you have no access to a computer or e-mail, or if you just still prefer to receive a paper copy of The Chanter each quarter, please complete the form below and return it, either by e-mail (copy and paste) to

davekatepotter13@gmail.com

or post (copy it out) to David Potter 13 Douglas Road
Long Eaton
Nottingham, NG10 4BH

**If nothing is heard by July 31st then all future copies of
The Chanter will be sent by email only**

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Please PRINT clearly

Name(s):

**I/we would like to continue to receive a
paper copy of The Chanter each quarter**

Signature:

Date:

Future Programme

NSA Events

Monday 10th June Walk around Bulwell Hall Park NG6 8BE. Meet in the car park at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. [Note changes from what is in the paper version of The Chanter]. Walk about 3.5 mls then lunch at The Bowman pub NG15 7PY. Let Dave know if you will be there by emailing him at davekatepotter13@gmail.com or by phone on 07786157958

Thursday 4th July Garden Dance at Andrew and Sue's 7.00pm. Bring & share supper. Also bring a chair. Contact Andrew on 0115 916 4691.

Tuesday 16th July Walk and BBQ at Don and Sue's 4 pm start for BBQ at approx. 5.30pm. £5 per person, please bring a chair and your own drinks (not provided). Contact Don on 07917 038817.

Saturday 17th August Peak District walk. Details to follow. Contact Dieter at dieter.hecht@me.com.

Thursday 5th September Scottish Country Dancing restarts 7.15pm for 7.30 start at St Andrew's with Castlegate church hall, Chaucer Street.

Wednesday 25th September Crazy Golf & Football Golf at Highfields Park, University Boulevard - adjacent to tram stop on the Toton Lane route. Meet at the café at 10.15am for a 10.45am start. Play either or both (Seniors - £4 each. £8 for both). Lunch afterwards in the café or Arts Centre. Contact Dave at davekatepotter13@gmail.com or phone on 07786157958.

Other Events of Interest

Sundays 16th June, 18th August, 22nd September Springy Reelers, 10am–12 noon at the Scout Hall, St Michael's Square, Bramcote NG9 3HG. No experience required. Adults £2.00, kids free. Optional 12.30pm lunch at The Nurseryman. Contact Schuggie as below.

Friday Ceilidh, 6th September, Boat and Horses, Beeston. Contact Schuggie@Ceilidhcalling or on 07875 718 702.

Saturday 28th September Nottingham RSCDS Social Dance 7.30 – 11pm, Lowdham Village Hall, details at <https://nottinghamrscds.org/events>



under The Nottingham Scottish Association