

The Scots' Society of St Andrew

Slough, Windsor & District

(FOUNDED 1933)

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NEWSLETTER - August 2020

Dear Member

This year there was no official newsletter in April, for reasons both national and personal, and so it is high time for a 'catch up'. Meanwhile, huge thanks go to Lesley Sutton for keeping the membership informed and entertained on a regular basis, which has been much appreciated in these uncertain times.

As can be seen from the heading, we welcome Cath Hockley as our new President. She has the honour of being the first person in our Society to be elected at a Virtual Extraordinary General Meeting and we thank members for responding so positively. We are grateful to Hugh Johnstone for being a very cheerful, active and thoughtful President for the past two years. Suitable words of welcome and thanks will be given at the AGM in due course.

Sadly in the last few months we have lost four of our members: Graham Berry, Jim Nicol, Thea McIntyre and Jack Whyte. All contributed greatly to our Society over the years and are remembered with fondness and gratitude. I thank Lesley for informing the members at the appropriate times and for writing thorough and thoughtful obituaries.

The last event held at Trinity URC hall before lockdown was an entertaining talk by Colonel David Steele on Wednesday 11th March. "The story of the Jacobites", as told by David, was full of interesting detail, including tales about James I and Bonnie Prince Charlie, the sad demise of the latter giving an unexpected twist at the end. The whole presentation was further enlivened by excellent colourful illustrations. There was a good attendance and, as always, a tasty shared supper.

There has been no choice but to postpone the AGM, scheduled for 13th May. Similarly it has not been possible to arrange a new programme for the 2020-2021 season. Members of Council have held discussions, via e-mail, and will be holding a full meeting in late August to talk about ideas for possible future events. Meanwhile, please note the following:

- we would like YOU to tell us what kind of event you would like/ would be prepared to attend, once circumstances allow;
- we have reluctantly cancelled our celebration of St Andrew's Night at Maidenhead Golf Club as our hosts obviously cannot guarantee that a dinner and dance could be held in November;
- there will be a Subscription Holiday, so no membership fees will be due until May 2021.

The first event of the new season, whenever it is possible, will be a FREE Social, with a short time allocated for AGM business in order to bring us up to date. Details will be sent out when available. Meanwhile, please find attached the Treasurer's Report and the Secretary's report for last season. The President's Report and a few words from our new President are printed below.

**President's Report for the Scots' Society of St Andrew:
Slough, Windsor and District. August 2020**

Can I say a very big thank you to all the members of the Society for making my time as President very memorable and enjoyable over my two years wearing the chain of office.

I have tried to attend as many of the events as possible during my term. The time seems to have flown past at breakneck speed. I can say that I have almost learnt my right from my left at the dancing and thank all those who had to put up with me turning the wrong way

It is sad that Covid stopped the activities but unfortunately that is bigger than all of us and I look forward to getting back together with you. I do hope all are keeping safe and well.

I want specially to thank your hard-working committee for their support throughout the period. Their knowledge and guidance made my tenure as president one of my most memorable periods and I hope to continue to attend events with the Society. I want to wish Cath Hockley all the best for her term as President and am sorry I did not get the chance to pass on the "Chain" of office.

Please everyone keep very well and I look forward to seeing you soon. **Hugh Johnstone**

Dear members of the Scots' Society,

Well, what a fraud your new president is turning out to be! No dancing, no socials, no meetings to preside over, no activities to help set up, cook for or even organise. Hopefully a vaccination will be available sooner, rather than later, and we can all get together again. We are going to try to put together a programme for the next calendar year and hope that some of the activities are able to go ahead. In the meantime look after yourselves and try to think positive!

Wishing you all the very best, **Cath Hockley**

Final message: After 16 years, I have decided to step down as Secretary, a decision taken by me earlier this year but delayed in its implementation by the postponement of the AGM. As this will be my last newsletter, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the years. Your enthusiastic presence at events, plus your kind words and messages, have contributed to making the role of Secretary very rewarding. I hope to be able to serve on Council (if elected ...) and wish the Society every success in the uncertain days ahead.

Best wishes to you all.

Carol Berry, Hon. Secretary