



AFFILIATED TO THE
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NANTWICH & DISTRICT SCOTTISH SOCIETY

Founded September 1958
Summer 2023



Still going strong

The year seems to have flown by. I promised myself I would write a Newsletter in the New Year – well, here we are in mid-summer and I have only just got round to it. We have had a successful year and we seem to have got back into the very pleasant habit of dancing, not just at our weekly classes but also at social events, dances and balls throughout the region. We held our first “in person” Burns’ Night since 2019 – a welcome opportunity, despite some issues with a new venue and caterer, to spend time in the company of friends old and new.

However, we were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of one of our longstanding members, Pat Smith, just a few days after that event. Her funeral service at St. Ann’s RC Church was attended by many members of our Society who were glad to count her as a friend. In many ways, Pat exemplified the welcoming approach of our Society – always happy to help and ready with a smile and a laugh.



Pat Smith

Most of the people who have joined the Society during the course of the year are still attending classes and coming to our special events.

It has been rewarding to see our new members building skills and growing in confidence with the help of our more established dancers. Everyone was a beginner once and we haven’t forgotten we’re here for fun as well as to learn.

As we now have a cohort of new(ish) dancers, who are eager to improve, we have decided to start the class at 7.00 p.m. (still finishing at 9.30 p.m.) and to devote the first half hour to “the basics” – the steps and formations which form the foundation of Scottish Country Dancing. Liz is also planning a couple of “taster” sessions followed by a short, structured course aimed at potential new members – these sessions will take place during the Autumn term. *Tell your friends* – once the dates have been decided, the course will be advertised on social media and on our website. Existing members of the Society are welcome to attend at no additional cost.

Our President’s & Visitors’ Night at Nantwich Civic Hall in November 2022 was very well attended by visitors from Societies all over the Lancashire and Cheshire Federation, also North Wales, Shropshire and Staffordshire. In turn we have tried to support as many of our neighbours’ events as possible, and it is clear that attendances are rising and people are generally more confident about travelling to dances and socialising – a good sign for the future.



We have just had a very successful Summer Dance on Friday 23 June with live music by **Ian Slater**. Thanks to the efforts of our ticket selling team, we had an outstanding attendance – 60+ dancers, many from other Societies.

Worleston Village Hall is an excellent venue with a sprung floor and air conditioning, which we really needed on a hot summer evening. We had an enjoyable, varied dance programme with something for everyone, MC’d by Peter, and a splendid Bring & Share buffet. As one of our visitors was heard to remark, *“Nantwich certainly know how to put on a good show.”*

Wishing you all an enjoyable Summer Break. See you in September! Here’s what we’ve got planned (pto).

Christine

President/Secretary, Nantwich & District Scottish Society, June 2023

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2023-24

All events at Wistaston Memorial Hall, unless otherwise stated

Start of Autumn Term	Monday 4th September 2023	starting 7.00 p.m.
Last dancing before Christmas	Monday 18th December 2023	
Start of Spring Term / New Year	Monday 8th January 2024	<i>Themed Social</i>
End of Season	Monday 20th May 2024	<i>Dancers' Choice</i>
No dancing	Mon 25th Dec 2023, 1st Jan 2024 Mon 1st April 2024 (Easter Monday) Mon 6th May 2024 (May Day BH)	
<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>		
President's/Visitors' Night	Monday 6th Nov 2023	7:30 - 11:00 Nantwich Civic Hall
Christmas Charity Raffles	Mon 27th Nov; 4th, 11th, 18th Dec	Hampers on 18th December
New Year Themed Social	Mon 8th January 2024	
Burns' Supper/Dance	Sat 27th January 2024	Worleston Village Hall 6:00 for 6:30 to 10.15
Wyche Ball (Northwich Scots' Society)	Saturday 23rd March 2024	7:00 - 11:00 (tbc) Cheshire Wyche Ball, Middlewich Victoria Hall with Robert Whitehead & His Band
AGM	2023-24 AGM Monday 29th April 2024	
End of Season Social	Monday 20th May 2024	
Summer Dance	<u>Sat</u> 22nd June 2024, 7:00 – 10:30 – Worleston Village Hall with live music by Ian Slater	

Your **Membership Renewal** form for the 2023-2024 Season is attached.

Please complete this and return it to **Lesley**, our Treasurer, **before** the start of the new Term. Her address is on the form.

We have had to increase weekly dancing subs – *this is the first increase for nine years!* – as a result of increases to hall hire fees and other rising costs. However, if you pay in advance for the **whole** or **half** year you will save a substantial amount compared to paying weekly, and it does help us to budget.

We would appreciate payment by **BACS** – online/telephone banking – or failing that, cash, as that helps to reduce our bank charges. (We are charged a whopping **40p** for every cheque we pay in. The bank charges us a small percentage of cash paid in. We are not charged for payments received by BACS.)