

Northampton Notre Dame Association

July Newsletter 2020



Dear Member,

I do hope this Newsletter finds you all safe and well and surviving this very strange time. We were very sad to have to cancel the AGM and Lunch but it is so much more important that everybody comes out of this as well as we possibly can be. We are not going to see a return to normality any time soon so please read through the Newsletter for further details of future activities.

Sadly we have heard of the passing of several members since the AGM in April, including: Barbara Cooper nee Stock, Alan Phillips, husband of Barbara nee Mineards (2019) and Cynthia Rose nee Woodhouse – may they rest in peace.

In view of the current Coronavirus situation we are cancelling the September Tea Party and will decide nearer the time whether the Christmas Social gathering will take place, we will let you know, either way, by email or telephone in early November. Looking hopefully ahead we have booked dates for meetings at St. Matthew's Church rooms for 2021, they are Tuesday March 9th, Tuesday June 1st, Tuesday September 14th and the Christmas booking Tuesday December 14th. As usual all meetings start at 2-30pm and you are most welcome to bring a friend with you.

Marie Thomas

I was welcomed onto the NDA committee in the early part of last year and have enjoyed becoming a member of an enthusiastic and very efficient team of 'girls' from the school. I myself attended Notre Dame between 1962 and 1969, my sister was a year ahead of me, we were Kathleen and Louise Keilthy. Louise now lives in Brussels with her husband whilst I retired from teaching a few years ago and live in Northampton. Being part of the committee enables me to play a small part in keeping an awareness of the place of the school in Northampton and this was particularly brought home with the rededication of the nun's cemetery last October where so many former pupils along with others including the mayor recognised the significance of the school in the town. The other committee role I enjoy is assisting with the social events where I meet local NDA members and can hear of their experiences at the school and their recollections of the sisters. To keep the NDA running, however, more committee members are needed and those who attended the school in the lead up to its closure would be especially welcome. From my own experience I can assure anyone who can join us they will receive all the support needed from a warm and welcoming team.

Kathleen Fisher

Responding to a request for volunteers to the Northampton Notre Dame Association, I offered my assistance and, along with Kathleen, we were co-opted to the Committee in 2019. My computer skills are limited, and I was unsure how, exactly, I might be able to assist, as my knowledge of the work of the Committee was negligible - since joining I would skim the Association Newsletters - aware that work commitments and living away from Northampton, would render attendance at any event very unlikely. Since moving back to Northampton I was at the AGM in 2018 and discovered that there were other members from my school years at Notre Dame.

Attending last year's AGM with the hindsight of having been present at a few committee meetings was an introduction to all the hard work and devotion of the Committee members - seeing how much thought and care had been put into the day. This is not just confined to the AGM, but also for all the other events that go on during the year. The

rededication of the Sisters Cemetery was a really lovely day - seeing so many members present alongside some of the Sisters from London, was an especial pleasure. So much work in the planning - not just of the day - but in the work on the Cemetery and the commemorative information boards by Margaret and all the Committee members was really eye opening: organising refreshments and catering, consideration as to who to invite, ensuring no-one who had contributed outside the Association was forgotten, arranging invitations and documentation. I was very impressed to discover that the venue was donated in a real display of Christian generosity by the Northampton Quakers. I attended the Christmas Concert for the first time last year - another memorable occasion with the Homestead Singers Male Choir. They were witty and tuneful and it was so delightful to see how much pleasure the older members of the Association derived from the occasion. I really enjoyed my first experience of another event that entailed much work from the Committee and included a wide range of subjects in the Quiz meeting at St Matthews Hall before lockdown. This was so enjoyable as it allowed me to engage much more with older ' girls ' by forming teams to do the Quiz. We all increased (but I'm not sure I retained it) our general and local Northamptonshire knowledge. I'm sure if other members considered joining the Committee they would see how enjoyable assisting can be and it would give them a valuable insight into how the Northampton Association works and how important it is that it survives.

MariAn Kneafsey

Proposed Diary Dates for 2021 N.B. These may be altered/added to in January Newsletter

Tuesday 9th March 2021 Social meeting at St. Matthews 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Tuesday 1st June 2021 Social meeting at St. Matthews 2.30-4.30 p.m

Tuesday 14th September Tea Party at St. Matthews 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Tuesday 14th December Christmas Celebration at St. Matthews 2.30-4.30 p.m

The Committee