

**Church of Scotland
Scone & St Martins Parish**



Church News

Summer 2021

Parish Register

Deaths

27 January 2021 Colin Hally, Stormontfield
18 March 2021 Jean Reid, Scone
20 March 2021 Robert Donaldson, Scone
4 April 2021 Elma Thom, Guildtown
6 April 2021 Ina McGregor, Scone
25 April 2021 James McEwan, Scone

Church News

Material for the August edition should be forwarded to the church office (tel 553900; email sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net) or to the editor Moira Daly (moiradalyscone54@gmail.com) by Thursday 29 July 2021. Please send in any items you think will be of interest to the congregation.

Electronic Version of Church News – If you would prefer to receive your copy of Church News directly to your inbox, please let the office know or complete the form below and hand it in.

Name

Address

Email

If you know of anyone who requires a visit from the minister or an elder, please hand in the details at church on Sunday or to the church office.

Church Office

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.15 am to 12 noon

Address: Balformo Road, Scone, PH2 6QX

**Contact: 01738 553900 or email
sconeandstmartinschurch@talktalk.net**

Dear Friends,

I hope you are thoroughly enjoying this weather. Is it not amazing? Focus on all things bright and beautiful. As the old hymn puts it: "All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."

Well, as I write you, I'm just in from the garden. Indeed, I thought to prepare the soil before more planting. My goodness but it is dry! After some work it is beginning to look more malleable, and rain is forecast through the night, so maybe some miracle will be worked before the sun sets. Spring is the season I love most but they all have their special qualities and the month of June is to be celebrated.

As the year progresses my prayer is that many of the effects of Covid 19 abate. It is encouraging to see the Euros football championship progress and I'm holding my breath for Scotland. Also good has been the French Open. Aren't we blessed that strawberries and cream, and champagne if we feel like it, are easily found.

It is so good to see more and more folk coming to the Church. I realise that in addition to all else there is a summer cold and also hay fever going the rounds. We rejoice when you are able to have a summer break and ever look forward to your coming into our fold here.

Talking of snatching a break in sunny Scotland, many are the palm trees growing in the areas where the Gulf Stream has influence, and numerous are the quiet beaches in the north east and north west. I am sounding like a tourist guide but I do enjoy adventuring in the UK. There are many places of historical, geological and archaeological interest.

So far as Scotland goes, you, without doubt, could expand my knowledge of Perthshire, though I cannot pretend never to have hit it before coming to Scone and St Martins Parish but there is ever more to learn. This parish in itself is filled with beauty and has so many tales to tell. The surrounding areas are lovely too. I wonder if the Macbeth Experience is offering fresh dimension in the open air, and whether there is opportunity to hire rowing boats from where might be viewed some drama outside Loch Leven Castle. Has any theatre group given thought to using a well known Scottish battlefield to enact the Battle of the Scots against Covid 19? Plenty of ground round a battlefield to safe space! There is much to be said for keeping upbeat! And, there is much to be said for keeping the imagination fertile.

Now it is not simply the Power of Positive Thinking that engages us as Christians but the Power of Faithful Living! Christ centred and Spirit led, let us move forward. During this summer season, what about giving a thought to reading a book of the Bible or you might like to look up such topics as seeds in the Bible, water in the Bible, flowers in the Bible, prayers in the Bible, followers of Jesus, Jesus ministry, Jesus with his friends, the outgoing Jesus, Pentecost, the birth of the Church, challenges faced by the first followers, to name but a few ideas. You might like to open your hymn books and have a read of the hymns. These are divided into sections. Follow up on a read of a hymn by finding out about the life of the hymn writer. Allow time for reflection this summer and allow time for prayer – it is good to stop and give thanks for your many blessings. May we not be so pre-occupied with challenges that we forget about all the God given blessings that we know.

Of course, there are many different forms of prayer. Confession should not be forgotten and along with it you are invited to accept the wonder of God's forgiveness. In all our living it is good to remember the grace of being forgiving. I often read the newspapers and think, how one dimensional people's thought processes can be and of how we lack God's eye view of things. It is easy to become very me, and to forget that God's self-giving love is for all people and all times.

Intercessional Prayer is also important. Remember the Church locally and world-wide, the government of our own land, Scotland and UK, and all who lead and govern in other parts of the world. We might remember all who work towards world peace and healing, and to the welfare of others. Remember medics, scientists, teachers, students, parents and children, charitable organisations, naming them and those whom they serve. Also, remember those involved in any way in business and commerce, all who work towards the health of the created order and the health of society, whether we are focussing on body, mind or spirit. The healthy and happy are to be remembered, and also those who know sickness and sadness. Numerous, so numerous, are the people and places that would value our prayers. God is around us and among us and within us, even in the holiday season.

This is the time for a holy imagination; it is a time for dreams and visions. It is also a time to prepare and ready ourselves to work to make the dreams of God a reality in this time and place.

Every blessing over the summer months

Maudeen

A Christmas Cracker Publication: Send in recipes, stories, etc., beginning now. If you would like to help with the compilation, please get in touch without delay. I have written some letters to celebrities!

Volunteers! The more we have the merrier! Who would like to help with fresh initiatives? If you are not involved at the moment, we would love to hear from you. Are you interested in helping with children's and youth initiatives, offering transport when we're allowed, adding your name to the list of volunteers to help serve at the lunches or hub; are you keen on gardening and landscaping, can you play the guitar or the drums, would you like to consider contributing to the voluntary service of our Kirk in any way, please contact me! It would be great to hear from you!

Planning for Harvest and Christmas: Whereas I am only too aware that plans can change at any moment, it is important we all keep positive in the interests of a healthy body, a healthy mind, and a healthy spirit. Recall these words: "I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly!" – John 10:10. "I am the way and the truth and the life" – John 14:6. "I am the vine and you are the branches whoever abides in me will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing" - John 15:5. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life" – John 8:12. If you are interested in getting involved in planning for Harvest and Christmas it would be good to hear from you now! As your Parish Minister, now into my third year with you, I look forward to direct communication and to the sharing of your ideas.

Baptisms and Joining the Church: I'll be pleased to hear from you if you are thinking of baptism either for your children or yourself, or if you would like to join the fellowship of Christ's Church. Please give me a ring on 01738 551942.

The General Assembly: There is much to report and changes ahead. I draw your attention to the General Assembly 2021: Special Supplement Life and Work has released a FREE four-page summary of the main decisions, debates and speeches from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Click on to the Church of Scotland General Assembly Life and Work Supplement on the web or go to our own Scone and St Martins website and click on there. You can read the magazine's full coverage of the General Assembly in the July issue of Life and Work. If you do not receive a copy of Life and Work each month, you can purchase a single print or digital copy via our website lifeandwork.org/subscribe. I suggest you get this and read it. Much is coming up. This Presbytery by 2025 will be aiming to reduce its full time ministers by 9.5. A new Presbytery Plan is being looked at. The Presbytery called Perth Presbytery by the end of 2022 will include the Presbyteries of Dundee, Angus, Dunkeld and Meigle, and Stirling. It will be

a very different Presbytery of Perth. How all this will happen remains to be fully worked out. The question arises as to what you think of Presbyterian Governance. If you didn't have it, what would you replace it with? Do you have experience of other forms of government and are you in a position to say that they are any better or worse?

There is much more. It sounds a good idea to order up Like and Work, the July edition, 2021, and to google your way into the Free Supplement!

Maudeen

Acting Session Clerk's Report

As you will know, things are changing from month to month and it is very difficult to keep up to date with matters but the main changes in the forthcoming period are as follows:

- a) The main service will revert to one service at 10.45 am during the remainder of June and all of July. The minister wishes to retain the 12 noon service for several people who are unable to attend the 10.45 am service. Before the August services, a decision will be made as to the future of the 12 noon service.
- b) Singing is now allowed, but behind masks!! We will continue with piped music in the meantime, but you can now join in!!
- c) Hymn books are now allowed but can only be used from the box clearly marked and then returned to a clearly marked box on your exit.
- d) There are many changes in the offing as far as the Church of Scotland is concerned as per the General Assembly and some of these matters will come down to congregational level for discussion. As the minister mentions elsewhere, the current Presbytery of Perth has to reduce its number of fulltime posts by 9.5, which includes workers other than parish ministers. All vacancies are to remain unfilled at least until December 2022.

We are looking at the possibility of the opening of the halls for use by organisations but this will need to be fully considered, with all the implications for safety, cleaning etc, that this entails.

Such things as tea/coffee after services, the opening of the Hub, lunches will require a great deal more input in terms of staff and all the restrictions with regard to numbers, safe distancing, hygiene, numbers in kitchens and so on, all requires that these things are in place prior to any reopening. In the light of the current rise in numbers, it is perhaps best to remain cautious.

Mike Moir, Acting Session Clerk



Pastoral Care

We have been getting many calls of appreciation for the bright wee flowers that have gone out in the parish, mostly to people living alone. Thank you. This round of 'mindings' has been funded by the family of Ina McGregor. Sadly Ina died in April and her active interest in pastoral, mission and other aspects of church life will be much missed. A big thank you to all who, dodging showers, delivered the 100+ gifts and especially to Moira Daly, our buyer, who scoured Tayside for best rainbow blooms.

Have you ventured to church? It is different - very - but does feel, and is, very safe. Use the gel, give name and telephone number, in one door and out the other, use every other pew, wear a mask of course. I did say different, especially hymns streamed from a computer with no live singing.

However, there are plusses. I long to sing but can enjoy the words of hymns while listening to the music of grand choirs, folk groups or simple soloists. Social distance gives more space for thinking and praying, and it is good, especially as we get more used and rules a bit more relaxed to be in the company of people gathering for worship together.

Still no date for halls opening as I write but it must come soon and how good will it be to share a cuppa.

I finish with Ian Scott's last prayer from Sunday 9 May:

Lord,
Fill us with your love
Increase our understanding
And take away our fear.

Margaret McMillan

PS Our grateful thanks to Margaret for co-ordinating the list of recipients, the purchase of the flowers, accompanying cards and delivery of flowers across the parish.



Thank You

THANK YOU to all who gave during Christian Aid week either by returning an envelope or on-line. A total of £2231.40 was given in the door collection for the work of Christian Aid. This year we used drop off points for the return of envelopes and I would like to thank both the Co-op and Spar Grocers for agreeing to be drop off points.

THANK YOU also to all those who gave of their time to deliver the envelopes including some of the older members of the Boys Brigade company.

We also had a paper Quiz this year which has been very well supported and has so far realised £109. The winner was Mrs Moira Daly, Scone.

The focus for the Christian Aid collection this year has been on climate change and its effects on some of the poorest people in our world. Rose, featured on the envelope, is one of the very many people affected by this. Rose lives in Kenya and is caught up in a cycle of climate chaos, from severe drought to flooding. Extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

When Rose was a child, there was plenty of water that fell at the correct time. Now Rose's community lives with drought and hunger for months at a time. When the rains do come, they can be too heavy which leads to flooding, destroying crops. The coronavirus pandemic has only made this lack of water more critical for Rose's family as hand washing with soap and water is vital to stay safe against the virus.

Your gifts prayers and actions could help communities withstand climate chaos: from building earth dams to harvest more water, to sowing drought tolerant crops.

Thank you to all who have contributed this Christian Aid week.

Peggy Lamond for Scone and St. Martins Christian Aid committee
(01738 553582)

Thank You

Margaret and Ernie Petrie would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all our friends in Scone who were generous in their support to both during Margaret's recuperation after her operation. She is well on the way to a full recovery so our grateful thanks to you all.

Margaret Petrie



Company Section

After 3 months of online meetings we have managed to hold two outdoor meetings despite the chilly weather. In the first we had an activity based on the "what3words" app. The boys had to work their way round the village to specific places using codes for the app. Most of the boys did it successfully.

Last week we took on the national Team Challenge. Teams of 4 had to complete 6 challenges within half an hour. We have probably not excelled but judging by the noise, the boys enjoyed it. The most difficult challenge was to flick a playing card on to a piece of A4 paper 3 metres away. Not easy outdoors with a small breeze! We were "flooded out" that night with two Floods taking part and father John and brother Jamie coming along to help adjudicate. Grateful to them.

We are hoping that the current easing of lockdown will allow us back into the church hall in the very foreseeable future. Recently there was a very active weekend for the Senior Boys. Logan; Jack; Connor; Thomas; David; and Lewis O all took part in an online skills course which will get them one step closer to their Queen's Badge. Emil has separately undertaken his QB skills course courtesy of the Lanarkshire District Fellowship and has been praised for his participation. We now have 9 boys working towards their Queen's Badge and Lewis Flood is likely to be the first to cross the line as he is attending (online) the final element on 9 May. Harris has done the President's Badge skills course online (also with the Lanarkshire District Fellowship) and was praised for his contribution to the event. As such he is to be awarded his President's Badge at the earliest opportunity. He is now one of the 9 working towards the Queen's Badge. Well done to all of the boys. Our Easter Egg hunt was a bit of a disaster. Only 4 boys took part and there were 2 apologies. Obviously not many with sweet teeth in the company.

Later this year the Company will celebrate 125 years since it was enrolled into the Perth Battalion and 126 years since it was provisionally established. It is planned to celebrate the event but planning has been on hold due to lockdown. Watch this space.

Iain Lamond



GUILD

Guild ENews/Facebook

To quote Helen Banks, National Vice Convener, in Guild ENews published on 4 May, “Never undervalue your role, whatever your age. God has a job for us all.” She backed this up by quoting Psalm 92:14 “They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.” Guild Enews is published weekly and can be found on the Church of Scotland website or if you have email and subscribe (free), a copy will be emailed directly to you.

Also in the 4 May edition, a new National Vice Convener was announced – Flora Buthlay from Gordon Guilds Together who will take on responsibility for the East Region following the Annual Gathering. At the moment, it is unclear whether the Annual Gathering will be virtual or some form of face-to-face meeting.

Perth and Kinross Guilds Together

The Spring meeting of P&KGT took place on Wednesday 5 May when Karen Gillon, the Guild Associate Secretary, spoke about the 6 projects the Guild is partnering with for the next 3 years in connection with the strategy “Look Forward in Faith”. The projects are –

1. The Vine Trust – the Kazunzu Village of Hope in Tanzania

Working with the Vine Trust and their partners on the ground, the Guild will help them take forward the development of a sustainable village with homes, a school, a health centre, a community hub and 40 individual homes.

2. Beat – ‘Blether with Beat’, Scotland

Eating disorders have a huge impact on young people and on their families. This project will help develop a network of young ambassadors who will work in schools, colleges and universities as well as with church congregations, the Boys’ Brigade, the Girls’ Brigade and school chaplains to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and to encourage people to seek help.

3. Home for Good, Scotland

Home for Good is a Christian charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one. The charity works to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. It also equips churches to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys.

4. Pioneers – Chocolate Heaven, South East Asia

This project will help build and develop a factory to support the production of sustainable chocolate production in South East Asia.

5. UNIDA – ‘Hear our Voice!’, Brazil

Faith in the Future’ is a project at Faculdade Unida de Vitória (UNIDA), a higher education institution in Brazil, designed to empower young women through theological education equipping them for leadership in churches, faith-based organisations and wider civil society.

6. Starchild, Uganda

Starchild are hoping that, together with the support of the Guild, they will be able to build a centre where children with a range of learning disabilities - but particularly autism - can come to learn alongside their peers.

Karen also informed the meeting that from 2018-2021 the Guild raised £551,434.70 for the projects –

- CrossReach, Join up the Dots - £103,123.34
- The Sailors’ Society, A Chaplain in our Ports - £84,555.46
- Boys’ Brigade, Faith in Young People - £93,853.57
- Faith Impact, Empowering Teenage Mothers - £84,874.10
- Free to Live Trust, Seema’s Project - £98,190.34
- Malawi Fruits, Growing the Future - £86,837.89

At the General Assembly, the National Convener Mabel Wallace announced that with United Nations matched funding for Malawi Fruits the overall total for the 6 projects was brought up to £638,272.59. Mrs Wallace said, “The number speaks volumes for the efforts of Guild members up and down the country ..”. Since the start of the project partnerships in their present form nearly £7,000,000 has been raised.

In the last issue of Church News, I stated that it was my hope we would soon have some news of when we might be able to meet physically. Unfortunately, we are still waiting but we can be optimistic and continue to look forward in anticipation. Once again we were unable to hold an AGM due to the restrictions. However, the accounts were checked after we made donations of £250 each to the Sailors’ Society project and the Malawi Fruits project. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated.

I am reluctant to say that we might be able to meet from when we would normally start our session in September. Meanwhile if you have any ideas or comments on how we can progress please feel free to speak to me or any of the Committee. Our gratitude is extended to those members of the Committee who despite not having an AGM for a second time have continued to make themselves available to serve the Guild.

Christine Munro

The Resurrection Cross



Covid restrictions permitted places of worship to open at the end of March and how nice it was to celebrate Easter over the first weekend in April. The Cross, pictured, was put in place at the entrance to St Martins Church in time for the opening hour on Good Friday, when Readings and Prayers were shared. On Palm Sunday Rev MacDougall intimated to the congregation that they were invited to bring a flower/s of their own choice to place on the cross. It was still in place the following Sunday. This has become a feature at St Martins Church at Easter time for many many years now and it was good to see it in place this year as last year places of worship were not open.

Ellen Simpson

NB Colour version of picture can be viewed in Church News on the Church Website (sconestmartins.org.uk)

Thank You

We very much wanted to thank the Church community for all the kindness and support shown to Mum, and to us, particularly over recent months. We saw first hand the depth of friendship and care that kept Mum close in thought even when circumstances kept people apart. Mum was very grateful for every comforting prayer, every kind enquiry, every uplifting flower, each piece of caringly made home baking, and every thoughtful card and phone call. The 'virtual' afternoon tea was much appreciated by Mum during warm reminiscences of the Guild, the Knit and Chat and the various Church fairs over the years.

We owe a heartfelt thank you to all those who have done so much to organise the beautiful floral 'mindings' in Mum's memory. Mum used to say that flowers were a smile from Heaven, and we know Mum would find this particularly fitting. It has meant a great deal to us and we are very grateful for the care and hard work involved.

We have seen kindness emanate in an extraordinary way from all of Mum's friends within the Church and wider community, past and present. On behalf of the whole family, a heartfelt thank you for each kind act that let Mum know she was always close in thought.

Ina's family

Finance

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous support during the past year. In a difficult time during which our income was substantially reduced, you have contributed in so many ways. The Christmas Appeal, our Minister's sponsored slim and sale of cookbooks were all successful. Our Treasurer received many cheques and WFO envelopes when the Church was closed and regular credits to our Bank account helped enormously. Thanks to all of you. Thank you also to members who have signed for Gift Aid on their giving. Through your generosity we were able to reclaim tax amounting to £14649 during 2020 and in the first quarter of this year we have received £4638.

If you require a note of the amount we have claimed on your giving in the last tax year please contact Margaret Nicol (Tel: 01738 552232 or margaretnicol80@hotmail.com). Please also remember to advise us if you have ceased to pay sufficient tax to meet the Gift Aid claimed by the Church on your giving. Giving your offering as a Gift Aid contribution increases the value of your offering by 25%. If you feel able to help in this way please contact Margaret who can also help if you are unsure whether you have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration, would like help arranging a Standing Order from your Bank or using Online Banking.

Your financial contributions make a difference through the many ways in which the Gospel is shared through the worship, mission and service of the Church of Scotland. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

Margaret Nicol

Scone and St Martins Parish Church Fundraising Walk

This is your opportunity to raise funds for the church by undertaking a sponsored walk and asking friends and family to sponsor you. It does not need to be a long walk – it could be round the streets of Scone, round the park several times, up and down Quarrymill or the Highfield woods. For the more adventurous (and fit), perhaps you could undertake a Munro or two, or do part of the Catechan Trail, The Rob Roy Way or even the West Highland Way. It's your choice and since we all, probably, have been doing more walking in the last year due to all the restrictions caused by Covid19, we should all be fitter to undertake any length of walk. Distance is no object, but perseverance is!!! The finish date for the walk is 31st July. Please see enclosed form.

Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts and Payments for 3 months ending 31 March 2021
(excluding Guild and Clubs)

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2021	2020
RECEIPTS	£	£
Offerings	14,436	15,436
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	4,638	3,158
Donations	100	65
Weddings and funerals	0	120
Contributions from congregational organisations	0	1,300
Hall Lets	0	5,683
Fundraising events	99	994
Other income	<u>250</u>	<u>342</u>
 Total receipts	 <u>19,523</u>	 <u>27,098</u>

Notes:

- For the first quarter, offerings were down by 6%. It is hoped that the position will gradually improve with the easing of lockdown.
- Tax recovered showed an improvement over last year, due to the strong offerings (including the Christmas appeal) in the last quarter of 2020.
- There was very little income from other categories, with hall lets and contributions from congregational organisations showing nil so far. April will show some income from funerals and from congregational organisations.
- No new fundraising events so far - last year there was a coffee morning in March.

Robin Walker, Treasurer

Knit and Chat

Hope everyone is well and coping during the exceptional times we are living in. I believe there has been some knitting going on and if anyone wants blankets etc uplifted please contact myself on 552370 or Sheila Simpson on 551733. Unfortunately we have no idea when we will be able to meet up again but will let you know when we can.

On a sad note we offer condolences to family and friends of Ina McGregor, who sadly passed away recently. As you will know Ina was responsible for starting up Knit and Chat and will be sadly missed.

Ann Gellatly

“I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth.” 3 John 1:4 Prior to the collapse of Communism in 1989, there was no religious education in Romania’s schools. Since then it has been re-introduced and supported with few and often inadequate materials. For the most part, children do not enjoy the religious classes and, therefore, do not have the chance to discover the message of the Bible. The religious classes are optional, so there is the risk that children’s participation in this subject will decline.

The Bible Adventure Programme is an exciting and interactive way to discover God’s Word. The lessons use a giant Bible, with a collection of books hidden inside it. Objects and props can be found within each book and pupils are invited to use these as they participate in re-telling the stories. Please pray: for the implementation of the Bible Adventure Programme in schools in Romania. Pray that children will be inspired to discover the Bible through this Adventure.

Jim Currie

Prayer Notes

Hope is only a prayer away! When Howard Goodall was asked to compose a theme tune for the BBC’s comedy series “The Vicar of Dibley”, it was suggested that the theme tune might, it was hoped, be a hit too. Well, as we all know the series went on to be a smash hit as did the theme tune which Howard Goodall based on the classic, the 23rd psalm, the Lord is my Shepherd.

The word “hope” in the Bible has a meaning that it does not have within any other context. The Old Testament was built on hope. This hope was partially fulfilled in the redeeming death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, but still there remains an ultimate fulfilment to which the New Testament looks forward.

Hope is used to mean the feeling of confident assurance and sure expectation that those things that God has promised truly will be ours one day. In Romans Chapter 5, Paul explains how as Christians we can rejoice in the hope of sharing the Glory of God for we are justified by faith and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He now moves seamlessly from rejoicing in our hope of glory to rejoicing in our suffering and unpacks for us how suffering itself provides the wonderful fruit of hope.

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness”

Jim Currie

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Christian Aid	Peggy Lamond	01738 553582
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Church Office	Roksolana Clark	01738 553900
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Fellowship Lunch	Balformo - Iain MacKinnon Burnside - Margaret McMillan	01738 551975 01738 551560
Free Will Offering Envelopes/Gift Aid	Margaret Nicol	01738 552232
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Hub	Iain MacKinnon	01738 551975
Knit n Chat	Sheila Simpson	01738 551773
PACT	Hamish Breckenridge	01738 551072
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