

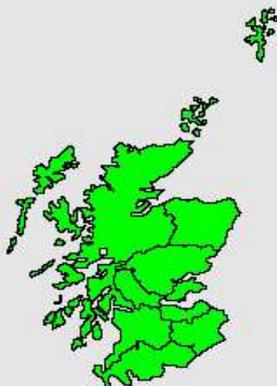


# THE Saltire

No 1

**Message from the Chieftain**

March 2015



## "Alba Gu Brath"

### COMMITTEE 2015-2016

#### Chieftain

Douglas Melville

#### Vice Chieftain

Diana Paxman

#### Hon Secretary

Darian Ferguson

#### Hon Treasurer

Cheryl Hill

#### Members

Cameron Dickson

Eoin Kennedy

Bob McGhee

Reggie McNeill

Richard Paxman

#### Honorary Piper

Alex Foster

#### Email

[enquiries@saintandrew.org.au](mailto:enquiries@saintandrew.org.au)

#### Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

## Ready for another year?

I trust the Society's members, families and friends and a wonderful Christmas and New year with all the cheer and holiday events that go with that time of the year.

Here we are at the start of another St Andrew Society year, with the usual hopes and aims for a successful and fun-filled 12 months.

The Committee has changed very little from the one that put so much work into ensuring that our members and friends had a few quality events to enjoy last year.

I am honoured to be elected Chieftain for another year and Diana Paxman is your Vice-Chieftain once again.

Diana is joined on the Committee by her husband, Richard, who replaces Susan Bogie, who chose not to stand again. Jacqui Ure resigned during the year.

I would take this opportunity to thank Susan Bogie for her significant contribution to Committee over the past year, it has been greatly appreciated.

You can see the entire Committee in the panel on the left-hand side of this page.

We will have a variation to the number and type of events held this year, with the Chieftains Ceilidh in May, the St Andrew's Day Ball in November and the Burns Supper in January 2016.

Details of other events will be published following the Committee's Planning Day in late March.

The Committee works very hard to provide quality events for members and guests and I would ask each and every member to encourage friends and family to join in the fun and to ensure a strengthening in the membership numbers of the Society.

We'd love to hear from any Society members and friends who can give us an insight into methods of increasing Society membership numbers, or how we can connect with more potential guests for our events.

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to The Hon Secretary, either by email at [secretary@saintandrew.org.au](mailto:secretary@saintandrew.org.au), or at the address at the foot of the panel on your left-hand.

The Committee would appreciate your input and assistance.

To conclude, I would again call for your support by making space in your social calendar for Society events.

Douglas Melville  
Chieftain



## New university rector rides stuffed bull

The first assignment for the new rector of the University of Aberdeen was to ride to a pub on the back of a stuffed bull.

Students elected the Scottish Green Party's Maggie Chapman rector in November last year.

Ms Chapman was installed in the role at King's College Chapel on Monday, 23 March.

As part of a traditional initiation ceremony, the



Edinburgh councillor was then carried by the university's rugby team to the St Machar Bar, where she bought the first round.

The position of rector dates back to the founding of Aberdeen University in 1495

## Giving the Bard his due

Once again, the Burns Supper was the jewel in the Society's event program.

The Argyle Room in the Parmelia Hilton was bouncing as 160 people enjoyed the terrific program put together to celebrate the life and talent of Robert Burns

Held on 25 January, the Bard's birthday, the traditional part of the program saw Brian McMurdo deliver the Address to the Haggis, Eoin Kennedy give the toast The Immortal Memory, Ron Cooper make the Toast Tae the Lassies and Cheryl Hill do the Response from The Lassies.

Then the guests danced the night away to music by the Heel n Toe Band.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2015

**Chieftain's Ceilidh:** 2 May  
Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

**Whisky Tasting:** 18 July  
(To be confirmed)

**Golf Day:** 12 September  
Venue: (To be confirmed)

**Ceilidh in the Park:** 11 October  
Venue: Whiteman Park

**Pre-Ball Dance Classes:** Wednesday  
16th September 2015 through to  
Wednesday 18th November 2015  
Venue - Royal Park Hall

**St Andrew's Day Ball:** 21 November  
Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth

### 2016

**Burns Supper:** 25 January  
Venue: Hyatt Regency, Perth

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## Tartan Day Scotland Festival 2015

In Scotland, Tartan Day marks the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, in 1320 at Arbroath Abbey, the historical occasion that sowed the seeds of modern day democracy and was used as a basis for the American Declaration of Independence.

The Tartan Day Scotland Festival takes place at the beginning of April each year and is a program of special events commemorating all that is best about Scotland – its people, its heritage, its history, its culture and its amazing legacy to the world.

Tartan Day was celebrated in Canada, initially, and was such a huge success that America decided to join in.

In 2004, the American House of Representatives decreed that 6 April, the date of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, should be established as National Tartan Day, to recognise *'The outstanding contribution and achievements made by Scottish Americans to the United States'*.

Since then, Tartan Day has gone from strength to strength.

Angus Council (Arbroath is in Angus) was the first council in Scotland to celebrate Tartan Day.

Scotland's first Tartan Day — a week-long program of special events leading up to 6 April — was voted a great success,

So much so, that over the last three years other areas of Scotland also recognised Tartan Day, turning it into a national day of celebration.

Now events take place all over the country in the lead up to and beyond Tartan Day.

It celebrates all that is great about Scotland and its people and is a time for Scots to come together to share experiences and support one another.

The 2015 Tartan Day Scotland Festival will run from 3 to 12 April.

Tartan Day Festivals are now held in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as Scotland.



***Massed pipe bands in the streets of Arbroath during the 2014 Tartan Day Scotland Festival.***

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## Blair Castle WWII letter mystery solved

The writer and the recipient of a letter that lay nestled and out of sight behind a radiator in Blair Castle's grand ballroom for nearly 70 years have been found.

The letter, originally thought to be written by a little boy to his friend during World War Two, was discovered during winter conservation works at Blair Castle, in Perthshire -- along with other keepsakes such as cigarette cards, old dominoes and counters.

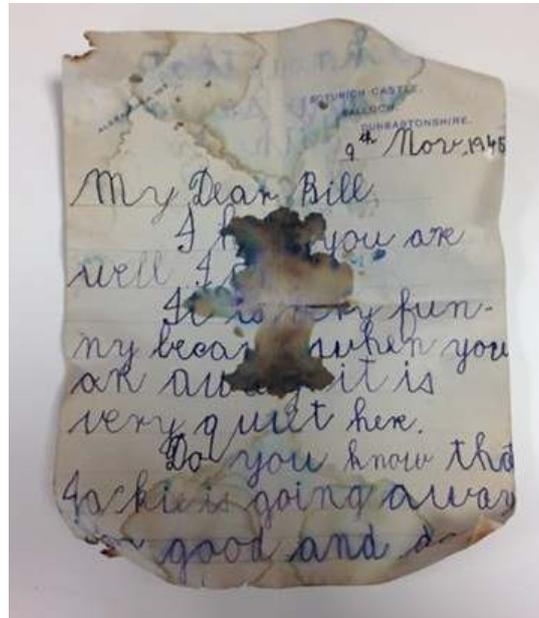
Staff at the castle, where many children stayed during the Second World War, were keen to trace the two boys involved to find out more about their lives during the war.

After launching an appeal, it now transpires that the short letter was written by Archie Findlay and addressed to his brother, Bill, who lived at the castle between 1942 and 1946 as war evacuees.

The almost perfectly-preserved letter begins by asking after Bill, then comments on how quiet it is without him and goes on to tell him of another friend, Jackie, who is "going away for good."

The heading on the letter indicates Archie was staying at Boturich Castle, in Balloch, Dunbartonshire.

Bill Findlay, 82, was 12 years old at the time the letter was written.



"This is just amazing, I'm just so tickled you've found it after all this time," he said.

"We used to sit on the window ledges in the Grand Ballroom and it's possible that I dropped it down the back of the radiator, but it was such a long time ago.

"I had a tremendous time living at Blair Castle, and I have great memories of those years."

Archie Findlay, 77, said that he had been told to write the letter by his mother.

"I guess I wrote about Jackie, Boturich Castle's under gardener's son, going away because it would have been the first thing that came to mind," Archie said.

Stuart Letford, marketing and communications officer at Blair Castle, said agreement had been reached with Bill and Archie that their letter and keepsakes would be put on display to the public at the castle.

"It's 70 years since the end of the Second World War this year, so it seems fitting that we commemorate this with Bill and Archie's story," Stuart said

"Yet another remarkable tale to add to our 700 years of history."

## Rebus is back in new Rankin novel

Ian Rankin has revealed that his famous detective, John Rebus, will return in a new novel called *Even Dogs in the Wild* . . . and he also welcomes back some other faces familiar to Rebus fans.

Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke is investigating the death of a lawyer during a robbery, but the case becomes more complex when a note is discovered, indicating that this may have been no random attack.

When local gangster Big Ger Cafferty receives an identical message, Clarke decides that the recently retired John Rebus may be able to help, because he's the only man Cafferty will open up to.

But a Glasgow crime family has arrived in Edinburgh, too, tailed by a team of undercover detectives, and it's DI Malcolm Fox's job to provide the undercover squad with local expertise, but he's soon drawn in too deep as the two cases look like colliding.

Meanwhile, an anonymous killer stalks the night-time streets, focussed on revenge.



## Glasgow Commonwealth Games £37m under budget

The Glasgow Commonwealth Games cost the taxpayer £37.2 million less than budgeted, with the leadership and delivery of the biggest ever multi-sport event held in Scotland praised as “strong”, by spending watchdogs.

The findings by Scotland’s Auditor General and Accounts Commission will be seen as a vote of confidence in the stewardship of the event by Lord Smith of Kelvin – chair of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games organising committee.

Lord Smith, a leading businessman, said Scots would “love and remember” the games for decades to come.

The total cost of holding the games was £543m, around £32m less than the agreed budget of £575m in November 2013.

Taxpayer funding for the games totalled £424.5m, £37.2m less than expected.

Ticket sales from the 12-day competition raised £118m, with around 1.2 million individual paid bookings.

The “strong controls and good planning” of the



games organisers, which included Lord Smith’s committee, Glasgow council and the Scottish government, helped deliver the savings.

There are also legacy plans in place, which have included a 20-year project to attract businesses, homes and jobs to Glasgow’s East End.

This follows a pledge from organisers that the games would be a springboard for a continued transformation of rundown parts of the city.

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## Dundee students introduce the two-pint beer glass

Dundee University Students’ Union has introduced glasses that hold two pints.

The move, which will lead to bar staff pulling 1.136 litres of beer into a single glass, is designed to eliminate lines of thirsty queuing students.

Dundee University Students’ Association president, Iain MacKinnon, said the larger glasses weren’t a gimmick, but were designed to reduce queues and tension.

“We were noticing that big queues were forming when sporting events were being broadcast on the bar TVs and a lot of people were spending more time waiting for a drink than watching the match,” he said.

“Research has shown that long, slow queues can



lead to customers getting more aggravated, and that is something we want to avoid.

“Since the glasses were introduced, we’ve noticed a reduction in queues, which is good for customers and staff.

“More people can enjoy watching the sport, and it frees up a bit of time for the staff to do their other duties.”

Mr MacKinnon added that the larger glasses were not designed to entice people to drink more.

“The price of the two-pint glass is exactly the same as two single pints, so no one is saving money by getting their drinks in the bigger glass,” he said:

“In fact, a lot of people choosing to stay on soft drinks find the two-pint glasses handy, too.”



## Rare Sherlock Holmes story discovered

The first unpublished Sherlock Holmes story in over 80 years, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to help save a bridge in the Scottish borders, has been found in an attic.

Walter Elliot, 80, found the 1300-word tale starring the famous sleuth in a collection of short stories written for a local bazaar.

A wooden bridge crossing the Etrick River in the Scottish town of Selkirk was destroyed by a flood in 1902 and locals organised a three-day event to raise funds for a new one in 1904.

As part of the event, organisers sold a collection of short stories by locals called "The Book o' the Brig".

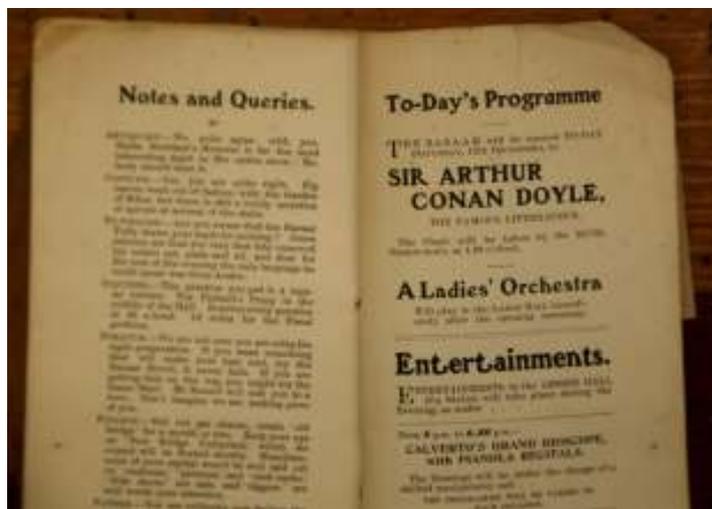
The famed author – who loved visiting Selkirk and the surrounding area – contributed a tale before opening the festival's final day and spoke about his story.

Walter unearthed a copy of the book and spotted the story 'Sherlock Holmes: Discovering the Border Burghs and, by deduction, the Brig Bazaar'.

He was given the 48-page pamphlet more than 50 years ago by a friend, but forgot about it until recently, when he found it in the attic.

He decided to dig out the incredibly rare document, tied together with string, and put them on display as part of an upcoming local pop-up museum.

The back cover details a program of events and



proudly states "the famous litterateur" was due to open the day before the ladies orchestra performed and local piano recitals.

"They had various people to come and do things and just about everyone in the town did something," said Walter, a retired woodcutter.

"I can't remember how much they raised, but they built an iron bridge and it's still there today."

It wasn't the last time Sir Conan Doyle visited the town – he returned a few months later with a cricket team to play Selkirk, and in 1905 he gifted the now-lost Border league football trophy, the Conan Doyle Cup, last won by Kelso in 1937-38.

A year later, Conan Doyle stood as a Unionist candidate for Westminster in the nearby Hawick Burghs constituency.

## A third of Scots remain in the area where they grew up

Around a third of Scots never move away from the area in which they grew up, according to Bank of Scotland research.

In the west of Scotland, 34% of people have lived there all their life, more than in any other part of the country.

Liking the area, family links, good transport and affordable housing were identified as key reasons for staying in a particular area, the research found.

Over a fifth of 45 to 54-year-olds and almost a quarter of 25 to 34-year-olds have remained

where they grew up, but only 16% of 35 to 44-year-olds have stayed put.

Moving to a nice area is most important for those living in the Lothians, with a quarter saying its location is what appeals most about where they live.

In Dundee, 37% of people who have moved to the area said they did so because it is "a peaceful location", while 53% of people living in the Highlands did so for some peace and quiet.

More than 3200 people were surveyed as part of the bank's research into housing.