

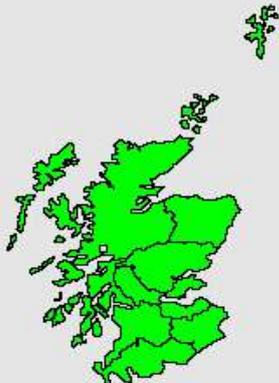


# THE Saltire

No 3

**Message from the Chieftain**

June 2014



## "Alba Gu Brath"

### COMMITTEE 2014-2015

#### Chieftain

Douglas Melville

#### Immediate Past Chieftain

Ken Suttie

#### Vice Chieftain

Diana Paxman

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#### Hon Treasurer

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#### Members

Susan Bogie

Cameron Dickson

Eoin Kennedy

Bob McGhee

Reggie McNeill

Jacqui Ure

#### Honorary Piper

Alex Foster

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#### Website

<http://saintandrew.org.au>

## Good fun at Chieftain's Ceilidh

Greetings and welcome to the third edition of The Saltire for 2014.

At the Chieftains Ceilidh on 10 May some 80 members and supporters enjoyed a fun night of music, song and dance in great company.

I took the opportunity to introduce the new Committee members individually and provide a brief description of each person's role.

I also took the opportunity to talk about a planning day the Committee had held to look at future directions, and the types and frequency of events to enhance the attractiveness of the Society to younger generations.

It was rewarding to see so many younger people at the Ceilidh and the enthusiasm with which they joined in the fun.

I hope to see them and their friends again.

Our piper for the evening was Rob Reeves, who did an outstanding job, with a choice of tunes selected to target his audience.

The Heel n Toe band provided its usual high standard of entertainment and MC Reggie McNeill pulled the entire program together with his usual meticulous ease.

I would like to thank all the Committee, who gave of their skills and time to make the Ceilidh such a success.

The Ceilidh allowed me to meet and greet everyone who attended and to seek their views on the Society, its appeal, type and structure of events, and improving its membership.

Again I thank you all for your support of the Society, and while the Committee works hard for the membership, we need your support to flourish.

Douglas Melville  
Chieftain



## Rockin' and Reelin' at the Winter Ceilidh

With the Chieftain's Ceilidh done and dusted, it's now time to prepare for the Winter Ceilidh.

You'll need to be ready to really let you hair down, because it's to be a rockin' and reelin' event . . . not only traditional Scottish dancing, but a bit of rock and roll as well!

Perhaps you need to get in training for it now!

A couple of laps round the block every day, followed by a few floor exercises, should see you okay.

However, you'll only need to do that until Saturday, 2 August, because that's when the ceilidh will be held, at the RAAFA Club, in Bullcreek Drive, Bullcreek.

There have been many Society events at this venue and they've always been a lot of fun . . . some have even been a tad riotous!

For the paltry sums of \$50 for Society members and \$60 for non-members, you'll enjoy a sumptuous two-course meal (with a bottle of red and a bottle of white wine on each table) and an evening of entertainment led by the Heel n Toe Band.

Also, if any of you felt like adding to the entertainment by "doing a turn" . . . singing, playing an instrument, telling a story or a joke . . . as is traditional at ceilidhs, you would be welcomed with open arms.

So, don't hesitate, just copy the link below into your browser and get a copy of the Winter Ceilidh flyer and ticket application form.

<http://saintandrew.org.au/2014/06/17/chase-away-winter-blues/>

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### 2014

**Winter Ceilidh:** 2 August

Venue: RAAFA Club, Bullcreek

**St Andrew's Day Ball:** 29 November

Venue: Hyatt Regency, Perth

#### 2015

**Burns Supper:** 25 January

Venue: Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth

## Mackintosh drawings saved from School of Art blaze



Precious artwork and artefacts locked in a vault at the Glasgow School of Art survived a massive blaze that ripped through the historic building.

The items, including drawings by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, along with other letters and paintings, escaped without damage despite serious damage to large parts of the building and its contents.

Fire service officers managed to save around 90% of the building and 70% of its contents following the blaze in the centre of Glasgow.

At its height, more than 200 firefighters and 16 appliances were at the scene after the blaze started in the early afternoon on Friday.

The treasured items were stored in a fire-proof safe in a basement section of the building.

Students affected by the fire are to be offered special bursaries to help them rebuild their portfolios.

The scheme is a joint initiative between the art school and the Scottish Government

The new "phoenix" bursaries will allow students whose work was seriously affected by the fire to arrange studio time so that they can try to restore or recreate their artworks.



## Bonnie Prince Charlie letter sells for £25,000

A letter from Bonnie Prince Charlie asking King Louis XV of France for his help in overthrowing the English monarchy recently sold at auction for £25,000.

The letter, which went under the hammer at Bonhams auction house in Edinburgh, sold for more than double the estimate.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart, also known as the Young Pretender, wrote to his cousin and friend on November 15, 1746, six weeks after his escape to France from Arisaig.

In it, he sets out his account of the 1745 Rising and asks for the King's help to mobilise another campaign to win back his kingdom.

The document contains a covering letter to the king's minister of war, a covering letter to the king and a memorandum, telling his cousin what happened during the Rising.

Bonnie Prince Charlie, or the 'Young Pretender', was the grandson of the Stuart King James II of England and a claimant to the throne, but after James II, a Catholic, was deposed in favour of his Protestant daughter and son-in-law, Prince Charles and his father, Prince James, were excluded from the line of succession.

However, Prince Charles, like his father before him, actively participated in the Jacobite movement to restore James II and his heirs to the throne and led the Jacobite Rising of 1745.

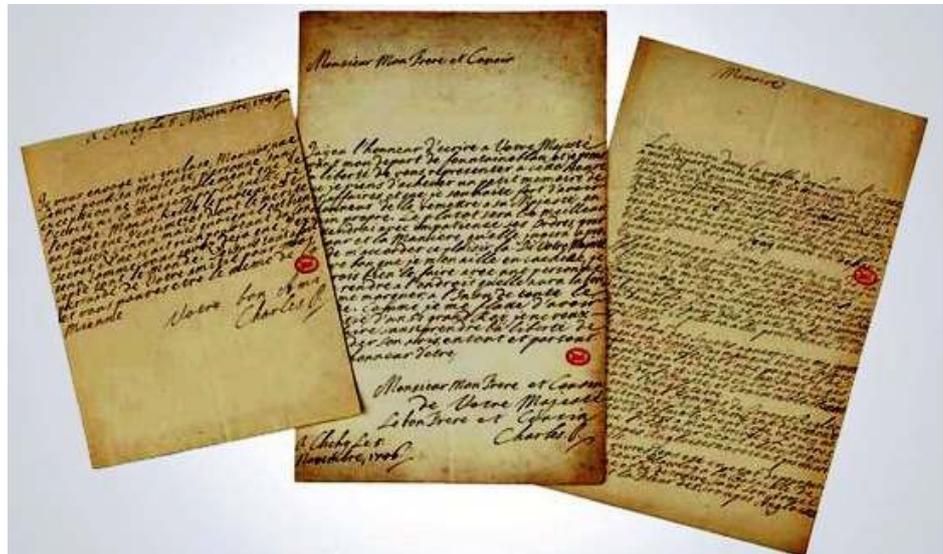
After his army was defeated in the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Prince Charles fled to France.

The letter shows Bonnie Prince Charlie had not given up hope and thought the Rising would have succeeded if France had helped.

However, King Louis XV did not agree to help as he had already defeated the English at Flanders.

With all hope of an imminent invasion abandoned, Charles was escorted from Paris and began forty years of exile.

Louis gave the letter to the Marquis d'Argenson, his minister of war, and it stayed in that family for more than 250 years.



## Ian Rankin Scotland's favourite author

A poll has named crime writer Ian Rankin as Scotland's favourite author of all time

The creator of Inspector Rebus came top in a survey carried out by tuition provider Explore Learning, as part of the National Young Writers' Award.

Robert Louis Stevenson was in second place, followed by Arthur Conan Doyle, with Iain Banks in fourth place and Robert Burns fifth.

The research also found that Scotland was the most literary country in the UK, with 55% of people north of the border reading every day for pleasure.

This compares to 51% in England, 40% in Northern Ireland and 39% in Wales.

The study also found more than eight in ten Scots believe that children's appreciation of Scottish literature is at an all-time low and that they spend too much time playing games and watching TV.





## Britain's longest serving postmistress to retire

After 61 years behind the counter, Britain's longest serving postmistress is set to make her last delivery.

Problems dealing with her computer have finally forced Esther Brauer to close the post office in Kylesku (a small, remote fishing hamlet in Sutherland, in the Scottish Highlands), which she runs from her garden shed.

The 83-year-old will receive a commendation from the Scottish Parliament later this year in recognition of her long service.

"On a busy day I deal with five or six letters. Letters and stamps are my biggest workload. I expect I sell about 100 stamps in a year," said Esther.

"As for pensions, the only pensioners in Kylesku are my husband and myself!

"But I get lots of tourists and visitors.

"The other day one lady returned and brought me boxes of chocolates, while others send me Christmas cards, postcards and letters – in fact, at Christmas I receive more cards from well-wishers who have come to my post office than I send out from the community.

"I love my job and I am very sad to give it up, but I have had terrible trouble with my computer lately.



"It is going doolally and it's doing my head in."

Esther began work in 1953, first working from a post office that was part of her house, and for the past 31 years from the wooden hut in her garden.

Originally from Elphin, 18 miles away, Esther was 18 years old when she settled in Kylesku with her first husband, Ian Clark, whose parents ran the old post office from their home.

When they moved to Tain she took over the job.

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a kilt "under construction"!





## Ten-year project to map who owns Scottish land

An ambitious plan to establish who owns every part of Scotland is to be completed within ten years.

At present, 26 per cent of the land mass of Scotland is currently on the Land Register, but the Scottish Government has now asked the Registers of Scotland to record the other 74 per cent.

Scotland's environment minister Paul Wheelhouse announced the mapping project soon after the Land Reform Review Group published a major report on land reform.

"One of the key recommendations was on land registration and a fundamental step on this journey must be having a clear understanding of who owns our land in Scotland," he said.



"This will benefit everyone as land transactions are more difficult and expensive if it's not already on the land register.

"This is a vital underpinning step in Scotland's land reform journey and will ensure that at last everyone will know who owns Scotland."

It says councils should be given the right to force the sale of vacant or derelict plots.

Registers of Scotland has been asked to finish the register in a decade, with all public land registered within five years.

The Land Reform Review Group set out 62 recommendations in its report

These included calls for a new law to limit how much Scottish land any single person can own.

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## Environmentalism honoured with 134-mile scenic path

A recently opened pathway spanning the breadth of central Scotland is expected to generate £40m for communities along the way.

Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond, officially opened the John Muir Way, a 134-mile path from Helensburgh in the west to Dunbar in the east, named in honour of the Scots-born environmentalist who is revered on both sides of the Atlantic.

Walkers, cyclists and horse riders can enjoy the rocky coasts of East Lothian, Blackness Castle on the Forth, Linlithgow Palace, and Roman hill forts on Antonine's Wall among other highlights.

The route has been divided into 10 sections allowing people to complete it in shorter walks or bike rides.

"John Muir was a remarkable Scot - a man whose passion for nature and the outdoors left an

incredible environmental legacy that resonates to this day," Mr Salmond said.

"From humble beginnings in Dunbar, his influence spread across the world and his name now adorns parks, glaciers and mountains.

"His legacy is celebrated in an annual commemorative day in California and his image has featured on two US postage stamps."

The route is expected to help Scotland's tourist industry to the tune of about £40m in economic benefits to communities along the route.

John Muir was born in Dunbar in 1838 before emigrating to the United States in 1849.

He helped save the Yosemite Valley in California, was a co-founder of grassroots environmental organisation The Sierra Club and successfully campaigned for national parks in America.