

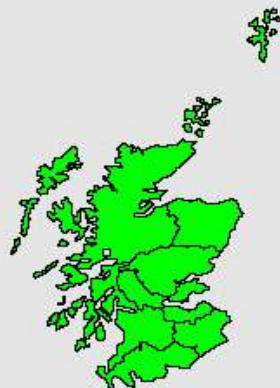


THE Saltire

No 2

Message from the Chieftain

June 2015



"Alba Gu Brath"

COMMITTEE 2015-2016

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Vice Chieftain

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Hard work pays off

Since the last edition of The Saltire your hard-working Committee has been very busy indeed.

That work shone through at the first event of the year, the Chieftains Ceilidh, which was an outstanding success.

Remarkably, members outnumbered non-members in the 97-strong crowd that enjoyed a superb evening.

It really started off with a bang – courtesy of the Australian Air Force Cadet Drum Corp Band, in what was a marvellous and memorable performance.

The Drum Corp performed to rousing applause from an appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

We were able to secure the services of the band as a result of our sponsorship of the Air Force Cadets 7 Wing (see more on page 2).

Vice-Chieftain Diana Paxman and her team ensured that the evening ran smoothly and that everyone had a great time.

As a result of a Planning Day held earlier this year, the Committee has formed a small subgroup to explore the possibilities of securing sponsorship to enable the Society, as a not for profit organisation, to further support youth groups such as the Air Force Cadets.

We hope to be able to promote positive activities and support for targeted young people, to promote the image and work of the Society in the wider community, and to provide a range benefits for sponsors.

This is exciting work, so if you have any suggestions or contacts that we could explore, please get in touch with me or Diana and Richard Paxman.

Committee member Richard Paxman is overseeing a major overhaul of our Website, with the aim of bringing the site up-to-date in terms of relevant information and links, as well as other necessary changes.

It will be up and running in the next week or two.

I would remind you to keep an eye on the Society's Website and Facebook page to ensure you are kept informed about upcoming events, such as the Chieftain's Golf Day.

I would like to express my appreciation to Ken Suttie for again offering his time to continue preparing and producing The Saltire in a compelling and professional manner.

I would conclude by thanking you for your support of the Society and look forward to seeing you at our future functions.

Douglas Melville
Chieftain



Top award for Society sponsored cadets

The Saint Andrew Society would like to congratulate the Australian Air Force Cadets 7 Wing on being awarded the Air Force Trophy for 2015.

This award is made annually to the most proficient Air Force Cadet Wing, which must demonstrate superior standards and outcomes of acumen, training and recruiting, as well as community involvement and participation in Air Force Cadet events.

The Society's involvement with 7 Wing, based at RAAF Pearce at Bullsbrook, is in providing four three-year scholarships.

The scholarships assist cadets who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn to fly, take part in target practice, experience bush-based activities, learn navigation, operate military radios, field craft, camping and survival techniques.

The Australian Air Force Cadets is a youth organisation and with a number of the cadets at 7 Wing coming from Scottish backgrounds, our support fulfils one of the objectives of the Society, in supporting community groups.

Vice Chieftain Diana Paxman represented the Saint Andrew Society at the trophy presentation parade at RAAF Pearce on 18 April.

The presentation was made by Air Vice Marshal Dr Hugh Bartholomeusz OAM RFD MBBS FRACS.

Nessie campaign

A campaign to have the Loch Ness Monster recognised as the national animal of Scotland has been launched at a tourism show.

Inverness cruise company Loch Ness by Jacobite is spearheading the drive to see Nessie replace the unicorn, which is currently the country's national animal, a legacy from William I's decision to use the mythical creature on his coat of arms.

Members of the public are being urged to sign a petition which will be presented to the Scottish Government in an effort to secure Nessie's place as national animal.

The campaign was launched at the VisitScotland expo 2015.

VisitScotland hopes the global initiative will raise the profile of Loch Ness and Scotland.

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Saltire raised in honour of Wallace and Moray

A Saltire flag has been raised at Stirling Bridge for the first time in 700 years in honour of William Wallace and Andrew de Moray's historic victory there.

It's the first time the two men have been given equal prominence, with the site already overlooked by the massive Wallace Monument.

They led a joint army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge, which resulted in a landmark victory in the Scottish wars of independence, in 1297.

They have now been honoured with a memorial at the spot where their outnumbered army defeated Edward I's English troops.



At an unveiling ceremony, three lecterns made of traditional Scottish whinstone were dedicated to their memories.

One memorial stone tells the story of Andrew de Moray, another describes Wallace's role and the third tells the story of the battle in old Scots, as written by the poet Paraig MacNeil.

As part of the ceremony a permanent Saltire will be installed at the site, which is believed to be the first time the flag has flown there since the battle.

Eminent Scots historian, Sir Tom Devine, recently described the battle as being 'second in importance only to Bannockburn in the wars of independence'.

The memorial was secured through the work of The Guardians of Scotland Trust, which was set up to create an equal memorial to the two men at the site where it is believed they stood together in battle.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

Whisky Tasting: 18 July
(To be confirmed)

Golf Day: 26 September
Venue: Marangaroo Golf Club

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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Fun and faces from Chieftain's Ceilidh

A great time was had at the Chieftain's Ceilidh, inspired by a crowd of 97 guests all ready to let their hair down and make sure they had a fun evening.

Our traditional first event of the year following the Annual General Meeting, it was held at the RAAFA Club in Bull Creek, which has the space and the dance floor for such a big event.

As usual, the Heel n Toe Band provided the music and the Australian Air Force Cadet Drum Corp Band added to the entertainment..





Forth Bridge to become World Heritage Site

The Forth Rail Bridge is set to join international landmarks such as the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal in becoming a World Heritage Site.

The plans are expected to be approved when the World Heritage Committee meets in Bonn, Germany, at the end of next month.

It has been recommended by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) advisers, and papers for next month's international meeting now include a draft decision to inscribe the Forth Rail Bridge as a World Heritage Site.

The Scottish Government said it has worked with Network Rail and Historic Scotland to make the case for the rail bridge being awarded the status.

It would mean the rail bridge, which opened in 1890, would become Scotland's sixth world heritage site after St Kilda, the Antonine Wall, the old and new towns of Edinburgh and New Lanark.

World Heritage Sites are considered to be important for future generations, due to their natural or cultural significance.



Only 1000 sites worldwide currently have the UNESCO status, including the Acropolis in Athens, Mount Etna, the Great Barrier Reef, the Great Wall of China, the Kremlin, Vatican City and the Taj Mahal.

The 125th anniversary of the Forth Rail Bridge was marked earlier this year by a week of celebrations.

Sheepdog 'drives' tractor on motorway



A Scottish sheepdog recently crashed a tractor on a busy motorway during rush hour, after leaning on the controls and 'driving' out of a field.

Don the collie had jumped on to the mini tractor while farmer Tom Hamilton was tending to a lamb in a field next to the M74 motorway, near Abington, in South Lanarkshire.

The vehicle, with the four-year-old dog on board, careered out of the field, smashed through a fence, raced across the busy motorway, and ended up on the central reservation.

Miraculously, the tractor avoided colliding with any other vehicle and Don escaped without injury.

Mr Hamilton, 77, who has run the sheep farm for 52 years, said: "I had stepped out of the mini tractor to get a lamb, which looked like it was about to escape out of the gate.

"I hadn't put on the brake and when I turned round I could only watch as the tractor ran down the hill, through a fence and onto the M74."



The Glasgow Real Ale Festival returns

Ale enthusiasts rejoice . . . the Glasgow Real Ale Festival will be held from Thursday, June 25, through to Saturday, June 27, this year.

The festival will bring in over 100 styles of beer from breweries across the UK . . . from pale hoppy ales through to darker stouts and porters, there will be a cask for everyone.

The beer extravaganza is organised and run by the Glasgow and West of Scotland branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

CAMRA is an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights.



"This is the second year we are hosting the festival, following on from last year's successful event," Festival organiser and CAMRA member Jonathan Kemp said.

"There were good vibes last year, with more than 2200 people coming along over the three days.

"Everybody was very excited to taste a range of excellent, quality beers in Glasgow."

The team are currently perfecting a list of quality brews, which will include local ales and beers that are not often found in Glasgow.

The Caledonian Pipe Band will keep revellers entertained on the Saturday.

There could be gold in them Aberdeenshire hills

Vast gold deposits could lie beneath one of Scotland's smallest communities, experts believe.

Turkish mining giant Koza Altin Isletmeleri has begun prospecting in the village of Towie, in Aberdeenshire.

The hamlet is so small that it does not even have its own shop, but Gavin Berkenheger, managing director of Koza partners GreenOre Gold, said Towie has "enormous potential".

"This area in Aberdeenshire has all the hallmarks of a major deposit hiding beneath the surface," Mr Berkenheger said.

"We looked at the geometry and found some really exciting rocks with potential for a large deposit.

"Over two years, we have found that the whole of Aberdeenshire is a ripe area for mineralisation, but we're just trying to locate the local gold deposit.

"The only way we will know for sure is when we



start drilling, which we hope to be doing next year."

Mr Berkenheger cautioned that plans for further development are at a "very early stage".

GreenOre has a licence from the Crown Estate to search for gold in the undulating hills between Rhynie and Aboyne.

Researchers from the University of Aberdeen discovered "significant" grains of gold in Rhynie in the early 1990s.



Five million passengers in first year

Nearly five million passengers have used the Edinburgh trams in its first year of service – 370,000 passengers over the target set on its launch.

The first fare-paying passengers climbed aboard at 5am on May 31 last year and since then 4.92 million people have used the 14 km long line, which runs between Edinburgh's New Town and Edinburgh Airport.

Tom Norris, director and general manager of Edinburgh Trams, said the company was "on the right track", with the travelling public giving the service a 95% approval rating.

"The first birthday is a very exciting day for all of us because it rounds off a hugely significant year for everyone involved," Mr Norris said.

"We were absolutely delighted with the initial surge of interest when we launched, but even more grateful that the local and visiting public have continued to give us their support.



"The airport is growing, Transport for Edinburgh is developing well, a new tram stop will link us to the Fife line and our city is going from strength to strength."

Mr Norris said Edinburgh Trams was set to surpass its first year revenue targets by 3%.

Edinburgh Trams has a fleet of 27 trams and employs 130 staff.

Self-help book the oldest manuscript in Scotland

A copy of a 12th-century self-help book has been found to be Scotland's oldest surviving non-biblical manuscript.

The Consolation of Philosophy, published between 1130AD and 1150AD, advised readers on free will, fate and how to cope with adversity and injustice.

New research by the University of Glasgow suggests the book was written by Roman Empire philosopher Boethius in the Scottish Borders 1500 years ago.

"Glasgow's Boethius manuscript allows a fresh understanding of Scotland's early responses to key intellectual works in the Middle Ages," said Dr Kylie Murray, who made the discovery.

"It provides a snapshot of how Scotland's literary culture, as we now know it, first began to emerge and develop."

The original text, thought to have been written in 524AD while Boethius was awaiting execution for a crime he did not commit, was medieval Europe's best-known intellectual text, second in influence only to the Bible.

Although the 12th-century copy was well known, scholars had believed it to be from Durham.

But closer inspection found that the manuscript's handwriting and illustrations closely resemble the Kelso Charter, written at Kelso Abbey in 1159AD.

The charter, which carries images of David I and Malcolm IV, was thought to have been the earliest non-biblical illustration of human figures from Scotland, until the research into the Boethius manuscript found it to have been produced north of the border

