



New Patron

Lady Liddell of Coatdyke

After many years of searching, we are delighted to announce Lady Helen Liddell, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke has accepted our invitation to be the new Society Patron.

Biography: Lady Helen Liddell, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke

Helen Liddell and her husband Alistair both come from Coatbridge in Lanarkshire, the town that grew out of the estate of Drumpellier, owned by the family of James Stirling, the Founding Governor of Western Australia, and where he was brought up. Every day of her university career, Helen left from Drumpellier station to go to Strathclyde University where she studied economics.

Starting work as an economist with the Scottish Trades Union Congress, Helen soon became immersed in the new oil and gas industries setting up in Scotland, knowledge that stood her in good stead when she visited WA, often meeting Scots who travelled down to Australia to work in the industry. A happy memory is a picture of Helen and a crowd of Aberdonians in front of the Kangaroo in the CBD.



From that start, her career soon took off, she joined the BBC as an economics reporter in Scotland, then left to become General Secretary of the Scottish Labour Party. After 11 years and a string of successes, she left to write novels only to be lured into newspapers as Director of Corporate Affairs for Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail Ltd, at that time the most successful newspaper company in Scotland.

After that she became for a short time the CEO of a small Venture Capital company until duty called with the untimely death of her dear friend John Smith MP. Leader of the Labour Party and MP for

Monklands East, her home seat. After a brutal by-election she entered Parliament, something she said, with a young family, she would never do.

With the election of the Labour Government in 1997, Tony Blair made her Economic Secretary to the Treasury, and for the next 8 years she held a number of high ministerial offices, including Energy Minister, until she became the first and only woman to become Secretary of State for Scotland. She was elevated to the Privy Counsel in 1998.

Leaving office and planning to leave Parliament to allow her husband to develop further his very successful career, Tony Blair asked her to become British High Commissioner to Australia, the first woman who was not a career diplomat, to become a Head of Mission in the history of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She lived in Australia from 2005 until 2009, and is still a frequent visitor.

When she completed her posting, Helen came back to Scotland and in 2010 was ennobled for her achievement in both Scotland and Australia. She took the title, Baroness Liddell of Coatdyke, a council housing estate in Coatbridge where she, her parents and her husband and his parents came from.

Helen is active in the House of Lords, currently on the Select Committee that scrutinises trade deals, including currently the deal proposed with Australia. She also Chairs the company that owns the Married Quarters Estate of the Armed Forces, and she is a Trustee of the Northcote Trust, which funds postgraduate degrees in for British students in Australia. She is also a Non-Executive Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

And she likes to boast that she was twice the Chieftain of Shotts Highland Games, and she was also Chieftain of Bundanoon (NSW) Highland Games.

Winter 'Family' Ceilidh 2021

What a delight it was to see so many families come along to our 'Family' ceilidh at the end of July in the Irish Club, our first 'Family' ceilidh for many years. We had to limit the numbers to around 60 but that did not stop anyone from having a good night. It was great to see so many young ones come along and enjoy the dancing. Thanks must go to Mark and Alka for coming up with the idea and to the committee and family members who turned up on the day to move furniture around, arrange tables and chairs and decorate the dance hall. It looked fantastic. Thanks also must go the Irish Club for providing both the downstairs dance hall and the bar staff. We were delighted to have Gallus Ceilidh Band come along and entertain us for the first part of night. This was their first performance in front of a live audience, before performing at the Duxton Hotel at the end of August.



Winter Dance Nights

Lockdowns and restrictions in June plus the wet weather during the month of July and into August did not stop both our members and non-members coming along to our Tuesday night dancing in the Irish Club. Although the numbers were not great, we were delighted to have around 25-30 come along, have a meal, dance new reels and jigs, have some fun, enjoy a drink at the bar and have some great social time. Thanks to our committee members plus Brian McMurdo who came along each dance night to help and welcome non-members who came along.

Membership

New Members

Congratulations to Katy Dickson, Oliver Hickman, Iyad Dayoub, Mike and Hilda Rennie who have become our latest members. This brings our membership for 2021 up to 106

Renewal of Membership Reminder

Do not forget to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Membership is a yearly subscription which runs from AGM to AGM and is only \$30. Membership renewals for 2021/2022 will expire at the end of October 2021. You will still qualify for a discount on tickets to both the St Andrew's Day Ball and the Burns Supper if you renew before 31st October 2021. To join the Society or renew your membership please visit our website and go to 'Forms'

Events

2021 – 2022 Calendar year

Planning is well underway for the next major event which is our St Andrew's Day Ball. Details including ticket prices and booking details will be sent out to our members first and foremost. There will be a three-week period for members to purchase tickets before we open it to non-members.

Events and Dates for the next three months are

- Winter Dance Nights:** 7th and 21st September. All will be at the Irish Club starting at 7.30pm. See website for details.
- Ball Dance Practice:** Start on 5th October in the Irish Club at 7.30pm. See website for details
- St Andrew Day Ball:** 27th November. Pan Pacific Hotel. See website for details
- Burns Supper Dance Practice:** 11th January and 18th January. Both at the Irish Club at 7.30pm.
- Burns Supper:** 25th January. Pan Pacific Hotel. See website for details.

As was noted in the Autumn edition of the Saltire, one of our commitments this year will be to work with the Irish Club to see what other opportunities there may be to encourage members and friends to come along, have a meal, have a drink, and socialise – maybe listening to some music. We are currently in negotiations with the Irish Club to have our own club membership cards which will allow our members to receive 5% discount off drinks and bar snacks. We will release more details on this scheme as it develops.

Scottish Stramash Perth

Thank you to Scottish Stramash Perth for a great night of music, song, and dance on 12th August in the Irish Club. Thank you must also go to all who attended, especially non-members who found out about it on our Facebook page. It was great to see so many join in the singing lead by Stramash singer Jim McGuire and supported by the Society singers. Dancing was constrained due to the size of the dance floor but was enjoyed by all who participated including non-members who had not danced for many years. Stramash do appreciate our support and are back again in the Irish Club on Thursday 16th September at 7.00pm

If you want more information about Stramash, their music and venues go to

Facebook: Scottish Stramash

Email: scottishstramash@gmail.com



LOVE OUR MUSIC?

Players and non-players all welcome.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Scottish Stramash

OR EMAIL:
scottishstramash@gmail.com

House of Tartan

The House of Tartan which started business in Perth back in 1995 has been under the proud ownership of Heather and Jim Anderson since 2007. Heather and Jim sold the business in late 2019 to Greg and Jennifer McAdam who have over 20 years' experience in supplying kilts and accessories.

The society have always had a connection with the House of Tartan through Heather and Jim and wish to continue that connection through Greg and Jennifer. Whether it be a wedding, a Ball, or any other Scottish event click <https://www.thehouseoftartan.com/> to view their website

We are pleased to announce that The House of Tartan will be attending our Ball dance classes. Jennifer and Greg will be in attendance to assist anyone who wishes to get measured up for a kilt to wear to the Ball or need to buy accessories such as a shirt, bow tie, socks, sash, or the likes.



Violet Jacob - Scottish Writer and Poet

(1st September 1863 – 9th September 1946)

Violet Jacob (1 September 1863 – 9 September 1946) was a Scottish writer known especially for her historical novel *Flemington* and for her poetry, mainly in Scots. She was described by a fellow Scottish poet Hugh MacDiarmid as "the most considerable of contemporary vernacular poets", a view he did not rescind over a fifty-year period

Jacob was born **Violet Augusta Mary Frederica Kennedy-Erskine**, the daughter of William Henry Kennedy-Erskine of Dun, Forfarshire, a Captain in the 17th Lancers and Catherine Jones, the only daughter of William Jones of Henllys, Carmarthenshire. Her father was the son of John Kennedy-Erskine of Dun and Augusta FitzClarence, the illegitimate daughter of King William IV and Dorothy Jordan. She was a great-granddaughter of Archibald Kennedy, 1st Marquess of Ailsa.

The area of Montrose where her family seat of Dun was situated was the setting for much of her fiction. She married, at St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on 27 October 1894, to Arthur Otway Jacob, an Irish major in the British Army, and accompanied him to India where he was serving. Her book *Diaries and letters from India 1895–1900* is about their stay in the Central Indian town of Mhow. The couple had one son, Harry, born in 1895, who died as a soldier at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Arthur died in 1936, and Violet returned to live at Kirriemuir, in Angus. She died of heart disease on 9 September 1946 and was buried beside her husband at the graveyard at Dunkirk.



Violet James was particularly known for her poems in the Angus dialect. Her poetry was associated with that of Scots revivalists like Marion Angus, Alexander Gray and Lewis Spence, who drew their inspiration from early Scots poets such as Robert Henryson and William Dunbar, rather than from Robert Burns.

Jacob is commemorated in Makars' Court, outside the Writers' Museum, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. Selections for Makars' Court are made by the Writers' Museum, The Saltire Society and The Scottish Poetry Library. In 1936 she was awarded an honorary LLD degree by Edinburgh University.

The Wild Geese, which takes the form of a conversation between the poet and the North Wind, is a sad poem of longing for home. It was set to music as ***Norlan' Wind*** and popularised by Angus singer and song maker Jim Reid, who also set to music other poems by Jacob and other Angus poets such as Marion Angus and Helen Cruikshank. Traditional folk band Malinky are among many other artists who have released versions of *Norland Wind*.

'Oh tell me what was on yer road, ye roarin' norlan' Wind,
As ye cam' blawin' frae the land that's niver frae my mind?
My feet they traivel England, but I'm deein' for the north.'
'My man, I heard the siller tides rin up the Firth o Forth.'

'Aye, Wind, I ken them weel eneuch, and fine they fa' and rise,
And fain I'd feel the creepin' mist on yonder shore that lies,
But tell me, ere ye passed them by, what saw ye on the way?'
'My man, I rocked the rovin' gulls that sail abune the Tay.'

'But saw ye naething, leein' Wind, afore ye cam' to Fife?
There's muckle lyin' 'yont the Tay that's mair to me nor life.'
'My man, I swept the Angus braes ye hae'na trod for years.'
'O Wind, forgi'e a hameless loon that canna see for tears!'

'And far abune the Angus straths I saw the wild geese flee,
A lang, lang skein o' beatin' wings, wi' their heids towards the sea,
And aye their cryin' voices trailed ahint them on the air –'
'O Wind, hae maircy, haud yer whisht, for I daurna listen mair!'

Apart from her collections of poetry and short stories, Violet Jacob published an Erskine family history (*Lairds of Dun*, 1931) and five novels, the best known of which is the tragic *Flemington* (1911; reissued in 1994) Set in the aftermath of the Jacobite rising of 1745, *Flemington* was described by John Buchan as "the best Scots romance since *The Master of Ballantrae*".

A New Tourist Attraction Set for Whisky Fans Visiting Edinburgh

Diageo opens Johnnie Walker Experience in the capital

Scotland's newest whisky experience, the Johnnie Walker Princes Street Experience, has opened in the heart of Edinburgh.

The eight-floor visitor experience, which is located in the former House of Fraser building on the capital's Princes Street, will take visitors on an immersive journey through the whisky brand's 200-year-old history.

Four and a half years in the making, Johnnie Walker Princes Street is the flagship centrepiece of Diageo's £185 million pound investment in whisky tourism in Scotland.

The exciting new attraction will feature rooftop bars, private dining areas, live performance areas and modern sensory tasting rooms, alongside tours and tasting experiences.

To mark the opening, a Johnnie Walker flag was raised above the landmark building by Ivan Menezes, Chief Executive of Diageo, and Barbara Smith, Managing Director of Johnnie Walker Princes Street.

Offering two incredible rooftop bars and a terrace with breath-taking views of the Edinburgh skyline, including the Explorers' Bothy whisky bar stocked with 150 different whiskies, and the 1820 cocktail bar where drinks are paired with a carefully curated menu sourced from the four corners of Scotland.

The attraction will also feature the innovative Johnnie Walker Journey of Flavour tour, which will see visitors have their personal flavour preferences mapped with drinks tailored to their palate.

One for the bucket list when we get to travel again.



Fancy a Wee Dram or a Hawf 'n' Hawf

Words you might hear while drinking in Scotland

From ordering a '**Hawf n Hawf**' to going out for a wee 'swallie' with your mates or getting a 'cairry oot' on the way home, Scots have loads of words and terms used in relation to alcohol.

Scottish traditions such as sharing a quaich to cement a friendship (or settle a rivalry), has meant that whisky and beer have often played a part in Scottish culture through the ages.

It'll come as no surprise then that there are more than a few words and terms for the act of drinking.

Oh, and once you've learned the lingo, don't forget to toast "Slàinte mhath!" when sharing a whisky with your friends or even a group of strangers.

Pronounced 'slan-je vah' it is often shortened to Slàinte! and in Gaelic it's a toast to "good health".

Whisky

Uisge Beatha - (Pronounced 'Ooshka Ba') this means 'water of life' in Gaelic and is used as a formal way to describe whisky.

Cratur - The Scots word for creature is another that's used for whisky.

Dram/Nip - This is a common word for a measure of a whisky, as in "Do you fancy a wee dram?"

Hawf n Hawf - (A Half and Half) this is a term for a half-pint of beer along with a measure of whisky.

New Make spirit - the newly distilled spirit that is yet to go through the minimum maturation period to legally become whisky (three years).

Quaich - pronounced "quake", this is a traditional Scottish whisky drinking cup that consists of a shallow bowl with a short vertical handle on either side. Traditionally, it has important connotations with friendship and alliances and is often shared among a group to signify a celebration or connection.

Beer

A pint of Heavy - Traditionally, in Scotland, ales were brewed to be 'Light' (around or under 3.5% abv) or 'Heavy' (between 3.5 and 4% ABV) - other versions included 'export' (around 5% abv) or 'Wee Heavy' (anything stronger).

60/70/80 Shilling - Alternative versions of 'Light', 'Heavy' and 'Export' - so named due to the taxation originally charged for each.

General drinking terms

Swallie/Bevvy/Tinky Link - Alternative words for drinks.

Cairry-oot - (Carryout) The name given to the drink you buy from an off licence.

Birse Cup - This term refers to adding whisky (or other spirits) to tea or coffee after dinner instead of milk.

Wee Skoosh of... - This means you're asking for draught or adding a mixer to a drink, as in "can you add a wee skoosh of coke to that vodka pal?"



Deoch an Doris - Everyone has uttered the term 'one for the road' at least one point in their lives, and in Scotland, it's usually said as the Gaelic term for 'Drink of the Door'. Traditionally, this would entail the pouring of a parting dram, more often than not in a stirrup cup (literally a small cup given when the departing parties feet were in the stirrups of their horse).

Clochan Dichter Though a much rarer term it might be preferable - it's the drink '*before*' the drink for the road.

Drooth/Drouth - The Scots term for a real thirst.

Had one too many

There's more than a few terms you'll hear when someone refers to someone being drunk in Scotland - here they are in a sort of rough order of drunkenness.

Awa wi it (Away with it)

Rubbered

Sloshed

Buckled

Steaming/Steamboats

Blooterer

Oot the game/yer tree (Out the game/your tree)

Great Fire of Edinburgh

November 15th, 1824

The Great Fire of Edinburgh was one of the most destructive fires in the history of Edinburgh. It started on Monday, 15th November 1824, and lasted for five days, with two major phases.

The fire broke out around 10pm on 15 November 1824, in James Kirkwood's engraving workshop on the second floor of the Old Assembly Close, a narrow alleyway just off the High Street.

The city of Edinburgh had formed a permanent fire brigade only two months earlier under its new firemaster James Braidwood. Although this new force arrived quickly with their custom-built fire engines, they had difficulty locating a water supply and did not begin to tackle the blaze until 11pm, by which time six stories of the building were ablaze.

Due to the narrowness of the alleyway, the fire spread quickly to adjoining buildings, first affecting those to the east of Fishmarket Close and later spreading along the roofs of the High Street through embers carried by a south-westerly breeze. By midnight, four tenements were ablaze as the fire advanced towards the Cowgate. The Old Assembly Hall at the centre of the fire was destroyed during the night. Around midday on Tuesday, 16 November, the spire on the Tron Kirk caught fire and molten lead began to pour from its roof. Although firemen succeeded in reaching the roof of the church, the fierceness of the blaze forced them back



At around 10pm on Tuesday 16th November a secondary outbreak occurred in buildings on the corner of High Street and Parliament Close (renamed Parliament Square after the subsequent rebuilding of the affected area). This blaze started on the top floor of an eleven-story building overlooking the Cowgate. This second phase of the fire began to consume the buildings on the east side of Parliament Close.

Efforts focused on saving the adjacent Parliament Hall and Law Courts, and stopping the fire leaping to St Giles Cathedral. By 5am on Wednesday 19 November, the fire was described as "grand and terrific". The building housing the *Edinburgh Courant* collapsed, and the fire continued to spread down Conn's Close towards the Cowgate. Due mainly to a downpour of rain, the blaze was brought under control by Wednesday evening, although small outbreaks continued and final smouldering did not cease until Friday, 21 November. Over the following days, engineers from the castle and navy were employed to pull down the highly unsafe remnants of buildings left precariously balanced along the closes.

An estimated 400 homes were destroyed, with 400-500 families left homeless. Thirteen lives were lost including those of two firemen and many people were injured.

Amidst mounting public criticism of the new fire brigade and its young firemaster, an inquiry was held after the disaster. Braidwood and his "pioneers" (as the first firemen were called) were exonerated from all blame. The inquiry found that there had been confusion as to who had been in charge of the firefighting operation.

Public officials, assuming authority under older municipal regulations, were found to have issued contradictory orders to the harassed firemen. This finding prompted the passing of a new regulation whereby the City Firemaster was to be given complete command of all firefighting operations, a ruling subsequently adopted throughout Britain's fire services. The inquiry also criticised the inadequate number of fire hydrants that had been available to the firefighters and recommended improvements. Within a year the number for the whole town was increased from 45 to 97, with 88 more following later. The brigade was also fully re-equipped.

The fire opened the way for a more formal completion of the Scottish Law Courts in Parliament Square. This had been proposed as early as 1807 but blocked since 1810 by owners on the east side of the square. The fire destroyed the buildings they had been trying to retain and may have been viewed as a "happy accident". The remodelling of the buildings was completed to the original plan in 1829.

The south side of the Royal Mile from the Tron Kirk to Parliament Square was rebuilt as a planned run of well-proportioned but plain five-storey Georgian tenements. Some of the eastern blocks, which suffered less fire damage, incorporated some earlier fabric such as turret stairs. The rebuilt section of the High Street incorporated a new central fire station, now a police museum.

St. Giles Cathedral was refaced in ashlar a few years later (1829–33), partly to repair and conceal major scorching from the fire. The steeple of the Tron Kirk was rebuilt in 1828.

In 2008, a statue of James Braidwood, master of the newly formed Edinburgh fire brigade which had fought the fire, was unveiled in Parliament Square. The spot was chosen to mark the stand made by the fire brigade to save St Giles Cathedral from more serious damage. The statue was created by the Glasgow sculptor, Kenneth Mackay, and paid for from a fund set up by the late Dr Frank Rushbrook CBE, then 93-year-old former Firemaster at Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade.



Anniversaries in Scottish History

September

September 1, 714 -Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin).

September 4, 1964 - Forth Road Bridge opened by the Queen. At 6,156 feet long and a centre span of 3300 feet, it was the longest in Europe at that time.

September 7, 1306 - Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace.

September 11, 1297 - Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace defeats Edward I.

September 15, 1773 - The "Hector" from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the "Clearances".

September 18, 1959 - 47 miners were killed at Auchengeich Colliery, Lanarkshire when the bogies carrying them to work ran into smoke 1,000 feet below ground.

September 20, 1842 - Sir James Dewar, inventor of the vacuum flask, born in Kincardine-on-Forth.

September 25, 1956 - The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada.

September 30, 1928 - Announcement of the discovery of penicillin by Ayrshire-born Sir Alexander Fleming.

October

October 1, 1568 - The Bannatyne Manuscript, the most extensive collection of early Scottish poetry in existence, was published by George Bannatyne, an Edinburgh merchant.

October 2, 1852 - Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton.

October 4, 1883 - Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow.

October 9, 1921 - SS Rowan sank off the Rhinns of Galloway, near Corsewall Point with 34 casualties.

October 12, 1866 - Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth.

October 14, 1939 - German submarine sank HMS "Royal Oak" in Scapa Flow, Orkney, with the loss of 810 lives.

October 17, 1850 - James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian.

October 18, 1958 - Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland when he took part in the match against Cardiff when he was 18 years and 7 months old.

October 21, 1956 - Last tram car ran in Dundee.

October 28, 1794 - Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic.

October 30, 1822 - Caledonian Canal opened.

October 31, 1903 - Hampden Park stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club.

November

November 1, 1695 - Bank of Scotland founded by an Act of the Scottish Parliament.

November 3, 1975 - Queen Elizabeth officially opened an underwater pipeline to bring the first North Sea oil ashore.

November 5, 1877 - Opening of the original Mitchell Library, Glasgow, now the largest public reference library in Europe.

November 12, 1869 - Edinburgh University became the first in Britain to allow women to study medicine (though not graduate). But a woman, masquerading as Dr James Barry, actually took a medical degree at Edinburgh University in 1812 and became an army surgeon.

November 13, 1850 - Novelist and poet Robert Louis Stevenson born Edinburgh.

November 13, 1939 - The first bombs dropped on British soil in the Second World War fell on the Shetland Islands.

November 15, 1824 - Edinburgh's Great Fire began - and lasted until 17th November. It destroyed the High Street, Parliament Square and the Tron Kirk.

November 15, 1873 - Statue to Greyfriar's Bobby, who stayed by his master's grave for 14 years was unveiled.

November 20, 1863 - Death of James Bruce (8th Lord Elgin) who had served as Governor-General of Canada (1847-54) and India (1862-63). As a special envoy to China he burned down the emperor's Summer Palace in Beijing, destroying countless works of art, in order to induce the emperor to sign a treaty.

November 25, 1835 - Steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie born in Dunfermline.

November 30 - St Andrew's Day - patron saint of Scotland.

November 30, 1996 - Stone of Destiny, stolen from Scone by King Edward I of England in 1296, returned to Scotland and installed in Edinburgh Castle.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Ball Dance Practice Nights in the Irish Club starting on Tuesday 5th October and at our St Andrew's Day Ball in the Pan Pacific on Saturday 27th November.

Sláinte

Reggie McNeill
Chieftain
St Andrew Society of W.A.