

Summer 2016

THE SOCIETY OF  
WILLIAM WALLACE

Charity No. SCO45959

Est. 1912



MEMBERS MAGAZINE

PRO LIBERTATE



I have brought you to the ring, now dance the best you can

# WELCOME

Gary Stewart - Convenor

*Dear Patriots,*

Welcome to the Summer edition of Pro-Libertate and apologies for the delay – we've had a few technical difficulties!

The Walk for Wallace Plaque was unveiled at Smithfield, London on the 14th May and was a brilliant weekend for everyone involved. Around 25 people attended to see the lovely Mhairi Calvey unveil the plaque, which looks outstanding. If you are down in London remember and pop in and take a look and when you there check out the church which is the oldest in London. I am proud that we have a plaque at Smithfield to remember what the Late David R Ross achieved on that day 23th August 2005.

With the Bell O The Brae, the final touches are being put together as we speak but the unveiling will be on the 9th July at 2.30pm, with a wee event afterwards with singing by the legend that is Ted Christopher. At the commemoration itself, we have unveiling the plaque Sandra White MSP and Kimberley (Davies Daughter) Ross with music by Ted Christopher and Clann An Drumma. Really looking forward to this and after the seven years of hard work to get this achieved, I have to pinch myself at times its getting done.

Crowd funder was a major success and with The Society of William Wallace also funding this together with help from Clan Wallace we have achieved our target for the cost of the monument. To everyone who contributed thank you so much on behalf of the Society.

The Wallace Oak that legend states Wallace was chained too - we are still awaiting the official results regarding this but hopefully some good news by next month and hopefully allows other avenues in which the Society can promote the legend.

The Society was invited to attend Liliass Day in Kilbarchan on the 4th June which was attended by over 7000 people and was a major success for ourselves and we are pleased to have been asked back next year.

Wallace day this year looks like it will be another cracker which is the main event of the year. More details next month.

I hope this little update helps regarding some of the feedback we got in the survey but if you think I can provide further information do not hesitate to contact me on [convenor@soww.scot](mailto:convenor@soww.scot).

Yours For Scotland

*Gary Stewart*

Convenor, Society of William Wallace



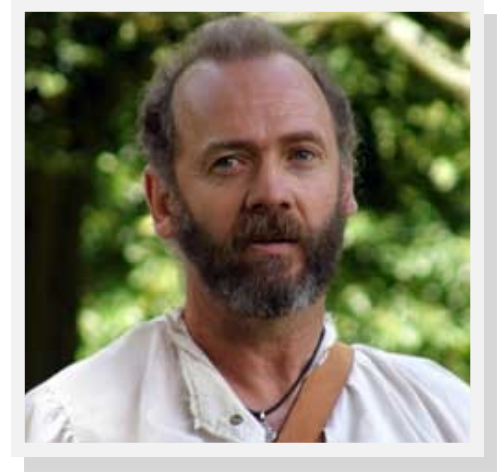
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# VISIT Selkirk

Gordon Aitken - Historical Advisor

*Hello and welcome once more to the Summer edition of Pro Libertate. For our next place with a Wallace connection we are going to visit the Borders town of Selkirk which, according to legend, was the place where Wallace was knighted, and created Guardian of Scotland.*



After the battle of Stirling Brig in September 1297, Wallace was faced with the fact that someone would have to take over the leadership of the Scots and having achieved the seemingly impossible by soundly beating a highly trained, numerically superior English army in the field, the people of Scotland were urging that Wallace be given this task. With his co-commander Andrew Moray lying mortally wounded, and the nobility of Scotland to control, Wallace, being only a minor landholder must have been reluctant to put himself forward for this. Up until this point he had been commander of only a few hundred men, winning skirmishes around the country. However, with the solid backing of Bishop Wishart and the churchmen behind him, Wallace rose to the occasion, and to keep the momentum of the Stirling victory going, he led a small army over the English border during the winter of 1297, in a series of raids on Northumberland, and Cumbria, sacking Hexham and Lanercost priories, and burning the lands all around in reprisal for the English sacking of Berwick in 1296, before returning to his native land. In March 1298, a council of war was arranged, to be attended by such of the Scots nobility who were still loyal to the Scots cause. The meeting venue was to be the Forest Kirk, deep in Ettrick forest, which would guarantee security from hostile forces. The council had been called by the Lord high constable, the Comyn Earl of Buchan, and supported by Sir James Stewart, high steward of Scotland. Scotland needed a Guardian, as decisions had to be taken to counter an English army already mustering at Newcastle. Many nobles were in attendance including Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick, the future hero King. Nominations were made by various factions, who may have been interested only in furthering their own cause, but in the end the only person who could credibly be made Guardian was Wallace, as his deeds at Stirling, along with the support of the community of the realm, the common people, made him a natural choice. There was only one problem for the nobles - Wallace was not one of them. Not even a knight. There has been a lot of speculation as to who actually knighted Wallace, but it has been said that it may have been Bruce. At this time in Scots history only a monarch, or a belted earl could create a knight, and given that the earls present were in no mind to give a knighthood to a commoner, some were on the English side, and others were minors, it is not unreasonable to surmise that Bruce may have indeed knighted Wallace on the spot. We may never know, but Wallace was indeed knighted and officially proclaimed, Guardian of Scotland. A position he was destined to hold



Kirk o' Forest

only for a few brief months, as he resigned after the ill-fated battle of Falkirk in July 1298. The ruins of the present day Kirk o' the Forest date from the 18th c and contain the gravestones of the Murray family, who were the maternal ancestors of former American president Franklin d. Roosevelt. Very recently the remains of the 13th century Kirk were unearthed within the boundaries of the present day ruin. To get to Kirk o' Forest, take the M8, or M9 motorway towards Edinburgh and head south on the Edinburgh bypass, signposted Berwick on Tweed. When you reach Sheriffhall roundabout

# VISIT Selkirk



turn right and follow the A7 signposted Galashiels, Hawick. Stay on the A7, passing through Newton Grange, Gorebridge, Heriot, and Galashiels. At Galashiels you will begin to see signs for Selkirk. Stay on the A7, and a few miles after Galashiels you will come into Selkirk. Going uphill you will come to a t-junction. Turn right on to the A707, and immediately on your left is a fairly open area where you should be able to park up. Behind the buildings there is a path which leads you to the Kirk. If in doubt ask someone, as it is not well signposted. Remember, ye've got a guid scots tongue in yir heid!! Enjoy your day in Selkirk. A place which has many connections with our history, including the story of a solitary local man who made it back from the battle of Flodden in 1513.

Slainthe,  
*Gordon*

## *Braveheart 20 Committee*

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the legendary Oscar winning movie Braveheart, a group including The Sean Lawlor Artist's Trust presented an outdoor screening of the legendary Oscar winning movie, on the beautiful grounds of Trim castle, the Norman castle used in the filming of the movie.

A special screening of Braveheart on a custom made 60m outdoor screen, took place with many of the actors walking the red carpet on the day. Mhairi Calvey, Peter Hanley, James Robertson, David O'Hara, Patrick Bergin, Deirdre O'Kane and Dave Duffy put in appearances. A personal message from Mel Gibson, was played. There was a spectacular parade performed by Society of William Wallace, Archery lesson's from Athboy Archers, a musical performance from the mystical sounds of Landless and many local food and craft stalls.

Braveheart 20 is a non-profit event and all proceeds went to The Sean Lawlor artist's trust and other local charities, such as Meath River Rescue, Trim Red Cross, St Joseph's community nursing unit and Trim meals on wheels.

The Sean Lawlor Artist's Trust is a charity organization that has been set up to help artists who are in dire financial straits and in need of care or medical attention.

Sean Lawlor played Malcolm Wallace in the movie Braveheart but sadly lost his battle with cancer in 2010. Shortly after Sean passing the trust was set up to ensure better support of Irish artists in need.

Proudly organised by Eric Lawlor, Gerard Daly, Paddy Rispin, David Brady and Noel French

Sponsored by Trimfold envelopes.

Photo: Mayor of Trim, Noel French hoists the Scottish flag.



*Braveheart 20 Committee*

# EVENTS UPDATE



*Rutherglen Church plaque unveiling - 13th Feb*

Margaret Ferrier MP, Hugh Millar, Gary Stewart and James Kelly MSP.

I have been asked to do a wee review of the unveiling of the two plaques at Rutherglen Old Parish Church. I thought I would make this very personal and describe what this meant to me. It was about 6 to 8 months previous to the final unveiling that I heard about the opportunity to put a plaque up to mark the site that is widely recognised as the place where William Wallace was betrayed. I had never heard of this or visited the church but I was very interested to find out more and was very proud that the Society were making this happen.

There was a lot of work being done behind the scenes by Gary, Gordon and others but as the time approached, when it was agreed the Society could mount, what turned out to be two plaques, I became a little more involved. We had a real feeling of welcome from the church but obviously had to follow certain procedures and rules. We felt everyone involved believed this recognition of the association Wallace had with the church was long over due. Massive thanks to Hugh and CARTA for everything they did to help us make this happen.

The 13th of February was chosen for the unveiling at 11.30am to coincide with a Scottish themed Coffee morning in the church. As we gathered apprehensively, we had no idea what kind of support we were going to receive. Any reservations soon disappeared as we saw the pews fill and a real buzz of excitement filled the church.

The proceedings started with Hugh delivering a very heartfelt welcome to all who had attended. Handing over to Gary to deliver thanks and some of the background on why we were there. Our first invited guest of honour, James Kelly MSP was invited to say a few words and then unveiled the Saltire covering the brass plaque inside the church.

This was followed by the entrance of Clann An Drumma - on this day, a three



*Rutherglen Old Parish Church*

piece made up of two on drums and a piper. What a sound they made in this fantastic venue. They raised the roof as did the applause from those gathered.

Hugh introduced Margaret Ferrier MP, who delivered a speech worthy of any patriot, proud to be present at this magnificent occasion. The proceedings then moved outside to where the slate plaque had been mounted on the parish church facing the position of the old original church, now mostly taking the form of a later tower. The Saltire covering the plaque was dancing as if it could not wait to be removed. Margaret said a few more stirring words to loud applause as she unveiled this long overdue marker to a horrible but historic event in Scottish history, important to all educators. Important to us all.

We moved back inside to bring proceedings to a conclusion, little did we know we were about to experience something incredible. Most of us had heard George Thom and Donald Neill deliver 'Scots Wha Hae' on several occasions. Today in the church, it was as if all of Scotland had entered their bodies and given them a strength, clarity and power I have never heard before. Hairs standing on the back of the neck moment all round, I personally have never been so proud or inspired. I wanted more.

The unveiling ceremony was ended with a few words from Hugh and hugs all round. We all left walking at least two inches taller.

*George Kempik*

Secretary



*Slate Plaque unveiled by Margaret Ferrier MP*



*Brass Plaque unveiled by James Kelly MSP*

**Photo strip right:**

- Gary Stewart
- James Kelly, Gary Stewart, George Thom and Donald O'Neill
- Fiery Jack
- Clann n' Drumma
- George Kempik, Margaret Ferrier MP, Hugh Millar



## *Avoch Commemoration - 21st May*



I am pretty sure there are not too many people who have heard of a place called Avoch, pronounced, Och. It's a wee village reached by heading over the bridge from Inverness on the moray firth. As you travel through the village, high on the right, there is a mound, on which you should see a Saltire flying.

The mound is the site of Ormond Castle, which was once one of the largest in all the Highlands, though little remains today. It was built in the twelfth century and was the home of the De Moray family. In 1297 Andrew De Moray raised his standard here to rally his forces before marching to the support of William Wallace. From the flagpole and cairn at the top of the mound, there is a good view over the Moray Firth and back down to Avoch. I personally had only been to the commemoration once, last year. I had intended to go two years ago, but due to the passing of our convenor, Duncan Fenton, that trip was cancelled. Duncan had been going to Avoch for a good few years and was an important guest, who always brought a Saltire with him to present to the organisers. Last year a good sized party from the Society attended in his honour to present the SOWW Saltire.

This year due to extreme commitments on the committee members, only my wife and I were able to attend and present the new Saltire on behalf of the SOWW. We gathered in the car park at the towns public football park to march up to the site of the castle. Prior to the March setting off, we had some extreme wet weather, but just as we marched it brightened up and actually became a gorgeous day. It's about a half hours hard walking, mostly uphill, and this year there was over 30 people marching. Once we all arrived at the top of the hill the service began with the lowering of the Saltire from last year. This was presented to one of the regular attendees of the commemoration.

Various people were invited to say a few words, relevant to the story of Andrew de Moray's raising of the standard and the new Saltire was raised in place of the old one. A rather big surprise awaited us. Roderick Matheson Hynds who attends every year, traveling by bus from the south of England presented The Guardians of Scotland Trust, with his magnificent Claymore and the SOWW with his rather fine basket hilted broadsword, both personally engraved to both organisations. He also presented us with a cheque for £50.00.

After the minutes silence, flowers were laid and we all gathered by the cairn for a group photo, then headed back down the hill. An evening of entertainment had been organised down at the small building next to the bowling green. Ted Christopher provided the entertainment. Sadly we could not stay till the end but managed a couple of hours and are looking forward to attending again next year.

*George Kempik*

Secretary

*Photo strip:*

*Roderick Matheson Hynds presents the Claymore*

*Cairn marking the site of Ormond Castle*

*The raising of the Standard*

**WALLACE PLAQUE**  
**St BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT**

THIS PLAQUE COMMEMORATES THE FUNERAL SERVICE  
HELD IN THIS CHURCH FOR

**SIR WILLIAM WALLACE**

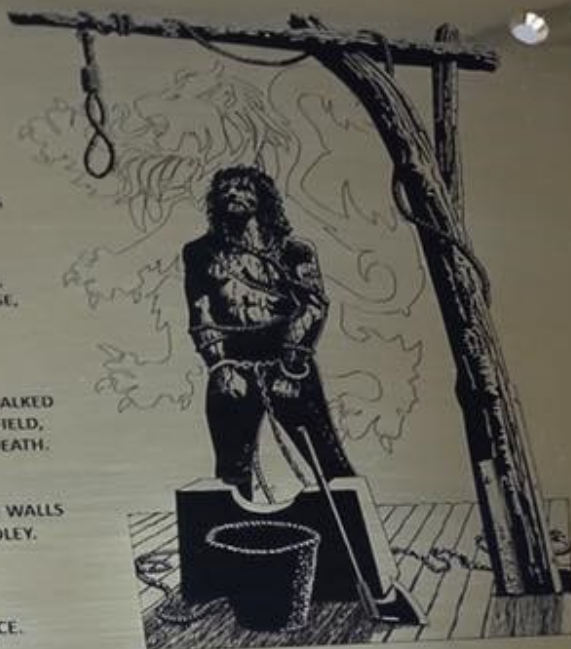
ON THE 700th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS EXECUTION AT SMITHFIELD ELMS  
ON 23rd AUGUST 1305.

DAVID R. ROSS, CONVENOR OF THE SOCIETY OF WILLIAM WALLACE,  
WALKED FROM ROBBYSTON IN GLASGOW TO WESTMINSTER BRIDGE,  
THE ROUTE TAKEN SEVEN CENTURIES BEFORE BY  
WALLACE AND HIS CAPTORS.

ON 23rd AUGUST 2005, THOUSANDS OF WALLACE'S FELLOW SCOTS WALKED  
FROM WESTMINSTER HALL TO THE WALLACE MEMORIAL AT SMITHFIELD,  
THE FINAL ROUTE ALONG WHICH WALLACE WAS DRAGGED TO HIS DEATH.

A SOLEMN SERVICE FOR WALLACE THEN TOOK PLACE WITHIN THESE WALLS  
LED BY THE REVD ALAN SORENSON AND THE REVD MARTIN DUDLEY.

DONATED BY THE SOCIETY OF WILLIAM WALLACE  
TO MARK THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE.  
23rd AUGUST 2015.



*Wallace Plaque unveiling— 14th May*



*Zoe McMillan, whose help was invaluable in arranging the plaque at St Bart's.*

Smithfield started for me about 6.30pm on the Friday Night when Ross came to my house so that I could help him put his new Society plaid on, then we headed into Glasgow to catch the overnight bus to London. I was worried going down and didn't get much sleep as was not sure how the plaque was going to look as had been sent down direct and we had some problems with what we wanted and how the plaque was looking but was hoping this had been resolved.

We arrived in Newcastle and met Hugh Scott our piper that was playing at the commemoration, I had a good feeling about this. We arrived in London and then made our way to Smithfield. On the way we were getting funny looks but in fairness not sure people had seen Jacobites walking about in London on a Sat morning, tooled up LOL. Got to Smithfield and seen the plaque for the first time which was covered up. Took the covering off and not ashamed to say I had a wee tear in my eye as the plaque looked OUTSTANDING and my hats off to the engravers and also to our good friend and resident artist Andrew Hillhouse.

After something to eat we met up with Zoe McMillan who was our contact in the church and her help regarding getting the plaque put up cannot be underestimated. Our guest of honour then arrived - Mhairi Calvey who played the young Murrin in the film Braveheart and you could not meet a more down to earth person in your life. The commemoration then started with me introducing everyone and thanking everyone who turned up especially from the Society, George Kempik, Cha and Mags Halliday, Liam Kirkbride and Ross who had all made the Journey from Glasgow. There was about 20 people who had made the journey all the way to London. I started telling people about the events on that brilliant day in



## Wallace Plaque unveiling - 21st May

2005. As most will know my speeches are fairly short LOL so I thought I better shut up and introduce our next speaker, Zoe McMillan who gave us an insight into the help she had given us and how the whole event had given her a bit more insight into what had happened in 1305 with Wallace's murder. The main event was the unveiling of the plaque which was the reason our special guest was there, so Mhairi came forward and pulled the Saltire off, which was expertly constructed by George Kempik, to reveal the Plaque as Hugh Scott played the pipes.

I finished off proceedings and thanked everyone for turning up and then we headed off for a much needed pint at the Rising Sun which was arranged for us by Society member Scott Kay which was a brilliant choice where we had a great time and spent a few hours in the company of some lovely people.

Before we headed off I bumped into actor Hugh Dennis who was walking past and asked him for a photo beside the plaque we had just unveiled. He politely declined as he was late for an event. I then pulled my flintlock pistol from my plaid and with a wee smile on my face pointed at him and said I wasn't asking lol. His reply was "Where is the plaque - I would love my photo taken". So we headed off and got our photos done. It was then time to leave and Ross, Hugh and myself headed to Victoria to the bus station with a big smile on our faces knowing what he had achieved that day.

I am proud that the Society managed to get this plaque up to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Davies Walk and people who are in London who may not know what Davie achieved in 2005 can now read about it. Also people can look at the Wallace plaque in London and together with Davies plaque people will know, Wallace may have been murdered 700 years ago but the people of Scotland will never forget what he sacrificed for his Country.



Smithfield Plaque - Ross, Liam, Cha, George, Hugh, Gary and Zoe



St Bartholomew's Church



Mhairi and Cha



Mhairi unveils the plaque



Hugh Dennis and Gary



*Actress Mhairi Calvey talks to SOWW about her experiences filming Braveheart and what William Wallace means to her...*

Growing up in Scotland meant that I spent most of my time running up the hills through the heather and trees. I never thought that this would lead to my first professional acting role which would make up most of my early career and change the course of my life. At five years old I was outside playing when two of the top influential casting directors in the Hollywood movie industry came to the Isle Of Arran to look for the girl who would give the thistle. After an audition and a week later I was taken to Fort William to play the role of Young Murrin in Braveheart. Quietly tucked away up a hillside in the middle of no where with the rain pouring down and light mist covering the rocks, a thousand crew and cast members were in progress of preparing the scenes for what was to become the first blockbuster movie. This wasn't the glamorous life style people believe that the film industry is all about. In fact it's the opposite and it's the truth of what the business is all about. It's about a team of people who believe in an idea and story enough that they are willing to do whatever it takes to show it. The story we believed in was William Wallace and although the film isn't historically accurate that wasn't the point of this movie or of Wallace's life. His life like the film was about passion, risk, love and fighting for what you believe in. I was introduced to Mel Gibson when I arrived and he has a humble yet powerful persona which was recognised even from someone only aged five. To this day I am grateful to him for giving me the best start. Not because I can say I was in a Hollywood film but because I got to experience how passion can change the world. To remain true to Wallace's life, we filmed in all conditions, covered ourselves in mud and everything was done on location. Living in Scotland during that time would have been hard and there were times when we were shooting when we realised just how he would have lived. We wanted realism and rawness, we wanted to take the audience back in time. At the time I didn't realise how big the film would be and how it would mean so much to so many. I just remember playing the gift of a thistle scene out believing in every moment of it. I remember worrying about picking the thistle which was made of plastic and really hard to pull off. I rehearsed my scenes with Mel Gibson before the cameras rolled and how great it felt to bring to life a moment in a character's life. I was hooked on acting which I'm lucky enough to be doing professionally twenty years later and audiences fell in love with the film. It united a lot of people around the world and has played parts in weddings, celebrations, politics. It's taken me across the world to take part in events like Dressed To Kilt, Pipes Of Christmas and recently to reveal the William Wallace plaque in London. I've been fortunate to meet so many other passionate, loving and inspiring people who follow in Wallace's footsteps which is, if you believe in something you fight for it with love.

*Mhairi Calvey*



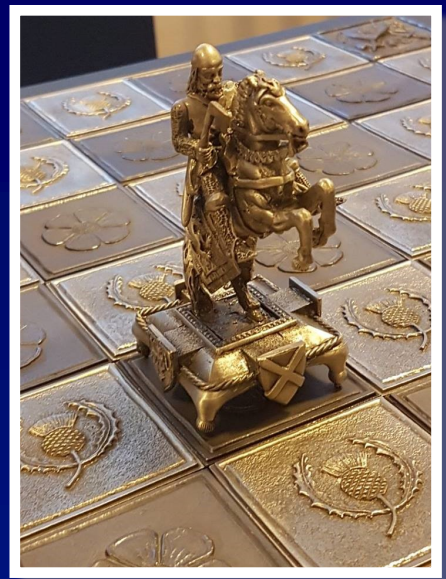
# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Bannockburn Chess Set

Committee members with John Morgan of 1314

In Mid may, the Battle of Bannockburn Chess Set paid a visit to the Elderslie Village Hall, the birth town of Scottish hero, Sir William Wallace and the home of the Society of William Wallace. This was no ordinary visit, as everyone present got the opportunity not only to see the magnificent set close-up but to enjoy handling the impressive hand cast chess pieces. I presented the story to an enthusiastic audience and revealed the reason Sir William Wallace graces the set as one of the knights. I explained that, although Wallace died eleven years before Bannockburn, had it not been for his example and final influence on the much younger Robert the Bruce, the history of Scotland would have been written quite differently. Bruce and his brothers were frequent guests in the Court of Edward Longshanks and Bruce was reticent to see the bad in the English monarch and slow to react to his increasing tyranny. Even when he finally decided Edward had gone too far, his concern about Scotland making an enemy of such a powerful neighbour, initially made him cautious and slow to action. Wallace, on the other hand, had no truck with the abusers of his nation and considered fighting to be a more effective response than talking. As history shows, they were both right and Bruce it was who finally managed to weld together a hugely disparate collection of clans and lords and lead the Scots onto the field at Bannockburn - and to victory.

The first edition of the Bannockburn Chess Set was named for Scottish Historic novelist, Nigel Tranter, with whom I worked for almost 18 months in deciding the players, designing the figures and creating the castings that make the set totally unique. Between them they agreed that, without William Wallace, there may never have been a 'Bannockburn' and Scotland's future would have been deeply uncertain. It was, therefore, wholly



The Wallace Knight chess piece

# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Bannockburn Chess Set

appropriate the Sir William Wallace was one of two Scottish Knights on that playing board particularly as the Scottish king used his name as a battle cry - as recorded in the words of another Scottish icon, Robert Burns:

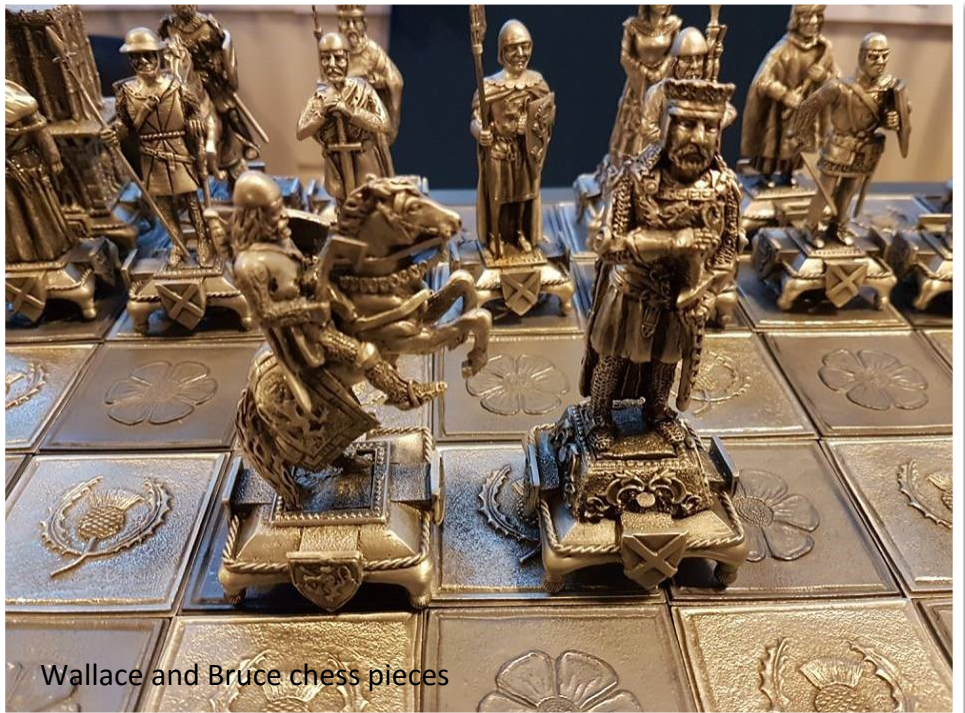
'Scots, wha hae wi Wallace bled,  
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led,  
Welcome tae yer gory bed,  
Or tae victorie."

At the end of the presentation there were plenty of questions from Society members, and that very chess set - number 15 of a 500 limited edition - is now the star prize in the Society raffle

Treasurer, Lesley Matthews said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the story of how the chess set came about and the set itself is a thing of beauty - truly breathtaking." Gary Stewart, Convenor of the Society of William Wallace, added, "the Chess set is outstanding – a total work of art"



*John Morgan of 1314, makers of the Bannockburn Chess Set*



Wallace and Bruce chess pieces

Society members and friends will be given the opportunity to own this magnificent chess set, by taking part in the Society of William Wallace raffle. Details of how to purchase tickets will be forwarded soon.





My name is Duncan Thomson and I am the Chairman of Strathleven Artizans. We are a society that aims to promote the life and times of Robert Bruce, King of Scots. We started our quest to let the world know that Robert the Bruce had lived and died in our village of Renton, West Dunbartonshire.

Firstly we started a workshop with master wood carver John Woodcock, National Park volunteer Gus Lennox and retires lorry driver, Jim Tannock. Our aim was to start art classes and educate the children of the surrounding Strathleven area by using hands on history like using their own coat of arms to paint and to let people know who they and their family were. This was surprisingly very successful and became very popular with other groups.

As the history and heritage section of Strathleven Artizans grew we were honoured to have Stewart Smith, a local historian come out of retirement. Stewart had studied Robert the Bruce and the Bruce family for 50 years. He was friends with Lord Elgin and Lord Charles Bruce. The very first conditions that Stewart put to the group were that any information or anything that we published must have 3 points of reference so that no one can dispute anything we released. Fortunately for Strathleven Artizans, before our first year had even past, the mighty Oak Tree at Strathleven House, known as the Bruce Oak Tree fell down.

Negotiations followed for the next eleven months with the Forestry Commission, Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Arts Council. Eventually on the 11<sup>th</sup> month, Strathleven Artizans were granted the Robert the Bruce Oak Tree. The group swung into action contracting specialist wood cutters to mill the mighty oak which was 29 and a half feet in circumference. It is featured on the front cover of *100 Heritage Trees of Scotland* and just last year (2015) had a four page feature in a new book by Archie Miles called *The Mighty Oak* which has critically reviewed as being the most comprehensive book on Oak trees in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Artizans next mission was to get information and images of King Robert the Bruce's Cardross Seal. Master carver John Woodcock swung into action and carved and produced a most magnificent replica of King Robert's Seal. With education in the forefront of our mission we then joined other society's to learn more on how to become something bigger. Talking to on many occasion people like David Ross and Duncan Fenton of the Society of William Wallace. None of these conversations were ever dull and full of wise words and education.

Our focus then turned to schools and education. Our mission was to visit as many schools as possible. This we achieved covering the width and breadth of Scotland adding, as we progressed, more medieval costumes, weaponry



and information.

On one of our early visits to the Bannockburn parade I was approached, to my surprise by Alex Salmond at the back of Gun Hill in Stirling. I was carrying in front of me the Oak copy of King Robert's Great Seal. With great knowledge for the next forty minutes Alex Salmond spoke of with great knowledge of its history, the seal. We then marched to Bannockburn where there was a large SNP presence where speeches were given by several people, including Mr Salmond himself. Before going onto the podium, he shouted at me to come closer so that he could give the Great Seal a rub for good luck. This of course was only months before the SNP came into power in the Scottish Parliament. We later presented Alex Salmond with an antique pewter replica of the Great Seal of Scotland, which I believe hangs in the First Ministers office even today.

The next major project for the Artizans was to create the Double Headed Dragon Throne, which can be seen of King Roberts Great Seal. This we completed on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014, the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Bannockburn. The Great Throne was introduced by the Bruce Family after a service at Dunfermline Abbey and the Artizans and 300 guests returned to Broomhall, seat of the Bruce Family today where the children and grandchildren of Lord Elgin ceremoniously unveiled the finished Throne. Of course, this was only day one. For the next day Strathleven Artizans hosted the Bruce Tent at the Great Gathering and 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn.

In the next few days, months and years Strathleven Artizans and the Great Throne are planning a tour of the world to showcase the Throne, starting with America in the near future.

I would like to thank everyone who has come and gone from the society itself, including Professor Fiona Watson and Professor Ted Cowan who have been instrumental in keeping this society on the right course.

*Duncan Thomson*

Strathleven Artizans

*For information on Robert the Bruce and the people and places connected with him, as well more information on the Strathleven Artizans and their upcoming projects, you can visit their website here: [www.strathlevenartizans.com](http://www.strathlevenartizans.com)*

# GUEST

## Graeme Stockton

### HISTORY OF LILIAS DAY

A summer fair has been part of the history of Kilbarchan since the latter part of the 17th century, and maybe even earlier. Tradition links the summer fair held on Liliass Day to Liliass Cuninghame (1691 – 1720), the daughter of the 8th Baron Cuninghame of Craigends. Many of the customs introduced 300 years ago are still part of today's celebrations.

As far back as 1718 a parade through the village was the focal point of the fair.

"Tradesmen went through the town in grand procession with drums beating, colours flying, music playing and garlands, swords etc."

Floral arches were also erected throughout the village with streets competing for the best arch. Weavers would down tools and spend days decorating the arches with heathers and flowers.

In 1876 another familiar feature was introduced to the Liliass Day celebration where villagers were invited to decorate their houses. These traditions continue today with the same friendly rivalry to see who can create the best float or win the coveted title of best decorated house.

To this day, Liliass Day remains the annual highlight of village life.

People of Kilbarchan are called Habbies after Habbie Simpson, a famous Piper from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. He is immortalised in Statue form in the town Steeple. And every Liliass Day he is brought back to life for the day to Pipe the parade into the park.

The Wallace Society were invited to participate this year, (and hopefully in the future), as the Wallace connection is quite strong, Wallace came from a nearby village and the park where the main show event takes place is on the banks of Barrhill, which, history states has an old Viking Fort on the top, this was also known as Wallace's Seat. However very little evidence exists as to the exact historical facts behind this. There is also a Wallace Cave on this hillside, and this year a new housing development was planned for nearby called Wallace lands, so there is still a strong Wallace connection.



*No March would be complete without a Pipe Band*



*Sean Donnelly and grandson popped in to keep an eye on proceedings*



*The SOWW tent attracted a lot of attention, as always*



# FROM OUR MEMBERS...



*Braveheart Warriors*

Braveheart Warriors march to honor William Wallace and to remind the public at large of his legacy. Anyone who wishes to participate and march with us is welcome to join us - please sign our guestbook at [www.braveheartwarriors.com](http://www.braveheartwarriors.com) or, if you're interested, you can email me at [mike@braveheartwarriors.com](mailto:mike@braveheartwarriors.com). Our next march will occur on Saturday March 11, 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana USA. Randall Wallace the creator and author of the movie Braveheart is planning to march with us again in 2017. We are building a small float to accompany our march next year and it will be a replica of the wooden outpost fort built by the English as depicted in the movie.

Thank you to The Society of William Wallace for all their support and more importantly for all that they do to preserve the memory of William Wallace.

*Mike Teachworth*



*Randall Wallace and Mike*



# CONTACT US

Please get in touch with any questions or comments.  
We'll do our very best to get back to you within 24 hrs.



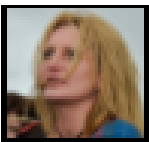
**CONVENOR - GARY STEWART**  
convenor@soww.scot



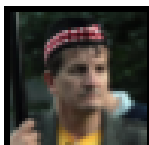
**VICE-CONVENOR GEORGE BOYLE**  
viceconvenor@soww.scot



**PRESS & MEDIA OFFICER - IRENE CLARKE**  
press@soww.scot



**TREASURER - LESLEY MATTHEWS**  
treasurer@soww.scot



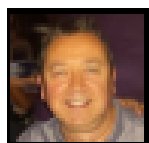
**SECRETARY - GEORGE KEMPIK**  
secretary@soww.scot



**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - STUART DUNCAN**  
membership@soww.scot



**HISTORICAL ADVISOR - GORDON AITKEN**  
historical@soww.scot



**MONUMENTS OFFICER - Cha Halliday**



**MONUMENTS OFFICER - Sean Donnelly**

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE:

[www.thesocietyofwilliamwallace.com](http://www.thesocietyofwilliamwallace.com)