

Autumn/Winter
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,

I can't believe this is the last Magazine of 2016. It's flown in, but what a year it's been for the Society.

I have to pinch myself at times to think we managed a plaque in London to commemorate Davie's Walk for Wallace in 2005, two plaques at Rutherglen church to mark where Sir John Mentieth agreed to betray William Wallace - and the creme de la creme, the monument to commemorate the Battle of the Bell O The Brae in Glasgow's Necropolis. The Bell O The Brae especially finishing off over six years of hard work.

We are also involved in looking to build a monument in Selkirk, helping with saving St Kertingens Church in Lanark, helping to restore the Falkirk Monument and still looking to promote the Wallace tree that Cha and Sean discovered in Port Glasgow.

We could not have done this without our members and the dedication of the committee of the Society. I know the amount of effort that every one of them puts in.

We have also given talks about Wallace to numerous schools and social clubs this year and it's something we do but it's not something we publicise as much as we should probably do.

We have also held the usual commemorations that we have run very successfully this year with Wallace day being our main event which despite the weather was a major success.

We have strengthened ties with Clan Wallace this year, with a big thank you to Randy for his work bringing us together. A big thank you also goes to Clan Wallace with them helping massively with a donation to the Bell O The Brae monument.

To everyone who contributed to our crowd founder for the Bell O The Brae a big thank you to each and everyone of you as without the funding the monument would never have been built. The monument is something you can tell your children and grandchildren that you helped the Society achieve our goal.

All it remains is for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and see you all in 2017 for another roller coaster year with the Society of William Wallace.

Gary Stewart

Convenor



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VISIT Aberdeen

Gordon Aitken - Historical Advisor

Hello and welcome once more to the historical column of Pro Libertate. In this edition of places with a Wallace connection, we are going north east to the Mearns and Aberdeen.

Wallace in Aberdeen

In August 1297, Wallace while in Perth received news from Sir William Douglas that he had recaptured Durisdeer and Sanquhar castles and that negotiations at Irvine had broken down, with Sir John the Steward, Bishop Robert Wishart and Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick all taken into English custody. Sir William requested that Wallace return south. Wallace however, was determined that the northeast was easier to put back into Scots hands as the English were not so strong there, also he and Andrew Moray had sizeable forces assembled. Wallace crossed Tay and through Strathmore, taking Coupar, Glamis, Brechin and Montrose. At Montrose it is said that they found an old Lion Rampant from the time of King Alexander III, and rode on through the Mearns country flying the Standard, recruiting local men and accepting allegiances in the name of King John Balliol. Only Dunnottar castle held out against them. Wallace set his men to besiege the castle and its English garrison and local legend has it that during the first night there, a scullion or kitchen servant was brought to Wallace to inform him that he could lead Wallace and his men inside the castle, but it had to be done at once as the tide was low. Wallace and his men were led round the base of the castle rock to a small ledge where a boat could be landed at full tide. Steps led up from there into the castle itself. Wallace and his men then surprised the garrison and after hard fighting, took the castle. The largest force of English troops had barricaded themselves in the castle church where Wallace had fires lit at both doors to burn them out. From Dunnottar, Wallace sent word to Sir Henry de Latham, governing Aberdeen, who was in Longshanks pay, that he would meet up with him to discuss handing the city over to Wallace, without bloodshed. Latham was not willing to betray King Edward. Wallace had already sent out scouts to report on the situation at Aberdeen and on their return they reported that it was strongly held and would not be taken easily, but also that the harbour was crammed with ships which were being loaded with loot ready for a quick getaway. Wallace then led a hard riding troop of veterans by night to within reach of Aberdeen. It is said that at the small fishing village of Torry, Wallace chapped up the fishermen and persuaded them to take him and his men into

Aberdeen harbour, where after boarding the ships and setting them all ablaze by jumping from boat to boat, they set sail back to Torry where they remained to protect the village from reprisals. It was not long until a messenger arrived from Sir Henry to say that his master now accepted Wallace's terms and there would be no trouble if Wallace allowed him to leave in a single ship. Wallace agreed to this and after crossing the river Dee, rode into the city and accepted the surrender of the garrison. After making a demonstration, and flying the flag in the surrounding areas, Wallace set off back to Dundee, leaving Sir Richard de Lundin in command of Aberdeen.



Duntottar Castle

VISIT Aberdeen

To reach Dunnottar from the south, head for Perth, then, crossing the Tay take the A90 to Dundee and following the A90 almost at the end of the Kingsway head for Aberdeen, bypassing Forfar, Brechin and Stracathro, where king John Balliol was stripped of his Kingship, and humiliated by Longshanks. Driving on, you will come to the coast and just before Fetteresso, turn right onto the A92 and follow the sign for Dunnottar castle. It is well worth a visit for the views alone and must have been a daunting site in Wallace's day. Back to the A90 and head north to Aberdeen. Crossing the river Dee you come to a big roundabout. Go right round this roundabout heading back the way you have just come and turn left onto Riverside Drive, marked the A945. Continue on this road following the river on your right and at the big roundabout turn first left onto South College Street (A93), and follow it until you reach Union Square shopping centre. Park up at the centre and on foot from there, cross Guild Street and head for Union Terrace Gardens. Passing Barclays bank and crossing Union Street, you will come to the gardens. At the north end of the gardens stands a large bronze statue of Wallace, sword in hand, with his left hand outstretched towards the harbour in defiance . It is the greatest irony that Wallace is surrounded by so many union place names, as he spent most of his short life fighting for his Nation's independence. The statue was unveiled in 1888 by the Marquis of Lorne. For most people, travelling to Aberdeen is most of a day's journey so it is well worth taking a weekend break to do this properly. Whatever you decide enjoy your time in Aberdeen.

Slainthe

Gordon



Opening times

Summer season (1st April - 30th Sep)
9:00 - 18:00 (last entry at 17:30) every day.

Winter season (1st October - 31st March)
from 10:00 to 17:00 or half an hour before sunset, whichever is sooner.

Bad weather conditions
Before setting off to the Castle, we advise you to visit our website to check that the Castle is open. In the event of bad weather, the castle may be closed for safety reasons.

Prices

Adult ticket **£7**

Child ticket **£3**

Family ticket (2 adults and 2 children between 5 and 15 years) **£17**

Guide Book **£3.50**

Download our FREE smartphone app before you visit. Search Dunnottar Castle on your app store.

Buy tickets at the Castle kiosk on entry. We do not offer pre booking of individual tickets.

EVENTS UPDATE



Battle of the Belle O' The Brae Memorial Unveiling - 9th July

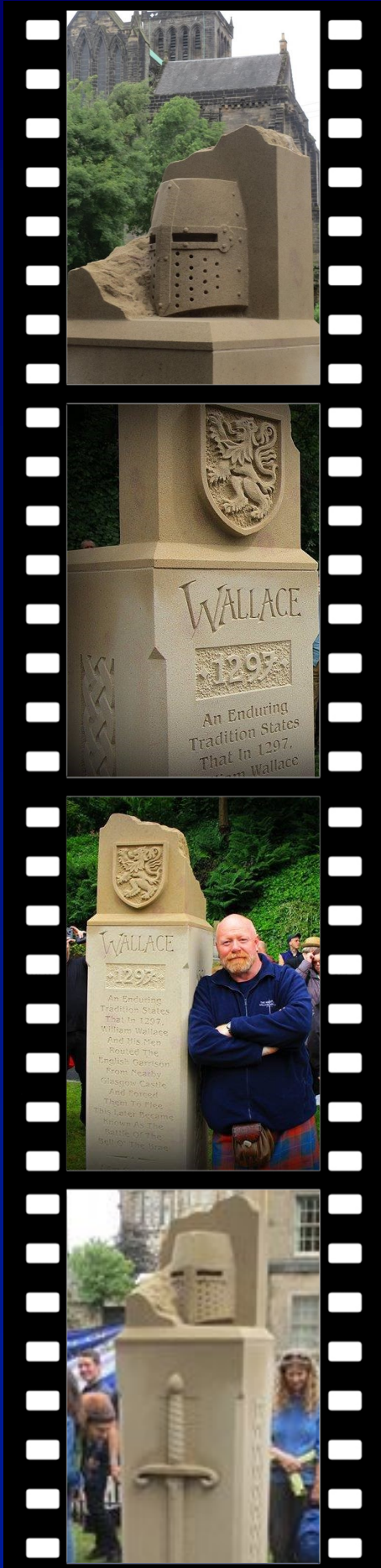
David R Ross came up with the idea of the Bell O The Brae about 7 years ago and I am chuffed to bits that we finished what the great man started. Before I talk about the day I have a few people to thank - Stevie Scott and Dennis McCue from LES at Glasgow District Council, David Turner and Craig Mackay, local Councillors, Sandra White MSP, our resident artist Andrew Hillhouse for the wonderful drawing, Roddy McDowall and Chris Chalmers the two sculptors who brought Andy's drawing to life, Clann an Drumma for coming and leading the walk down and playing a few tunes on the day because they wanted to be part of this great event at no cost, Colin from Maximize Comics for donating his Bell o The Brae comic for everyone who attended, the children of Blairdardie School who won the competition for their poem to be inscribed on the monument, Dr Fiona Watson, Alan Bissett, Charlie Robertson and Bill and Val Pollock for judging the competition and last but not least George Boyle and the late Duncan Fenton for keeping the good fight going. To EVERYONE who contributed to the crowd funder which raised almost £4000, to Clan Wallace for their contribution of \$3720, Kimberley Ross's contribution from her Dad's fund - I cannot thank you enough because without your generosity we could not have built this monument. Just remember, each of you are all part of this monument.

The day started for me about 2am and every hour after that looking out the window to check on the weather as the forecast was not good and a wee prayer to Davie and Duncan to get their finger oot regarding the weather. It worked as I knew the two of them would not let us down and it stayed dry.

Got to the Necropolis and was a nervous wreck, 'Would people turn up?', 'What would they think of the monument?' Stupid really as knew all would be fine.



Battle of the Belle O' The Brae Memorial Unveiling - 9th July



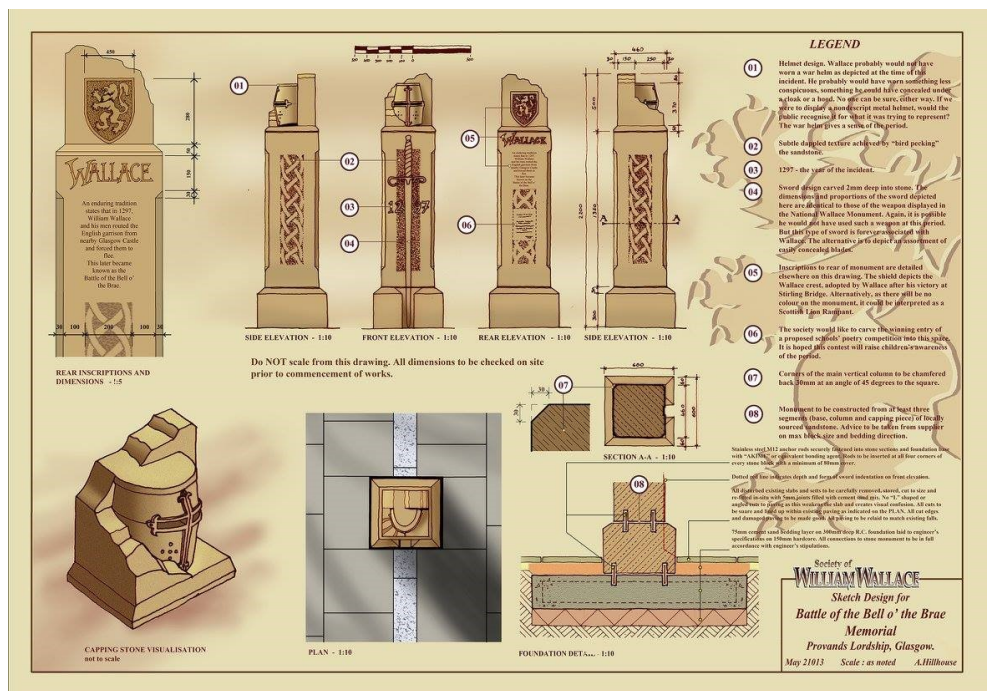
The bridge started to fill up with crowds, Clann An Drumma where there, as was Ted Christopher and it was getting close to the march to unveil the monument. Still cannae believe I walked passed Roddy the sculptor as I didn't recognise him with his 3 piece suit on, he looked the part as a male model for Slaters, I had only ever seen him in his working gear so not my fault really lol.

Time to go, Clann A Drumma piped us down which sounded amazing and the crowd numbers did not let us down and we arrived at the monument which was cleverly draped in a Saltire for the unveiling - thanks George Kempik for this. I started off the speeches, then George Boyle gave a cracking history lesson regarding the battle itself. I introduced the poetry competition winners from Blairdardie school who then laid flowers at the monument. Sandra White gave an outstanding speech and then the moment we had all been waiting for. Sandra White and Kimberley Ross unveiled the monument to massive cheers. Ted Christopher finished off the event with some songs and then we headed off to the university club that we had booked for a few beers and an afternoon of listening to the outstanding Ted better than Elvis.

The drinks flowed that afternoon I can tell you. Joy we had finally done it, relief that all had went well on the day with crowd numbers and sadness that Davie and Duncan were not there to see it. I had promised Duncan when he was in hospital that I would make sure the monument would be built. I am just so pleased I kept my promise to my friend. To everyone who goes to the Monument I hope you love it as much as we do.

Gary Stewart
Convenor

Right - Sketch design for Battle of the Belle o' the Brae Monument by Andrew Hillhouse.



Battle of the Belle O' The Brae Memorial Unveiling - 9th July



The Glasgow Necropolis is a Victorian cemetery in Glasgow built on a low but very prominent hill to the east of Glasgow Cathedral. Fifty thousand individuals are buried here but only about 3500 monuments stand on the site. A statue of John Knox sits on a column at the top of the hill and other tombs, crypts and architectural features, designed by the likes of Alexander Thomson, John Bryce and David Hamilton pack the hillside. The main entrance is approached by a bridge over what was originally the Molendinar Burn. This bridge became known locally as the "Bridge of Sighs" because it was part of the route of funeral processions. The Glasgow Necropolis has been described as "literally as a city of the dead".

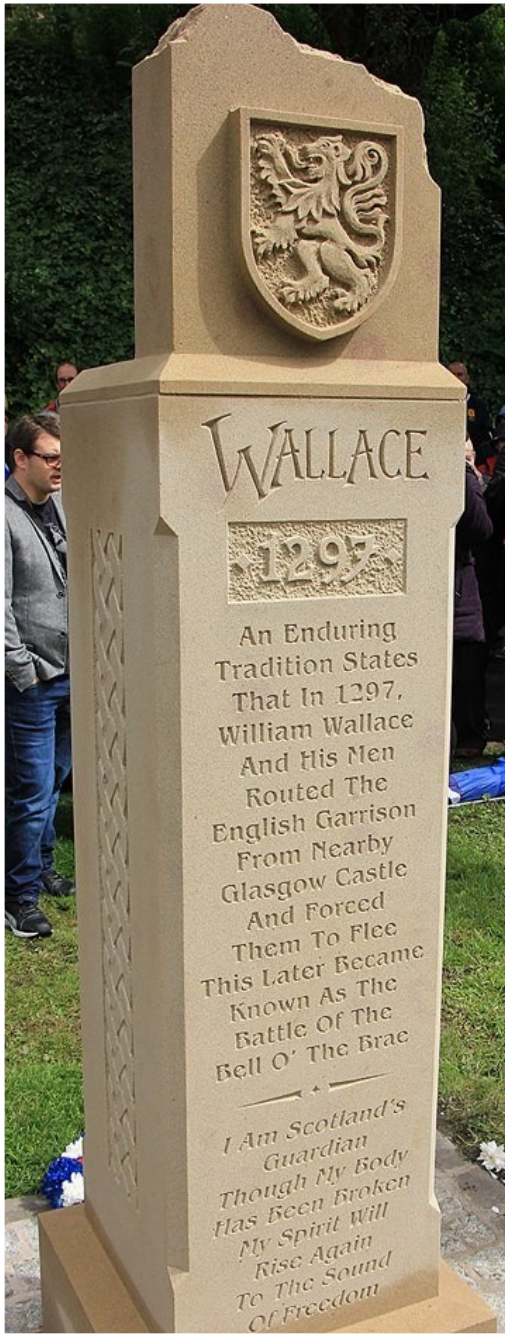
In 2016, a two metre tall sandstone monument that I designed for the Society of William Wallace was installed commemorating William Wallace's skirmish with English troops occupying the nearby Glasgow Castle. According to an enduring tradition, this fight, which became known as "The Battle of the Bell o' the Brae", occurred in July 1297 and resulted in Wallace's small force routing 1000 soldiers of the castle's garrison. In the paintings above, Wallace's spirit stands by the monument, recognised at last.

It is Glasgow's first ever statue to Wallace, a fact I am immensely proud of. Congratulations to all at the Society of William Wallace for not giving up on this project and a huge thank you to the two sculptors, Roddy and Chris, whose talent, skill and commitment brought the idea to life. Amazing work, guys.

To buy prints or simply to see more of my paintings, please visit www.andrewhillhouseprints.co.uk

Thank you.

Andy Hillhouse



When we first heard about the commission we thought it was too good to be true. Most of our work comes in through restoration projects so to work on something that meant so much to us and the people of Scotland was a great feeling. It was not all plain sailing though, there was a few hurdles ahead of us, turning the stone (manually because it was too heavy for our equipment), making the lettering fit and having it all complete in the time we had. When we showed up to see it unveiled there were crowds of people and music echoing round the Necropolis. We were the two proudest people in Scotland.

Roddy McDowall



Artist Andy Hillhouse with Sculptors Roddy McDowall and Chris Chalmers

***I Am Scotland's
Guardian
Though My Body
Has Been Broken
My Spirit Will
Rise Again
To The Sound
Of Freedom***



Competition winners



Andy Middleton



Chris Green



Martin McMahon



George Kempik and Edward O'Neil

Traditionally we have the Robroyston commemoration on the nearest Sat to the 3rd of August, this year we gathered on the 6th. The commemoration was preceded by a gathering of patriot individuals about a week previous. We had heard that a development company who were building houses near the monument had erected some temporary fencing right onto the site of the monument. We visited and discovered not only was the fencing in the wrong place, but the site was in a real state of disrepair and all overgrown. We approached the site office and asked for the fencing to be moved and a wee repair done to the kerb near the monument. Nothing was a problem and we would like to thank the guys at the Miller Homes site office for their assistance.

The day of the commemoration is as always a very poignant one. We gather at the monument near the actual spot where Sir William Wallace was captured to be taken to London to be wrongly put on trial accused of treason. And as Wallace himself said,

"I cannot be a traitor, for I owe him no allegiance. He is not my Sovereign; he never received my homage; and whilst life is in this persecuted body, he never shall receive it. To the other points whereof I am accused, I freely confess them all. As Governor of my country I have been an enemy to its enemies; I have slain the English; I have mortally opposed the English King; I have stormed and taken the towns and castles which he unjustly claimed as his own. If I or my soldiers have plundered or done injury to the houses or ministers of religion, I repent me of my sin; but it is not of Edward of England I shall ask pardon."

This years service was well attended with over 40 people attending, with quite a few new faces. I was given the honour to arrange and lead the proceedings. I asked Andy Middleton, Chris Green and Martin McMahon to say a few words. I also invited my friend Edward O'Neil to come and sing a couple of songs. He chose 'Ye Jacobites By Name' and 'Scots Wa Hae' and very good he was too, bringing a few song sheets which were handed out meaning those gathered very happily joined in with the singing.

The Society flowers were laid at the monuments by Frances Lochiel and a single white rose was laid at the David R Ross memorial plaque by Donna Mackay, this was followed by a minutes silence and we dispersed.

George Kempik



Over the years we have been very lucky with the weather, but very heavy rain was forecast so we made the decision of having the speeches at Elderslie Village Hall rather than at the Wallace monument as we normally do. Considering the weather, we had a fantastic turn out for the march, although it did feel strange marching past the monument and going directly to the village hall.

Neil Lochiel kindly agreed to compare the speeches and I started off proceedings by welcoming everyone to Wallace Day 2016. We were absolutely delighted to have Scottish Folk Legend Alastair McDonald to play a few songs before Charli Stewart gave a tremendous speech on behalf of The Young Lions.

Scottish 'T@lespinner' Hugh Allison from Inverness Tours then spoke on the history of not just William Wallace but Scotland also and then Alastair McDonald finished proceedings with 'Scots Wha Hae'.

Fiery Jack got the party started and then we had the award ceremony with the David R Ross award going to George Kempick for his outstanding contribution to the SOWW - a well deserved award to a true Patriot.

Erica Hughes from Blairdargie school picked up the Young Lions award on behalf of the children for their Belle O' The Brae poem and we had an award for Fiery Jack members George Thom and Donald Neill for their unwavering support of SOWW over many years. We had a special award for Mr Clarence William Murray Stevenson who is approaching his 87th birthday. He attended his first Wallace day aged 3 years old on the 20th of August 1932. The international Award this year was won by the outstanding American Artist Patricia Hovey for her continued service to the society and there were awards also for the two sculptors Roddy and Chris as well as Hugh Miller for his help with the Rutherglen Church Plaques.

The Rain had stopped so some of us ventured down to the monument to lay our Wreath and raise a toast. We then returned to the music with outstanding singers and bands with Ted Better than Elvis, Gimme Gimme Gimmes and Clann a Drumma who had the place rocking. We also had a special guest Brina with her take on Scottish music with a Jamaican twist. I have been going to Wallace days for about 25 years and have never seen anyone get a standing ovation, and I'm delighted to say she has agreed to return to play Wallace Day 2017 – don't miss it!

What an amazing Wallace day and hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as we did and a big thank you to everyone who helped with the organisation.

See you all next year folks

Gary Stewart

Convenor



Wallace Day - 26th Aug

I can't tell you how much of an honour it was to be awarded the David R Ross Memorial Quaich and I am sad to say, I struggled to find the words in my acceptance speech. Had I known, this is maybe what I would have said...

I remember yet my attendance at my first commemoration in 2011. It was the one SRSM organise annually for the Declaration of Arbroath. Thinking back with the help of some pictures I took that day, everyone there was a stranger to me. We gathered down on the sea road on the edge of Arbroath and marched through the town up to the Abbey where we all gathered to hear the invited speakers. I actually marched just behind the SOWW banner, being carried by Duncan Fenton and Norrie Paterson. One of the speakers was Duncan, every word that man spoke was from the heart - no bitterness or political point making, just using the words of history to build strength of feeling for a cause I knew we all shared.

As I look at those pictures again, I don't see strangers, I now see friends, I see some of my living hero's and sadly in Duncan's and Norrie's case, both gone now. That is just not fair.

I think it took me a couple of more commemorations, Loudounhill and Falkirk till I made the decision to join the SOWW, which I did at Robroyston.

I didn't attend the 2011 Wallace day, the year Andy Middleton was awarded this award, but I have been every year since, unmissable now. I really enjoyed attending the monthly meetings, keeping a very low profile, that was me at my best. But as I got to know the members more, participation became easier. Later on, as it was apparent that I was going to be available, I was asked to take a position in the committee. Accepting meant my heart and soul would be put into this, that's all I have done during my period of being a committee member. This honour is something I might have hoped to earn one day, so soon takes some believing and all in our most amazing year since I have been a member of the society. To see my name along side David R Ross, Duncan Fenton, Gary Stewart, Andy Middleton, George Boyle, Lachlan McCann, Ted Christopher and Andrew Hillhouse, brings tears of pride to my eyes.

Thanks everyone for your vote, also those who have helped me realise this honour is something I may have earned with my efforts. I would like to especially thank my dear wife, who actually, I could not have done what I have done, without her consent and assistance.

As I said on the night, my attitude is - must try harder. We have lots to do and it will be done.

FOR WALLACE!

George Kempik





The Society of William Wallace, was invited to attend an amazing event in Selkirk. It has long been thought, that William Wallace was made Guardian of Scotland in or around Selkirk. We had previously been told about and invited down to the event marking the discovery of what is thought to be the place he was given this honour. Archaeologists believe they have uncovered the remains of the medieval Borders Kirk, where William Wallace was appointed Guardian of Scotland after the defeat of the English army at Stirling Bridge in 1297.



The planned event was to take place in the grounds and inside a large mansion type house called the Haining. The organisers had set up a Medieval Encampment in the grounds, including traditional blacksmith and forge, green wood turning and an archery set up where you could try your skill with a Long Bow, guided by the Ettrick Forest Archers. There were two talks arranged inside the house, the first one given by Scottish Borders Council's Archaeologist Dr Chris Bowles who gave us the background story of Wallace's place in the woods around Selkirk and the route the archaeological team took to discover the "foundation footprint of a medieval chapel" within the footprint of the 18th Century church. This is the place they were pretty sure Wallace had been knighted. We had a short break for coffee and biscuits, then Dr Fiona Watson gave us her presentation. She spoke about the wars of independence, a lot more about what was known about Wallace and his connection with the area in and around Selkirk, not really committing an opinion on whether what the archaeological team had found was substantial enough for her to confirm their findings. I think though, she was very happy to be involved and I would also think, going to keep an eye on what more is discovered in the coming years.

After the talks, at around 3.30pm, we all made our way outside to the car park area and gathered in procession. We set off over Castle Hill through the woods and marched our way down to the Auld Kirk, with the society banner leading the way, till we met up with the Royal party, made up of the main players - Gordon Aitken as William Wallace, Brian McCutcheon as Robert the Bruce and Duncan Thompson as Bishop Wishart. At the Kirk we gathered and the Guardianship ceremony was held lead by Bishop Wishart , William Wallace being challenged and offered to be knighted by Robert The Bruce. Once the ceremony was over we all gathered for official photographs.



FEATURE ARTICLE

The Story of Roderick Mackenzie

Charles Edward Louis Phillip Casimir's attempt to put a Stuart back on the British throne ended in what can only be described as a shambolic and total failure at Culloden on April 16th 1746. The victorious Duke of Cumberland set out on a relentless mission to hunt down and destroy any Jacobite support among what was left of the beleaguered clans, earning himself the nickname 'Butcher Cumberland' in the process.

Bonnie Prince Charlie had a price of £30,000 on his head and anyone caught harbouring this enemy would be subject to instant execution! Despite this, many people did indeed protect the Prince without a thought for their own safety.

One such man was Roderick Mackenzie the son of an Edinburgh Goldsmith and jeweller, a Burgess of the city who, although not part of the 1715 rebellion, was a staunch Jacobite. Young Roderick preferred a travelling life and is entered in the Roll of Edinburgh Burgesses dated 15th February 1744 as a Writer and Merchant, having inherited the Burgess-ship on the death of his father. When the Prince raised the Standard at Glenfinnan on the 19th August 1745, Roderick wasted no time in rallying to the cause and joined Charlie's Jacobite army. Most sources say this was when the Prince arrived in Edinburgh although family tradition has Roderick in Glenelg at the time and joined the Prince immediately. Roderick became an officer in Lord Elcho's Troop of the Prince's Life Guards and had managed to strike up a friendly rapport with the Prince and they were known to enjoy each other's company.

Roderick managed to bring some invaluable traits to the Prince's party. Because of his close resemblance to the Prince he became a personal bodyguard to his Royal Highness. In such a role he became invaluable as a decoy, and he also possessed an intimate knowledge of the remoter Scottish countryside, borne out of a lifetime living within it. It is very probable that Roderick himself was at the Battle of Culloden as part of Elcho's and Fitzjames' Horse which allowed much of the Jacobite right wing to escape the battlefield. After Culloden Roderick dared not return home to Edinburgh to be with his widowed mother and sisters who stayed at Gray's Close in the High Street, but instead fulfilled his role as a decoy for the Prince, a role that would ultimately result in Roderick's last great act of bravery.

There are varying accounts of Roderick's final day in late July 1746. Prince Charlie and a few close and trusted supporters had been laying low for a few days up Coire Dho at the head of Glen Moriston in a cave with no retreat to the rear but ample views of the glen and any Redcoats who may be in the area. It was here that it was decided that Roderick would dress as the Prince and allow himself to be visible to the Redcoats and draw them away from the Prince towards Ceannocroc; he managed to lead the Redcoats eight miles away from the cave. Other sources say that Roderick was in fact already down by the burn below Ceannocroc when the Redcoats surprised him and immediately mistook him for the Prince. Whichever source is to be believed, when finally escape was not an option, Roderick turned to face the Redcoats and drew his sword refusing to be taken alive, the " brave" Redcoats there-upon riddled him with bullets, and he expired with the words on his lips,

"You have murdered your Prince!"

This selfless act of bravery convinced the Hanoverians that they had at last caught Prince Charles Edward Stuart himself. To quote from 'The Lyon in Mourning' collated by Bishop Forbes in the years following the Battle of Culloden - **"Mrs Jean Cameron says that Roderick so far deceived them that the Duke of Cumberland went up directly to London in full persuasion the thing were done."**

The head of our hero was carried in triumph to Fort-Augustus, where Macdonald of Kingsburgh, a prisoner there, refused to identify the head without the body, in turn putting his own life at risk but also knowingly delaying proof

FEATURE ARTICLE

of the Prince's death would give the Prince some much needed time to successfully escape the country. When Cumberland left for England, he took the head with him to be submitted to other witnesses. Richard Morison, who had been the Prince's valet, and was now under sentence of death at Carlisle, was taken to London to identify the head but it was beyond recognition. The Hanoverians were soon satisfied that the Prince was still indeed alive but Mackenzie's self-sacrifice had slackened for a time the exertions of the troops and had probably saved the Prince.

Again quoting from the 'The Lyon in Mourning', Mackenzie fell by the side of the public highway, opposite the lands of Ceanacroc. A cairn marks the spot. The grave in which the headless body was hastily buried lies on the opposite side of the road, and by the side of a small stream called, after Mackenzie, Caochan a' Cheannaich - the Merchant's Streamlet. Near it was recently found a sword, probably Mackenzie's.

Another contemporary, Dug-aid Graham, the rhyming historian of The Forty-Five, gives it in the following lines:

*"Rod'rick Mackenzie, a merchant-man,
At Ed'iinburgh town had join'd the Clan,
Had in the expedition been,
And at this time durst not be seen.
Being skulking in Glen-Morrison,
Him the soldiers lighted on.
Near about the Prince's age and size,
Genteely drest, in no disguise,
In ev'ry feature, for's very face
Might well be taken in any case,
And lest he'd like a dog be hang'd,
He chose to die with sword in hand,
And round him like a madman struck,
Vowing alive he'd ne'er be took,
Deep wounds he got, and wounds he gave;
At last a shot he did receive,
And as he fell, them to convince,
Cry'd, Ah! Alas! You've killed your Prince;
Ye murderers and bloody crew,
You had no orders thus to do."*



There is no doubt that Roderick's noble sacrifice allowed the Young Pretender valuable days to escape from being trapped in Glen Moriston where he would have most certainly met the same fate. One of the bravest deeds of the '45 and hopefully you'll agree, one who should be remembered as a brave man, an unselfish man and a hero.

There is an annual ceremony which takes place during the last fortnight in July to commemorate Roderick Mackenzie. If you are heading up Glen Moriston on the A887 from Invermoriston you will find the site marked by a large cairn on the left hand side of the road about two miles before you get to the junction with the main A87 from Invergarry\Fort William. If, as is likely, you are coming up the A87 from Invergarry\Fort William you will need to make a short detour back down the A887 towards Invermoriston. Roderick's cairn lies immediately south of the road. It bears a plaque giving full details of the incident. The actual grave itself however, lies somewhat neglected about 100m diagonally westwards across the road at the bottom of a deep hollow. A cross on it bears the simple inscription 'R.M. 1746'