

Autumn 2015

THE SOCIETY OF WILLIAM WALLACE

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,

Hello and a warm welcome to this bumper Autumn edition of our Member's Magazine Pro-Libertate. There's been so much going on over the summer that we weren't sure we'd fit it all in! As well as all the usual commemorations, we have a report of our trip to Trim in Ireland for the Braveheart 20th anniversary re-union, where Mel Gibson sent a special video message that was played on the big screen before the film, thanking the SOWW for attending the event. Pretty amazing to say the least, but maybe I shouldn't have nudged the person next to me saying "That's us by the way!"

You can read the full reports on Bannockburn, Falkirk, Robroyston and Wallace Day, but I just wanted to make a special mention of Robroyston which saw the unveiling of the new Wallace Chair created by SOWW secretary George Kempik. When we first started discussing the chair I never in my wildest dreams thought the finished article would look the way it did. Take a bow George.

Wallace Day was a great event although I still miss Duncan and Davie so much on days like this and am always a wee bit nervous. I really should not have worried and my thanks to the great team of committee members we have who made it such an outstanding day. To have the Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop and Mhairi Black MP praising the Society for all the work we do, was a very proud moment and it means a lot to know we are appreciated at the highest level.

I'd like to thank Photogenic photography, Fearchara Fia photography, Helen Tennant, The Battles of Falkirk Commemoration Society, Jean Brittain and Bonny Boyle for allowing us to use their photographs throughout the magazine.

We have Stirling Bridge next week run by Ted Christopher which is always a great night and one I am truly looking forward to. It's good to go to a commemoration which we won for a change, and to think what Andrew De Moray, William Wallace and the people of Scotland achieved that day always fills me with pride. Sometimes it's forgotten that this battle changed the world, not just Scotland, as it's the first time a smaller nation had defeated its larger neighbour.

We also have a 7 page spread on the 10th anniversary of Davie's Walk for Wallace. I can't really put into words the emotions of the day; it was just a pleasure to honour William Wallace and to give him the funeral service he never had. For that Davie I thank you so much for what you achieved that day and it will never be forgotten.

To all the new members who have joined, welcome. Everything we have achieved over the past year could not have been done without the support of our members, so a big thank you from me.

I hope you enjoy reading the magazine as much as we did making it.

Yours for Scotland,

Gary Stewart

Convenor



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SOWW PROJECTS

Gary Stewart - Convenor

The Society have several projects underway at the moment to preserve and promote the legacy of William Wallace throughout Scotland. We will keep you regularly updated on our progress.

Bell O' The Brae

After 6 years of trying to get this monument built we are on the final hurdle with planning permission now PASSED. We are expecting a decision next week, with just one more meeting to go and we can finally get this monument built.

Rutherglen Church

I spoke with Hugh, the Minister of the Church who has confirmed we are still awaiting a reply from CARTA who we need authorisation from. Hugh has also confirmed not to be too concerned regarding the time delay as this is normal.

Walk for Wallace 10 year anniversary

St Bartholomew church have confirmed that they are happy with our proposals regarding wording and the picture by Andy Hillhouse. Those documents have now been sent to English Heritage and I am still awaiting their reply although I have since been told that Clive, who I have been dealing with has been absent on sick leave and this is why I have not had a reply back. I am now in contact with Clive's boss chasing a decision.

House Near the Necropolis

I am still awaiting a reply from Glasgow Building Preservation trust regarding this but not too concerned as was told not to expect a reply sooner than 3 months, but we would be kept in the loop. An email has been sent for an update and as of yet still waiting for a reply.

Robroyston Memorial Bench

The Memorial Bench is now in place. Full article on pages 4 and 5.

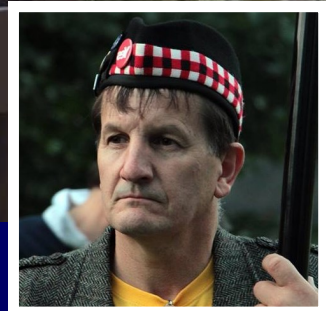
Rhoderick-Dhu, Glasgow



[Click image for website](#)

The Society would like to thank the Rhoderick-Dhu Bar in Waterloo Street, Glasgow for their donation of a £30 voucher to our raffle. If you would like to sponsor any of our Wallace events, or donate a raffle item, please contact George Kempik at :

secretary@soww.scot



NEWS

THE WALLACE CHAIR

George Kempik - Secretary

When the Wallace Chair was first mentioned my ears pricked up. I thought I was the very man for the job and ultimately I was honoured to be asked to make it. The initial photos we found were pretty poor, but I managed to work out a few details about the way the chair was constructed. It consisted of six important pieces of timber - four round posts and two heavy cross rails. It looked like it was made from oak, and in a pretty poor state of repair, with rot and worm causing a lot of damage. The chair was also covered in a loose leather cover, which hid a lot of the other detail. We made some enquiries and were sent some close up pictures of the chair by its present owner and these helped immensely. From that, I did a rough sketch and it was agreed we would try to make the chair into a two-seater bench from pressure treated softwood. The first problem I had was to do the turnings as close to the ones we saw in the picture. In softwood this proved very difficult as by the time I started to work on the posts, the wood had dried out and was beginning to show signs of splitting. It actually went better than I thought, although I did not do the turnings on a lathe, I used a table saw and finished the grooves off with a rasp. Working with round section timber threw up various problems and I had to come up with a way to make the back strong, comfortable and not too detached from the original design. I also made the chair higher than it looked in the pictures. With time, the original legs would have rotted and been cut to make firm again. They probably lost about four inches over time. I made the bench normal seat height, even though Wallace might have needed it higher due to his extreme size!



Hard at work!



The Chair as a work in progress



Fiona Hyslop and George

THE WALLACE CHAIR



Balnagown Castle in Ross-shire, home to the Wallace Chair



Recent photograph of the Wallace Chair given to the Society by its current owner Mr Al Fayed

Chambers's excerpt on the Wallace Chair from 'Picture of Scotland'

In the house of Bonniton, near the Fall of that name, the seat of Sir Charles Ross of Balnagowan, representative of the Baillies of Lamington, are preserved two relics of Sir William Wallace, the genuineness of which is perhaps rather to be hoped for than relied upon; a portrait of the hero, and a chair on which he is said to have sat. The last curiosity is at least an ancient heirloom of the family, having been brought hither from Lamington Tower. It resembles a rude garden-seat, or that piece of farmer's-ingle-side furniture called the settle, more than a chair of the modern construction, or even of that two-story-high description which prevailed in the days of stateliness, long waists, lappets, and frilled elbows. It is about three feet long, and quite capable of containing the sitting part of even a "stouter gentleman" than "Scotia's ill-requited chief" may be conceived to have been. Four round stoops, slightly ornamented at top by the turning-loom, and the two at front shorter than the two behind, form the frame-work of the chair, and the only original part of it, for the rest has been at some recent period renewed; the bottom is made of spokes; and the appearance of the whole is sufficiently plain to warrant the supposition of its having been constructed in the thirteenth century.

Having spent so much time creating the replica chair, I was interested to find out a wee bit more about the original, so I did a little bit of research but unfortunately, there is very little known about the so called 'Wallace Chair'. It belonged to the Lockhart-Ross family of Bonnington estate in Lanarkshire and is reported to have been in the family for centuries. Sir Charles Lockhart Ross (1763-1814) was a wealthy landowner whose mother had bequeathed him large estates in Lanarkshire (including Bonnington House) and Ross-shire. The family fancied themselves as landscape designers, and turned their estate into a popular tourist destination. With the Napoleonic wars putting a scupper on the grand tours of Europe so favoured by the gentry, 'petit' tours of the British countryside became all the rage. Charles' wife, Lady Mary Ross cannily perpetuated myths about William Wallace's connection with the area, i.e. Wallace's Chair and Wallace's Cave, where he was said to have hid from English soldiers. Bonnington House (now gone) which stood adjacent to the ancient gorge through which the river Clyde carved its way, was home to an original portrait of Wallace as well as the chair, and a carved wood and silver cup, which they claimed to have belonged to Wallace, whose connection to Bonnington was through his wife Marion Braidfute, a local noble woman. Even 20 years or so before the start of the Victorian era and their mania for William Wallace and all things Scottish Wallace artefacts were placed high on the tourist's 'must see' list. These items are now in the possession of the current owner of Balnagown Castle, Mr Al Fayed, Balnagown Castle being the Lockhart-Ross family's other residence.

Wallace Chair in the hall of Balnagown Castle



The Wallace Chair is described in some detail by Robert Chambers in *'The Picture of Scotland'* which was published in 1827 when he was only 25 years old. Chambers was born in Peebles in 1802 and wrote extensively on a variety of Scottish subjects including Edinburgh, the Jacobite Risings, Walter Scott, Robert Burns and Scottish ballads, poems and anecdotes. The material for *'Picture of Scotland'* was gathered in the course of successive tours made through the districts described and gives an excellent early first hand description of the chair (see image).

Like so much related to William Wallace, we need to file the Wallace Chair under the title 'legend'. I knew it was going to be hard to prove the history of the chair, but the fact that this one is being used as a way to commemorate Davy's walk is enough of a connection to Wallace for me - the rest can be folklore.

George Kempik

VISIT Stirling

Gordon Aitken - Historical Advisor

Hello and welcome to the historical column of the 3rd edition of our magazine. For our Autumn edition, appropriately, we are going to the scene of Wallace's greatest victory at Stirling.

Wallace in Stirling

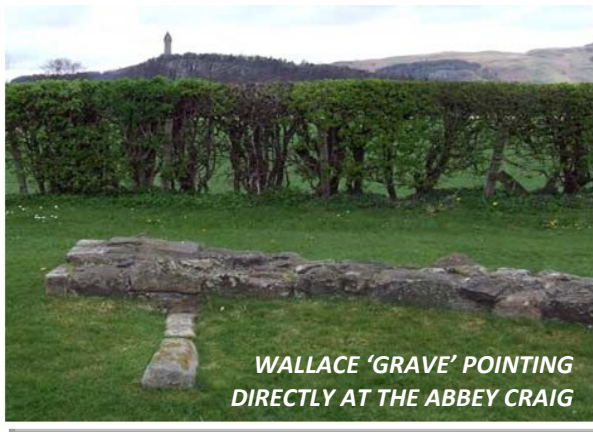
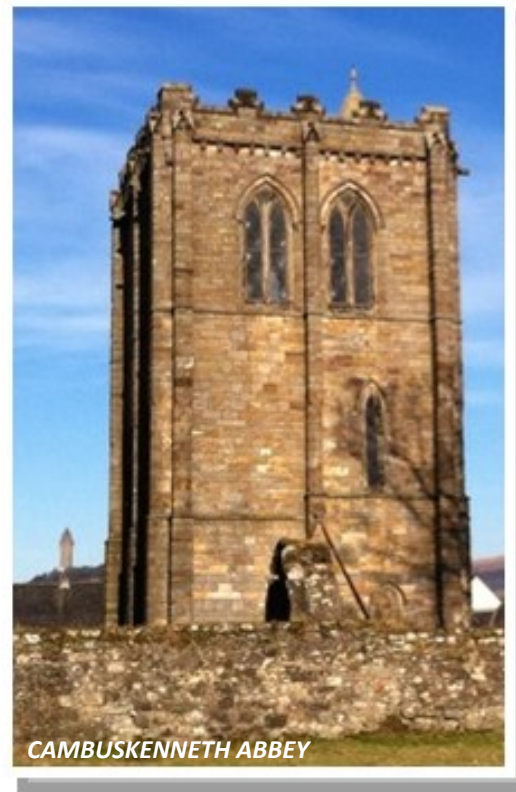
Stirling Brig was perhaps the most famous battle that Wallace was involved in, immortalised in the film "Braveheart" so let's start with that, but in my version we'll include the river, and the bridge! In the early morning light of 11th September 1297, William Wallace along with Sir Andrew Moray stood on the summit of the great rock known as the Abbey Craig looking down on one of the largest English armies assembled at that point in time, little realising that they were about to make history by winning a battle that would send shock waves throughout Christendom. On top of the Abbey Craig today stands the national Wallace Monument built between 1861 and 1869 which is always well worth a visit. For anyone going there for the first time, to get to the monument from the Edinburgh or Glasgow areas, take the M9 and heading towards Perth come off at junction 10, signposted Stirling, Callendar and Crianlarich and staying in the right hand lane of the slip road head towards Stirling. Take the turnoff marked Raploch at the next two roundabouts. At a junction a bit farther on take the left hand fork at Drip Road, drive through Raploch and turn left at the roundabout marked A9 St. Andrews. At the next roundabout follow the sign marked St. Andrews, and crossing the river Forth drive under the rail bridge and onto Causewayhead. Drive on and at the next roundabout go straight on following the Wallace Monument signs uphill. Watch out for a sharp bend to the right and follow it as it is easy to stray onto the wrong road. Turn in at the car park at the entrance. It is a one way system in and out and the entrance is the second on the right. Park up and go to the visitor centre.



Depending on your level of fitness you can either walk to the top by following the road behind the visitor centre, or board the courtesy bus which runs at regular intervals and will take you up to the monument. After your visit inside the monument, you will probably wander across to the viewpoint to look out over Stirling. Most people assume that this is where Wallace and Moray stood on that historical day but it is unlikely, as it misses the most vital killing ground. About 8 years ago I remember going with David Ross to another viewpoint which is almost certainly where the two heroes stood. Follow the tarmac road back downhill and almost immediately you will come to a yew hedge on your left. Look to your right and you will see a stone with a sword carved into it and two pointing arrows. Walk along the pathway past the stone, staying on the narrow path, not the wide path below you. After a short walk, you will go down some steps and staying on the path, passing some high rocks on your left you will come to some more steps. Climb these steps and you will come to open ground with two benches on your left. Stand in front of the benches and look out over the edge taking care not to go too near as there is a sheer drop. Looking out you can see not only the whole battle area, but right back past Falkirk to Edinburgh, and you get in your mind's eye the tactics planned by the two men. Almost immediately in front of you, you can see the loop of the Forth at the rugby ground where so many of the English army perished. Following your trail back to the tarmac road, go back down to the visitor centre and drive back downhill to the roundabout. Take the first turn on your left and drive for about 200 yards and you will see

VISIT Stirling

the small sign for Cambuskenneth Abbey. Turn right at the sign and drive through the rail crossing and at the bottom of the road you will see the Abbey. Park up and walk across. If the Abbey gates are open walk inside and if not, try and climb over the wall as I have done in the past. All that is left of the Abbey is one tower, but this is an important place with a Wallace connection. Wallace would almost certainly have visited this place as a boy, with his uncle, the priest of Dunipace, and may have climbed up the Abbey Craig while his uncle was about his business. Passing the tower, look on the ground to your left and you will see a flat stone in the ground. This stone has the initials W.W. carved into it. You may have to look hard to find the initials as they get overgrown by moss. Legend has it that under this stone is buried one of Wallace's arms, taken down from Stirling Bridge by the monks and buried in hallowed ground. The stone points directly to the Abbey Craig. Returning to your vehicle, retrace your way back to the roundabout, turn 1st left and drive back down Causewayhead. When you



drive back under the rail bridge turn right at the lights immediately past the bridge, then 1st left into a small, narrow road. Park up and you will see the modern day Stirling Bridge in front of you. When I say modern day, it was there in Mary Queen of Scots day, but is not the original bridge. Walk up onto the bridge and stopping in the middle look upstream to your right. About 50 yards up, if the river is calm and the tide low, you will see some swirls in the water. These are over the foundations of Wallace's wooden bridge. Walking back to the bottom of the bridge turn in at the path on your right and walk onto the grassy area to your right. There are

recently erected stone storyboards that tell you about the battle, and an oak tree surrounded by metal railings which was planted in 1997 to mark the 700th anniversary of the battle. A few years ago, while unemployed, I gave the area inside the railings a badly needed makeover by building in some cobbles left over from the Falkirk cairn, and slate chippings and set in place a stone in tribute to David Ross, who was so much a part of the place. Hopefully, in the near future a much awaited statue of the two heroes of Stirling Brig will tower over this area at the scene of their great triumph. Returning to your vehicle go back to the traffic lights, turn right and follow the signs for M9 Perth. Don't panic if you can't find a sign saying M9 Glasgow and Edinburgh as there isn't one until you're almost at the motorway. One more place with a Wallace connection in the area is Gargunnoch which is about 3 miles away but nothing remains of the Keep which was a strategic building which guarded one of the Forth crossings. Blind Harry states that in early 1297, Wallace, with a band of men attacked the peel in the dead of night, and Wallace, frustrated at the delay in breaking down the door, launched himself at it with such force that he broke it into splinters, and rushing the English garrison inside, slew them all and captured the Keep. Don't you just love this guy? Whether this is true or just a myth, it's a great story. I hope you enjoy your visit to Stirling.

Slainte

Gordon



EVENTS UPDATE



Bannockburn Commemoration - 27th June

Society members arrived at Stirling Brig to be greeted by a sea of Tartan, Saltires, Lion Rampants - and glorious sunshine! After a quick catch up with friends and fellow patriots we had the pleasure of listening to speeches from John Robertson from the Andrew De Moray project and our very own George Kempik, who were outstanding. Ted Christopher then made a speech and as he was singing 'I'm Coming Home' I had the honour of raising the Saltire on the newly built flagpole as we sang the chorus - 'for Scotland, St Andrew and Freedom' - a very moving moment and my first greet of the day!

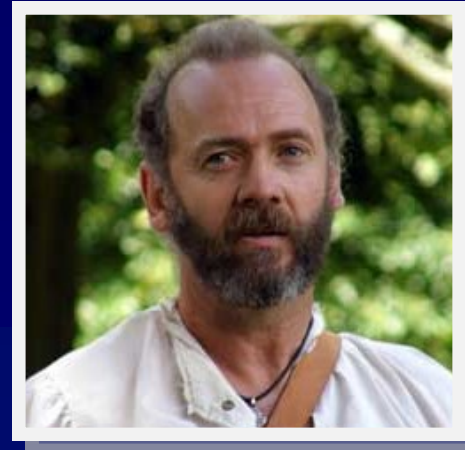


We then organised the march and headed off along the 4 mile route, past Stirling Castle to the rotunda at Bannockburn with the Society leading and banners flying. The wind picked up as we passed the castle, making the banner a bit of a struggle to manage as it billowed with wind, but one of the police officers in attendance lent a helping hand, holding on to the middle and with a group effort we continued on our way. As we neared our destination, the Society passed the lead Saltire to the Strathleven Artizans to lead the march onto the battlefield. This has become a tradition and represents William Wallace handing over the reigns to Robert the Bruce to finish off what he had started. Once assembled at the borestone, Ted Christopher opened the event with a few words of welcome and then introduced our first speaker, Ken Schira of the Knights Templar who has been attending Bannockburn for over 30 years and always delivers a heartfelt and rousing speech. Speeches then followed from Colin Cargill who gave us a great insight to the battle and it's relevance to today's events and SNP Councillor Scott Farmer who spoke about today's struggle for Freedom. The speech of the day though was from Young Lions convenor Abbey Stewart who moved the crowd with a beautiful speech dedicated to those who fell at the Battle of Bannockburn and those they left behind. Notwithstanding the bias of a very proud Dad, she was outstanding and had me greeting again. I don't even have that confidence at 50 never mind at 14!

A big thank you to Ted Christopher for organising this event and getting the march through Stirling again rather than a short walk though Bannockburn. If you missed it this year, then get it in your diary for next year as its a fantastic event to be a part of.

Yours Aye
Gary Stewart





Falkirk Commemoration - 18th July

The day was dry, but extremely windy as we gathered at Falkirk Trinity for the march off to the Cairn. After the customary laying of the wreaths in the churchyard to Sir John the Graeme, Sir John Stewart of Bonkyll and the Men of Bute, we formed up behind the colour party of Paul, Fiona and myself, and marched off to the stirring sounds of the Uphall Station pipe band. Down through Falkirk High Street with contingents from the Society of William Wallace, the Scottish Knights Templar, Camelon History Society, Siol nan Gael, Na fir Dileas, Battles of Falkirk Commemoration Society, and local SNP branches along with patriots out for the day, we made our way with a crowd forming as usual to watch the parade. On arrival at the park Ken Schira our accomplished m.c. welcomed all in attendance, before inviting Jean Fenton to raise the Saltire. It must have been a poignant moment for Jean as Duncan was the first person to raise that same saltire at the Cairn's inauguration back in 2007. Thank you Jean, and I hope it brought back some fond memories.

To the sound of "hey tuttie tatie" on the pipes, our piper Alex Scullion piped the colour party over the hill to the Cairn where I emplaced the sword as a cross after delivering my usual salute to our ancestors who died that day. Then followed an opening prayer, bible reading, and prayer of remembrance to the dead by Ken before the mic was handed over to one Mr Ted "better



Main photo: Gordon Aitken and Scotia McCann pay tribute to those who gave their lives at the Battle of Falkirk.

Falkirk Commemoration - 18th July

than elvis" Christopher who as always delivered a fine speech and songs. "I'm coming home" always sends shivers down my spine and this time was no different. We were then treated to a fine medley by the Uphall Station Band, before the wreath laying ceremony, with floral tributes from the Society of William Wallace, Scottish Knights Templar, Falkirk SNP, Battles of Falkirk Commemoration Society, and "The Bairns o' Falkirk". We then bowed our heads and dipped our banners for a one minute silence to the fallen which was impeccably observed, after which we were then played an outstanding lament by Chris, the Na fir Dileas piper. The mic was then handed to our last speaker for the day Mr John McNally M.P. for Falkirk who gave us a fine and often humorous speech about life as an S.N.P. minister at Westminster, and of how some of the people of England were warming to the S.N.P. Great stuff John! We then sang the closing anthem "Scots Wha' Hae" led by myself before the closing prayer by Ken, then finished off with the retiral of the sword as a cross by the Colour Party, and the benediction and invite to return one year hence by Ken, who then invited everyone back to the Cladhan hotel for a social gathering. After an hour or two back at the Cladhan, we found our singing voices and were treated to a couple of rousing bodhran tunes by George Thom - Fiery Jack fans rejoice! - they're coming back louder and better than ever! To everyone who made it along, thank you so much. The best sight in the world is to see a host of Saltires blowing in the wind, while listening to the sound of the pipes and drums in yir hame toon. Haste ye back!

Gordon Aitken

Historical Advisor

Robroyston Commemoration - 8th Aug



Another beautiful day for this years Robroyston Commemoration. Over 50 patriots gathered at the monument to mark the day, 710 years ago when William Wallace betrayed by John Stewart of Menteith, began a gruelling and barbaric 3 week journey to be murdered by a foreign usurper. After welcoming all those in attendance I had the pleasure of introducing our first speaker - SOWW press and media officer Irene Clarke who spoke straight from the heart , stating "Sir William Wallace, you gave your life for our Nation. Scotland's hero. Gone but never forgotten". Irene's first speech for SOWW but we hope the first of many. Our next speaker was my daughter Charli who spoke with a clarity and confidence way beyond her years which needless to say left me in tears!

Today was the unveiling of the new Wallace Chair, a replica of the original which Wallace is reputed to have sat on and which resides in Balnagown castle. The new 2 seat bench is set to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of David R Ross's 'Walk for Wallace' - Robroyston being the starting point of Davie's 450 mile journey to London. The bench was made by SOWW secretary George Kempik and the Society cannot thank George enough for producing such a beautiful piece of work to mark this important site in Wallace's story and for giving of his time and talent so generously. Andy Middleton, who has done so much work to restore the monument and the surrounding area in recent years, said a few words of thanks to Chris Green for restoring the original bench on this site and taking an interest in the upkeep of the memorial. We then had wreaths laid by Abbey Stewart of the Young Lions and our Polish guests Sky and Amy Peters. They follow in the footsteps of their Mum Asia Peters who laid a wreath at Robroyston 12 years ago. The day was then brought to a close with a medley of tunes from young piper Andrew. Thanks to all those who attended.

Gary Stewart

Convenor



Wallace Day - 22nd Aug

The weather stayed dry and fair for the Wallace Day Commemoration in Elderslie on Aug 22nd as hundreds of patriots gathered in Ludovic Square, Johnstone for the march to the Wallace Monument, led by the Tullibardine pipe band. Joining us on the march were several MP's including our guest speakers Mhairi Black, MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South and Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop. The youngest MP elected to the House of Commons since the 1800's, Mhairi has become somewhat of a celebrity in Scotland and was mobbed by well-wishers who wanted to congratulate her and grab a 'selfie'. Mhairi was utterly charming and took the time to speak to everyone and smiled patiently through 100's of photographs. Acting as escort to Fiona and Mhairi throughout the march I now know how Madonna's bodyguard must feel!

Viceconvenor George Boyle was compere for the day, and after welcoming all those in attendance, invited Kimberley Ross and son David to lay a wreath in front of the monument. 10 years after David R Ross's epic Walk for Wallace, it was wonderful to see his grandson make his Wallace Day debut, carrying on the Ross legacy. Fiona Hyslop also laid flowers in tribute.

Our first speaker was Nick Brand, who has been a friend and supporter of SOWW for many, many years. Nick shared his memories of Davie's Walk for Wallace in 2005 and spoke of the tremendous sense of loss we all feel at the passing of David Ross and Duncan Fenton. He paid tribute to SOWW for finding the strength to battle back and continue the work that Duncan had started and assured everyone that SOWW is in very good hands under the current regime.

Lifetime Society member Fiona Hyslop is the first Government minister to attend Wallace Day and on behalf of the Scottish Government she paid tribute to the memory, life and spirit of William Wallace and spoke of the pride she felt in re-instating Scottish History in the school curriculum as Cabinet Secretary for Education and also the sense of achievement she felt



Young Jesse Matthews looks on as George Boyle welcomes all those in attendance



Kimberley Ross and son David lay the commemorative wreath

WALLACE DAY

Speakers L-R, Nick Brand, Fiona Hyslop, Abbey Stewart and Mhairi Black



when working with SOWW to see the return of the Letter of Safe Conduct to Scotland. I was a little bit star-struck in meeting Fiona for the first time but she was so relaxed, fun and friendly that I was soon at ease and thoroughly enjoyed her company and hope she will find the time to attend more of our events.

Convenor Gary Stewart said a few words regarding what SOWW had been up to over the summer months before another fine speech from Young Lions Convenor Abbey Stewart who has worked so hard to make William Wallace accessible to children.

Our final speaker of the day was MP Mhairi Black who spoke of her lifelong interest in William Wallace and how inspired she was by a man who had gone from being an outlaw to a Guardian of Scotland, in command of armies on the battlefield. She said that as well as being a historical and cultural figure, Wallace was also a political figure as he fought not for a crown, land or wealth, but for loyalty, equality and to give the people of Scotland a voice and that it was his legacy that we were seeing throughout Scotland now, where ordinary men and women, like her, were finding their voice and standing together for the same cause.

Ted then closed the commemoration with “Scots Wha’ Hae” and invited each and all to the evening ‘do’ at Elderslie Town Hall. This was the first year we have had the SOWW membership tent at the commemoration and I am delighted to say that we signed up 26 new members to SOWW. You are most welcome and we appreciate your support and we hope to see you all at Stirling Brig on Sep 11th. (details on our FB page)



Charlie, Fiona, Faither, Mhairi & Geo



On the March!



Karen, Fiona & Kate



Ted ‘better than Elvis’ Christopher

WALLACE DAY



Ted Christopher with son Kyle



Firm favourites, Fiery Jack



Clann an Drumma raise the roof

Award Winners 2015

Andrew Hillhouse
Lesley Matthews
Stuart Duncan
Patricia Hovey
Ted Christopher
Abbey Stewart

As promised, the evening Ceilidh was a night to remember with six hours of live music from our incredible line up – Ted ‘better than Elvis’ Christopher, Fiery Jack, The Tartan Specials and Clann an Drumma as well as an auction of fine paintings generously donated by American Artist Patricia Hovey and a raffle with a ton of SOWW goodies up for grabs. What a night! George Boyle (ably assisted by Thomas Kerr) got the evening off to a great start, hosting our Annual Award Ceremony with the David R Ross award for member of the year going to SOWW artist in residence Andy Hillhouse. Andy’s artwork has featured on everything from our leaflets, books, coins and t-shirts to plaques and commemorations, and this recognition of his talent and generosity is long overdue. Congratulations Andy, very well deserved. Society Convenor Gary Stewart was given an inscribed pocket watch from the members of the committee as a token of confidence and of thanks for all his efforts in his first year as Convenor. Hope it’s the first of many Gary.

It was then over to the ever fabulous Ted Christopher to get the dancing under way and after the solemnity of the March and speeches, everyone let their hair down in celebration of Scotland’s favourite Son, William Wallace. Fiery Jack then took the stage for a fantastic set accompanied by table thumping and foot stomping from a very appreciative audience. It was wonderful to see George Thom back on form at the head of one of the best bands on the circuit and we look forward to seeing more from Fiery Jack at Stirling Brig on Sep 11th. Clann and Drumma then did what no other band does better with the heart thudding music of pipes and drums that raised the roof and tested the skills of even the most energetic dancers! The Tartan Specials then had everyone on the dance floor, arm in arm and singing along to a fine array of Tartan Army favourites. Cue a lot of back slapping and punching the air from a room full of happy Scots! Highlight of the evening was dozens of pairs of dancers, worse the wear for drink, attempting to do the ‘Gay Gordons’ on a very small dance floor – utter pandemonium, but great fun. C’mon the dancers!!!

Ted brought the evening to a close with ‘I’m Coming Home’ in memory of those who are no longer with us and are dearly missed. A huge thank you to all of you who came along to sing your hearts out and dance the night away. Without you, there would be no Wallace Day. See you all next year!

Lesley Matthews

Treasurer



Tartan Specials fill the dance floor



Mhairi Black—MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire South.

As a result of her maiden speech (right), Mhairi was inundated with letters stating that she was in fact wrong - William Wallace was not born in Renfrewshire! Over the years we've had all sorts of people, including historians (who should know better) claiming that Wallace was born in Ayrshire and not in Renfrewshire! To knock this scurrilous rumour on the head the Society commissioned a second edition of the hugely popular book "*William Wallace, His Birthplace And Family Connections.*" which leaves no doubt once and for all where Scotland's favourite son was born. We have duly given a copy to Mhairi to assure her that she's correct - Wallace was indeed born in her constituency. Copies of the book are available from our online shop.

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MHAIRI BLACK Maiden Speech

The SOWW were absolutely delighted to have Mhairi Black as a guest speaker for Wallace Day. In her first speech in the House of Commons she paid tribute to her constituency, proudly claiming "William Wallace was born in my constituency". The speech became a viral hit and has racked up over 10 million online views. SNP Westminster Leader Angus Robertson said: "Mhairi's outstanding maiden speech was principled and passionate. She is without a doubt a huge credit to Paisley and to the SNP". Here is her speech in full.

Now, when I discovered it is tradition to speak about the history of your constituency in a maiden speech, I decided to do some research despite the fact I've lived there all my life. And as one of the tale end doing the maiden speech of my colleagues in the SNP I've noticed that my colleagues quite often mention Rabbin Burns a lot and they all try to form this intrinsic connection between him and their own constituency and own him for themselves. I however feel no need to do this for during my research I discovered a fact which trumps them all. William Wallace was born in my constituency.

Now, my constituency has a fascinating history far beyond the Hollywood film and historical name. From the mills of Paisley, to the industries of Johnstone, right to the weavers in Kilbarchan, it's got a wonderful population with a cracking sense of humour and much to offer both the tourists and to those who reside there. But the truth is that within my constituency it's not all fantastic. We've watched our town centres deteriorate. We've watched our communities decline. Our unemployment level is higher than that of the UK average. One in five children in my constituency go to bed hungry every night. Paisley Job Centre has the third highest number of sanctions in the whole of Scotland.

Before I was elected I volunteered for a charitable organisation and there was a gentleman who I grew very fond of. He was one of these guys who has been battered by life in every way imaginable. You name it, he's been through it. And he used to come in to get food from this charity, and it was the only food that he had access to and it was the only meal he would get. And I sat with him and he told me about his fear of going to the Job Centre. He said "I've heard the stories Mhairi, they try and trick you out, they'll tell you you're a liar. I'm not a liar Mhairi, I'm not." And I told him "It's OK, calm down. Go, be honest, it'll be fine." I then didn't see him for about two or three weeks. I did get very worried, and when he finally did come back in I said to him "how did you get on?" And without saying a word he burst into tears. That grown man standing in front of a 20-year-old crying his eyes out, because what had happened to him was the money that he would normally use to pay for his travel to come to the charity to get his food he decided that in order to afford to get to the Job Centre he would save that money. Because of this, he didn't eat for five days, he didn't drink. When he was on the bus on the way to the Job Centre he fainted due to exhaustion and

MHAIRI BLACK Maiden Speech

dehydration. He was 15 minutes late for the Job Centre and he was sanctioned for 13 weeks.

Now, when the Chancellor spoke in his budget about fixing the roof while the sun is shining, I would have to ask on who is the sun shining? When he spoke about benefits not supporting certain kinds of lifestyles, is that the kind of lifestyle that he was talking about?

If we go back even further when the Minister for Employment was asked to consider if there was a correlation between the number of sanctions and the rise in food bank use she stated, and I quote, “food banks play an important role in local welfare provision.” Renfrewshire has the third highest use of food banks use and food bank use is going up and up. Food banks are not part of the welfare state, they are symbol that the welfare state is failing.

Now, the Government quite rightly pays for me through tax payers money to be able to live in London whilst I serve my constituents. My housing is subsidised by the tax payer. Now, the Chancellor in his budget said it is not fair that families earning over £40,000 in London should have their rents paid for by other working people. But it is OK so long as you’re an MP? In this budget the Chancellor also abolished any housing benefit for anyone below the age of 21. So we are now in the ridiculous situation whereby because I am an MP not only am I the youngest, but I am also the only 20-year-old in the whole of the UK that the Chancellor is prepared to help with housing. We now have one of the most uncaring, uncompromising and out of touch governments that the UK has seen since Thatcher.

It is here now that I must turn to those who I share a bench with. Now I have been in this chamber for ten weeks, and I have very deliberately stayed quiet and have listened intently to everything that has been said. I have heard multiple speeches from Labour benches standing to talk about the worrying rise of nationalism in Scotland, when in actual fact all these speeches have served to do is to demonstrate how deep the lack of understanding about Scotland is within the Labour party.

I like many SNP members come from a traditional socialist Labour family and I have never been quiet in my assertion that I feel that it is the Labour party that left me, not the other way about. The SNP did not triumph on a wave of nationalism; in fact nationalism has nothing to do with what’s happened in Scotland. We triumphed on a wave of hope, hope that there was something different, something better to the Thatcherite neo-liberal policies that are produced from this chamber. Hope that representatives genuinely could give a voice to those who don’t have one.

I don’t mention this in order to pour salt into wounds which I am sure are very open and very sore for many members on these benches, both politically and personally. Colleagues, possibly friends, have lost their seats. I mention it in order to hold a mirror to the face of a party that seems to have forgotten the very people they’re supposed to represent, the very things they’re supposed to fight for.

After hearing the Labour leader’s intentions to support the changes of tax credits that the Chancellor has put forward, I must make this plea to the words of one of your own and a personal hero of mine. Tony Benn once said that in politics there are weathercocks and sign posts. Weathercocks will spin in whatever direction the wind of public opinion may blow them, no matter what principle they may have to compromise. And then there are signposts, signposts which stand true, and tall, and principled. And they point in the direction and they say this is the way to a better society and it is my job to convince you why. Tony Benn was right when he said the only people worth remembering in politics were signposts.

Now, yes we will have political differences, yes in other parliaments we may be opposing parties, but within this chamber we are not. No matter how much I may wish it, the SNP is not the sole opposition to this Government, but nor is the Labour party. It is together with all the parties on these benches that we must form an opposition, and in order to be affective we must oppose not abstain. So I reach out a genuine hand of friendship which I can only hope will be taken. Let us come together, let us be that opposition, let us be that signpost of a better society. Ultimately people are needing a voice, people are needing help, let’s give them it.

Mhairi Black

WALK FOR WALLACE

10 Year Anniversary



A tribute to the events of August 2005 from the people who were there...

Walk for Wallace 2005

In August 2005 David R Ross walked 450 miles to mark the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's execution. David recreated that shameful journey, walking from Robroyston to London, between the 3rd and 22nd of August 2005. Although David was undertaking the walk to London alone, those invited to attend the service met outside Westminster Hall at noon on the 23rd, to walk the route that Wallace was dragged to his death. Several hundred people turned up and walked through the streets of London, culminating in speeches by the plaque at St Bartholomew's, where over a thousand people had gathered to listen. A private commemorative service was then held inside St. Bartholomew's at 3pm, following which the symbolic coffin representing the Spirit of Wallace, followed by a large crowd of well-wishers and patriots, was carried for over a mile to the London Welsh Centre, where a wake was held. Here's what David had to say...

THIS morning I will set off from Robroyston in Glasgow, where William Wallace was captured, on a 450 mile walk to London, the journey the great man was taken on to die. On August 22nd I'll arrive at Westminster Hall, where he was tried for treason. The next day, August 23rd, the 700th anniversary of Wallace's execution, I'll walk the six miles that he was dragged, tied to the tails of horses, through the streets to Smithfield. If people wish to join me for this historic section of Wallace's last hours, then they are more than welcome. The walk will end at the Church of St Bartholomew the Greater, the oldest church in London, with a private commemoration of Wallace. As Wallace was executed in front of this church, it is a fitting place. It may have taken Scotland 700 years to hold a funeral service for the man, but we can ensure that he knows he is not forgotten. This will be the mourning that Wallace never had.



I will walk the 450 miles alone and well-wishers are requested to respect the fact that this is my own personal tribute to Wallace, and not accompany me. It is a long, long road, and not one to be taken lightly. The walk is about me putting something back. Otherwise the day of his death would pass unmarked. I have trained long and brutally hard for this – it is 25 miles a day, like doing a marathon every day for three weeks. Happily, councils and towns along the route are planning civic receptions and commemorations of Wallace.

Wallace has always been there. For every single generation of Scots who crave some sort of autonomy. Wallace is seen as the father of our patriotism, and the man who died trying to hold off the incursions of an aggressive invader. Blind Harry, which told his story, was the biggest selling book after the Bible, and in the 1860s, when they laid the foundation stone for the Wallace Monument, an astonishing 90,000 people turned up to watch. Wallace reinvents himself. It was only a matter of time before cinema found him – in 1995 came Braveheart. I honestly believe in my heart of hearts that Braveheart influenced the Yes-Yes vote. And isn't it seriously amazing that on September 11th, 1297, Wallace fought the battle of Stirling Bridge, and 700 years later to the day, in 1997, the Yes-Yes vote took place?

I identify with Wallace because what goes on his heart is what goes on in my heart. People say to me: "Why are you doing this?" I'm doing it because I recognise Wallace for the patriot he was, and for the fact that when he died he was far from home and all alone. It's a way of saying, 700 years on that we haven't forgotten what you did for us.

David R Ross

WALK FOR WALLACE

William Ballantyne



My memories of when I joined patriots of Scotland to honour William Wallace in London, August 2005.

A day and night which will live with me always. I'd travelled down to deepest Englandshire on the Monday morning as my brother who lived in Essex at the time had kindly offered to 'put me up' for that week. On the day of the walk

for Wallace, I awoke with a feeling of excitement for the day (and night) ahead but also a sense of calm and serenity that I, Davy Ross all the other patriots of Scotland were about to make history by honouring the Great Man with a 'state funeral' after 700 years in the very city that had condemned and murdered him. It was time to do justice to Sir William.

My journey from Chadwell Heath into central London was 'interesting'. I drew some strange looks and comments from the English commuters on the train as I stood among them in full highland regalia complete with broadsword, targe, dirk and skean dhu. A sense of fear from the Englishman and smiles and coy glances from the lassies. Nothing like a big, hairy-arsed scot tae turn an English girls eye and heart aflutter. Crossing Westminster Bridge, I caught my first sight of the throngs of patriots already gathered for the mid day six mile march to Smithfield, retracing the route that Wallace was mercilessly dragged to his inevitable death at the hands of the executioner. The sheer scale of the marchers made me stop and take it all in. "Christ Almighty, Davy" I thought, "this is going to be bigger than even you had thought" So, with the sun on my back, I purposely strode forward to join my fellow patriots. I soon picked out the 'Big Warmer' among the crowd. At over six feet, he wasn't hard tae miss. A huge bear hug later and I was ready to do my duty tae Wallace. It was obvious that not everyone could get inside the Palace of Westminster for the commemoration on the very spot Wallace had stood at his sham of a trial in 1305 but nothing was going to make me miss this! As you enter the public entrance to this magnificent hall, there is a metal detector and armed police stationed all around. We were asked to place our weapons on the X-ray machine and step through the detector before collecting our weapons at the other side. I should mention that we were the first ordinary citizens allowed to carry weaponry inside the Houses of Parliament since the last half of the 17th century. Wallace would have loved this. I was right behind our convenor, Gary Stewart who try as he might, after placing his sword, dirk and skean dhu on the X-ray conveyor, was sending the metal detector into meltdown frenzy. The two armed coppers nearest the detector exchanged nervous glances and when Gary solved the problem by remembering he had his flintlock pistol tucked into his shirt, it caused one copper to exclaim to his colleague, 'Bloody Hell, they've got guns as well' The commemoration passed by in a blur and I came away humbled and proud that I had witnessed something very special.

The six mile march to Smithfield was unforgettable. All along the route, Londoners would ask what we were doing and when they were told we were honouring The Wallace, we were applauded on our way. The Met police were amazing that day too. Stopping traffic and making sure that we had right of way through the busy London streets although there's one cheeky London cabbie who won't forget crossing swords with the SOWW nor the shit running down his arse when he realised he'd pushed his luck a wee bit too far that day. Only the Met police saving him from getting his taxi cab turned on its roof by a few angry Scots. The adrenalin was pumping so hard by this time, I felt I could have walked a thousand routes to Smithfield and back for Wallace. I never felt so proud in my life as I looked back to see the procession stretch for what seemed forever as we wound our way to St Bartholomew's.

WALK FOR WALLACE

William Ballantyne

I was always aware though, that for every step I took in 2005, William Wallace was beaten, spat on, kicked and punched as he was dragged bound and powerless to his date with martyrdom. How he must have been in great pain and suffering. Was he afraid, so, so far from home and all alone? My heart literally bled for this man, this Scot who I have admired since I first heard his name and of his heroic deeds. This time, Scotland would honour him. This time he was not alone. Before the commemoration in St Bartholomew, Davy again made a speech that reiterated why we were all here. Clanadrumma made sure our hearts were suitably fired up and then over to the church to pay homage to our hero and greatest patriot. Speeches and tributes again passed in a blur and when I watch the 'Walk for Wallace' DVD, I still can't remember many things recorded on film. My own tribute that I placed in Wallace's coffin was just a simple leather pouch containing some soil from the Elderslie Wallace monument. Elderslie, the village of his birth and mine - From one Elderslie laddie to another for thanks in forging our nation and making that senile, maniac Longshanks realise that we weren't just going to roll over and play dead. Ronnie Browne of The Corries singing and playing 'Flower of Scotland' sent the shivers doon ma spine but when Ted Christopher sang 'I'm coming home' that was me beaten. I sat in that church with the tears running down my cheeks but with the heart of a lion. Woe betide any English nobleman who dared cross my path, I thought. But of course, there's never one around when you need them. And I had bigger fish tae fry. Another phenomenal march with pall bearers shouldering the Wallace coffin tall and proud through rush hour traffic entailed and I wondered what the London populace thought as this glorious sight passed them by? And again the Met police were magnificent.

The Welsh centre - fitting really, as the Wallace's hailed from Wales. At this point my memories become hazy and confused as like all guid Scots, I raised and drank more than one or three fine malts to the honour and memory of the finest Scot who ever lived. Again the DVD is my friend. I had a great time among my own. Met auld friends, made new yins. Bear hugged the big warmer. Danced like their was no tomorrow and generally behaved... All in all, a rare night.

As I left in the wee sma hours to find my way back to Essex, the big warmer (suitably pished on the cooking whisky) asked me where I was going? "Staying with my brother in Essex Davy!" "Nae luck William, keep yer dirk handy and if ye need a haun, gies a shout" he says, with a smile as wide as the Thames itself. It was that kind o' night, I thought as I stepped out into the cool London air wondering how the hell I was going tae get back to Essex at half one on a bloody Wednesday morning! Thanks for the memories Davy. I was never more honoured to accept your invite to join you in making Scottish history.

Miss ya.

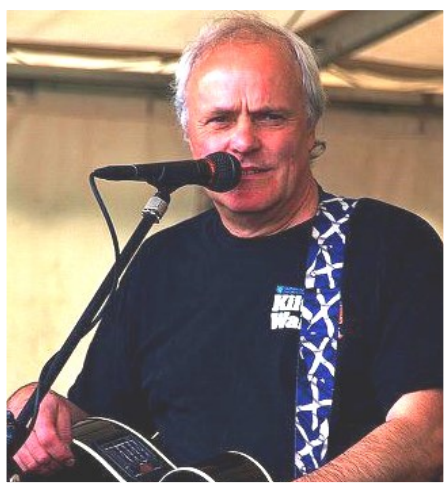
William

Speakers at the service for Wallace at St Bartholomew's church, from L - R, Reverend Alan Sorenson, Dr Fiona Watson, Former First Minister Alex Salmond and David R Ross.



WALK FOR WALLACE

Ted Christopher



Spring 2004, I was sitting at home sharing a whisky with Davie Ross. When I say "sharing", I was on Glenfiddich, Davie was sticking to his favourite Glencheapo cooking whisky. I listened as he told me all his plans for 2005 and The Walk for Wallace. He then announced he needed a song for the occasion and I was going to write it.

My immediate thoughts were, this, to all intents and purposes, is going to be Wallace's funeral service and I was being asked to sing at it. As a patriotic Scot I cannot imagine a greater honour. But! Singing is one thing, writing a song which would do the occasion justice was just hugely daunting.

I said that I didn't know if I was up to the task. His reply was typical of the way Davie motivated people "If I didn't know you were the man for the job I wouldn't have put you in this position."

Sometimes writing songs takes weeks and a lot of brain power. For this one I just let my heart take over and it was literally written in 20 minutes. I'm pretty critical of songs I write but unusually I played it through and thought "this is good, this'll do fine." The initial self confidence faded a bit as I recorded the first rough version for Davie to hear. Doubts crept in as I feared he might not like it. I don't usually do "nervous" but was very apprehensive as I let him hear it.

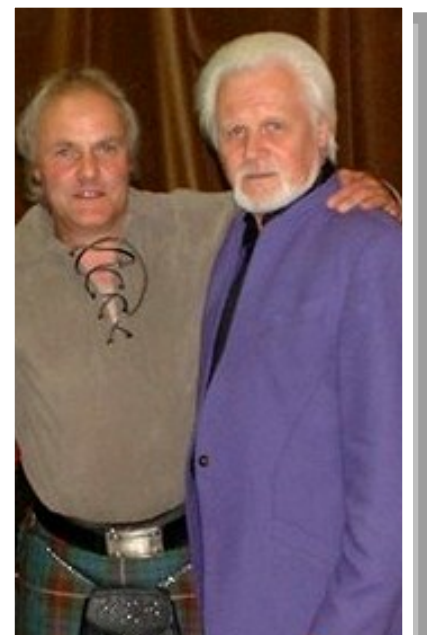
He cried. I cried. We hugged. We didn't need words.

Singing it in St. Barts was one of the proudest moments of my life. As we sat in the church waiting for the service to start, I think every person there had tears in their eyes. I turned to Ronnie Browne who was going to be singing "Flower of Scotland" and said I just hope I can get through this without breaking down. We agreed that I'd greet when Ronnie was singing and he'd greet when I was. It worked - just!

It's still a strange feeling to sing to a packed hall that sings along with every word and think that I wrote it. It's always emotional as each time it reminds me of dear friends who shared that dream but haven't lived long enough to see it come true. With all my heart I believe in a sovereign Scotland. I can agree with all who say this is not for us but for our children. It certainly will be. For me though, it is also for every single patriot who has gone before carrying that belief to their graves.

For Scotland, St. Andrew and freedom!

Ted Christopher



WALK FOR WALLACE

I'm Coming Home © Ted Christopher 2004

*I did not close my eyes for the last time under Caledonia's skies
With my good friends gathered all around me to say their last goodbyes.
But I will not be forgotten- in the heart of every Scot I still live on
Now it's time to fly the saltire high my spirit's coming home*

*I'm coming home – back where I belong
I'm coming home – my spirit's coming home*

*They tore apart my body so I could not rise on judgement day
But what they did not realise is now I'll never go away
And I'm coming back to the land I love and the people I hold dear
To Scotland, St. Andrew and freedom*

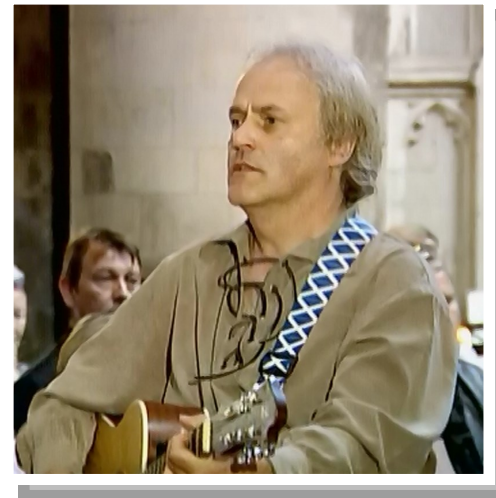
*I'm coming home – back where I belong
I'm coming home – my spirit's coming home*

*I'm returning after all this time to Caledonian skies
To the country we died for so our nation would survive
Once again to stand beside the people I hold dear
For Scotland, St Andrew and freedom*

Ted at the start of Davie's walk at Robroyston, Glasgow



Singing 'I'm coming Home' in St Bartholomew's, London



Written and performed by Ted Christopher at the service for Wallace in Aug 2005



ALEX SALMOND: Those of us who attended and contributed to the service at St Bartholomew's at Smithfield in London experienced an occasion as memorable as a state funeral and as moving as a personal testament.



DR FIONA WATSON: I found it very moving to view Wallace's terrible death from the streets through which he passed rather than from what others wrote about it.



RONNIE BROWNE: It was a very emotional experience and most certainly brought our country's history starkly to mind.



REV ALAN SORENSEN: I simply cannot believe that it's been 10 years, and I'm glad that the event still resonates with so many.



GARY STEWART: I can't really put into words the emotions of the day; it was just a pleasure to honour William Wallace and to give him the funeral service he never had.

WALK FOR WALLACE

DVD and Book

For Freedom by David R Ross

On 3 August 1305, Wallace was captured at Robroyston near Glasgow, and taken to London where he was hung, drawn and quartered at Smithfield on 23 August. Seven hundred years later to the day, David R Ross, Convenor of the Society of William Wallace, walked these 450 miles in 19 days in memory of Scotland's martyred hero, culminating in a long overdue 'funeral' service in the church of St Bartholomew and an extraordinary commemorative march through London. 'For Freedom' is both a celebration of and testimony to the fact that the spirit of Wallace is still very much alive in Scotland, a legacy which inspires and instils pride in Scots even today.

Wallace - 700 Year Anniversary

This DVD is a tribute to William Wallace on the 700th anniversary of his death. We follow David Ross, convenor of the Society of William Wallace as he walks in the footsteps of Wallace along the same lonely path to London City, where Scotland's hero was hung, drawn and quartered to the amusement of a mass English crowd. With interviews with David Ross throughout and coverage of the walk from his starting point in Robroyston to the service at St Bartholomew's and featuring music from Ronnie Browne, Albannach and Ted Christopher. This 90 minute DVD perfectly captures the atmosphere of the day and is a must for Wallace fans.

The Walk for Wallace DVD and book 'For Freedom', are both available now from our online shop - www.proudclothing.co.uk

for only £10.00 each.

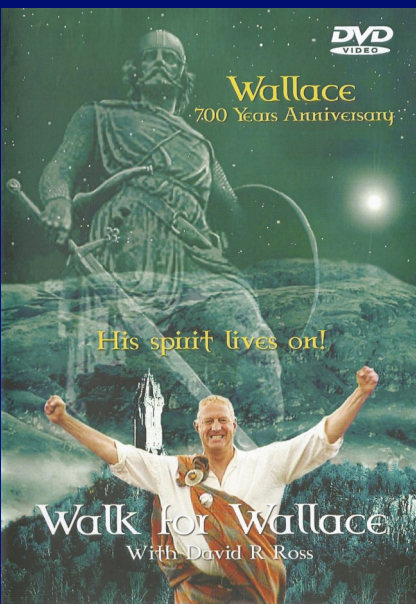
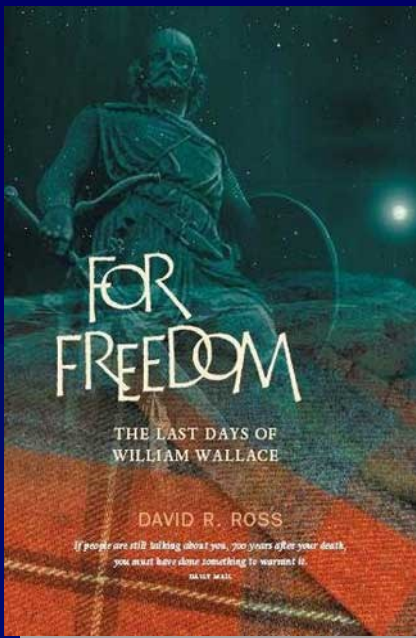
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SOCIETY SHOP

GET IN TOUCH

It's your magazine!

We aim to make each quarterly edition of your Pro-Libertate magazine as interesting and informative as possible. We're pretty new to this though so we would appreciate feedback and input from our members - it's your magazine after all. If you have any suggestions for articles or, even better, would like to write a piece for the magazine, please get in touch as we are always interested to hear how other people became aware of William Wallace and what he means to them. You can send your articles/photos/mentions to secretary@soww.scot and we'll do our best to include as many of them as possible in future editions.





Trim Castle - 1st Aug



The Society were invited to attend Braveheart 20 – the 20 year anniversary of the blockbuster feature film that brought the name William Wallace to a worldwide audience. The aim of the day was to raise funds and awareness for the Sean Lawlor trust that help cash-strapped artists in need of medical care – physical and emotional (Sean Lawlor played Malcolm Wallace in Braveheart). Our role was to give those attending an opportunity to find out more about the true story of William Wallace and Andrew de Moray and how they could become involved in preserving the name and legacy of Wallace today.

We had an enjoyable crossing by ferry from Troon to Larne with our cars packed full with all our Wallace gear including 2 broadswords, 1 flintlock pistol, 1 war hammer, 2 targes, several dirks and the Wallace sword. When asked by security if we had any dangerous weapons on board we smiled sweetly and tried to look as innocent as possible! We arrived a bit the worse for wear just after midnight, not really knowing what to expect but we were not disappointed as our accommodation at the Boyne View B&B was outstanding and we received a very warm welcome from owner Anthony Hoey. After a magnificent full Irish breakfast next morning we made our way to Trim Castle to meet our host Eric Lawlor and begin our preparations for the day in glorious sunshine.

This was the Society tent's maiden voyage but we managed to get set up without too much difficulty and with all the merchandise, Wallace info leaflets, weapons display, flags, banners and Saltire, it really looked the part. The Young Lions had their own stall with a Wallace crossword puzzle, word search, colouring in sheets and badges. As the crowds started to arrive we all got busy, talking about the true story of Wallace, giving demonstrations on how the weapons were used and all the time promoting the Society and the Young Lions. The Wallace Sword was a huge draw with children and adults alike and I'm pleased to say there was a real buzz



Trim Castle



Abbey & Daryl at the SOWW stall



Young Lions table



Gary's radio interview



*Stars of Braveheart (L-R)
Peter Hanley, David O'Hara, James
Robinson and Mhairi Calvey*



Lone Piper leads the march



SOWW banner



The Happy Couple

around the SOWW tent with so many people keen to find out more about William Wallace and The Society.

There was live music throughout the day with many local bands playing, one of which gave us a rendition of 'Flower of Scotland' which I thought was a nice touch. Our membership secretary Stuart Duncan was asked to do an interview with a local Irish radio station but he politely declined and pointed them in my direction. Not really my thing, but I could hardly refuse as it was a great opportunity to promote William Wallace and the SOWW. Much to my relief, it went very well and the interviewer seemed happy with it.

Next it was our turn to meet some of the stars of the film - David O'Hara (Stephen), Mhairi Calvey (young Murrin), James Robinson (young Wallace) and Peter Hanley (Edward II) who were very friendly and down to earth and happy to chat with fans and sign autographs. Mhairi who played young Murrin in Braveheart remembered a photo I had taken with her at the Walk for Wallace in 2005 and asked to have an up to date photo taken with me. You couldn't make it up, a stunning young actress asking me, the skinny one, for a photo!

The main parade was a march through Trim town to the castle and was led by a lone piper and retired soldiers from the local regiment. We were very honoured to take part and fly the SOWW banners. When we arrived back at Trim castle we presented the regiment with a gift of a Saltire which they then had raised and flown from the top of the battlements – a wonderful gesture which was greatly appreciated by all at SOWW. On the march, Cha Halliday gave us the quote of the weekend – "I never thought one day I'd be marching in Ireland during marching season".

At the end of the march Mayor Noel French was waiting for us with some of the cast of Braveheart to raise another Saltire on the flagpole just outside the local police station. All the laughter and noise during the photo session attracted the notice of the local Garda who came out to investigate but we needn't have worried as they only wanted to get their pictures taken with us! We were then asked to join a wedding party who wished to get a few photos with us. We duly obliged but what came next was hilarious. I took my dirk out while posing with the bride and groom and the wife took the dirk and put it to her newly wedded husband's neck, saying "this is how the marriage is going to be". Poor guy!

Saltire flying from Trim Castle



FEATURE ARTICLE

Braveheart 20

The Archers pay SOWW a visit



We met some great people on the day - Pat the painter, the fabulous Vikings, Dermot the poet, the Irish dancers, the lovely girls who sat in their box all day drinking wine, the archers and all the wonderful people of Trim who went out of their way to make us welcome and honour William Wallace and Scotland.

After a quick bite to eat, we started to pack up and noticed a huge Saltire that filled the sky – one of the best I've ever seen. If we needed confirmation that Davie and Duncan were proud of us that day, this was it and was the perfect end to a day that had been full of Saltires!

We cleared the field just in time to get to our seats for the start of the film and the surprise of the night. Mel Gibson had recorded a message to introduce the film and gave a special mention to the SOWW, thanking us for attending! Chuffed to bits! Lost count of the number of times I have watched this film, but to watch it outside sitting beside the cast of the film, in front of the castle it was filmed at while it was flying the Saltire, can't really put it in to words. Greeting at the end of the film but that's normal for me and we then headed for the after film party with Eric and the cast. You won't believe this but we only had 4 drinks and then went home as we were all knackered. It had been a long day and lots of hard work, but a very enjoyable day filled with laughter.

We were up bright and early next morning to take our leave of our lovely hosts at the Boyne View, Tony and Deirdre and say our goodbyes to Ireland. What a weekend! To everyone in Trim, thank you for making our stay so memorable and especially to Eric for taking such good care of us. It was a privilege and a pleasure to be part of Braveheart 20!

To the dream team, Cha Halliday, Stuart Duncan, George Kempik, Daryl Matthews, Lesley Matthews and Abbey Stewart thank you so much for all

your hard work and your comradeship. It was great spending the weekend with you all and I just wish we could do it all again. If I'm honest I'm still buzzing!

Yours for Scotland

Gary Stewart

Convenor

Saltire overhead - the perfect end to a perfect day



The fabulous Vikings



More fabulous Vikings



The wine drinkers



The Irish Dancers



The SOWW tent

FEATURE ARTICLE

Bishop Robert Wishart

After the English occupation of Scotland under Edward I, Bishop Robert Wishart joined the patriotic party in 1297 and became one of the leading statesmen on the side of William Wallace and Robert Bruce in the war of independence.



Bishop and Guardian

Robert Wishart belongs to the Wisharts -or Wisehearts- of Pittarrow, Angus, a family of Norman-French origin. He was either the cousin or nephew of William Wishart, Bishop of St. Andrews, and a former Chancellor of Scotland. Wishart's first recorded office in the church was as archdeacon of St. Andrews. He was appointed Bishop of Glasgow in 1273, a post he was to hold for 44 years. As well as a churchman he became a prominent political figure during the reign of Alexander III, although in the years immediately preceding Alexander's death, Robert was said to have been less involved in public affairs, instead devoting a great deal of his time and energy to completing improvements to Glasgow Cathedral. After the death of Alexander on 19th March 1286, Wishart was one of a panel of six Guardians appointed to take charge of national affairs for the infant Margaret Maid of Norway, the other five being Alexander Comyn of Buchanan, Duncan of Fife, William Fraser of St Andrews, John Comyn of Badenoch and James Stewart. He and his fellow Guardians signed the Treaty of Birgham, which envisaged the future marriage of Margaret to Prince Edward, the eldest son of Edward I, King of England, with the condition that Scotland was to remain "separate and divided from England according to its rightful boundaries, free in itself and without subjection."

The early death of the Maid in 1290 left no generally recognised heir to the throne of Scotland. With the country threatening to descend into a dynastic war between the supporters of Robert Bruce, 5th Lord of Annandale, the grandfather of the future king, and John Balliol, Wishart was closely involved in all of the diplomatic negotiations with King Edward and invited to adjudicate between the rival claimants. On 10th May 1291 Wishart was in Norham when Edward insisted the Guardians accept him as their feudal overlord. Unintimidated by Longshanks or the sight of his army, Wishart stepped forward and proclaimed that "the Kingdom of Scotland is not held in tribute or homage to anyone save God alone" and telling him that his actions against a leaderless people did him no credit. Despite Wishart's protestations, Edward simply sidestepped these objections and with no means of settling the question by any internal process, he was duly accepted as Overlord by Guardians and Claimants alike.

In the great feudal court held at Berwick-upon-Tweed, Bruce and Balliol were allowed to appoint forty auditors each, with Wishart taking his place in the Bruce camp. Despite his disappointment in Bruce the elder not securing the throne, as a prominent churchman, he remained at the forefront of public affairs during the reign of King John, and when war broke out between Edward I and Philip IV of France in June 1294, the Scottish leaders decided to take the opportunity to defy Edward. In July 1295, Wishart became one of the Council of Twelve, elected by a Parliament at Stirling to manage the nation's affairs, and to fight for its independence. In response to Edward's demands that the Scots should fight for him in France, Wishart was amongst those who ratified the Franco-Scottish alliance (the Auld Alliance) on 23 February 1296. Following defeat at the hands of Edward at the Battle of Dunbar, Wishart was compelled to swear fealty to Edward and renounce any alliances made with the king of France, but by the summer of 1297 Wishart had joined the patriotic party and was one of the first to join William Wallace when he raised the standard of independence.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Bishop Robert Wishart

Bishop Wishart and William Wallace

Almost from the outset, and in spite of his solemn oath to Edward, Wishart was involved in the struggle against the English occupation of Scotland. He and others, formed an important clerical foundation for the struggles of William Wallace and Robert Bruce. He was a patriot, but in two distinct senses of that term. The Scottish church had long guarded its own independent traditions, resisting all attempts to subordinate it to the archdiocese of York, and insisting that no intermediary come between it and Rome. All attempts at dilution were resisted, causing Pope Nicholas IV to censure the clergy in 1289 for objecting to the promotion of foreigners to ecclesiastical office in Scotland. Now Edward's conquest brought with it the prospect once again of submission to York or Canterbury and the appointment of English clergy to vacant Scottish benefices. The hostile Lanercost Chronicle (written in England) says of Wishart and those like him;

'In like manner, as we know, that it is truly written, that evil priests are the cause of the people's ruin, so the ruin of the realm of Scotland had its source within the bosom of her church; because, whereas those who ought to have led them (the Scots) misled them, they became a snare and stumbling block of iniquity to them and brought them all to ruin. For with one consent both those who discharged the office of prelate and those who were preachers, corrupted the ears and minds of the nobles, and commons, by advice and exhortation, both publicly and secretly, stirring them to enmity against the king and nation who had so effectually delivered them; declaring falsely that it was more justifiable to attack them than the Saracen'. - Lanercost Chronicle

Wishart was named amongst several others as the leaders of a rising against the crown in Ayrshire 'in defence of the liberties of middling folk under threat from Edward I.'

'Hardly had a period of six months passed since the Scots had bound themselves by the above-mentioned solemn oath of fidelity and subjection to the king of the English, when the reviving malice of that perfidious race excited their minds to fresh sedition. For the bishop of the church in Glasgow, whose personal name was Robert Wishart, ever foremost in treason, conspired with the Steward of the realm, named James, for a new piece of insolence, yea, for a new chapter of ruin. Not daring openly to break their pledged faith to the king, they caused a certain bloody man, William Wallace, who had formerly been a chief of brigands in Scotland, to revolt against the king and assemble the people in his support.' - Lanercost Chronicle

Wishart's first rising came to an end in July 1297 when he along with Robert the Bruce and other nobles surrendered to the English at Irvine. For this desertion Wallace accused Wishart of treachery and burned down Wishart's house and carried off his horses, arms and furniture during the Battle of the Belle o' the Brae. Wishart was in prison when Wallace won at Stirling Brig and was held captive for the next three years. On 27th June 1299, Pope Boniface VIII wrote to Edward complaining of his (Edward's) harsh treatment of Wishart and urging his release. Wishart was released and swore his fealty to Edward anew, only to immediately break it, re-joining Wallace with an armed force. Edward himself wrote to Pope Boniface, requesting Wishart's removal from the see of Glasgow. Boniface would not consent to this, but he wrote to Wishart demanding that he desist in his opposition to Edward, and denouncing him as ***'the prime mover and instigator of all the tumult and dissension which has risen between his dearest son in Christ, Edward, King of England, and the Scots.'*** (High praise indeed!) Wishart was amongst those in the patriotic party who surrendered in February 1304 and he was required to exile himself south ***'on account of the great evils he has caused.'*** In March 1305 he appeared in parliament in London but was allowed to return to Scotland in May. On 3rd Aug 1305, William was betrayed and captured by Sir John Menteith at Robroyston, only a stones throw from Glasgow cathedral, but it is unclear where Wishart was at the time.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Bishop Robert Wishart

Bishop Wishart and Robert the Bruce

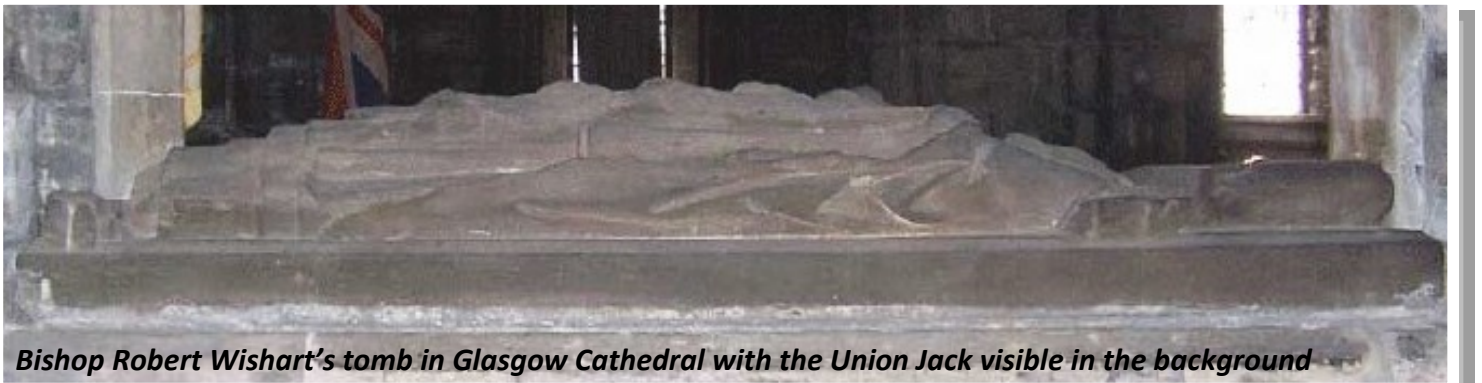
On 10 February 1306 Robert Bruce and a small party of supporters murdered John Comyn, a leading rival, in the Church of the Greyfriars in Dumfries. It was an act of political rebellion: perhaps even more serious, it was an act of supreme sacrilege. He now faced the future as an outlaw and an excommunicate, an enemy of the state and the church. It was to be many years before the Pope was prepared to forgive him; but the support of Wishart and the other Scottish bishops was of inestimable importance at this moment of crisis. Bruce went to Glasgow, where he met Wishart, in whose diocese the murder had been committed. Rather than excommunicate Bruce, as church law demanded, Wishart immediately absolved him and urged his flock to rise in his support. He then accompanied Bruce to Scone, the site of Scottish coronations of ages past, and there met his brother bishops of St. Andrews and Moray, as well as other prominent churchmen, in what gives the appearance of a well arranged plan. Along with a number of prominent lay figures they all witnessed the coronation of King Robert I on 25 March (Bishop Wishart is said to have supplied the robes from his own wardrobe in which King Robert was crowned). The country was now put on a war footing, with Wishart himself, despite his advancing years, in the forefront of the preparations. The timber the English had given him to repair the bell tower of Glasgow Cathedral was used for making siege engines, and he took charge of the assault on Cupar Castle in Fife, 'like a man of war', as the enemy later complained.

All these hopes and efforts were soon frustrated by the advance of an English army under Aymer de Valence in the summer of 1306: Bruce was defeated at the Battle of Methven, soon to be forced into hiding, and Wishart was captured at Cupar. He was taken south in chains, and incarcerated in an English dungeon, saved only from execution by his clerical orders. Edward was delighted with the capture of this 'traitor and rebel', and wrote to the Pope in September telling him that Wishart, along with Lamberton, was being held in close confinement, and that custody of the see of Glasgow had been entrusted to Geoffery de Mowbray.

Wishart was to remain in prison for the next eight years, going blind in the course of his captivity. It was not until after King Robert's triumph at the Battle of Bannockburn that he was released as part of a prisoner exchange. He returned to Scotland to live out his life in relative peace, finally dying in Glasgow in November 1316. His tomb, which is unlabelled and defaced, is in Glasgow Cathedral. A Union Jack stands over the tomb.

The Scottish historian Robert Barrow sums up Robert Wishart as:

"indisputably one of the great figures in the struggle for Scottish independence, the statesman of the period 1286-1291, the patron and friend of Wallace and Bruce, the persistent opponent of Plantagenet pretensions, an unheroic hero of the long war".



Bishop Robert Wishart's tomb in Glasgow Cathedral with the Union Jack visible in the background

MEET Stephanie Reilly



Stephanie receiving a gift of Society Tartan from Duncan Fenton and Gary Stewart, Wallace Day 2013.

Society member and former award winner, Stephanie Reilly, shares with us her love of Scotland and how she became involved with the Society of William Wallace...

Although I didn't properly join the Society of William Wallace until 2013, I have had a major interest in Wallace and the history of Scotland from a very young age. My family, my Grandad and Aunty Alison especially have been involved with the SOWW for many years, which helped to spark my interest along with my love for Scottish Folk Music. Throughout my life I have always been keen to learn about Wallace and the history of my homeland. Unlike the average young girl, my music taste was like no other. I would much rather sing my heart out to the likes of Gaberlunzie, Alistair McDonald and Bob Findlay instead of anything that was in the charts at the time. Nearing the time of annual events, my Dad would often tell me stories from when he and my Aunty were kids and my Grandad would take them to the annual commemorations and at the same time he would tell me the history about the commemorations. My earliest memory relating to the Wallace is from the age of 5. The day entailed visiting the field of Bannockburn and the National Trust building with my Dad where I was given a metal helmet (that was extremely heavy!) similar to the one worn by King Robert the Bruce so that I could have my picture taken. From there we stopped off at Stirling Brig before continuing up to the Wallace Monument. However the main thing that sticks in my mind from the entire day is sitting in the back seat of the car as we drove away looking back at the monument with tears in my eyes because I didn't want to leave.

I returned back to Scotland (having spent 8 years in England) in 2010 just in time for the annual commemoration for the Battle of Bannockburn. Upon arriving at the field I was amazed to see that so many people like me were

MEET Stephanie Reilly

interested and cared about our heritage. After the commemoration we headed to the Tartan Arms as Gaberlunzie began their set. I had a quick flashback to the last time I had seen them live – and to this day, the only thing I remember about that night is standing on the table with my Dad on my left and my Aunty Alison on my right, all with our hand on our heart, beltin out ‘Scots Wha Hae’.

Since then I have had the pleasure of attending many commemorations with the SOWW, one of which includes the Loudonhill commemoration which was brand new to me as I hadn’t previously known about the events that had taken place there. It was a very memorable day as my Dad, Kes Irving and I accidentally took a slight detour to the top of the hill! As well as this, I also had the chance to honour the Men of Bute with the SOWW which was also a learning experience for me and a great day out with some laughs along the way! Together with the annual commemorations and the people who are involved with and follow SOWW, I have personally been given a very warm welcome into SOWW. Over the past 5 years I have met some amazing friends all of which I will always hold dear to my heart. I have seen so many beautiful places that I probably wouldn’t have if it hadn’t been for the annual commemorations, but mainly I have learned so much about my homeland and each year I learn more and more.

...as part of the SOWW we have laughed, remembered, cried and cheered as one big family and if I’m honest that’s what SOWW is to me, an extended family...

Although I have other commitments such as university, I always somehow find myself on the subject of William Wallace and/or the SOWW. One thing I love is being able to pass on my knowledge to someone else who is keen to learn as so many people in my life have done with me. Over recent years as part of the SOWW we have laughed, remembered, cried and cheered as one big family and if I’m honest that’s what SOWW is to me, an extended family! I’d just like to finish up by remembering some great men who one by one have influenced my life in one way or another:

Grandad Tam Reilly, Sir Andrew de Moray, Sir William Wallace, King Robert the Bruce, Lachlan McCann, Duncan Fenton and Norrie Paterson.

I think of you all now as I do every day. May you all rest in peace.

Alba Gu Brath

Stephanie Reilly



Stephanie aged 5 on her first visit to the Wallace Monument. Cutie pie.



Giving her maiden speech for the SOWW at Robroyston, 2014



With Dad Tam, accepting an award for outstanding contribution, Wallace Day 2014



MERCHANDISE

Ziggy Wilson - Merchandise Officer

PROUD CLOTHING



SOWW 'Get Ready to Roar' T-Shirt

Our new 'Get Ready To Roar' t-shirt is now available in sizes Small to XX Large for £15 with free delivery in Scotland & rUK . Incorporating the Lion Rampant and SOWW name as well as the legend 'Freedom Fighter'. Who's with us?

The next two coins in our collection, the Jacobite Coins, will be available soon. Watch this space!

NEW GET READY TO ROAR T-SHIRT

The Fight for Freedom continues!

Rooooaarr!!

£15



To get yourself one of these, just press the Shop Button

SOCIETY SHOP



GUEST Kathleen O'Neill

The Guardians of Scotland Trust

The Guardians of Scotland Trust was granted charitable status in 2012 to advance the education of the public by promoting the roles of William Wallace and his lesser celebrated counterpart Andrew de Moray in the Scottish Wars of Independence; to create a public art work with educational/community opportunities attached, in their honour, and to raise awareness of the place the De Moray family had in the Scottish Wars of Independence working closely with Wallace

Dear Readers

Brilliant to read founder member George Boyle's points on the difference between the film Braveheart and the reality, in the summer edition. The William Wallace **AND** Andrew de Moray part, especially! This is precisely why the Guardians of Scotland Trust exists.

Since 2012 the Trust has been working with all sorts of key official partners and the public to plan and find funding for a monumental sculpture in their honour – and set the record straight, right beside the location of Stirling Bridge, where indeed both men are believed to have once stood, facing the Castle and the English Army.

Having positioned the Saltire in May on site (great to see so many SOWW folks there!) and put in place some solid new reference, for the first time to both men and the battle on the north bank of the River Forth, the project is once again picking up pace with lots of fundraising going on. Thanks continue for the outstanding kindness of so many individuals sending donations to the Trust and this month very special thanks go to the Rampant Lions Tartan Army (Dundee) for their generous donation of £300.

We have some time to wait but are in good contact with major funding bodies and will hear about our applications before the end of the year. As many of you will already know, the project is not only about the sculpture but the idea of 'memorial' in a bigger sense – like Braveheart (and George Boyle) indicate, the Trust needs to educate some people ... So our work includes involving people in an archaeological dig and finding out more about the history of the site and we hope that communities, visitors and school groups will be further educated about these **two** Guardians of Scotland. This we believe, will not just teach people about the history of

Patron

The Earl of Moray

Trustees

Dr Elspeth King

*Curator of the Smith Museum and
Art Gallery, Stirling.*

Hazel Barton

The Cowane Trust

Councillor Fergus Wood

*Local businessman and former
Provost.*

Provost Mike Robbins

Provost of Stirling Council

Robin Iffla

Dean of Guildry

John Robertson

Andrew de Moray Project

Paraig McNeil

*Writer and professional tradition
bearer*

Ted Christopher

Musician and Stirling businessman

George Boyle

Society of William Wallace

GUEST Kathleen O'Neill

the site and the battle but also bring a few smiles and possibly surprises too.

The whole project, for every single first class treatment that it deserves, including all education and public engagement parts will cost about £250,000 is our guess in current monetary terms – no doubt at all that Wallace AND De Moray would have something to say about this compared to costs in their times! By the end of the year we might just reach this funding goal. We hope, with growing support, we will .

And we are always pleased to hear from new supporters.

Local Stirlingshire businesses are also becoming involved in funding this project which is great. In fact any business in Scotland wanting to be associated with this project is good news because to help market that businesses name, the Guardians Trust can apply for match funding from Arts and Business Scotland – it's a win, win. If you have a business or know of one which might want to get its name and product known as part of this project, by all the publicity it will bring, get in touch.

There's a lot to gain by being involved with the Guardians of Scotland Trust – the legacy will be there for years to come. AND finally, in dedication to Wallace **AND** De Moray

These things take time. Don't we all know it. It will be worth the wait – that's the Trust's promise. Meantime, we will keep you posted in this mag of all developments and to find out more stay in touch with the Guardians Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GuardiansScotland>

With thanks for your continued support

All the best,

Kathleen O'Neill

Project manager

A reminder of what George had to say ...

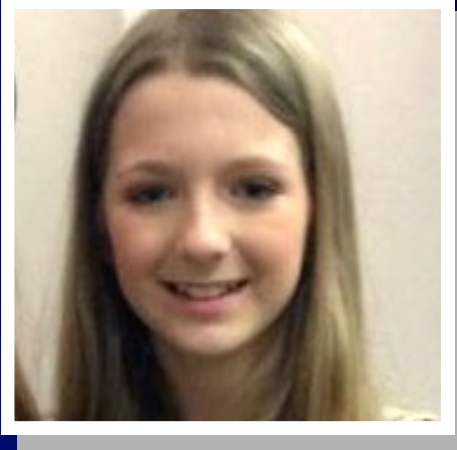
BRAVEHEART: *After the Battle of Stirling Bridge the Scottish Nobility name Wallace as Guardian of Scotland and grant him knighthood after which Wallace proceeds to invade Northern England.*

HISTORY: *After the battle of Stirling Bridge, the Scottish Nobility named Wallace **and** Andrew de Moray Joint Guardians of Scotland. Andrew de Moray is not even mentioned in the film. He led the rising in the north of Scotland in the summer of 1297, successfully regaining control of the area for King John Balliol. He then merged his forces with those of Wallace and jointly led the combined army to victory. The battle of Stirling Bridge without De Moray is as ludicrous as the battle of Stirling Bridge without a bridge! Wallace was not given knight-hood until after his invasion of Northern England. During Wallace's invasion, Andrew de Moray died from wounds sustained at Stirling. When Wallace returned he was made sole Guardian of Scotland.*



YOUNG LIONS

Abbey Stewart - Young Lions Convenor



You can print off full size pages at the back of the magazine

Dear Young Lions

This season has been an adventure and the young lions have progressed a lot! The Young Lions were asked to speak at the Bannockburn, Robroyston and Wallace Day Commemorations. I spoke at Bannockburn and Wallace Day and Charli Stewart spoke at Robroyston which was great.

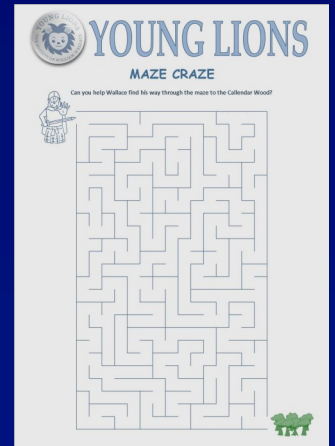
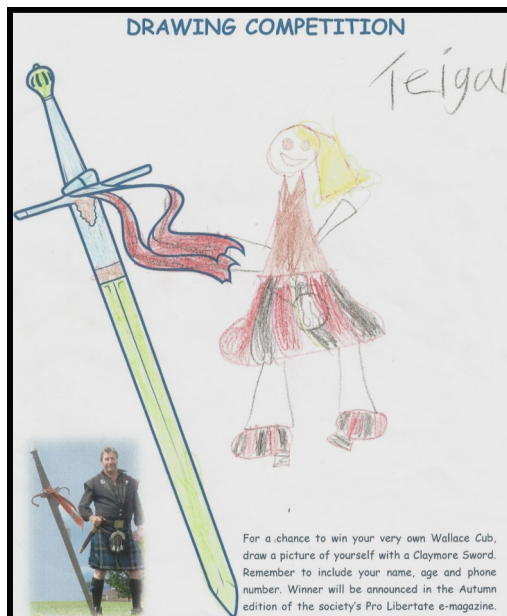
In August, the Young Lions took a trip to Trim in Ireland with the Society of William Wallace and it was amazing! Tons of children got involved with our activities - we had a crossword puzzle, colouring competition, word search and maze as well as lots of information on William Wallace and at the end of the day we had none left! The Society had a weapons display and children were able to hold a replica of Wallace's sword and get their picture taken, which they loved. I got a couple of new members out of it too!!! It was amazing.

On the 22nd of August we had Wallace day and that was great too and Charli and Rachel ran the young lions stall with lots of competitions to win prizes. The winner of the 'guess the lions birthday' was Erin and she won one of our adorable lion cubs. At the award ceremony I was awarded 'Young Lion of the Year', so thanks to everyone that voted. If you would like to join then send me a wee email xxx

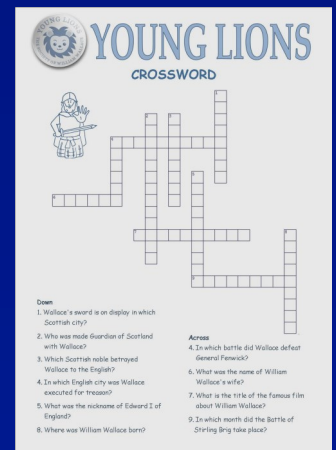
younglions@soww.scot

Abbey

The winner of our drawing competition was Teigan, who drew this fabulous picture. We love the tartan shoes and all the lovely bright colours she's used. Well done Teigan! Please email us your address and we'll send out your prize.



MAZE CRAZE



CROSSWORD



YOUNG LIONS



Charli Stewart aged 11, gave her first speech which she had written herself, at Robroyston this year in front of a large crowd of people. That takes a lot of courage, and everyone at SOWW is extremely proud of her. We were all so impressed with Charli's speech that we've included it here to share with all our members.

Very well done Charli. Great job!



Charli Stewart, Robroyston 18th July

On the 3rd Aug 1305, 710 years ago, Wallace was captured and betrayed by his friend Sir John Menteith for money. I wonder what he felt inside as the English army came upon him. The feeling of confusion on how he had been caught must have been overwhelming but must have been worse knowing that it was someone he knew had betrayed him.

It's weird to think that one of our hero's was being used and captured at this spot. It's horrible to think that Wallace was being tortured when all he was doing was fighting for his country's freedom. Also Wallace was not just thinking of himself but of his country, while Mentieth just thought about himself and the money. I don't understand some people sometimes. The thought of Wallace getting tortured makes me think how many sick people are in the world and how they wanted to kill a person just because he wanted Scottish freedom.

The good thing is we don't remember them but we do remember Wallace.

Alba gu Brath

Charli Stewart



Meeting Dates

- Tues 15th Sep
- Tues 20th Oct
- Tues 17th Nov
- Elderslie Village Hall
- Stoddart Square, Elderslie, PA5 9AS

MEMBER'S PAGE

DON'T FORGET
STIRLING BRIG
11th SEP

Dear Gary,
It was a pleasure to meet you too. Thank you for inviting me and for your kind words. They are greatly appreciated as is all the work you and the society do.
Kind regards
Mhairi Black MP

Hi Stuart

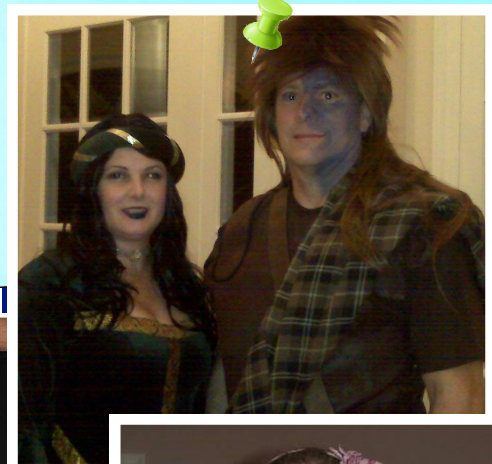
It fills me with pride to be part of this important society. Unfortunately, I'm living close to Munich/Germany; too far away for visiting the events physically. But with my thoughts, I will be there, because for me, Sir William is one of the greatest heros.

Yours aye,
Gunnar

Greetings Stuart

First of all, I am honored to support the legacy of William Wallace and I am proud to be a member of your organization. The values William Wallace stood for and fought for are timeless and universal and are worthy of our honoring and remembering him. Our small group of William Wallace supporters located here in New Orleans, Louisiana have been invited to march in the annual St Patrick's day parade held here in New Orleans on Saturday, March 12, 2016. We are excited and looking forward to the parade march and for the opportunity to remind the public of William Wallace's legacy and memory.

I would like to invite you and the members of your organization to march along with us in the parade, should you want and are able to make a trip to New Orleans next March to join us? We welcome you and any members of your fine organization who may wish to join us. It will certainly be a fun day for all.
Best Regards,
Mike Teachworth



AND THE WINNER IS...

Thanks to everyone who entered our competition. The correct answer was 'Wallace's right hand man' and the winner was Gary Cunningham.. Congratulations to you!

Hi Stuart

WHAT A BLOODY BRILLIANT MAGAZINE! I have read most of it now.. it is absolutely AWESOME, Thanks to all of you guys over there in Scotland from this Aussie born SCOT BLOODED Wallace....

Judy XX

COMPETITION TIME!

To win one of our brand new 'Get Ready to Roar' t-shirts (see our SOWW Shop page), simply answer the following question:

'Which Irish castle was used in the filming of Braveheart in 1995?'

Email your answer and contact details to:
secretary@soww.scot



Happy Birthday to Olivia, with lots of love from all the family

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.



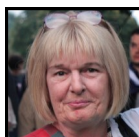
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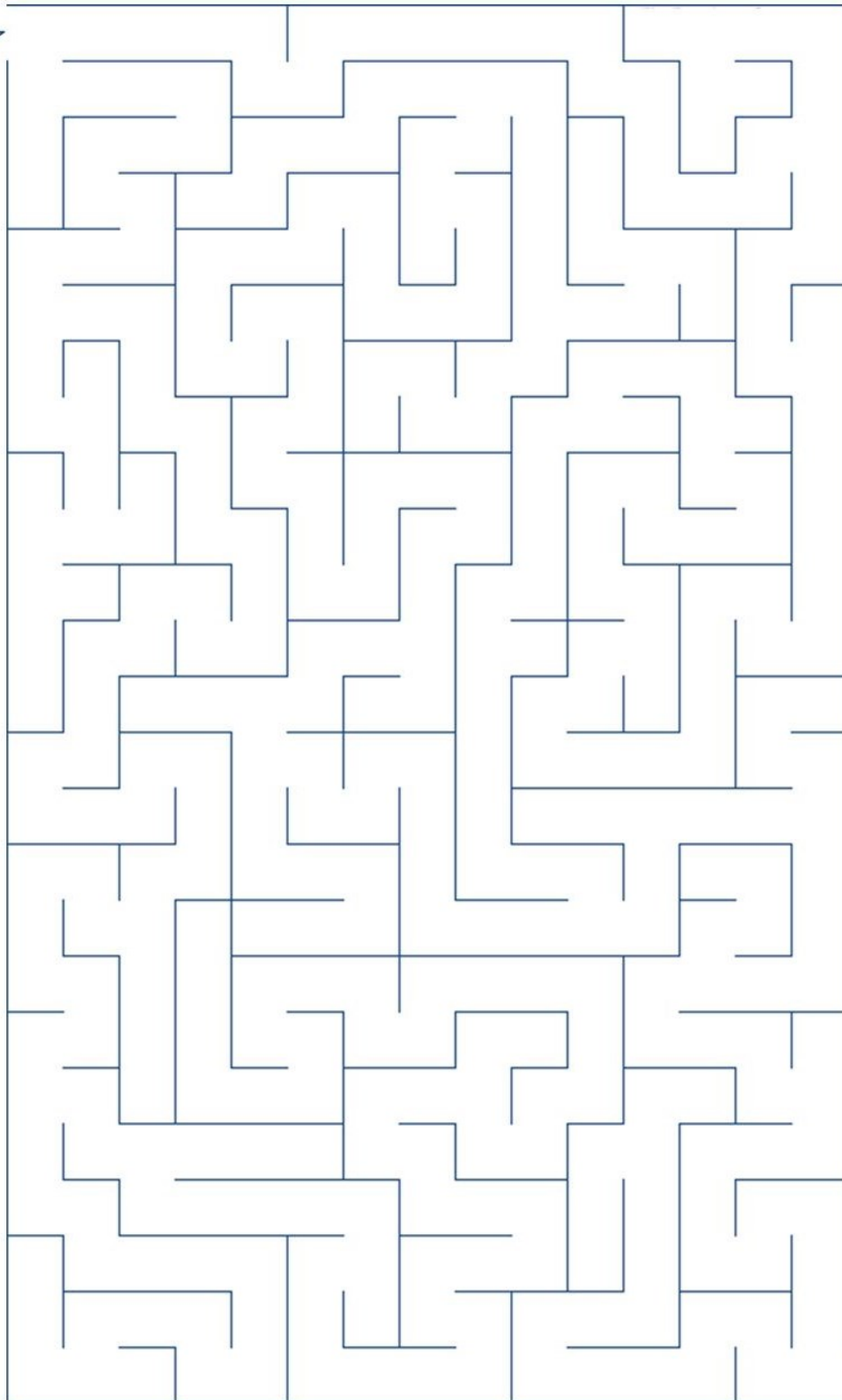
www.thesocietyofwilliamwallace.com



YOUNG LIONS

MAZE CRAZE

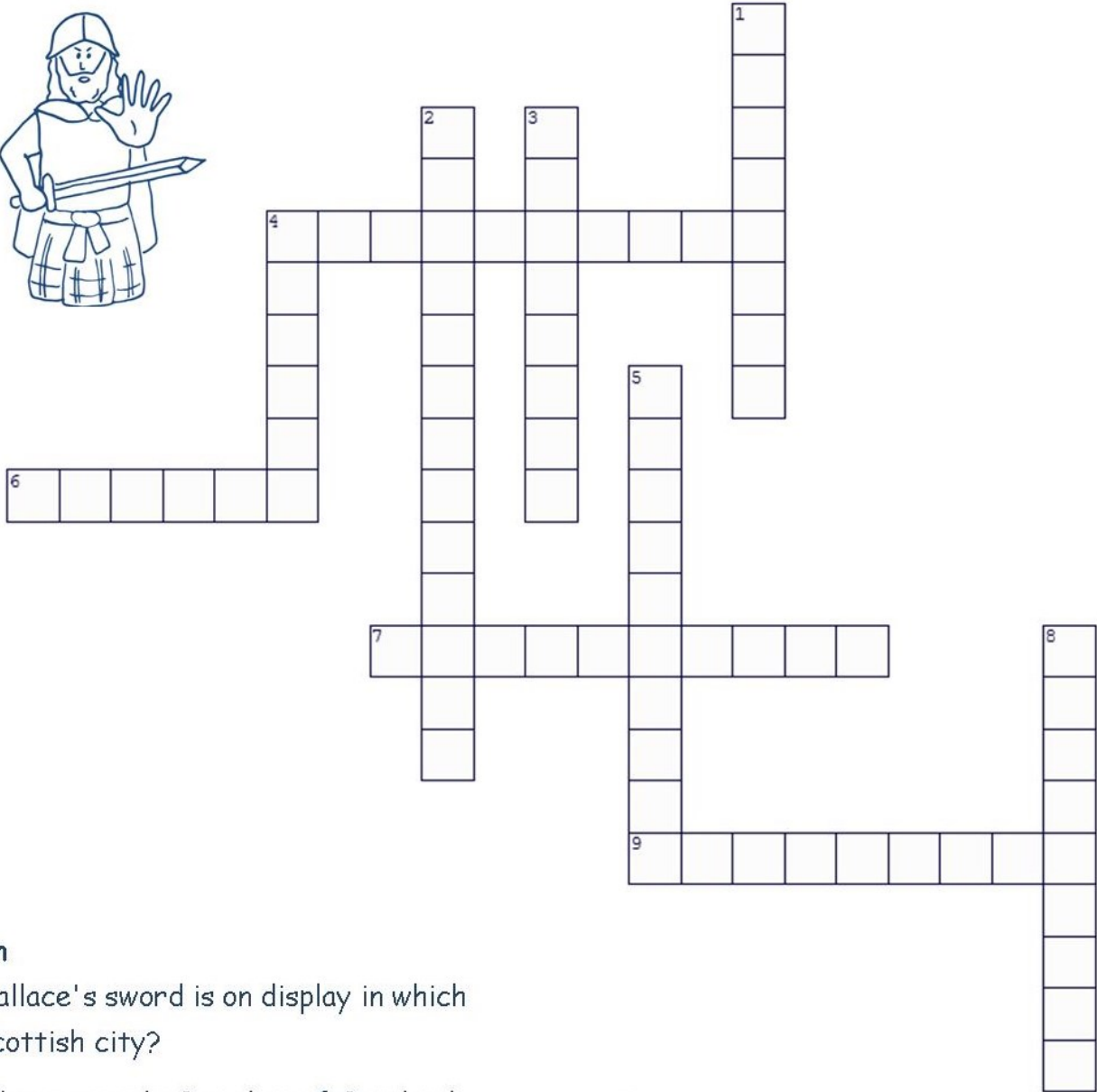
Can you help Wallace find his way through the maze to the Callendar Wood?





YOUNG LIONS

CROSSWORD



Down

1. Wallace's sword is on display in which Scottish city?
2. Who was made Guardian of Scotland with Wallace?
3. Which Scottish noble betrayed Wallace to the English?
4. In which English city was Wallace executed for treason?
5. What was the nickname of Edward I of England?
8. Where was William Wallace born?

Across

4. In which battle did Wallace defeat General Fenwick?
6. What was the name of William Wallace's wife?
7. What is the title of the famous film about William Wallace?
9. In which month did the Battle of Stirling Brig take place?