

Summer 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,

Welcome to our second E Magazine! I must be honest, the last mag was so good I was worried we wouldn't be able to top it, but I think we have. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed but especially to Lesley Matthews and George Kempik for all the effort they have put in to making this a success.

Thanks also to all of you who wrote in with suggestions for the magazine name - Pro Libertate was the most popular, so welcome to the summer edition of Pro Libertate!

We have had a few events since the last mag with Loudoun Hill, Avoch and Raising the Standard in Stirling. Due to health reasons I was unable to attend Loudoun hill this year run by the Society in conjunction with the Strathleven Artizans which I was gutted about as it's the first one I have missed since we have started this event. Weather was kind to us this year and the event was well attended, up on the previous years which is down to the organisers William Ballantyne and Anne Harris. Hats off to you both.

On the 25th May we had a toast, with people joining from all over the world, to our late convenor Duncan Fenton. Still can't believe it's been a year since his passing. I'm sure he'll be looking down happy with the progress the SOWW is making.

This year was the first time I have attended the Avoch event run by the Andrew De Moray project as it always clashed with the Wallace Well School fete so it was always Duncan who represented the Society. A beautiful part of the world and a tremendous day and night and was proud to say a few words at the event. Duncan's ashes were scattered at the cairn which was a special moment together, with Duncan's partner Jean raising the new Saltire which is always donated by the Society.

Talking of Andrew De Moray, we also attended the Raising of the Saltire at Stirling Bridge for the unveiling of the cairns and the raising of the Saltire. It's the first time in over 700 years that the Saltire has flown over Stirling Bridge! A big well done to the Guardians of Scotland Trust for achieving this and our very own George Boyle who is on the trust committee. Their next project is a statue of Wallace and De Moray at the site. If you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause you'll find details on page 4. Good luck guys.

I know we don't discuss politics but just had a wee thought. Longshanks must have thought that after Wallace's murder, Scotland would be under his control and no longer a problem. Then in 1306 a certain King Robert the Bruce was named King and you know the rest. After the NO vote Westminster must have again thought Scotland was now no longer a problem, then the SNP go and win 56 seats. Funny how History repeats itself.

P.S. Dr Fiona Watson, thanks for making me cry with your contribution LOL

Hope your all have a great summer and maybe see a few of you at Bannockburn. I'll catch up with you all in three months' time.

Hope you enjoy our second edition as much as I did.

Yours for Scotland,

Gary Stewart



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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

The sandstone Cairn commemorating the Battle of the Bell O' the Brae is now to be erected in the city Necropolis. We have re-applied for planning permission for the new venue and permission to use the land has been granted from Glasgow City Council so we are looking to have the Cairn built and in place by September of this year.

Rutherglen Church

It was in the grounds of this church that Sir John Monteith contracted with the English to betray Wallace. The Society has in conjunction with the Minister of Rutherglen church sent in a request to the Church of Scotland Committee on Art and Architecture with details of the finished plaque and wording. A big thank you to Hugh at Rutherglen church for all his help with this project.

Walk for Wallace 10 year anniversary

We are now in contact with English Heritage which is necessary as the church is a Grade 1 Building. Andy Hillhouse has produced an outstanding picture for the plaque and a big thank you goes to Gordon Aitken of the Society for the wording. We are just waiting for St Bartholomew's church to confirm they are happy with our proposal then the finished article will be sent to English Heritage for permission to go ahead.

Wallace Safe Conduct letter

As you may have seen from the press and media the loan period has been extended for a further 2 years which is brilliant news.

House Near the Necropolis

We have had tentative talks with Glasgow Building Preservation trust regarding the Society being allocated space inside the house at the entrance to the Necropolis were we could maybe have a small museum dedicated to Wallace, but there is still a long way to go.

Robroyston Memorial Bench

The Society are looking to make a replica of the Wallace chair kept in Clan Ross house at Balnagowan Estates. Mr Al Fayed who owns the estate has kindly sent us 7 photos to enable us to get as close a match as possible. The Society cannot thank Mr Fayed enough. We have a Joiner on the case as we speak!



NEWS

Stirling Brig, 29th May 2015

To support the Guardians of Scotland Trust or make a donation, click the link below
[GUARDIANS OF SCOTLAND TRUST](#)

Raising the Saltire



Pupils from St Ninian's Primary School unveil the three cairns

The first ever memorial to the Battle of Stirling Bridge has been unveiled on the spot where a Scottish army led by William Wallace and Andrew de Moray defeated the English in 1297. Around 300 people gathered on the north side of the River Forth at Stirling to see three granite lecterns unveiled. A saltire flag was also raised, which will now fly permanently where the outnumbered Scots clashed with the English army 718 years ago. The tribute was organised by the Guardians of Scotland Trust, a charity set up in 2013 to honour Wallace and de Moray, both of whom held the title during their lifetimes. Fergus Wood, chairman of the Trust, said: "It's taken over 718 years to get here, but for the first time we now have a memorial to the Battle of Stirling Bridge and the two Guardians of Scotland who commanded the Scottish army on the site where it happened. It's been a long time in coming. The Battle of Stirling Bridge was one of the most important battles in Scotland's history."



The Saltire which will now fly permanently over the site

The granite lecterns, inscribed with information about de Moray, Wallace and the battle are made from stone from nearby Bannockburn. Unveiled by Stirling schoolchildren, they constitute not only the first memorial on the site of the battle, but also the first to commemorate Wallace and De Moray together. Let's hope it's only the beginning!



Saltires flying from Stirling Brig

VISIT Falkirk

Gordon Aitken - Historical Advisor

Hello and welcome to the second of our articles about Wallace connections and where to find them. In this summer edition I will be talking about Wallace connections in my home town of Falkirk.

Wallace in Falkirk

The battle of Falkirk was Wallace's biggest defeat and there are a few connections both in the town, and in the surrounding areas. Let's start with Wallacestone, where legend has it that Wallace stood on a boulder to enable him to see the approaching English army and to let himself be seen by them, to draw them to the site where he had positioned his army. It is well worth a trip to Wallacestone to stand beside the monument erected by locals in 1810. The stone was donated by a local quarry. The top piece of the stone is missing, and this piece is the most important part of the stone as it was taken from the original London Bridge where Wallace's head was spiked.

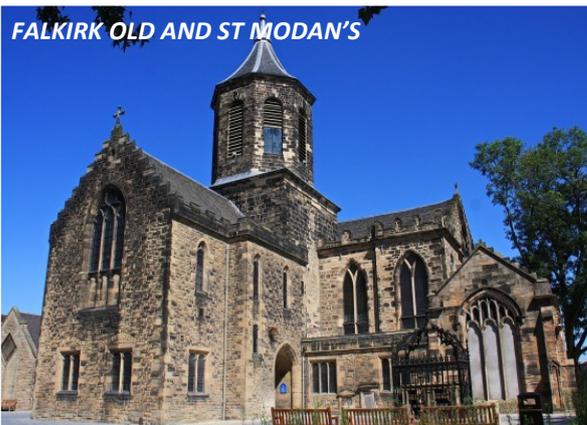
Nearby this monument there had been a simple flat stone with the initials W.W. carved on it which by the early 19th century had disappeared. There is a local tale which says that an old collier, looking for a big flat stone, managed to pinch it and build it into his fireplace. However he was unable to sleep that night for the ghostly sound of bagpipes coming from the hearth and so he broke it up and got rid of the pieces! To get to Wallacestone from Edinburgh, leave the M9 motorway at Junction 5 and join the A9 signposted 'Laurieston, Falkirk' and drive on through a mini roundabout until you come to a second mini roundabout with Falkirk stadium on your right. Turn left onto the B805, stay in the left hand lane and go straight on at the next two mini roundabouts, signposted 'Redding, Maddiston'. Drive on through Redding and up the hill passing Tesco on the right and turn right onto the B810 (Shieldhill) just past the prison college. Driving on you will pass the Braes High School on your left and at the traffic lights turn left onto the Wallacestone Brae. Drive up to the top of the hill and turn right. You will see the memorial stone on your right set in a piece of parkland. On a good day you are in for an incredible view as you stand where Wallace once stood to watch the English army. If you are coming in from the



Glasgow direction turn off at Junction 5 and turn right at the traffic lights onto the A905, drive up to the Beancross roundabout and staying in the right hand lane drive underneath the motorway joining the A9 and follow the same directions. After leaving Wallacestone, retrace your journey back down through Redding and the mini roundabouts and turn left at the third mini roundabout onto the Callendar road, signposted 'Falkirk/Callendar House'. Drive through 3 mini roundabouts and at the next roundabout, turn left into Callendar estate at the big sign. Drive on and after about 100 yards park up at the car park on your right. Walk down the footpath on your right and immediately to your left you will see the Falkirk Memorial Cairn built in 2007 to honour the thousands of men who fell at the battle of Falkirk under Wallace's command.

VISIT Falkirk

Gordon Aitken - Historical Advisor



FALKIRK OLD AND ST MODAN'S

If you feel up to stretching your legs for a bit I recommend that you walk into Falkirk town centre to the old parish church where the remains of two of Wallace's chiefs, killed in the battle are interred. Going back to the car park, walk across and join the road between the two high rise flats at the far end of the car park. Turn left and cross at the traffic crossing and walk up East Bridge Street almost opposite the crossing. This will take you uphill to the High Street. Walk up the High Street and after about 200 yards you will pass the Falkirk Steeple/Tollbooth. Turn right onto Vicar Street, walk down and turn up a side

street on your left, just past Manor Street. Walk up the small incline and through the church gates. This is Falkirk Old and St Modan's. The earliest church is thought to have been founded by St. Modan in 800 a.d. and because of its speckled stonework, was called "The Faw Kirk" giving birth to the town's name.

On the left just before the church building is the magnificent tombstone of Sir John de Graeme, Wallace's right hand man. Three stones lie on top of the original, which was inscribed:

*"Here lies Sir John the Grame, baith wight and wise.
Ane o' the chiefs who rescawit Scotland thrise
Ane better knight not to the world was lent
Nor was gude Graham, of truth, and hardiment".*

To the right of the tombstone just in front of the church wall is a stone set into the tarmac. This is the tombstone of Sir John Stewart of Bonkyll, killed in the battle along with the Men of Bute, and on the left of the churchyard is a huge Celtic Cross erected in 1877 by the Marquis of Bute in their honour.

There is one more place to visit, so drive back to the roundabout at the park entrance. Go through Bellsmeadow and turn right at the traffic lights. Drive on and turn left onto Thornhill road at the next set of lights. Go straight on at a mini roundabout and turn in to a car park about 20 yards on your right beside a community centre. On your right is a drinking fountain, donated by Sir Robert Dollar which says on the back "near this spot, Sir John de

Graeme fell". As a boy, growing up in this area I used to drink from the fountain, alas, no longer working. Turning around and walking back to your vehicle, you will see a church across the street to your right. This is St. James, and according to local legend, its pulpit was built over the spot where Wallace raised the Scottish Standard before the battle. This is only one of 3 areas mooted as where the battle took place, the others being the Mumrills area at Beancross, and most likely the Hallglen area at the top of Callendar Wood.

Enjoy your day in "Faw Kirk"

Slainthe, Gordon.



TOMBSTONE OF SIR JOHN DE GRAEME



SIR JOHN DE GRAEME DRINKING FOUNTAIN

EVENTS

William Ballantyne- Events Officer



Hello and hearty welcome to the events section of the Society of William Wallace Pro Libertate magazine. This season I'll be covering our events and commemoration schedule for June to Aug 2015. We're now well into battle season so there's plenty to get involved with over the summer.

Loudon Hill Commemoration, 9th May 2015

This year's Loudon Hill commemoration was our most successful since we started the event 5 years ago with our friends The Strathleven Artizans. We had a huge turn out as members, friends and fellow patriots commemorated the fallen of both battles in the warm sunshine in the shadow of Loudoun hill. Speakers this year were George Kempik, Lesley Matthews, Jean Brittain and Ken Shira, with the wreaths to the fallen being laid by Elaine Kempik and Kate Smith. The Swords of Dalriada, who never fail to entertain each year gave an excellent re enactment. Gordon Aitken and Kate Smith closed the ceremony with a fine set of songs that perfectly captured the mood. A huge thank you to all. Then it was back to the Black Bull in Darvel for a buffet and few drinks and a singsong. Thanks to all who came along to support the commemoration of The Battles of Loudon Hill. See you all next year!



June 2015

27th June - Bannockburn: The annual commemoration of the battle of Bannockburn kicks off at 15.00 on Sat 27th June from Stirling Bridge. There will be speeches and a few songs at Stirling Bridge before the march. March route is from Stirling Bridge, round the foot of Stirling Castle past Kings Park, Randolphfield and St.Ninians to the Borestone and the battlefield where the commemoration will be held. Evening event is at the Tartan Arms with Ted Christopher and Gaberlunzie. Tickets at the door.

July 2015

18th July - Falkirk: March off is at 13.30 from Old and St Modan's Church in Falkirk to the Memorial Cairn in Callander Park. Speakers to be announced nearer the time.

August 2015

22nd Aug - Wallace Day: The highlight of our commemoration calendar is set to be bigger and better than ever this year! Muster at 13.30 in Ludovic Sq, Johnstone for march to the Wallace Monument, Elderslie. Speakers to be announced. Evening event at the Elderslie Town Hall with Ted Christopher, Usquebaugh, Clann an Drumma and The Tartan Specials . Tickets £15 at the door.

Full details of all these events will be posted on our Facebook page nearer the time. If you can attend any of these events, it would be great to see our members and friends there. With your support the society can continue to honour and remember the sacrifice made by those who fought and died for Scotland's freedom.

Always Aye,

William

FEATURE ARTICLE

Avoch, Black Isle

Andrew de Moray was a member of the Anglo-Norman de Moravias (de Moray) family. His family held the Castle of Avoch (Ormond Castle) on the Black Isle and were supporters of the Scottish cause in the wars against Edward I of England. After the defeat of the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar in 1296, Andrew and his father were taken prisoner. Andrew escaped in the Spring of 1297 and raised his standard at his father's castle at Avoch to rally his forces for battle. He and his small army marched south and joined forces with William Wallace. The result was a resounding victory over the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Sadly, Andrew was mortally wounded at the battle and died of his injuries shortly afterwards. He is commemorated by a cairn and plaque at the castle site.

On Saturday 23rd May, several members of the SOWW caught up with old friends as we attended the Annual Flag Raising Ceremony in Avoch, run by the Andrew de Moray Project. We marched to the site of Ormond Castle, scene of the raising of the standard by Andrew de Moray, signalling the Scots' fight back against the English invader. Arriving at the top of the hill, Project organiser, Charlie Beattie, spoke of the historical background which this event commemorates. I was honoured to say a few words on behalf of the Society before the new Saltire which is donated annually by the SOWW was attached and raised by Jean. We laid white roses in memory of Duncan Fenton and Jean scattered some of Duncan's ashes at the cairn. This was greeted by applause from the crowd and a rousing "Alba gu Brath!" from Charlie.

Following this was a great night's entertainment, with Ted better than Elvis doing his stuff . Rob Gibson also got his guitar out and gave us a few songs and we spent a great night amongst friends laughing, singing, dancing and sharing stories over a drink or two.



The Cairn commemorating the 'North Rising' and raising of the standard by Andrew de Moray at Ormond Hill, Avoch.



George, Lesley, Charlie, Gary, Irene and Jean



FEATURE ARTICLE

Avoch, The Black Isle



Avoch



Dolphins at Chanonry Point



Fortrose Cathedral

Avoch is pronounced 'Och', and take heed, the locals won't take kindly to their beautiful wee village being pronounced Avoch. Don't say we didnae warn ye!

Next morning, after a fantastic Scottish fry-up for breakfast from our lovely landlady Maureen at the Harbour Guest House, we headed to Rosemarkie for a glimpse of the Dolphins at Chanonry point and were lucky enough to see two of them feeding about 100 yards from the beach. The main viewing area is on a shingle beach behind the lighthouse with views across the Moray Firth to Fort George and with lots of fellow dolphin watchers you are unlikely to miss any sightings.

Next up was the Cathedral at Fortrose - a beautiful 13th century red sandstone building standing in a peaceful tree lined square. Two buildings, the chapter house and nave's south aisle are all that remain as the stone was removed to build Cromwell's citadel at Inverness. It is possible however from ground level paving and landscaping to gain an impression of the size of the original cathedral. The Chapter House is the oldest of the two buildings. After the Reformation, the building was fitted out as the burgh's tollbooth. The upper floor was adapted as the council chamber and court house, and the lower floor as a prison. It was eerie to stand on the entrance steps to the prison and wonder how many poor souls had passed through it's doors.

In 1338, Sir Andrew de Moray's son, also Sir Andrew de Moray (who was also made Guardian of Scotland) retired to Avoch Castle and there died. He was originally buried here before his remains were removed to Dunfermline Abbey. The whole visit was outstanding and well worth the

trip. We then said our goodbyes to Avoch for this year but already looking forward to next year. If you would like to join us for the 2016 commemoration, keep an eye out for details on our FB page. A big thank you to Paul, Irene, George, Elaine, Jean and Lesley for their company. As in all trips, what happened in Avoch stays in Avoch!

Yours Aye,

Gary Stewart

Convenor



FEATURE ARTICLE

Braveheart v History

Released in 1995 and starring Mel Gibson as Scotland's greatest ever Patriot hero, Braveheart brought the story of Wallace to an international audience - and for that, we are eternally grateful. But how historically accurate was it? Short answer - not very. Here's a few of the biggest whoppers.



BRAVEHEART: The Film starts in 1280, with the King of Scots dead and Edward I invading Scotland and claiming the throne for himself.

HISTORY: King of Scots Alexander III was still alive and well in 1280. He didn't die until 1286. Edward I did not impose himself on Scotland until 1290 when he was invited to judge on the claimants to the throne. Edward I never actually claimed the throne himself but demanded that all candidates for King recognise him as the supreme leader of Scotland. Edward I placed John Balliol on the Scottish throne to be used as a puppet king.

BRAVEHEART: Wallace's father is Malcolm Wallace who is later killed along with young Wallace's brother John, after which Wallace's uncle Argyle adopts the young boy.

HISTORY: Wallace's father's name was Alan Wallace, not Malcolm, and he would not have been killed when Wallace was a boy. In fact he was likely alive when Wallace was fighting his rebellion. Wallace had a brother named Malcolm though, in addition to his brother John. His brother John Wallace was not killed when Wallace was a boy, but was executed by the English in 1306, a year after Wallace's execution. Uncle Argyle was a fictional character, although an uncle or two may have indeed helped educate William as a boy.

BRAVEHEART: In the film, Wallace returns to Scotland around 1296, a man, after years of being away, visiting Rome with his uncle etc.

HISTORY: Wallace by all accounts grew up in Scotland and most likely never left his native land as a child or youth.

BRAVEHEART: Edward I grants prima-nocte (Latin for 'first night') in Scotland - the right of the lord to have sex with female subjects on their wedding night.

HISTORY: There is no evidence that this 'right' ever existed in Scotland.

BRAVEHEART: Edward II marries Isabella of France around 1296, before Wallace's rebellion starts.

HISTORY: Edward II did not marry Isabella of France until 1308, three years after Wallace's death.

BRAVEHEART: Wallace falls in love with Murron, and secretly weds her. He has no intention of fighting the English or freeing his country until she is killed. Wallace takes revenge on the Sheriff who cut her throat by cutting his.

HISTORY: Legend states that Wallace's wife was Marion Braidfute. After she was killed in Lanark, Wallace gathered a bunch of men and did indeed wreak havoc on Sheriff William Heselrig and his English guards. After advancing on the town, Wallace cut the Sheriff to pieces with his sword, and he and his band proceeded to burn two houses with the English guards inside. Wallace was already an outlaw against the English before his wife was killed. He was opposed to English rule from the very beginning and refused to sign the Ragman Roll.

BRAVEHEART: Wallace's best friends are Hamish, his ornery father Campbell and Stephen of Ireland.

HISTORY: Hamish and Campbell are fictional characters. Legend says that Wallace did have a close friend called Stephen of Ireland. Legend states however that Wallace's closest friend was a man known as Kerly.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Braveheart v History

BRAVEHEART: Wallace joins with the highlanders led by Nobles Craig, Lochlan and Mornay before the battle of Stirling.

HISTORY: Wallace and his men joined forces with the rebels under Andrew de Moray at Dundee in 1297 before the battle of Stirling Bridge. Craig, Lachlan and Mornay were fictional characters, although several Nobles did assist Wallace and De Moray at the battle.

BRAVEHEART: The battle of Stirling Bridge takes place upon an open field, during which Wallace and his men use schiltrons to repel the English cavalry.

HISTORY: The battle of Stirling Bridge took place at a bridge not an open field (the clue's in the title Mel!) and the Scots didn't use schiltrons to repel the English cavalry until Falkirk. The battle of Stirling Bridge without an actual bridge is rather ludicrous. The key to the success of the battle was the bridge itself. Wallace and De Moray waited until "as many of the enemy had come over as they believed they could overcome". When the vanguard, comprising 5,400 English and Welsh infantry plus several hundred cavalry had crossed the bridge, the attack was ordered. In the narrow space of the bridge, the massed English cavalry were incredibly vulnerable to the line of Scots spearmen holding the end of the bridge. Surrey's vanguard was now cut off from the rest of the army and was cut to pieces, with the rest of the English army at the other side of the bridge, powerless to help.

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 knighthood 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.

BRAVEHEART: Wallace sacks the city of York during his invasion of Northern England.

HISTORY: Wallace did indeed invade Northern England after his victory at Stirling Bridge, but he did not sack or even approach the city of York. Instead he and the Scots raided Northumberland, including the towns Corbridge, Hexam, Cumberland, Durham and Carlisle. They raided for much needed supplies as well as revenge.

BRAVEHEART: The sweet, kind, innocent French Princess is sent by Edward I to buy off Wallace at York. Wallace then beds down with said Princess who later hints that she is carrying Wallace's child.

HISTORY: This is the most ridiculous inaccuracy of all. Wallace and the French Princess never even met, let alone became involved, nor could they have been as the French Princess was only 7 or 8 years old at the time. Incidentally the French Princess was not sweet and kindly, nicknamed the She Wolf of France, she was quite vicious and later had her incompetent husband Edward II killed and launched her own invasion of Scotland with her son Edward III.

BRAVEHEART: At the battle of Falkirk, Wallace and the Scots are betrayed by Nobles Mornay and Lochlan and Robert the Bruce.

HISTORY: Wallace may have been betrayed by the Noblemen under John Comyn, although there is no solid

FEATURE ARTICLE

Braveheart v History

evidence of this, but not by fictional characters Mornay and Lochlan. Comyn and his noble cavalry did indeed flee the field however, either by betrayal or fear, leaving the Scottish ranks of schiltrons to be slaughtered by English arrows. Bruce however did not betray Wallace at Falkirk, he wasn't even there! Bruce did pay homage to Edward I and fight on the English side after 1302, three years after the battle of Falkirk.

BRAVEHEART: After Falkirk, Wallace stays in Scotland and kills Mornay and Lochlan in revenge for their betrayal.

HISTORY: Mornay and Lochlan never existed, the revenge killings never happened, nor did Wallace make an attempt to kill John Comyn who had abandoned him at Falkirk. After Falkirk, Wallace departed for France and Rome to argue the Scottish cause.

BRAVEHEART: Wallace is captured by the English in Edinburgh after Noble Craig and Robert the Bruce's leper father betray him.

HISTORY: Wallace was captured by the English at Robroyston near Glasgow after being betrayed by John Menteith, who was a Scotsman. Craig never existed and Bruce's father died in 1304, a year before Wallace's capture.

BRAVEHEART: Wallace is executed by being hung until semi conscious, stretched, then disembowelled and beheaded. His head is then sat on London Bridge and his arms and legs sent to Berwick, Newcastle upon Tyne, Stirling and Perth as a warning.

HISTORY: All true, except they left out the parts where Wallace was drawn behind horses for 5 miles or so, then hung, stretched, disembowelled, castrated, his heart, lungs and organs torn out and beheaded and quartered.

BRAVEHEART: Edward I dies as Wallace is being executed.

HISTORY: Edward I died in 1307, two years after Wallace's death, on his way north to once again deal with the 'troublesome Scots'.

BRAVEHEART: After Wallace's execution, Robert the Bruce rides out to pay homage to the Armies of the English King, and accept his endorsement of his crown, however he has a sudden change of heart, and the Scots charge the fields of Bannockburn, and win their freedom.

HISTORY: Robert the Bruce never rode to pay homage and accept any endorsement. After ending his submission to England and slaying his rival to the throne John Comyn, Bruce had himself crowned King of Scots in 1306. After which he fought off the English for the next 20 years, leading the Scots to victory at Bannockburn in 1314, 9 years after Wallace's death. At Bannockburn they did indeed fight like warrior poets, and fight like Scotsman, and did win their freedom.

George Boyle

Vice-Convenor

On August 1st, The Society of William Wallace will be attending a special screening to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of "Braveheart" which will take place on the grounds of Trim Castle in Trim, Co. Meath - the very castle used in the movie. Many of the original cast members will be joining us, as well as a special video message from Mel Gibson. If you would like to join us, please contact our Events co-ordinator - events@soww.scot or contact us on Facebook.

BRAVEHEART 20

This is a non-profit event used to raise money for local charities.

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Wallace Oak

Committee member Cha Halliday shares with us the story of the Wallace Oak and how he and his friend and fellow committee member Sean Donnelly became involved with this piece of Wallace history.

Well where do I start? Lets try the beginning shall we?

I was given a book written by David R Ross called "The Black Douglas". I was on my way to a football game in Dingwall from Greenock and read the entire book on the way up. It was a fantastic read and I could not put it down. I looked for more books by David and found "On the Trail of William Wallace". I saw that he was a keen biker and had visited over 80 places throughout Scotland and the North of England, looking for connections to Wallace. Once again I finished that book in one day.

Myself and a friend Sean Donnelly from Inverkip are also keen bikers, so we set out to find the places in David's book. After doing the more common ones, we came across a local site mentioned in the book, (Wallace Tree, Port Glasgow) less than 3 miles from where I lived and decided to find as much information as we could, as David had only touched on it. And so the investigations began!

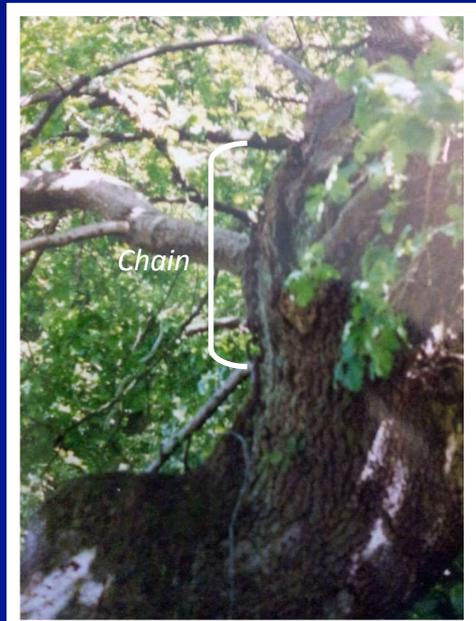
We contacted our local paper, The Greenock Telegraph and they were a great help, especially Paul John Coulter. He delved into the archives and came across earlier articles on a tree in Port Glasgow. Legend had it that after his capture at Robroyston, Wallace was taken to Dumbarton Castle and held overnight. His famous sword being held there, until the opening of the Wallace monument in 1869, where it was taken and put on display. Wallace was transferred by boat the morning after, to the shores of what is now Port Glasgow. At West Ferry, he was taken up the old Roman road and chained to an oak tree until English troops arrived to take him south, to be MURDERED!

A chain, thought to be the one used to restrain Wallace, remained at the scene for many years and each time it rotted away it was replaced. It was also painted red each year by local children to symbolise the blood shed by Wallace and thus started the local tradition. The last known chain came from the Lithgow's shipyard in Port Glasgow and children from Holy Family Primary all learned about Wallace and took their turn at painting the chain red which can still be seen high up in the upper branches in the photograph taken in the 1980's. The Holy Family Roman Catholic Church was built and the Tree continued to stand in the grounds. At some point, the tree split and barbed wire was put around it, to stop the school children from climbing on it, causing it to deteriorate even more. During a storm in 1995 it finally split in half (this was just a short time before David's book research). The Priest at that time was Father Quinn, who organised a local farmer to come and clear away the broken branches that littered the driveway. Sadly these were all burnt, but not before a local man Joe Dellaney, took away a large branch to make some carvings for the local priests.



Committee Member Cha Halli-

Photograph of the Wallace Oak taken in the 1980's with a chain understood to have dated from Victorian times clearly visible.



FEATURE ARTICLE

The Wallace Oak

He carved eight wooden statues of the revered Italian Saint Padre Pio. He kept a large one for himself (which he still has in his home today) and gave the others to all the Priests. The trunk of the tree was then pulled from the ground by local businessman Davie Smith from Bouvrie Motors using his breakdown truck to pull out the stump. After reading an article in our local paper, we were directed to Bouvrie motors to where we found the trunk in his scrap yard last year, where it had lain forgotten for 20 years. As our interest in Wallace had grown, both Sean and I joined the Society Of William Wallace and went along to one of the meetings to fill them in on what we had found. With a bit of persuasion Mr Smith kindly agreed to donate the tree to The Society of William Wallace and invited convenor Duncan Fenton out to take a look. We have now been in contact with 3 Historians all Doctors in their own specialist fields and it has been agreed to gain as much information as we can before having the trunk removed and dated. We have cleared all around it and removed loose dirt and moss to take some rough measurements. Our next move is to have what remains of the tree removed from the yard, have it properly dated, stored and preserved. If it is proven to be genuine it would be a superb find, a historic find and the possibilities are endless. Watch this space! Don't you just love Scottish History?

Cha Halliday



Duncan Fenton and Mr Smith discuss the Wallace Oak



Local newspaper article on Cha and Sean's story



The remains of the Wallace Oak Tree as it is today

The Society of William Wallace would like to extend a huge thank you to Cha and Sean for their tremendous hard work and determination. Whether it proves to be the genuine article or simply local legend, this tree is a remarkable piece of Scottish history and local folk-lore which could have been lost if not for these two. The Society have arranged for an assessment visit from an arboriculturist to ascertain the tree-form clues and the potential for dating and to take samples for analysis. We will of course keep you updated on our progress. Thanks again guys - amazing job!

For more photographs and information on Cha and Sean's story you can visit their Facebook page - 'In The Footsteps of William Wallace'

Gary Stewart
Convenor



George Boyle

Vice Convenor for the
Society of William Wallace

MEET George Boyle

Vice-Convenor George Boyle shares with us his love of Scotland and how he became involved with the Society...

My life changed forever the day I stepped into the old Kelburne cinema in Paisley to see Braveheart. I knew enough about Scottish history to realise that not everything in the movie was factually correct, however I also realised that Randall Wallace was making a movie not a documentary!

Everything I knew about Scottish history was self-taught as back in my time at school Scottish history was never mentioned. My first real inspiration was my wife Susan, a great reader, she knew a lot about Scottish history and would regularly quiz me on all things Scottish. I got more questions wrong than right and she found it highly amusing that this kilted foot soldier of the Tartan Army knew so little of his Nation's history!

After the inspiration of Braveheart it was decided that I needed a vacation as I'd recently lost both parents over a four week period and my wife suggested I get some books on Wallace to take with me. Not being a great reader I was looking for a small book, nothing too boring and if it had pictures all the better!

While looking up books on Wallace, I came across the band Albannach and noticed that they had a guy called David Ross who regularly introduced them to the audience. I found out he was an author, got me a copy of his *On the Trail of William Wallace* book and read it on the plane on the flight to Greece. That was me hooked, his style of writing was ideal for me, like a mate telling you a story. Once I came home I went to see Albannach at Bannockburn and introduced myself to them and David who was also there. He told me about the Society and that Wallace Day was coming up and invited me along. I went on the march and was like a kid in a sweet shop. I never realised there were so many people who felt the same as I did about Scotland, a wonderful

feeling, a total sense of finding my place, a real sense of belonging. I started attending Society meetings and enjoyed hearing Duncan and David's tales about Scotland's history and their own historical shenanigans - always fun and very enjoyable.

The Society were having problems with their website and I offered to take over the running of it which was gratefully accepted and that was me part of the team.

When the treasurer's position came up, David said he knew the ideal guy to do that job and that he was in the room. While I joined in looking around to see who he meant, he said my name. I of course accepted the position, how could I not, David and Duncan, who I'm proud to say became great friends of mine, and who I respected and held in the highest esteem, wanted me to become part of the committee and I was truly humbled to be asked to work alongside a pair of legends!

Sadly we've lost these two great men. I've lost two great friends and mentors and thanks to them I live, breathe and eat Scotland. It's constantly in my thoughts, if I'm not taking photos of it, I'm reading about it or watching some programme about it.

This year I was asked to become Vice Convenor of the Society. I accepted as I know that Duncan had put his trust in me and Gary and the rest of the committee to make sure we carry on all the good work that he and David started!

Do I think I can repay the faith and trust that Duncan and the Society has put in me? I wouldn't have accepted the position if I didn't!

George Boyle

Vice-Convenor



MERCHANDISE

Ziggy Wilson - Merchandise Officer

PROUD CLOTHING



Society of William Wallace T-Shirts & Cap

Our new range of Society Merchandise is finally here! Three fab t-shirts available in sizes Small to XXX Large for £15 with free delivery in Scotland & rUK and our new Society Cap. Nice one.

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

£15



'FOREIGN TO ME FRONT'

FREEDOM!



'FOREIGN TO ME BACK'

£15



'SAOR ALBA (plain back)'

£15



'X MARKS THE SCOT FRONT'



MARKS THE SCOT



'X MARKS THE SCOT BACK'

£7



'SOCIETY CAP'

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

SOCIETY SHOP

GUEST Dr Fiona Watson

Dr Fiona Watson is a Scottish historian and television presenter. She is best known for her 2001 BBC series In Search of Scotland. She obtained her degree in Medieval History from the University of St. Andrews, followed by a PhD from the University of Glasgow. She is a Research Fellow of the University of Dundee, and was the first Director of the Centre for Environmental History at the University of Stirling, where she was a senior lecturer in history. She is also a research consultant at the Centre for History of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Works by Dr Fiona Watson

Scotland: A History, 8000 BC-AD 2000 (2002)

Scotland from Pre-History to the Present (2003)

Macbeth: a True Story (2010)

Under the Hammer: Edward I and Scotland, 1296 -1305 (2013)

It is the curse of middle age that time begins to speed up. But it is still hard to believe that it is five years since Davy Ross's untimely death. I can't remember how I met Davy (that'll be middle age for you!). But I can remember how he stood, arms folded, legs apart, at the back of a packed hall in Bannockburn in 2000, ready to take on anyone who disagreed with what I had to say in a report into the site of Bruce's great victory for Stirling Council. We had already been on a tour of where Davy thought it was (thankfully, we pretty much agreed, though, as an academic historian, I had to show a degree of scepticism towards the notion that a dowser he had come in contact with might be able to find where the bodies had been dumped). After that, we enjoyed a number of lunches at various hostelries near Stirling University, where I worked. I always really enjoyed our debates and discussions when we both fought our corner. He really knew his stuff but always with that twinkle in his eye when he knew he was straying into myth, not the

recorded facts, and I would have to tut. Our last outing was in 2003, when I was eight months pregnant with my son and eventually – having toured the possible site of Wallace's stand at Falkirk via a decaying, but amazing, medieval church next to the Airth Hotel – I had to beg him to call it a day. And our last lunch was when he asked me to speak at the service to mark the 700th anniversary of Wallace's brutal execution – remarkably now ten years ago. Speaking at the Wallace march after his death was difficult for all of us – so hard was it to imagine that such a great presence and character was no longer with us. But the Wallace Society has gone on all the same – wasn't it wonderful to march through the streets of Renton for the opening of the Bruce museum instigated by the Strathleven Artisans? And to see Wallace's letter of recommendation exhibited at Holyrood. However I met Davy all those years ago, I am so glad I did.

Fiona Watson



YOUNG LIONS

Abbey Stewart - Young Lions Convenor



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

Dear Young Lions

Hello, I am Abbey from the Young Lions and this is a page for children from the ages 5-16 and what we do is we get children involved in Scottish history.

This season I have been working hard doing Fun Facts Friday on our Facebook Page and at the moment I am planning an event at Wallace day on the 22nd August for children to come to during the speeches. There will be quizzes and dressing up competitions as well as a drawing competition. The prizes are a secret for now but they are amazing and you will really love them. Also there will be tons of extra bits and bobs to do. Hope to see you there!

Abbey

DRAWING COMPETITION

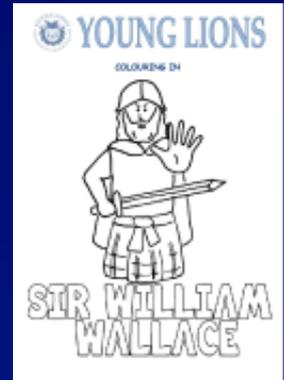


To win a fabulous Young Lions prize, print off the drawing competition picture at the back of the magazine and draw a picture of yourself next to the Wallace Sword and send it to:

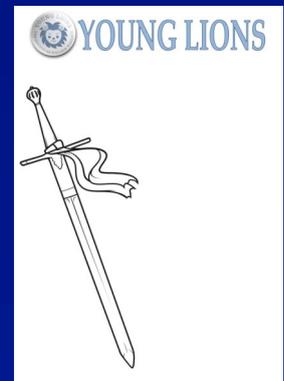
Abbey Stewart

1 Canal Street, Flat 2/1, Paisley, PA1 2HD.

Remember to include your Name, Age and Address. The winner will be announced in the next magazine and all entries will get a Young Lions badge. Good Luck!



COLOURING IN FUN

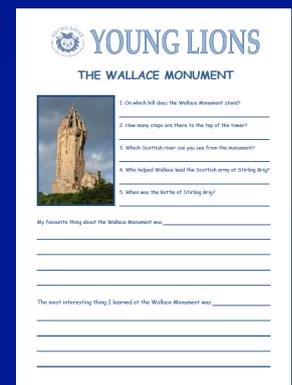


DRAWING COMPETITION

VISIT THE WALLACE MONUMENT

There are lots of great places to visit in Scotland that are connected to William Wallace. One of my favourites is The Wallace Monument in Stirling where you can see Wallace's sword. If you get a chance to visit, take along our fun Wallace Monument page and see if you can answer the questions. If you would like a mention in our next magazine, email a picture of you and your family at the Monument and tell us what you liked most about your day there. Have fun!

Email: younglions@soww.scot



WALLACE MONUMENT PAGE



Meeting Dates

Tues 16th June
Tues 21st July
Tues 18th August
Elderslie Village Hall
Stoddart Square,
Elderslie, PA5 9AS
7:30 pm

MEMBER'S PAGE

Please send your letters, poems, comments and birthday mentions to: secretary@soww.scot or contact us on FB

DON'T FORGET
BANNOCKBURN
27th JUNE

Hello again, Stuart,

All over the world there are Crawford's who pay close attention to the memory of William Wallace, since his mother was a Crawford. Though it's a long way from Lanarkshire to Texas or Sidney or Bombay or Hong Kong, everywhere the wandering Scotsmen go, if their name is Crawford, they have a marked tendency to name things after the old family. As I understand it, and my parents and brother have visited the site, the old Crawford Castle was the site of one of William Wallace's first fights with the English garrison which had occupied the facilities.

One of these years I hope to visit the historic and patriotic sites around Scotland. I look forward to hearing from the Society, and thank you for your efforts and dedication to the memory of William Wallace, and all those who fought so valiantly for the freedom of our people.

Sincerely,
F. Scott Crawford
Texas

AND THE WINNER IS...

Thanks to everyone who entered our competition. The correct answer was The Sheriff of Lanark, Sir William Heselrig, and the winner was Andrew Hunter. Congratulations to you!

Hello Stuart,
Thank you for your kind welcome letter. I am excited to be a member of your great Society. I have followed you on FB for some time, now, and finally got around to joining. My only regret is that I live in Canada (although born in Scotland) and cannot attend any of your events. We hope to take a trip back sometime in the future and I will be sure to check your events calendar at that time. I am a very proud Scot and love delving into the colourful history of our great nation. Again, thank you for the warm welcome!

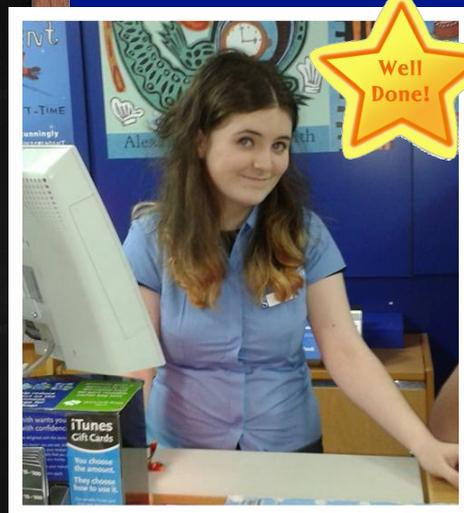
Ginny Friesen

COMPETITION TIME!

To win 2 coins of your choice from the SOWW coin collection (see our SOWW Shop page), simply answer the following question:

'Who was Sir John de Graeme'

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



Congratulations Jodie on your new job. Very proud of you. All our love as always, Aunty Les, Daryl, April, Simon & Jesse x

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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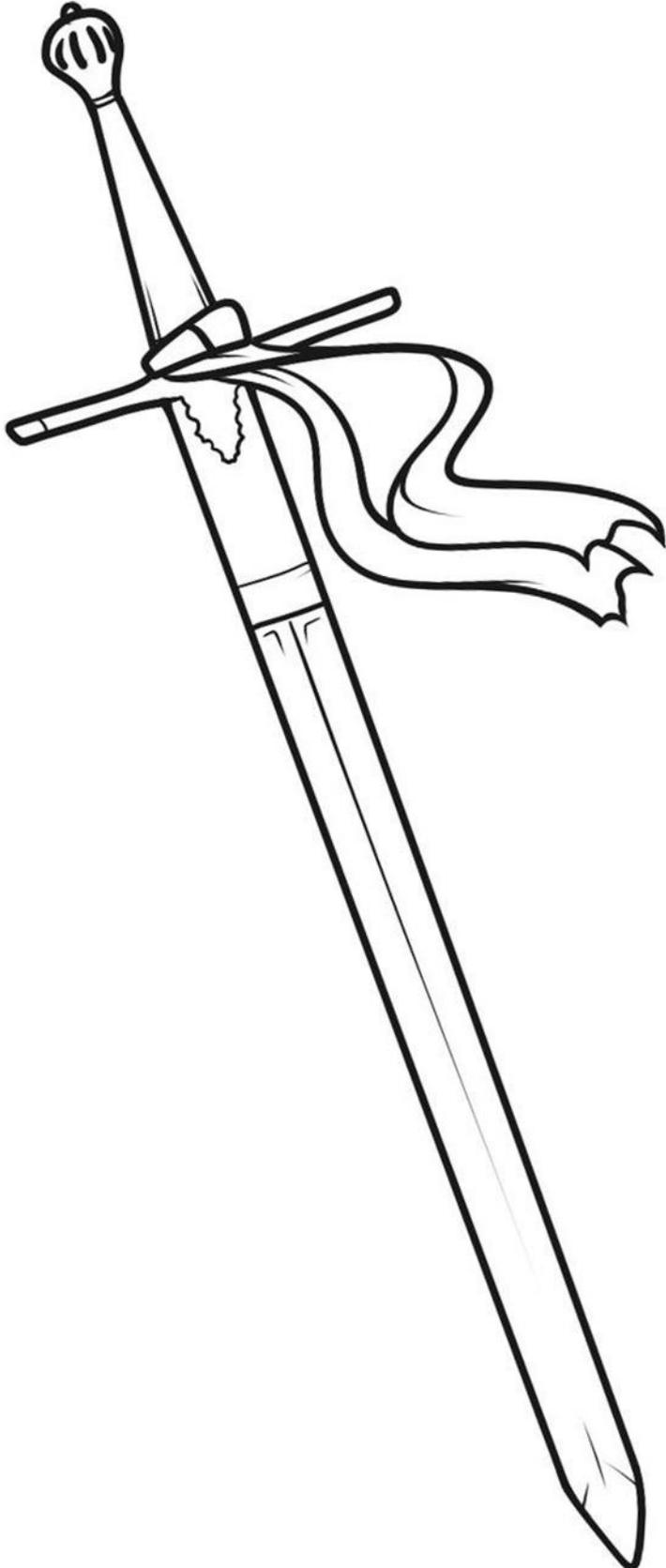
YOUNG LIONS



SIR WILLIAM
WALLACE



YOUNG LIONS





YOUNG LIONS

THE WALLACE MONUMENT



1. On which hill does the Wallace Monument stand?

2. How many steps are there to the top of the tower?

3. Which Scottish river can you see from the monument?

4. Who helped Wallace lead the Scottish army at Stirling Brig?

5. When was the Battle of Stirling Brig?

My favourite thing about the Wallace Monument was _____

The most interesting thing I learned at the Wallace Monument was _____
