



NEWSLETTER

Saltire Society Edinburgh Branch

Dear Member,

It has been quite an eventful summer! In a world that looks increasingly unstable we watched with sadness recent mindless tragedies in France, Germany and elsewhere, while here in the UK we are still taking stock of what has been a political tsunami of gigantic proportions – Brexit - which will change the social and political landscape of Europe and whose consequences will reverberate for some years to come. Closer to home, however and on a happier note 2016 sees the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Saltire Society. To mark this milestone HQ have arranged a series of events. Some have already taken place but you can still catch up with many more until the end of the year, including a special Branch event on Wednesday 8 October. You will find all the details on page 4. We hope you will enjoy browsing through this issue of the newsletter and that you will continue to support the Society and the Branch.

Laura Scott
Editor

Report from Saltire Council and HQ Update

The meeting on 26 May considered candidates for the three categories – Arts and Humanities, Scottish Public Life and Science - in the annual Fletcher of Saltoun Awards which will be announced at the Society AGM in Inverness on 10 September. The Annual Housing Design Awards were also announced on 30 June.

80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Outstanding Women of Scotland on 30 July at Glasgow Women's Library celebrated the Women who contribute so much to Scotland In partnership with Glasgow Women's Library. Launched in 2014, the Outstanding Women of Scotland campaign sees ten women inducted into the OWS community each year. Public nominations were considered by a group including singer and song writer Anne Lorne Gillies, Glasgow Women's Library's Adele Patrick and Sue John, Voluntary Arts Scotland's Jemma Neville, artist Alison Mcconnachie and the Saltire Society's Susan Garnsworthy and Sarah Mason. The day saw each inductee presented with a limited edition print, commissioned from an emerging artist from Edinburgh Printmakers and culminated with music from up and coming female musicians.

Art in Public Places on 11 August at Saltire HQ - featured both permanent and temporary works being celebrated for the first time. As well as announcing this year's Awards, Kate Gray, Director of Collective discussed new developments in art and public places. **In Conversation:**

David Greig & Prof. Ian Brown on 18 August at Saltire HQ - David Greig is a Scottish playwright and theatre director. His work has been performed at all of the major theatres in Britain, including the Traverse Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and been produced around the world. Prof. Ian Brown Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow and poet in his own right, Ian is the Society's current Convener.

John Yellowlees, Branch Representative

Report from the Branch AGM on Friday 15 May 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CONVENOR

At the Branch AGM on 20 May I was honoured to succeed Mary Fleming, a hard act to follow and indeed one that is greatly eased by her agreement to continue on the Committee where she will progress our relations with the City of Edinburgh Junior Music School. I want to pay tribute to those who stood down: Ann Begbie who was until last year our hardworking Events Coordinator, Eric Wishart whose work as Branch Treasurer combined an air of erudition with a merry twinkle in his eye, and Dr John Forrester who so nobly stood in at very short notice at our lunch in October 2013. We welcome one new member Neville Singh and are very grateful to Kenneth Stewart for taking over as Branch treasurer. I look forward to seeing you at our lunches over the winter, and if anyone would like to contact me my details are:

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Born and educated in Edinburgh our new Hon. Treasurer **Kenneth Sinclair Stewart** was at the age of 28 the youngest ever Scottish Law Cashier/Accountant, and retired in 2005. His interests are wide and diverse. Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, life member of Friends of Historic Scotland, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. He served on the Committee of the RSPB Edinburgh Members Group as Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor amongst other positions for 20 years. Active in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Friend and now Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Flag Trust. He was Membership Secretary for many years of the former St Andrew Society.

Neville Singh: our new Committee member..... in his own words
In 1970 I came up from England to work for the original Young People's Unit, Royal Edinburgh Hospital where I learned and practised the art and technique of individual, group and family therapy. From 1990 until I retired in 2004 I was Staff Counsellor for Lothian Primary Care Trust. Since retirement I have been involved in the International Futures Forum which endeavours to respond thoughtfully and transformatively to the powerful, fateful existential crises confronting us now and for the foreseeable future nationally and internationally.

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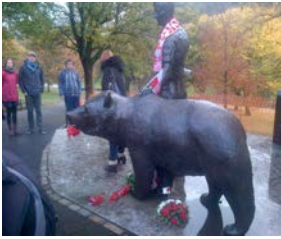
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- Branch Autumn/Winter Programme

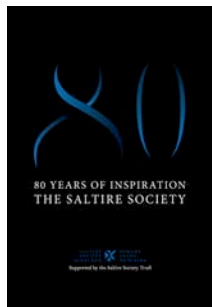
- HQ Autumn/Winter Programme

Branch events from the Spring/Summer

(John Yellowlees, Secretary)

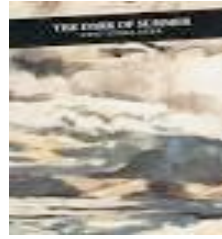


In April Aileen Orr revealed that Polish troops traded the bear who would become Wojtek for a tin of bully beef. The plan had been to offer him as a gift to a visiting general who however was not too impressed so passed him to his men to be kept as a pet. A source of widespread amusement, he also generated pride because the Polish could say that they had "tamed the Russian bear". The Poles were delighted to be part of the invasion of North Africa, but the Ministry of Defence would not allow a bear on a ship, saying that he must be given up or shot until the Poles came up with the idea of giving him a rank and number! Coming to Scotland after the war, Wojtek lived with the Poles at Winfield Camp until they went home, and is today remembered by a statue in Princes Street Gardens that commemorates the contribution made by Polish people to our survival.



At the "Imagining Scotland" Saltire Society 80th anniversary conference on 23 of April in Perth Ruth Wishart speaking on *Scotland, the Saltire Society and the Test of Time* said that she had been able to learn about the Enlightenment and about Scottish literature only after leaving school. The Honours system was corrupt and outdated, so she wanted to see expansion of the Saltire Awards instead. Pat Kane on *Education and Equality of opportunity in Scotland* cited figures to show that the disparity between rich and poor areas in the proportion of young people going into higher education was worse in Scotland than anywhere else in the UK. What we needed was a play ethic to inject more playfulness into our lives since extending play was the best thing one could do to create a genuine intellect. Richard Holloway's theme was *Scottish Civic Society – Wha's Like Us*, and he suggested that the Reformation's destruction of Catholic art had left us a mouthy nation with a love of the binary, seeing good and evil but no middle way – however in the aftermath of the 1845 Potato Famine many thousands of starving Irish families settled in what had been the Protestant fortress of Scotland, and Catholics eventually overtook Protestants in providing the authentic Christian voice of the country. As an asylum-seeker from Somalia, Amal Azzudin speaking on *New Scots – We're A' Jock Tamson's Bairns* had never heard of Glasgow but in Drumchapel experienced great solidarity from a warm-hearted community that even took to warning when the Home Office squads were about. She was one of seven Glasgow girls taken by Bill Butler MSP to see then First Minister Jack McConnell who let them down by proving unable to deliver what he had appeared to promise about applying a protocol before removal of a family, but the story of the encounter was turned into a musical whose performance McConnell now in the Lords had the grace to attend in London.

At our Annual Dinner, guest of honour Allan Massie told us in the presence of Linklater family members that writing came naturally to Eric Linklater, who was an early Saltire member and wrote well of Edinburgh. By the time that he came to write his greatest novel in the 1950s, the likes of Wilson, Golding and Murdoch had become the big names and he was on the literary fringe, but *The Dark of Summer* is a work of extraordinary range that presents his hero as a Casement figure who, recognising that post-war Britain has come down in the world, becomes disillusioned with serving his Government and comes to flirt with treason.



In his **Edinburgh Philosophical Institution Lecture** after the AGM, Sutherland Forsyth hailed the restoration of **The Botanic Cottage** as one of the most exciting conservation projects in Scotland today, and recalls the Royal Botanic Garden's second location off Leith Walk to which it migrated in 1763 from where Waverley Station now stands. Originally designed by Dr John Hope, the 4th Regius Keeper, the new Garden had a very radical model, with curved lines and a mix that included woodland, a pond and beds for medicinal plants, and for the entrance he commissioned John Adam and James Craig to design a two-storey cottage containing the entrance to the garden, the Head Gardener's home and upstairs a classroom through which every medical student of Edinburgh's Enlightenment would pass. By the 1820s the landlocked Leith Walk site had reached the limit of its potential, and a three-year move took place to the present Inverleith site, leaving the Botanic Cottage behind to a new life as a builder's merchant. A long decline saw the lower storey buried as Leith Walk was raised, the harling come away and the gable-wall lopped off, and by 2007 it was abandoned and had been set on fire. Faced with demolition, local people launched a campaign and conservation architects Simpson and Brown produced a plan to move the building. A new location was found in the Demonstration Garden and users already include schools, reading, memory and dementia groups - its arrival at Inverleith was hailed by the present Keeper as completing the move from Leith Walk, making it at once the garden's oldest and newest building.

On this topic Edinburgh Branch member **Margaret Street** reminds us how she and the late Mrs Muriel Ann Hope used to meet often as friends for many years and they were both concerned about the way Professor Morton's story of Dr John Hope (1725 – 1786) had been apparently set aside by the Botanic Garden and in particular how Hope's memorial to Linneus had been treated. They raised money from Hope relations and friends and supporters to get a memorial to Dr John where he is buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, as nothing marked the spot. Regretfully the memorial was vandalised but was replaced at the expense of the Hope family. For those members interested the Memorial, whose wording was Margaret's, lies in the Hope burial ground, down the steps, at the wall on the left.

What they about.....the Scots in England

"For a Scot travelling south of Carlisle it is a grave disadvantage that the natives do not speak English very well".

Frank McNulty: *The Duke of Buccleuch's Bicycle* in *Scottish Short Stories* (1977)



Our **Summer Outing** was to Bo'ness from where the Scottish Railway Preservation Society operates the four-mile Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway to Manuel and also raitours using traditional carriages to mainline stations. Everything that visitors now see has been brought in by volunteers from elsewhere. The line's steep climb through woodland gives what is nowadays an unusually industrially-dominated view of the impressively vast Grangemouth Oil Refinery, and while the locomotive is running round its train at Manuel, passengers can stretch their legs and make comparisons with modern trains on the adjoining Edinburgh-Glasgow main line. Back at Bo'ness, by crossing the footbridge which came from Murthly one can reach the Museum of Scottish Railways, the largest collection of rolling-stock and other items in Britain outwith York, where exhibits include a Glasgow Subway car, the only Royal carriage built in Scotland and a Travelling Post Office.

News Digest

A Musical AGM!



As reported in previous issues of the newsletter the Edinburgh Branch is funding a range of instruments for the City of Edinburgh Junior Music School, which is unique in admitting pupils from the age of five, so we were delighted when Alicia Soares, first recipient of a three-quarters-sized cello, entertained us to a delightful short concert before our AGM on 20 May. Accompanied by Stuart Montgomery on the piano, Alicia performed *Humoresque* by Arnold Trowell, *Veslemoy's Song* by John Halvorsen, *Dance Caprice* by Christopher Bunting and *Lament for the Death of his Second Wife* by Neil Gow. The Branch is now planning to donate a further instrument to the Junior Music School, an African Percussion Pack. More details in the next newsletter.

A Scottish History in Scots



Publisher *Fons Scotiae* (www.fons-scotiae.com) has recently released their latest publication, *A Chronikil o Scotland*, written by Saltire member Iain Forde. As we read in the *Introduction*, the purpose of the book is to propagate the Scots language. It is in two parts: firstly short English introductions for those not familiar with the historical background; followed by Scots chapters of a more imaginative nature to allow for study, translation or simply reading for pleasure. Scottish Chronicles in the Middle Ages were mostly written in Latin but that of Andrew Wyntoun, who was writing between 1420 and 1424, was in Scots. He was the prior of St Serf's Island on Loch Leven, very near to Scotlandwell, where this contemporary version was composed. Like the early chronicles this puts forward a strongly Scottish view of the world having been written around the period of the Scottish Referendum on Independence. For more information please contact susanforde@fons-scotiae.scot

From the ROSL to the Red Box!



Daniel Campbell who used to manage the Royal OverSeas League opened his Red Box coffee-shop on the 3rd of August on the concourse at Edinburgh Haymarket Station. He told *The Scotsman* that he saw "a real opportunity to offer something exciting and original" in his home city. Why not go and enjoy a cup?



A First Novel

Kellan Macinnes, who spoke to the Branch in March this year about his book "*Caleb's List*", has now written his first novel "*The Making of Mickey Bell*". The book, published by Sandstone Press will be launched in Edinburgh on Saturday 24 September. For more details please go to <<https://kellanmacinnes.com/about/the-making-of-mickey-bell/>>

Branch Membership News

We welcome two new members to the Branch: **Fiona Forbes** and **Dorothy Leurs**. We look forward to seeing them at some of our forthcoming events.

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Branch Programme 2016 -2017

Once again the Branch forthcoming **Autumn/Winter programme** promises to be an interesting collection of distinguished speakers and fascinating subjects. This year the Branch will stage an **extra special event as part of the 80th Anniversary of the Society (please see below)**. We are sure members will find the programme stimulating as usual. The EPIL is free but lunches must be booked and paid in advance. A separate booking form for the lunches is enclosed with this newsletter. **We hope to see many of you. And do bring friends and guests, they are always welcome!**

PLEASE NOTE - Extra special Branch event as part of the 80th Anniversary celebrations

Wednesday 5 October 2016, at 6.30pm at the Royal Overseas League, 100 Princes Street
Showing of the film "Dummy Jim" by artist Matt Hulse, the extraordinary tale of deaf Aberdeenshire man, James Duthie, who cycled 3000 miles from Cairnbulg to the Arctic Circle in 1951 with a handful of clothes, a map, a simple tent and (of course) his bicycle. The film was a 15 years project in the making supported by the Saltire Society.

Additional Branch event!

Tuesday 22 November at 2pm – Visit to the War Poets Collection at Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus, with lunch available beforehand at The Hydra Café'. Catherine Walker, who gave the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution Lecture on Wednesday 18 March 2015 will be our host. All welcome!

Lunches

Saturday 1 Oct 2016	12.15 for 12.30pm at the Royal Overseas League Professor Anthony Busuttill on <i>Forensic medicine in Edinburgh and its influence on the evolution and development of this discipline</i>
Saturday 5 Nov 2016	Charles Burnett on <i>Representations of St. Andrews</i>
Saturday 3 Dec 2016	Mark McLean on <i>Lord Hailes and the Scottish Enlightenment</i>
Saturday 7 Jan 2017	Charlotte Neary on <i>The Water of Leith Trust</i>
Saturday 4 Feb 2017	Hamish Coghill on <i>Lost Edinburgh</i>
Saturday 4 Mar 2017	Helen Scott on <i>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</i>
Saturday 1 April 2017	Cathrine Czerkawska on <i>The Jewel, the Life of Jean Armour</i>
Annual Dinner	6.30 for 7pm at the Royal Overseas League
Friday 5 May 2017	Guest of Honour Dr Robin Marsack, outgoing Director of the Scottish Poetry Library
Branch AGM	6.30 for 7pm at the Royal Overseas League
Friday 19 May 2017	followed by the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution Lecture (7.30pm) Our speaker will be Lester Hillman on <i>Richard Hannay 100 Years On</i>

Summer outing – Saturday 3 June 2017 –*Penicuik* with Roger Kelly (details to be notified)

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Saltire Society HQ Autumn Programme

Annual General Meeting & Fletcher of Saltoun Awards Ceremony

Saturday 10 September 2016, Eden Court, Inverness at 12 o'clock

Inspiring Scotland: 80 Years of the Saltire Society – Lecture by Alex Salmond

Friday 23 September 2016, Edinburgh, The Royal Society of Edinburgh at 7pm

Saltire Society Science Lecture with Chris van der Kuyl

Thursday 6 October 2016, MacManus Galleries, Dundee at 5pm

Saltire Society Civil Engineering Award 2016 Ceremony

Tuesday 25 October 2016, National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, at 5pm

Fletcher of Saltoun Lecture: Prof Gerard Carruthers

Thursday 3 November 2016, The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh at 6pm

Saltire Literary Awards 2016 Ceremony

Thursday 24 November 2016, Central Halls, Edinburgh, from 6pm

Saltire Celebrates

Wednesday 30 November, Oran Mor, Glasgow at 7pm

Fletcher of Saltoun Awards Presentation

Wednesday 7 December 2016, The Civic Room, Town House, Aberdeen, at 1.30 pm

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