



NEWSLETTER

Saltire Society Edinburgh Branch

Dear Member,

Five months have passed since our last newsletter in May and here we are still battling with the Covid pandemic and still having to face restrictions. Nothing really seems to have changed very much.

By now we hoped the situation would have improved enough to allow us to go back to some sort of normality in the Autumn, but sadly it wasn't to be. We continue to live in a state of uncertainty and all of our social interactions are suspended, for the time being at least.

The Branch Committee was keen to start our regular programme for 2020/2021 in October, or even a limited version of it, but due to the latest Scottish Government rules this will not be possible for quite some time now. Nor were we able to hold a physical Branch Annual General Meeting because of restrictions on social distancing implemented by the Royal Scots Club. To compensate for this and keep members informed we decided to produce an extended edition of the newsletter and include in it the Convenor's Report and the Summary of the Branch Accounts for the year 2019/2020. Do get in touch if you have any comments or questions relating to our activities.

As you will see this bumper issue contains a great number of interesting items, from an extensive summary of our "indoor" expedition to Portobello at the end of August during a raging storm, to the usual News Digest, from a moving letter to an empty Lyceum Theatre during Covid to a comforting and uplifting poem against the gloom of the pandemic, and, to finish off, a few suggestions for newly published books, ideal presents for a Christmas in lockdown!. We do hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and that it will help us all stay in touch in these challenging times.

Stay safe.

Laura Scott
Editor

News from Saltire HQ

The Covid pandemic has affected all aspects of our lives and we are adapting to new ways of doing things. Like many other organizations the Saltire Society had to cancel all physical events planned for this year and, whenever possible, rearrange them on line. Due to current restrictions on socializing the **Society 2020 Annual General Meeting** was held via Zoom on Saturday 19 September. There was a good attendance and, thanks to modern technology, members living far away from Edinburgh - and even living abroad - were able to join in. The **Andrew Fletcher Lecture** will this year be delivered via **Zoom** on **Tuesday 10 November** by **Professor Rob Dunbar**, of the University of Edinburgh and eminent Gaelic scholar, on the subject of *John Lorne Campbell, Jonathan G MacKinnon and the Trans-Atlantic Gaelic Ties that Bind Scotland and Canada*. A link will be sent to members to sign up for the event. The **Fletcher Awards** will also be announced on line later in the year, while, sadly, the **Literary Awards** are now postponed until 2021. For further details on future events please check the Society's website at saltiresociety.org.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENOR

My thanks and those of everyone on the Branch Committee are owed to Laura for her continued production of newsletters to keep us all in touch at a time when face-to-face meeting regrettably is not possible. As autumn heads towards winter, we would do well to avoid dwelling on what has for now been lost owing to the exceptional circumstances in which we have to live, and instead should try to keep each other going through contact by phone, letter or email in the knowledge that all things pass and eventually we shall be able to meet again.

Do you suffer from Zoom fatigue? Or were you coached to the peak of fitness in your own bedroom by Joe Wicks MBE? There are so many aspects of the pandemic which are seriously unfunny that we have to find validity in the lockdown experience where we can, or else it may seriously impinge on our mental health. Please do share with us any reflections that you may have on the greatest peacetime crisis that this country has faced in living memory. Or maybe during your lockdown constitutionals you saw something that needed done. A plaque perhaps on the home of someone famous. Or is there somewhere a feature of our city that cries out for tender loving care. They say that we should seek to Build Back Better from CoVid-19, can you let us know where you would start?

John Yellowlees
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Branch events from the Summer

(John Yellowlees, Convenor)



Notwithstanding the horrendous conditions brought by Storm Francis, a few members braved the elements and the Branch has managed a socially-distanced event on the 25th of September in the form of a visit to Portobello. Alas, due to the terrible weather it was not possible to follow the Portobello Architecture Heritage Trail as planned but we

had a series of talks indoor as described below:



Branch Treasurer Eric Wishart introduced to our socially-distanced gathering a range of speakers on Porty Past and Present.

Archie Foley : people in Portobello talk about going “up to Edinburgh”, an indication that Porty is not a suburb but

an urban village whose inhabitants can trace their connections with the area back to the early nineteenth century and beyond. Incomers included potters from Staffordshire, brickmakers and also people retiring on half-pay from the military for whom it was a cheap place to live. With no town council, there was nothing to pay until the 1830s when the community's growing needs led to its designation as a parliamentary burgh and eventually rates were levied to pay for such services as a water supply.

Early inhabitants included the well to do, many of whom including the Duke of Argyll came to stay only in the summer. They lived at the eastern end of the burgh stretching towards Joppa, and the working class gathered by the potteries, brickworks, boatyards and harbour at the western end.

Now the process of change has been happening again, with the departure of industry and the spread of suburbia. Footprints in the Sand published in 2017 recalled events captured by the Portobello Reporter over forty years, and a sequel will appear soon. Portobello won the Academy of Urbanism's UK-wide award as “The Great Neighbourhood” for 2020.



Dr Margaret Munro cofounded the Portobello Heritage Trust ten years ago to save the kilns redundant after Buchan Pottery best known for its thistle though other designs were more significant was funded to relocate to Crieff in 1972. One of the pair has since been rebuilt with arrangements for its maintenance, but the other one has had to be half taken down –

they are now the last extant buildings of the pottery industry in Scotland. A current concern is the ferris wheel, which gives concern about vibrations as it has no foundations. An entertainment licence was granted without any consultation despite its being located next to an ancient monument, and the promoter is hoping for it to become an annual event. The website generated interest from all over the world, and reminds people that once the area saw chimneys in close juxtaposition with the pier.

Stephen Hawkins: the Portobello Amenity Society vets planning applications which often are not to the area's betterment. The paddling pool had become derelict, so was successfully developed as a community garden which gave an opportunity to host the three remaining Coade Stone chimneys, possibly left over from Hopetoun House which despite the lack of a surviving formula were successfully repaired by a local potter, just one of a wide range of artistic abilities in the community. The Society succeeded in preventing a superstore at the west end, but a Barratts development which did proceed proved not very inspiring owing to use of a very commonplace brick – in contrast to the locally produced bricks that were much sought after for the internal walls of houses in the New town of Edinburgh – and the City Council's

indifference to the area's environment is attributed to the attitude of the individual planning officer into whose area Portobello falls.

Karl Stern : Artwork Porty has been going for five years, and with 120 artists based locally has provided 50 open studio events each September until now, when CoVid means that this year there will be only outdoor events. On retiring nine years ago Carl went to art college, and has been welcoming up to 1400 visitors daily through his door.

Nick Stroud : the name Portobello derives from a seaman who, returning from the Caribbean naval victory of that name in the War of Jenkins' Ear, named thus what he called his retirement hut. There are other districts with the same name in London and Sheffield, and the name of Admiral Vernon who gave the name grog to a sailor's tot of rum was commemorated in a street name. You had to queue to get onto the beach on summer days until the 1950s, when the lure of cheap foreign holidays began to draw people away, and the funfair, previously the longest continuously operated one in Scotland would eventually close. Instead Scotland would eventually close. Instead there has been a proliferation of suburban housing, smearing out the area's originality. The station on the East Coast Main Line was lost in 1964, but campaigning led to the opening of a station at Brunstane which is now on the Borders Railway, a potential third route from Edinburgh to England.

Peter Ash : vacant land provided a site for a boathouse, now the home of one of Portobello's two sailing clubs. Skips are very sea-friendly craft, and the Scottish Fisheries Museum demonstrated how to build one. So in order to participate in sailing you must first build your own kit, helping make sailing a great force for the development of communities since it requires a strong and visible commitment and inspires an appreciation of the seaside's beauty at different times of day and seasons of the year.

Iain Patterson is Minutes Secretary of the Open History Society, and noted that Portobello has been home to many eminent historians over the years, with Ian Wood and Trevor Royle now resident locally – also T G Gallagher whose history of the Portuguese dictator Salazar was published in July. Nineteenth-century antiquarian David Laing is commemorated by a plaque, and medievalist Jenny Wormald also lived in Portobello – another medievalist Gary Dickson died earlier this year. The Annals of Portobello & Duddingston published in 1898 have been reprinted. A future president of the Saltire Society Paul Henderson Scott was brought up in Portobello, where his grandfather managed a garage. (Incidentally, Paul's grandparents lived at Argyll House, in Hope Street, from which garden came the three 19th century coade stone pillars now at Portobello Community Garden on the Promenade, please see first photo on top left).

The birthplace of the community's most famous son can be seen, and his name is commemorated in the Portobello bypass Sir Harry Lauder Road. A recent example of the community's artistic self-confidence has been the proprietor of the Boathouse Restaurant installing on his terrace planters previously on Rose Street which carry quotes from High MacDiarmid and other literary giants

Conclusion: Eric handed out copies of “Postcards from Portobello : Celebrating ten years of the Portobello Book Festival” which captures the moods of life at Edinburgh's Seaside. Note : this year's Porty Art Walk : All at Sea is on 5/6 and 26/27 September and 17/18 October, with twelve artists working in a range of media to create beach installations, live art performance, pop-up exhibitions, film and video projections, together with an online Zoom dinner.

WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER THIS EVENT AGAIN NEXT YEAR AS PART OF OUR PROGRAMME SO THAT MANY MORE MEMBERS CAN JOIN IN AND ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE.

Membership News

We are sorry to report that In the last few months there have been five resignations:

Elaine Miller, Christine Anne Phillips, Catherine Reid, Sheila Stewart and Flora M Stewart.

The Branch is grateful to all these members for their support during a great number of years.

A special get well message from the Branch goes to member **Robin MacCormick** who is currently in the Royal Infirmary after suffering a mild stroke back in August. His wife Morag reassures us that he is in good spirits and making steady progress with his recovery. We hope he will soon be able to leave the hospital and rejoin her at home.

CAN YOU HELP?



The Scottish Flag Trust has launched an **appeal for £100k** to reharl the doocot at **Athelstaneford, birthplace of the Saltire**, and to replace the equipment used in the audiovisual presentation, provide a new interpretive walkway to improve access and to remodel, relandscape and replace the base of the plinth to the Saltire Memorial. If you would like to donate please send your **cheques, made payable to The Scottish Flag Trust, to:**

Restoration Appeal, c/o Athelstaneford Parish Church, East Lothian EH39 5BE.

The Branch has donated £100 to the Appeal in memory of our former Treasurer **Kenneth Stewart**, himself a Trustee of the Scottish Flag Trust for many years and its Treasurer since 2014.



Socialising in time of pandemic

Convenor John Yellowlees, Treasurer Eric Wishart, David Withington and Laura Scott met for a socially distanced dinner at the **Royal Scots Club** on Friday 25th of September.

Sadly, due to the latest Scottish Government restrictions, the Club is now temporarily closed until Monday 26th of October. They hope to be able to open again after that and to welcome guests for lunches from Wednesday to Friday, two Retro Dinners on 30 October and 20 November and Sunday lunches on 8 and 9 November.

If interested in attending any of the above, please phone 0131 5256156 or email events@royalscotclub.com

Poetry Corner

This beautifully reassuring poem by Irish poet **Derek Mahon**, who sadly passed away in October this year, has already brought comfort to many during the long months of lockdown. We want to share it with you all.

Everything is Going to be All Right

*How should I not be glad to contemplate
the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window
and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying,
but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden
and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything
and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight
watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.*

Derek Mahon (1941-2020)
from *Selected Poems*



The **Lyceum auditorium** has been sitting empty for the first time in decades during the current pandemic, Artistic Director David Greig invited artists and audiences alike to contribute their stories about life in these unprecedented times with a **Letter to The Lyceum**. All letters received are appearing on the Lyceum's website (<https://lyceum.org.uk/letters-to-the-lyceum>) to form a collective portrait of a world turned upside down. A selection of letters will be read by actors and shared in a weekly podcast and will go on to form part of a special one-off show to re-open the theatre. For our newsletter we have chosen the moving letter below by Scots author and theatre maker **Ishbeal McFarlane** which we hope you will enjoy reading. (She is also featured on page 8 in our *Books for a Scots Christmas* section, with a new book just published on the Scots language).

LATEST NEWS: The Lyceum is preparing to re-open for performances this coming Christmas after months of adapting the theatre to ensure all the appropriate Covid safety measures for guests, staff and performers are in place. You will find all the details on the theatre's website at lyceum.org.uk

Dear Lyceum,

I hope this letter finds you well in these strange and uncertain times. That is the only sanctioned way to start correspondence at the moment. The health visitor, Sainsbury's and a vegan shoe company have all hoped that their emails find me well in these strange and uncertain times. And you know, they did! I am well! Most of the time! Or, at least, a lot of the time! Do you have up and down days, as a theatre? It seems to me that a theatre can only have good days with people inside - even if there's not a show on it must be reeeeeal niiiiice to get a good clean, right in about your chairs and shiny banisters. That sounds dreamy. But I'm guessing you don't even have that. Maybe being a theatre without people means you can't be well, that you're unwell. I'm sorry if that's the case. In these strange and uncertain times.

Writing to you is really nice for me, actually, because I recently lost my beloved main correspondent. Grandma was an Edinburgh lady, like yourself, from the other side of the Meadows on Sciennes House Place, that used to be Braid Place. She loved letters, writing and receiving them. She would start her day with correspondence, redrawing the lines of connections to family and friends across the world - not just for herself but as a sort of emissary for her whole family. Nothing says letters from Grandma more than the phrase 'Tell your mother I was asking for her'.

I have boxes and boxes of her letters. It's right to keep them, isn't it? They tell little bits of the day-to-day, the ups and downs, the dancing and the minister and going to the big Asda. But Grandma's letters most of all told me about other times, and most of all about the war.

When I was 18 I went to university in Edinburgh and stayed on Brougham Street, just up the road from you at Tollcross. Do you know it? My room was above the old Spud U Like and the flat smelled of baked potatoes. Growing up in strenuously-not-destitution in the 1920s and 1930s meant university was never an option for Grandma. When she was called up she was assigned to the Women's Royal Naval Service and trained in London, where there were digs in the houses of famous actors who had evacuated. She served in Liverpool where she worked in a secret bunker dealing with the North Atlantic fleet - and also dealing with rats, the TB that proliferated underground, and bombing. But when she saw me head off to university with my muddy-striped scarves and my corduroy hat (it was 2004) I reminded her of herself at that age, heading off to the services. Isn't that strange? My life of parties, libraries, and eating hummus for the first time reminded her of orders and double shifts and trying to protect her parents from learning how bad it was, how she would come up from a shift and find a street just gone, rubble, nothing.

The war has got closer to us recently. The Second World War was a refounding national myth for a United Kingdom losing an empire from its grasping fingers, and very handily we got to be the goodies in this myth. The WW2 echoes created by our current field hospitals, separation from loved ones and mortal fear are in everything. The Queen just managed not to say her speech-writer's rehetorical flourish of 'we will meet again' in full-on Vera Lynn. Let's also be grateful for the sweet mercy that we haven't been subjected to a resurgence of the Keep Calm and Carry On binge of the early 2010s. I think a t-shirt bearing the legend Keep Calm and Carry on Watching Tiger King might send me over the edge.

It's funny to see the myth of our current lives getting created around us. It centres around NHS heroes and rainbows in windows and the greatest hero of all - played by a Hollywood great in the movie - Captain Tom Moore, wearing his Burma Star. And in my home, feeding my baby, on my phone, I fight against that myth. I furiously read editorials about how the UK has the world's worst per capita death toll. I read Twitter threads from despairing virologists pulling apart government policy. I talk and talk and talk about President Trump, the Keep Calm and Carry on Shopping Exclamation Mark of world leaders.

And then I think about my grandma, telling stories for the seventy five years she lived after she was demobbed, about girls (her colleagues were always girls) sneaking out to see officers, about walking through the streets of Liverpool in the middle of the night to get fresh air, about her mother sending her half a birthday cake because everyone in Newington who had given rations had to have a slice before it was posted. That, as far as I can tell, WAS the war to her. The cenotaph and the petals in the Royal Albert Hall and 23-year-old dancers in nylon tea-dresses on Strictly Come Dancing - all of that seemed right and good and honourable to her. She lived through it, and lost through it, had people stolen from her and lived in fear, and there she was at 96, in the car on the way to the RSPB tearoom singing We'll Meet Again.

When me and my cousins were at parties at my Grandma's we all had to do turns, just like she'd had at parties in Braid Place. You'd like that, Lyceum, seeing as you're a place for folk to do turns. And so I ask you to take care of the turns people do when we get back. You will hold our myths of this - lies which are safety and danger. Please be careful with the lies we tell. Good or bad, they are very important.

With love in these uncertain times,

Ishbel

News Digest (.....in Covid Times)

A House of Literature for Scotland



Some of you may remember that in Summer 2019 it was announced that the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, in collaboration with Edinburgh University, is planning to create a Literary Quarter at the heart of the Royal Mile. It's a bold project as it will see the transformation of the oldest medieval building in the city, John Knox House, in a **Literature House for Scotland**. This, together with the award-winning Scottish Storytelling Centre next door, will form the centre piece of an extended Literary Quarter comprising Canongate Books, the Scottish Books Trust and the Saltire Society. It will be a honeycomb of closes, gardens and streets with year-round events, exhibitions and interactive learning. The Literature House, which is hoped to be completed by 2022, will be a place where, thanks to innovative technology, people will be able to experience an evolving, immersive exhibition, a unique and comprehensive interpretation of Scotland's rich and diverse literary story.

Walking through the heritage of North Edinburgh

Share Travel Experiences in North Edinburgh

Community organisations are working with
Sustrans to make it easier to walk and cycle



Walking the railway path that runs from Murrayfield towards Leith through the Pilton area now provides the opportunity of a journey in time through the heritage of North Edinburgh. Transport Scotland, the Pilton Community Health Project and Sustrans have joined together to provide six interpretive panels which tell the visitor about the strength of community and its history of campaigning, how railways turned into paths shared by walkers and cyclists, celebrating local creativity, the industrial scene of names like Ferranti's and Bruce Peebles which are gone but not forgotten and finally a timeline of landmark events in local development. Certainly worth a try while exploring Edinburgh in lockdown!

Medieval Leith comes to the surface (thanks to the trams...)



The contractors who started digging Constitution Street to work on the utilities for the new tram lines to Newhaven would never have imagined coming face to face with a medieval cemetery. But this is exactly what happened. The excavations unearthed a number of graves with human remains dating between 1300 and 1650 as well as remnants of the original medieval graveyard wall. This means that in Medieval times South Leith Parish Church's graveyard extended across the road with graves surviving beneath the current road surface. Archeologists have now stepped in for assisting with this delicate operation. All human remains affected by the tram works will be exhumed and subjected to examination and analysis that will reveal invaluable information on the origin, health, diseases and diet of the people of Leith at that time.

2019/2020 BRANCH CONVENOR'S REPORT (John Yellowlees)

This has been a year of turbulence that saw in October the sad passing of our friend Kenneth Stewart. As our Treasurer he was as efficient as he was self-effacing, and as Events Organiser he saw to the arrangements for our lunches including the smooth transfer from the Royal Overseas League to the Royal Scots Club. All of us on the Committee will miss him for his air of quiet authority and for his succinct contributions.

We were delighted that Eric Wishart was well enough to return as Treasurer, and seemed set to enjoy the rest of our programme until to general astonishment the world as we knew it came to a sudden surprising end with the onset of global pandemic. So let us recall the happy days that took us up to that point.

After our 2019 AGM last year the small audience who had turned out heard from Pat Clark about the eclectic and well-connected Murrayfield-based painter Charles H Mackie, the centenary of whose death was in May 2020. Fellow artists that he met included Gauguin, Vuillard, Hornel, and Kirkcudbright, Normandy, Venice were among the placers that he painted.

Our summer outing took us to the new John Buchan Story museum in Peebles where we heard from David Brackenridge that the book with which Buchan is most closely associated, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, was the world's first modern spy thriller. However writing was just a part of Buchan's incredibly active life, for he assumed many public roles, to which he brought enormous commitment and moral conviction - colonial administrator, military intelligence officer, politician and finally Governor General of Canada.

At our October lunch Paul Sizeland told us that Scottish Natural Heritage leads delivery of Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy which includes a very broad suite of actions to enhancing the stewardship of our natural heritage. The agency also promotes the value of the natural environment's contribution to economic development, sustainable strategies for food and drink production that work towards a low-carbon economy and responsible tourism while also combating wildlife crime. Our oceans occupy six times our land mass, and of our 90,000 animal and plant species, over 24,000 are invertebrates and 6 are unique to Scotland.

On the eve of its publication, Andrew Redmond Barr explained to the November lunch attended by our President Sally Mapstone that his new book *The Illustrated Declaration of Arbroath* makes more accessible a diplomatic letter to the Pope that the Scots had made Robert the Bruce their king not out of blind allegiance but as the conscious endorsement of a self-made leader who had stepped up to the task. With victory at Bannockburn at 1314, the time had come to drop the sword and pick up the pen. The Church was literate and able to capture sentiments that might catch the Pope's attention. The ideals of people, power and liberty having been secured in war, John Barbour's *Freedom is a Noble Thing* signalled that a time had come to enjoy the smaller pleasures too, including the rights of the citizen. The nation was on the brink of transformation, full of stories about its past but looking forward to a clear identity in the wider world.

Jean Findlay said at our December lunch that Marcel Proust was the great French modernist, both metaphysical and poetic, whose streams of consciousness in *Remembrance of Things Past* would lead the way in the development of twentieth-century literature. In a relatively short but surprisingly happy life, author, soldier and spy Charles Kenneth Scott Moncrieff found the time and energy to translate his seven volumes in seven years, to the delight of Proust's followers. Jean is a member of the Scott Moncrieff family, and present in her audience was our National Convenor John Scott Moncrieff wearing CK's ring.

Another relative told us about a distinguished family member in January when Jamie Jauncey recalled Don Roberto, R B Cunningham-Grahame, a man of aristocratic adventurous bearing who espoused lost causes and expressed concern for the underdog, while being at ease in influential circles. From exploits as a gaucho in South America he turned to politics, serving as a Liberal MP before cofounding the Labour Party and then at the end of his life the Scottish National Party. By this time he had turned to writing, producing over forty books, one of which about Jesuits in Paraguay provided the basis of the film *"The Mission"*.

Also in January we enjoyed a visit led by Historic Environment Scotland's Adam Gorysz to the Leith home since 1816 of Trinity House founded in 1380 as a charitable foundation to assist seafarers who could no longer support themselves and the widows and children of those killed at sea. To pay for this, prime gilt was a levy on imports and exports enshrined in law by Mary Queen of Scots in 1566, and Trinity House also supported the establishment of local churches and the training and licensing of pilots who guided ships in and out of the Forth.

Susan Kruse told us in February that community archaeology involves local people in the planning and carrying out of research projects that are of direct interest to them, and is not just about digging since other skills including aerial photography have their part to play. Unlike history which is derived from a static set of documents, archaeology is always changing as new finds come to light. Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) was set up in January 2009 to create opportunities to encourage people with diverse interests and abilities to learn about, record and participate in celebrating and increasing knowledge of their local heritage through classroom learning, practical outdoor sessions, group project work and via a virtual community. They are currently working on a three-year project to develop a Highland Archaeology Research Framework which started with a questionnaire to museums asking which objects in their collections they feel are important.

Acting chief executive Tom Brock told us at our March lunch that Keep Scotland Beautiful is the charity that campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global issues to change behaviour and improve the quality of people's lives and the places they care for.

KSB is leading the way on improving Scotland's environment, tackling a wide range of environmental issues, from reducing the amount of litter on our streets to cutting the carbon emissions that threaten our planet. Having been part of the environmental landscape for over 50 years, KSB draws together government, local authorities, businesses, community groups and individuals in this common cause. With a presence in every village, town, and city in Scotland, its activities are estimated to make a difference to 1 in 5 people living in Scotland. KSB provides environmental campaigns, services and practical initiatives that help Scotland with its environmental ambitions and problems. Its unique spectrum of activities focuses on four main areas: Sustainable Development, Education, Local Environmental Quality, Sustainability and Climate Change, and Environmental Services. KSB campaigns, acts and educates towards environmental improvements in all of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. Activities range from awards and accreditations to local environmental quality monitoring; from campaigning to training and audits; from clean-ups to celebrating environmental achievement; and from environmental education in schools to supporting public sector action on climate change.

THE SALTIRE SOCIETY : EDINBURGH BRANCH
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2020

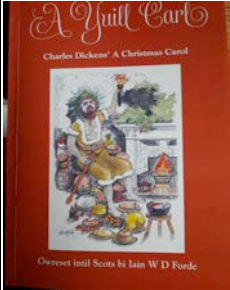
RECEIPTS	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Lecture Lunches	3,030.00		2,653.00	
Less: paid Royal Scots Club	(2,856.00)		(2,991.00)	
		174.00		(338.00)
Annual dinner May	987.00		820.00	
Less: paid Royal Scots Club	(819.00)		(795.60)	
		168.00		24.40
Other income				
HQ Subvention 10.2.20 [previous 9.11.17]	400.00		-	
Bank interest	36.48		30.28	
		436.48		30.28
		778.48		(283.32)
PAYMENTS				
Gifts upon visits to heritage sites, museums		200.00		100.00
Bursary: Royal Geographic Society		750.00		-
Postage, stationery and newsletter		231.00		234.99
Bank charges - May 2019		60.00		
Speakers : book tokens @ £30		90.00		240.00
AGM room hire		75.00		68.75
		1,406.00		643.74
Deficit for year		(627.52)		(927.06)
Funds brought forward at 1st April	£		£	
Royal Bank Scotland - current		54.07		709.07
Cash		17.00		159.00
Royal Bank Scotland - deposit		7,029.69		7,159.75
NSI bond		2,000.00		2,000.00
		9,100.76		10,027.82
Deficit for year		(627.52)		(927.06)
Funds carried forward		8,473.24		9,100.76
Represented by:	£		£	
Royal Bank Scotland - current		387.18		54.07
Royal Bank Scotland - deposit		6,086.06		7,029.69
Cash in hand		-		17.00
NSI bond		2,000.00		2,000.00
		8,473.24		9,100.76

Prepared 17 April 2020

Eric Wishart hon treasurer

Books for a Scottish Christmas

An ideal present!



For anyone interested in the Scots language this beautifully produced translation into Scots of **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol** by **Iain W D Forde** would make an ideal present. The volume, with the title *A Yuill Carol*, is illustrated by the author and comes with an accompanying one hour audio CD of extracts read by Norrie Thomson. The book is published by Susan Forde at *Fons Scotiae: Scots Language Publishing* at £7.99, £8.80 with p&p, more than two copies no p&p; cheques to Susan FG Forde; contact susanforde@fons-scotiae.scot, website at www.fons-scotiae.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Charles Dickens, and "A Christmas Carol", had close connections with Scotland and well known Scots. These include the following: a tombstone in Edinburgh's Canongate Kirkyard to Ebenezer Scroggie, a 'Maelman', was misread by him as 'Mean' man; his first publisher was John Black; he married the daughter of George Howarth who was another of his publishers, Sir Walter Scott's lawyer, and, through his mother-in-law, connected to Burns' collecting of songs. Dickens' anger at the ill-health and poverty of children ties in with the current situation where the same poverty, ill-health, poor housing and distress, exacerbated by a pandemic, are affecting many children, as in Victorian times.

More on the Scots Language.... (*"O" for Hoolet*)

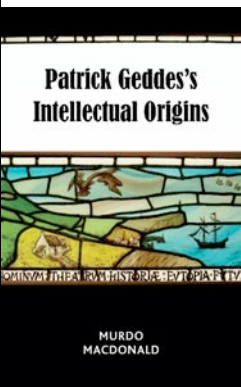


A few years back some of you may have seen a show at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival called "*O is for Hoolet*" about the Scots language and performed by its author, **Ishbel McFarlane**, Now you can revisit and enjoy the play in a paperback book by the same title recently published by **Salamander Street** at **£10.99** and available in all bookshops.

Language is personal. Nothing gets closer to our hearts. And yet, by its own nature, it's always social. Who owns it? Who appoints it? Who governs it? Ishbel McFarlane presents collected fragments - stories, interviews, memories, characters and attitudes - to challenge and disrupt our expectations and prejudices about language.

By interrogating the history of Scots, and the ways in which it is taught and subdued, the reader is invited to question the way forward for minority languages.

The intellectual background and cultural legacy of Patrick Geddes



This book by **Professor Murdo Macdonald** and published by Edinburgh University Press, explores Patrick Geddes's Scottish intellectual background in depth for the first time, drawing on George Davie's notion of the democratic intellect. It highlights his insistence on the interdisciplinary importance of arts and sciences. It considers his achievements from his pioneering work in Edinburgh and Dundee and his leadership of the Celtic revival, to his influence in Paris, London and India.

Patrick Geddes is one of Scotland's most remarkable thinkers of the late 19th and early 20th century. His environmental and cultural message endures today, but until now the Scottish context to his thinking has not been properly acknowledged. This book changes that, situating Geddes within a distinctly Scottish intellectual background, and exploring his substantial national and international advocacy of art, architecture, ecology, literature, planning, geography and Celtic studies.