



1ST MARQUIS OF MONTROSE SOCIETY

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Members of the AGM group gather on the newly refurbished steps outside St Giles Cathedral

SOCIETY AGM 2007

Society members came together at St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh on Saturday 19th May to honour the 1st Marquis of Montrose and to conduct the society AGM, which this year was held at the nearby Faculty of Advocates.

The Cathedral as ever was busy with visiting tourists but our group managed to gather in the Chapman Aisle, at the Montrose memorial, to pay our respects to the Great Marquis.

After a short walk down the High Street we reconvened in the Faculty of Advocates premises where the AGM was conducted by the chairman Malcolm McVittie. Several members had travelled from south of the border to attend.

A wide range of topics were discussed including the society structure, battlefield

site developments, the autumn trip and election of office bearers.

Copies of the AGM minutes have been issued to members giving a full account of the matters which were raised.

Following a buffet lunch the society was delighted to welcome to the meeting Dr Julian Goodare of the University of Edinburgh, who presented his paper entitled 'The Scottish Revolution'.

Dr Goodare's presentation included his own definition of what actually constitutes a revolution and he covered in detail some of the acts which in the past had led to revolt, and the effects which this had on our society at the time.

Dr Goodare's presentation was well received by the group and it rounded off a most interesting and worthwhile day.



TIPPERMUIR AND ALFORD

Interesting developments have been taking place at both Tippermuir and Alford during recent months.

On Sunday 29th April this year members of our council met at Tippermuir with three Perth High School teachers who have in recent years been trying to generate general historical interest in the Tippermuir battlesite. One of the group, Paul Philippou, has now joined the society.

During a most interesting afternoon of intense discussion the actual site of the battle was keenly debated and it must be said that in general our group came to a conclusion which somewhat contradicted the commonly held views of contemporary historical chroniclers.

As our society has been considering for some time now ways of marking the battlesite in some way, perhaps by a memorial of some kind, we agreed to join forces and see what we could achieve together.

As the battlesite is surrounded by arable land, where best to position such a memorial has long been a matter of consideration by our society. Prime candidate was the churchyard of Tibbermore Parish Church, now under the care of the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust, which is responsible for the church building but not the surrounding graveyard.

When formal application was made to them recently to mount a plaque on the church wall (an idea first considered a few years ago) permission was refused on the grounds that the plaque could damage the fragile fabric of the church wall. Whilst the SRCT regretted refusing our request they are keen to help us in any way achieve

our goal of erecting a memorial in the churchyard.

With their ruling, our attention has now turned to the possibility of a memorial cairn in the churchyard itself and, as the churchyard is under the care of Perth & Kinross Council, we have opened communication with them on this subject.

Paul Philippou has already made contact with the council and the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and he will keep us informed of developments. Initial reaction from the Perth & Kinross authorities has been encouraging.

Progress continues to be made at Alford with the Alford walkway and the Gordon Stane now firmly established.

In recent weeks our society offered to finance the production of a bronze plaque which would be positioned close to the Gordon Stane. The local historical and community groups have welcomed this offer and discussion is now ongoing regarding the wording of the plaque. It is our intention that the plaque should be similar in style to that which was produced for the Blair Atholl memorial which the society erected in 2003. The memorial would have our society badge on it and plans are in place for it to be unveiled, perhaps later this year, by a member of the Alford historical group.

For their part, the local group has agreed to provide a granite block on which the plaque will be mounted and to pay for the services of a stone mason to position and prepare the memorial.

SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTION ARREARS

At the AGM the chairman confirmed the intention of the society to retain the current rates of subscription.

Comment was made however that several members, despite having received reminders, were still overdue on their subscription payments. Regretfully, some are regular 'offenders' and have to be pursued every year for their subscriptions.

Please spare a thought for those who are caused extra work by having to pursue subscriptions and make sure

your subscriptions are paid at the beginning of each year. Better still, do it by standing order. The treasurer will be pleased to give you our bank details to allow you to set this up.

Do check you have paid this year as, regretfully, the society will have no option but to remove the names of those who continue to ignore reminders from the membership list.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that the society announces the deaths of society members Donald Macinnes, Peter Brown Martin, and Mr A Gillies.

Don Macinnes was an original member and a keen

supporter of our society outings and his cheery demeanour, and his intelligent and informative discussion, will be sadly missed at future gatherings.



A VIEW OF THE GORDON STANE BESIDE THE NEWLY CREATED WALKWAY AT ALFORD. THE SOCIETY HOPES TO UNVEIL A PLAQUE HERE TO COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE AND THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF LORD GORDON.

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Autumn Weekend Trip—Perth

Arrangements are well in hand for the autumn trip, which this year will be based in Perth and will include visits to Innerpefferay Library, Perth Museum, Tibbermore Parish Church and Tippermuir battlefield.

The trip will be held over the weekend of 8/9 September and will include a society dinner, and overnight accommodation, at the Quality Hotel, Perth.

These annual trips are great fun and are the social highlight of the society calendar. To those who have never attended any of the previous outings, you really are missing out. Please make an effort to support the society on this occasion.

Those who wish to attend, but have not so indicated to the trip organiser Nivon Russell, **PLEASE DO SO WITHOUT DELAY!!**

ABBOTSFORD EXHIBITION

Joan Earle has kindly brought to the attention of the society that a Nigel Tranter exhibition has been created at Abbotsford House, the former home of the author Sir Walter Scott.

Nigel Tranter, one of Scotland's greatest authors, was an original and greatly respected member of our society. Joan was a great friend of Nigel's and she recommends the exhibition to all those who have a literary and historical interest; a recommendation naturally endorsed by this society.



Dr Julian Goodare addresses an attentative audience at the 2007 AGM