



SALTIRE

Winnie Becomes Trust's Patron

Winnie Ewing has had a long association with Athelstaneford, having been a Trustee since 1998, and having officiated in 2001 at the opening of the viewpoint. Now in her late 80s, Winnie is less able to travel, and the Trust is delighted that she has graciously accepted the invitation to step down as Trustee and instead become our Patron.

President of the Scottish National Party from 1987-2005, Winnie Ewing has been a prominent politician since winning a by-election at Hamilton in 1967. As a Member of the European Parliament for 18 years, she acquired the nickname "Madame Ecosse" because of her strong advocacy of Scottish interests. And in 1999, as the oldest Member, she presided over the opening session of the new Parliament in Edinburgh and famously declared that "The Scottish Parliament, adjourned on 25 March 1707, is hereby reconvened".



Lord Lyon Lecture

Last November, for the first time, the Trust organised an official event as part of East Lothian Council's annual Saltire Festival. This was a lecture, The Significance of the Saltire in Scottish Heraldry, delivered by the Lord Lyon Dr Joseph Morrow.

Head of the Lyon Court, the Lord Lyon King of Arms is one of Great Officers of State in Scotland, and Dr Morrow, appointed in 2014, is the 36th to hold this position. Dr Morrow's illustrated

presentation covered his many responsibilities, including overseeing state ceremonial in Scotland, granting new arms to persons or organisations, and registering new clan tartans. The talk was not only informative but also hugely entertaining.

The Trustees were thrilled that the event, held in the Star Room in the John Gray Centre, was successful and attracted a large turnout. It has since been decided to arrange further lectures on a biennial basis.



Trustee and Flagmaster David Johnston hoists the new Saltire after the 2016 St Andrew's Service, while Rev Joanne Evans-Boiten and pipers MacKenzie Swanson and David Leckie look on.

2017 St Andrew's Service Invite

The annual St Andrew's Service will be held in Athelstaneford Church at 11.00 on Sunday 3 December, and everyone is warmly invited to attend and afterwards partake of refreshments and hot drinks in the Village Hall.

The Story of St Andrew and the Saltire: Public Exhibition

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the opening, back in May 1997, of the Flag Heritage Centre in Athelstaneford. While hard to estimate numbers with certainty, it is probable that over 75,000 people will have visited the Centre over this period.

To mark this milestone anniversary, the Trustees are staging a major public exhibition in the John Gray Centre Gallery, Haddington, entitled East Lothian – Birthplace of Scotland's Flag: The Story of St Andrew

and the Saltire. The choice of a venue in the county town was taken with a view to maximising the number of people able to access this significant part of our heritage.

The exhibition is due to open on Saturday 28 October for three months, closing on 30 January 2018. Opening times for the Gallery are from 9.00am till 5.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, from 10.00am till 4.00pm on Saturdays, and from 1.00pm till 4.00pm on Sundays. The Gallery is closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and over Christmas and New Year.

The Trust has been fortunate in having had the support and guidance of East Lothian Council's Museums staff in preparing for the exhibition which will comprise three main sections:-

- The Battle of Athelstaneford
- St Andrew, Scotland's Patron Saint
- The Saltire or St Andrew's Cross.

The Trust has also been fortunate to secure loans of significant items for display from other collections. One of these, from the National Museum of Scotland, is a cast of the 8th century Benzie Stone, Angus, depicting Pictish warriors on horseback. Another, from the Trades Conventry in Edinburgh, is a replica



of the 15th century Blue Blanket, said to have been carried at Flodden. The banner's design features one of the earliest appearances of the Saltire. There are also loans from Fife Museums, including a medieval pilgrim badge and a seal matrix from the Bishop of St Andrews.

The intention too is that the original copper battle scene from the Saltire Memorial, restored and currently on display in the Heritage Centre, be taken down and rehung for display in the exhibition.



STOP PRESS

The Trustees are delighted to announce that John Cursiter CA has agreed to take over the role of Independent Examiner of the annual accounts.

On a sadder note, the Trustees heard of the recent death of Angie Townsend. Angie had successfully taken a storytelling initiative about the origins of the Saltire into East Lothian schools in 2013/14.

The Trust is in discussion with East Lothian Council about jointly holding a Design a Flag for East Lothian Competition. The hope is that this can be launched during the Saltire Festival in November, and will attract wide community involvement