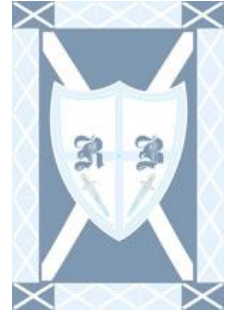
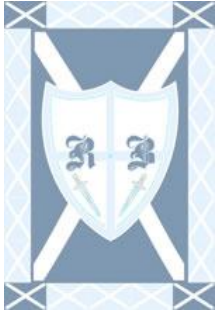


*August 22, 2012*

*Well, 2012 has been the busiest year on record so far for the Trust and it is set to get even busier.*

*With the opening of the Bruce Trails across Dumfries and Galloway last year we had reached a major point in our development. It was decided we finally had a solid footprint to build on and the time had come to concentrate on our main aim, a Visitor come Education Centre on the outskirts of Dumfries dedicated to King Robert and based on his life and actions in and around the region. (Incidentally we are now actively considering giving Dumfries and Galloway the new title of the Bruce Country)*

*After some research we decided the most practical way to push on was a dummy run in the shape of a modest Bruce Exhibition with a central theme of the killing of the Red Comyn which took place at the Church of the Grey Friars in Dumfries on Thursday, February 10, 1306. After all it was the single act which launched the Wars of Independence. But what was the best way*

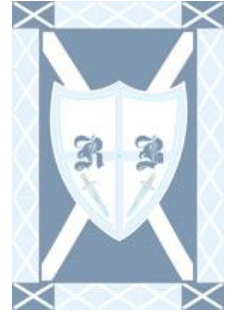
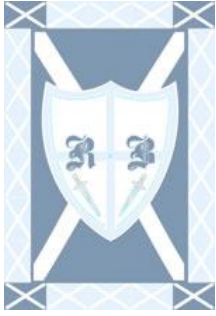


*to do that? We soon decided a short DVD was the answer.*

*Step forward Scene1Take1, a junior movie making group in the town whose ages range from 11 to 18. They work under the watchful eye of Lee Vann Wakelin, a Londoner with great deal of experience in the film business.*

*To cut a long story short, cameras rolled on Saturday, April 30, at ancient Amisfield Tower – courtesy of Mrs Jane Johnstone who kindly gave us the run of the place. The actors were guys and girls who had responded to auditions we held earlier. And Edinburgh film maker David Barras and his team joined in to make sure all went well. It did and we were finished in one day. The outcome is an eight minute plus HD movie that has so far received nothing but praise. Everyone involve was brilliant on what was a bright but very cold day.*

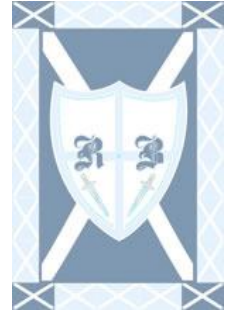
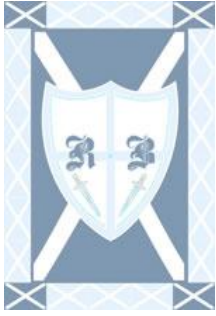
*By then we had held a successful meeting with Dumfries and Galloway council's Ewan Green, the man in charge of rejuvenating Dumfries town centre and he had agree to give us premises next to the Midsteeple for ten weeks from the middle of June.*



*Now step forward the Guardians of the Realm, our old friends who have spent years taking the Bruce message, in full authentic costume, to various events and schools around the south west. With their help and a lot of effort and time on our own part the exhibition opened. And thanks to the effort of Margo, who has a real natural talent as well as a wealth of experience in these things, we ended up with an extremely professional little show.*

*At the time of writing we have one weekend left before the exhibition closes when, we confidently expect, we will have entertained more than 1,750 visitors. While the majority live locally and many of them learned the Red Comyn story for the first time - a blight on Scottish education for no longer teaching our history - we have had interested visitors from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, not to mention the Czech Republic, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, France and several others.*

*In all sincerity the exhibition has been a great success if only because we have made a strong contact with the Scottish Government through our extremely helpful South of Scotland*



*MSP, Joan McAlpine. Her visit has rekindled our enthusiasm. Ian and Margo were invited by Joan to the Scottish Parliamentary reception on the eve of the opening of the Wallace Letters exhibition. They met culture secretary Fiona Hyslop and discovered that our work is falling in quite neatly with the Government plans to celebrate the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn in June 2014.*

*As to the future. Well, we are already pondering plans to play our part in the Scotland wide Bannockburn year. At the same time we are exploring various avenues that we hope will lead to the centre. And we plan to increase the number of Trustees in the not too distant future.*

*Essentially it is watch this space.*

*PS A big thank you to everyone who has visited our exhibition, bought our books or just handed over donations. we have been humbled by your generosity.*

*Doug Archibald*