



Salute

The Magazine for Friends of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



Issue 18: Diamond Jubilee

How to build a Dragon | Hospitality

Pony on Parade | Scottish Jewels



Friends of
**THE ROYAL
EDINBURGH
MILITARY
TATTOO**



THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

3-25 AUGUST

2012

The Tattoo pays tribute to The Queen's Diamond Jubilee together with the year of Creative Scotland, a celebration to mark 60 years of the Queen's reign and Scottish creativity and culture, in the round.

With music, colour and spectacle from home and abroad, set against the incomparable backcloth of Edinburgh Castle, featuring the Massed Pipes & Drums, Military Bands, display teams and dancers from the four corners of the earth – and of course the poignant notes of the Lone Piper.

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WELCOME

Wow! It has been another extraordinary year for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We have successfully delivered the New Stands and all that that entailed - a £16M project delivered on time, to budget and to quality. Our friends, customers and the cast have been thrilled with the outcome: lots of legroom, great sightlines, stunning sound, world-class lighting, stronger production facilities, splendid new areas for corporate hospitality...and all properly in sympathy with the Castle and Edinburgh. Wonderful!

The Show has sold out for the 13th season in succession and we have been proud and privileged to welcome over 220,000 visitors from all over the world. The theme 'Of the Sea' was acclaimed and our overseas contributors from Australia, Brazil, Germany, The Netherlands, and the Oman, along with servicemen and women from our own Armed Forces and our Dancers, including the West Ulster Total Dance Company, all enjoyed themselves hugely in Scotland - in and out of working hours! I was thrilled with the outcome in every respect.

Now, with the winter winds battering the Tattoo offices, we are busy developing the Show for next year. We are looking forward to our celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Year of Creative Scotland. We have some great acts lined up, a host of rich ideas and some surprises. We are thoroughly looking forward to seeing you.

Ceud mìle fàilte dhuibh uile gu baile Dhùn Èideann agus chun a' Chaisteil

David Allfrey
Producer and Chief Executive



DRUM MAJOR RETIRES

The Tattoo would like to wish Senior Drum Major Brian Alexander, The Royal Regiment of Scotland, who will retire in January 2012 after 24 years of Army service, all the best for his future.

Many of our fans will recognise Drum Major Brian Alexander as the front figure of the Tattoo; cutting an impressive swagger as he led the Massed Pipes and Drums over the drawbridge at Edinburgh Castle at the start of each show.

Brian has participated in 13 Edinburgh Tattoos since his first appearance in 1991 as a leading drummer, taking part each year when not deployed, or otherwise engaged with his Regiment and performing as the Lead Drum Major in 2002 and 2007-2011.

One of Brian's most memorable moments was making Tattoo history in 2003 when he performed with the Pipes and Drums of The 1st Battalion, The Black Watch. Having only recently returned from duty in Iraq at the time Brian recalls: "We had postponed our leave to perform in the show, we [The Black Watch, RHR] came on separately, dressed in desert combat uniform. The reaction was amazing and there was a standing ovation from the audience. I felt immensely proud."

Reflecting on his last Edinburgh Tattoo, he says: "Whilst I have to admit to feeling a wee bit sad, I feel

very proud and privileged to have been part of such a world renowned event."

Brian hopes to continue to teach future drummers in and around the Edinburgh area, primarily as he wants to visit Tynecastle every Saturday, when his football team The Hearts of Midlothian play at home!



Welcome Nancy

Nancy Riach joined the Tattoo in September 2011 to take up the position of Sponsorship and Corporate Hospitality Manager, with the key responsibility of developing the Tattoo's sponsorship strategy and hospitality offer.

Nancy comes from an events and marketing background having been involved in various roles over her career, including becoming the youngest festival director in Aberdeen at the age of 21, the management of the Bell's SFL sponsorship, the opening of the Scottish Seabird Centre and the launch of BAE Systems Type 45. She has worked for a leading PR and events company as a freelance consultant as well as with Scottish Ballet and Scottish Opera before joining the Tattoo team.

Nancy grew up travelling around the country with a father in the British Navy, and now lives in Edinburgh where she has been for over 15 years. Not one for being far from the sea Nancy chooses to live in Portobello near the beach.

Nancy has a key part in developing the Tattoo's hospitality packages for 2012 and is already working on ideas for 2013 with key partners including Historic Scotland and key venues in Edinburgh.

Nancy explains: 'The Tattoo is an iconic organisation and I hope to be able to bring my experience and expertise to add value to the great hospitality already on offer and add to the loyal and satisfied client base that has already been established. There may be a few new ideas and also a wider offer so everyone coming to the Tattoo can choose an exceptional experience which enhances the already memorable event.'



She is now working on the development of the sponsorship strategy including working with current supporters and sponsors as well as a wider key stakeholder role.

She comments: 'The Tattoo has some great partners including the Royal Bank of Scotland as a main sponsor and a number of key brands involved as sponsors and supporters. Part of my role will be to ensure these partnerships achieve maximum benefits for all involved. The other area I will be looking at is introducing new sponsors and supports while maintaining the brand and existing relationships, something I am really looking forward to.'

Arts and Business Awards

The Tattoo was delighted that two of their sponsorships were recognised at the 2011 Arts & Business Awards that took place in the Aberdeen Music Hall on 26 October.

The Royal Bank of Scotland was shortlisted with seven other arts sponsorships in the Sustained Partnership category and were Commended. The Royal Bank of Scotland has been the Tattoo's main sponsor for over a decade. This long term investment has enabled the Tattoo to continually invest in the world class event and retain sell-out audiences and mass appeal.

Tsuko Limited, who came on board for a two-year project to work with the Tattoo to develop a new brand identity, were shortlisted to a list of five for the Sponsorship by a Small Business award and came second as the Commended partnership in this category.



The Tattoo is grateful for all of the sponsorship and support in kind received throughout the year. We are delighted that recognition such as the Arts & Business Awards reinforces the Tattoo as a valuable partner and that working with our supporters can further develop the overall Tattoo experience.

TATTOO TOAST FOR SCOTLAND'S FIRST MINISTER

Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond attended and was the Salute Taker during the 2011 Tattoo.

Prior to the early Saturday performance, he acknowledged the Gaelic Toast of Lone Piper Cpl Stuart Donald Gillies from The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Once again in 2011, the 'sold-out' signs for the Tattoo were raised, marking the thirteenth successive sold-out season for the military showpiece event.

Tattoo Chief Executive & Producer, Brigadier David Allfrey said: "An extraordinary achievement given the economic headwinds but underlines that the popularity of the event remains undiminished. Yet it is of course the hard work of everyone involved that has brought about this successful outcome."



The Lone Piper's Gaelic Toast

One hundred thousand welcomes to you all to the City of Edinburgh and to the Castle
A long happy life and peace to you all
Health to the Queen
Health to you all

Edinburgh Castle Wins Best Heritage Attraction

Edinburgh Castle was voted the best UK heritage attraction at the 2011 British Travel Awards ceremony in London in November.

Nick Finnigan, Edinburgh Castle's Executive Manager, was presented with the gold award.

"This is a great honour," said Mr. Finnigan. "Edinburgh Castle is home to the Scottish Crown Jewels, which are amongst the oldest regalia in Europe and the Stone of Destiny, however it is also a fantastic venue for events ranging from rock concerts through to spectacular firework displays at the end of the Edinburgh Festival and New Year, bringing something for everyone to enjoy."

The One O'Clock Gun has been fired almost every day from Edinburgh Castle since 1861 and St. Margaret's Chapel, the

oldest building in Edinburgh, is seen as one of Scotland's most romantic places to get married.

The British Travel Awards are widely considered to be the "Oscars" of the travel industry. "It's the largest awards programme in the UK created to reward travel companies and the winning accolade is the benchmark for excellence when it comes to finding out who really is the best in the business of travel for the UK consumer," said BTA's chief executive Lorraine Barnes Burton.

Companies were nominated by travel industry professionals and a selection of the previous year's consumer voters. In 2010 over 120,000 votes were cast with the results scrutinized and audited by Deloitte LLP.

MINI TATTOO GLASGOW

World-class performers from the 2011 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo delivered a thrilling kaleidoscope of music and colour to Glasgow's George Square during a mini-Tattoo on 9th August.

The show's theme for 2011 was 'Of the Sea' and featured performers from the UK, Oman, Germany, Brazil, Australia and Holland, and included the world-famous Massed Pipes and Drums, who marched through Glasgow City Centre before performing in Glasgow's George Square, at no cost, for the public.

Performers stepped off from Cochrane Street (behind the City Chambers) at 1200hrs and marched around George Square, before a selection of top-flight acts from the sold-out Tattoo performed in the square for an hour.

Participants included 250 Pipers and Drummers, The Band of The Royal Netherlands Army Mounted Regiments, The Brazilian Marine Corps Martial Band, The German Mountain Army Band, The Tattoo's Massed Highland Dancers and the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines.



20 year old Claire Raeburn from Huntly Aberdeenshire led the Tattoo Dancers in a dance to celebrate the seas in Glasgow City Centre.



Just one of the team! 5-year-old Ethan Owens from Glasgow joined forces with members of the Brazilian Marine Corps Martial Band as they waited to perform in George Square.

BONDI RESCUE AT THE TATTOO



The real life heroes who patrol one of the world's busiest and most famous beaches – Bondi, a Sydney suburb in Australia – paid a visit to a performance of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on 11th August, 2011.

Lifeguards from the beach rescue television series, Bondi Rescue, from left to right, Shaun Rochford (Cowbow), Andrew Reid (Reidy), Troy Quinlan (Gonzo), Trent Maxwell (Maxi), and Bruce Hopkins (Hopppo), took time out to experience the Castle Esplanade spectacular.

The lifeguards took time to pose for photographs with Garrison Sergeant Major Graham White (left) of the Scots Guards and Lone Piper Cpl Stuart Donald Gillies (right) from The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Bondi Rescue, which was first broadcast in 2006, attracts huge international audiences and is screened in countries such as the UK, Sweden, Norway, Germany and the United States.

GLASGOW TO HOST THE WORLDS UNTIL 2015

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) has confirmed that Glasgow has won the right to host the World Pipe Band Championships for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Glasgow faced competition from Belfast to land the prestigious event. The city's bid was submitted in October by event partners Glasgow City Council, Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and EventScotland.

The city has been associated with "The Worlds", as they are affectionately known, for more than 60 years and on Saturday (December 3) the RSPBA's national council voted for the event to remain in Glasgow

TATTOO GETS READY TO SPARKLE



Musicians from Switzerland, Norway and Australia will be among the sparkling line-up at the 62nd Tattoo.

As part of the 2012 international celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's accession to the throne, the Tattoo's Diamond Jubilee themed production is Scotland's Salute to the Monarch and is set to be one of the most impressive ever staged.

The 90-minute show, which will also celebrate the Year of Creative Scotland, is expected to dazzle a worldwide audience.

Now that new Producer, Brigadier David Allfrey, has delivered his first Tattoo with some élan, expectations for his 2012 offering are mounting.

He said: "We are all hugely excited at the ideas that are building in the production: great acts, great music, stunning technology, some real innovations, Edinburgh Castle of course and all the sparkle that we expect from diamonds! The sheer accomplishments of the last 60 years allied with Scotland's inherent creativity provide an excellent framework within which we can work. The canvas is wonderfully broad and lends itself to real creativity. We are all thrilled to be involved and delighted that the Tattoo can contribute to the national celebrations in an extraordinary year."

While traditional Tattoo favourites are assured, sure-fire international crowd-pleasers such as the Top Secret Drum Corps from the Swiss city of Basel - one of the world's most sensational

percussion groups - along with the finest display unit in the Norwegian Armed Forces - His Majesty The King's Guards Band and Drill Team - will together help ignite proceedings as the production pace quickens.

Also taking part will be popular pipe bands from the Southern Hemisphere. This includes Melbourne's Rats of Tobruk, a 'living memorial' to honour those who died in North Africa's 1941 Siege of Tobruk, the Australian Federal Police from Canberra, who first appeared at the Tattoo in 2009, Sydney's award-winning Scots College Pipe Band and the 30-member Manly Warringah Pipe Band from the northern beaches area of New South Wales.

And also among August's attractions will be a 100-strong contingent of young pipers, drummers and dancers from Queen Victoria School in Dunblane who, accompanied by the Scots College, will present an animated Tweed-themed item. The Tattoo's own Highland dance troupe is then set to provide a colourful display which tells the story of Whisky, while 50 dancers from OzScot Australia help celebrate Scotland's heavy engineering pedigree.

The grand finale, featuring a prodigious cast and that international song of love and friendship Auld Lang Syne, will bring the show to a close as the Lone Piper, high on the Castle ramparts, plays a special favourite of The Queen to mark the Diamond Jubilee festivities.

Jubilee News

Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne on 6 February 1952, and the Coronation took place on 2 June 1953.

A Diamond Jubilee has only ever been celebrated in the UK once before. Queen Victoria, who reigned for more than 60 years, celebrated her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Events are expected to be held throughout the UK and the Commonwealth, including Jubilee celebrations which will take place between Saturday 2 June and Tuesday 5 June 2012.

- On 2 June, a flotilla of up to 1,000 boats is scheduled to sail along the Thames with the Queen on the Royal Barge.
- The UK government has designated Tuesday, 5 June, an additional bank holiday and moved the late May holiday to 4 June to enable a four-day weekend of events.
- People will also be encouraged to share Sunday lunch with neighbours and friends, and a BBC concert will be held at the palace on 4 June.
- The concert will be televised, but, as of printing, the line-up of performers had yet to be announced.



CELEBRATING THE NEW STANDS

By Sophia Jackson



Tattoo Producer and Chief Executive Brigadier David Allfrey presents Ruth Parsons, Chief Executive of Historic Scotland, with a core of bedrock sampled from beneath the Castle Esplanade

In October 2011, the Tattoo hosted a special dinner to honour those who had contributed to the success of the new stands project.

Surrounded by exhibitions honouring Scottish history and innovation, the event was held at the National Museum of Scotland and was an opportunity for the Tattoo to pay tribute to the organisations and individuals who enabled this challenging project to be completed.

"It has been an extraordinary journey to creating the new stands, and we are so grateful to everyone who has been involved, who has helped to carry the weight of such an enormous project," said Tattoo Producer Brigadier David Allfrey. "Thanks to this spirit of cooperation and tenacity, the stands project was delivered on time and on budget."

In true Tattoo style, the awards presented to recipients were distinctive and unique. The first used cores of bedrock recovered from beneath the esplanade during the site investigation works, which the Tattoo undertook in February of 2008. The core samples are unique in location and the depth at which they were recovered, and are remnants of the glacial deposit that was left during the last ice age.

Historic Scotland granted permission to the Tattoo to use these cores after

they had been sampled and tested, and Historic Scotland representatives were duly presented with a mounted core sample in appreciation of the organisation's assistance during the stands project.

Other recipients received a mounted stainless steel version of one of the pins used to connect the steelwork of the stands together. They represent the ingenuity of Scottish engineering in taking a standard connection and developing it to enable the fast erection and dismantle times of the structural steel.

An additional award was presented to Bill Macdonald, who worked for many years with Mero on the old stands, and who has been heavily involved onsite during the creation of the new stands. Bill also spent many hours working on a xylophone made from sections of the old stands, which organisers originally planned to use in the opening fanfare sequence for the 2011 show. Unfortunately, it was not used in its entirety however elements of the one-of-a-kind instrument were played as a dramatic demonstration of the Tattoo's appreciation for Bill's hard work.

For Tom Chambers, the Tattoo's Major Project Development Manager, the opportunity to thank those with whom he has worked so closely over the past four years was gratifying.

He said: "A large, eclectic group of people have been involved in the

success of this project; it was important to recognise the contribution everyone made and to thank those who have made a very significant impact on the project. Tonight enabled us to recognise all those involved and the venue could not have been more appropriate in recognising the unique designs that have been incorporated in the stands."

After all the fanfare, what would a dinner be without a cake? A culinary version of the Tattoo grandstands was wheeled out with a flourish.

Complete with a Baileys chocolate cake foundation, a fondant and white chocolate ganache esplanade, vanilla fondant seats, and an audience comprised of hundreds and thousands, the elaborate creation was the work of Kirsty Jack from The Beautiful Cake Company, who crafted each section by hand. This included the flag poles, which alone took three hours to assemble and add to the cake. The entire bakery production took Kirsty 15 hours to complete.

Kirsty said: "It was also tricky to ensure it was all to scale and that the angles were correct, so it took a bit of planning and a lot of use of various CGI and photographs to get it right."

But just as the real stands must be built and taken down each year, what took Kirsty so many hours to construct was later joyfully devoured in a just minutes.



Brigadier David Allfrey and Bill Macdonald examine a piece of the old grandstands, which used the Mero System



Brigadier David Allfrey presents Ian Lumsden from Arup with a mounted stainless steel pin, representing those used in the new stands



A cake version of the Tattoo's new stands was made by Kirsty Jack from The Beautiful Cake Company

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Paula Farrer

The year 2011 marked a special milestone for the Edinburgh Tattoo's Assistant Retail Manager, Paula Farrer, who has now been with the company for more than 20 years. In that time Paula has seen the retail world move from cassette tapes to high definition DVDs and music downloads.

One fraction of her role includes managing a busy online shop as well as the Tattoo's year-round shop on Market Street in Edinburgh. Add to this sending large trade orders around the world, stock control and product planning, not to mention supporting a large team of temporary employees and volunteers in August, and you have one very busy woman.

We asked Paula what drives her in her unique role at one of the world's most beloved events.

You started working at the Tattoo when you were just 12 years old (just kidding; she was 19). What was the Tattoo shop's number one seller in 1991?

Can I remember that far back? Back then we sold videos; DVD's hadn't been invented! The audio/visual products have always been our biggest sellers. For fans they are a perfect lasting memory of the show.

What are the most important aspects of your role?

There are so many different aspects to my job that are of equal importance. We start planning the stock for the next year shortly after the Tattoo has finished. We look at sales figures and we work out what items are in highest demand. I negotiate with suppliers each year to try to get the best deal for the customer and the Tattoo. The production of the CD in August is vital. The timescale is so tight; there is no room for error. We have the sleeve printed at the end of July then the music is recorded live at the dress rehearsal shows. The recording team edit the master and have it ready for me to collect

at 6.30am Monday morning to hand to our manufacturer. By Tuesday morning, before we open at 10am, I have my first delivery of that year's CD. I can never relax into the show until I know that I have taken the full delivery to cover the demand. Then there is the DVD production, licensing, staff management and stock control. The list is endless!

What are some of the changes the Tattoo retail department has undergone?

The biggest changes in the retail department are the demand and technology. When I started, we were answering telephones and dealing with mail orders for Tattoo souvenirs. The rise of the Internet and the creation of our web site have greatly widened our audience. The staffing has also changed. When I started at the Tattoo, I only had two students in the summer. Now I have a team of 16 plus support from our volunteer Scouts and programme sellers.

How do you think new technology will change things for the Tattoo in the future?

Technology changes so quickly these days. I remember being amazed when I made our first CD available for download on iTunes. I could not believe how easy it was for people to access our music. Even people who have never heard of the Tattoo suddenly find us by searching a track from one of our shows. Now we are looking into making the DVD available for download in the future. Who knows - will we be beaming the Tattoo live into people's homes by hologram in the future? Just imagine 1000 Tattoo cast members in miniature marching up and down on your living room floor!

You coordinate a team of temporary staff during the show. What do you look for when hiring new staff for the summer?

We hire mostly university students who are available for summer work and the majority come back each year until they have completed their university course. We look for dynamic, flexible and friendly people. I need people who are not shy

and retiring. I need them to have the confidence to talk to people from around the world, and cope with 8000 people wanting to hire a cushion from them or buy souvenirs. I have worked with some fantastic people who still keep in touch. I feel we work them so hard each summer but the next year they want to come back for more, so we must be doing something right! We could not get through the summer without a strong team behind us and each year I feel we get the best.

What are some of your fondest memories of the Tattoo to date?

I think my very first show will always be special as I had never seen the show before and had no idea how spectacular it was. Then there was the time I had to dress a group of female musicians from the Band of the Peoples Liberation Army of China in kilts for a photo shoot, and they had no idea how to wear them. We worked around the language barrier with smiles, giggles and hand gestures. Seeing some of the popular acts perform for the first time has been great: Top Secret Drum Corps, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Band and the Kings Guard of Norway. Seeing our previous Producer, Brigadier Melville Jameson, paraded in a tank on the Castle Esplanade on the last night of the 2006 Tattoo, as it was his last Tattoo as producer. It was very emotional as the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards played Amazing Grace.

What continues to inspire you about your job at the Tattoo?

My inspiration comes from the people I work with. We are like a small family who have been thrown together for one outcome which is the successful presentation of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We are all working together for the same goal and are all passionate about it. The talent within this organisation is second-to-none. Also the people who assist in putting the show together who are only here for July and August but are just as passionate about the Show as we are. You would be hard pressed to find this anywhere else. It is such a unique job and you don't know what each day will bring.

HOW TO BUILD A DRAGON



By Sophia Jackson

The sweeping drama of the 2011 Tattoo finale, *How to Train Your Dragon*, represented an evolution of finales of previous Tattoos, as it soared to the show's crescendo within a single orchestral piece rather than several shorter songs or marches.

In the past, the finale has included a collection of pieces of music, which were performed during each progressive stage of the finale. In 2011, while maintaining a careful eye on the proven theatricality of past years, the Production Team also kept a spotlight trained on the common story themes carried throughout the Show, such as 'Of the Sea,' which was reflected in several of the performances.

This was the first show for Tattoo Chief Executive and Producer, Brigadier David Allfrey, and represented an opportunity to test out his desire to see a common storyline stretch from the Fanfare to the March Out, binding it all together under a creative strategy encompassing performance, colour, music, sound effects, lighting, projection and storytelling.

For Brigadier Allfrey, this requires a subtle but important shift in the way the show is designed. Instead of timing the music to match the marching of the bands, everything moves to the music itself, from the pipers to the lighting.

"Rather than being run off a stopwatch, the whole thing is set to a musical score, which should deliver a seamless performance from beginning to end," he said.

The vision of this musical foundation is a heightened experience for the Audience, whose emotions are attached to the 'zip line' of the story throughout the 90 minutes.

The seed of this cohesive yet complex finale began with Lt Col Nick Grace, Commandant and Principal Director of Music, Royal Marines. HM Royal Marines were the lead service at





Tattoo Highland Dancers march onto the Esplanade during the 2011 Tattoo Finale

the 2011 Tattoo, and Lt Col Grace was the Tattoo's Principal Director of Music.

In 2010 one of Lt. Col. Grace's bandmasters suggested he watch the DreamWorks film, *How to Train Your Dragon*. The score, composed by John Powell, won The Golden Reel Award for Film Score of the Year and has been nominated for several other prestigious awards, including an Oscar (best original score), and a BAFTA (best film music).

Lt Col Grace was immediately struck by the score's emotional influence on the film, and the Celtic themes that flowed throughout the music made him think of the Tattoo. He applied various sections of the score to elements of the Show, timed precisely to the massed bands, the pipes and drums, the cast and the honour guard.

He said: "I had the idea that this could be all linked together, bringing all the elements of the Show together in one encompassing piece of theatre set to music."

In order to add a further dynamic element to the finale, Lt Col Grace also wished the Highland Dancers to have the opportunity to dance and perform.

The Tattoo's Producer at that time, Major General Euan Loudon, was enthusiastic about Lt Col Grace's new vision for the finale. When Brigadier Allfrey took over the post as Tattoo Producer, he encouraged Lt Col Grace to proceed with the score. Preparations were made for ex-Royal Marines musician, Michael McDermott to undertake the arrangement of the music.

The challenge of coordinating the Massed Pipes and Drums for the finale was given to Captain Steven Small, Director of the School of Army Bagpipe and Highland Drumming. Not only is the music not a traditional pipe tune, but it contains many different themes and melodic lines, largely outside the range of the bagpipes.

Captain Small also needed to time the pipes and drums to march on precisely at the right moment. Performed in the dark, this required thorough knowledge of the music to ensure the step off was perfect.

Captain Small said: "Thankfully it seemed to work and the effect was quite special, even though my nerves were shredded every night at that point until the pipes struck up at the correct place."

With the score organised, no theatre is complete without the support of set and lighting. With the backdrop of Edinburgh Castle already creating a looming influence over the scene, Projection Designer Ross Ashton first met with Brigadier Allfrey to discuss how the projections could best enhance the atmosphere for *How to Train Your Dragon*.

"David has very clear ideas about what he wants and that helps greatly," said Mr. Ashton.

For the 2011 finale, the aim was to create a one-of-a-kind dragon to sit against the castle.

"I wanted it to look like it was climbing over the front of the battlements. I sketched in the claws gripping the front of the gatehouse and climbing over the half moon battery."

Mr. Ashton commissioned artist Bill Mather to create the vision of the dragon and Brigadier Allfrey enlisted the help of artists Leo du Feu for some smaller dragons and Douglas N Anderson (who also designed the 2011 Programme Cover) to draw the stunning Kelpie, a supernatural water horse of Celtic folklore, which was included in order to once again draw on the 'Of the Sea' theme. For both images, the projections themselves were black and white, with colour added by Lighting Designer Gerry Mott.

When it comes to having to stretch an image over 40 feet of darkened stone at night, black and white projections create the best result, says Mr. Ashton.

"The black and white image is incredibly powerful, so with the colour over top you get a very saturated and punchy result. It also sits nicely on the architecture of the Castle."

The initial idea of adding actual flames to spew from the dragon's jaws was (not surprisingly) not allowed, but Gerry Mott was able to recreate the effect with changing lights and was even able to make coloured steam flow from the Kelpie's mouth. Combined with the sound team's addition of a mighty roar that bellowed through the smoke, the scene had both the Audience and the Tattoo Crew spellbound.

In fact, the effect was so great that it had members of the Lighting Crew jostling over who would get to light the dragon's breath each night.

There can be no doubt that the Tattoo's yearly finale is one of the highlights of the event, but it seems that in the years to come, Tattoo Fans can look forward to even larger grandiose finishes to their favourite Show.



PONY ON PARADE

By Sophia Jackson

Along with the usual gasps of surprise and bursts of applause that flow down from the stands during a dramatic Tattoo finale, the 2011 Royal Edinburgh Tattoo welcomed another collective murmuring, namely “awe...”

Starting from the seats nearest the castle and moving like a river down either side of the Esplanade, this exclamation of cuteness followed the short-stepped clapping of The Royal Regiment of Scotland's Shetland pony mascot, Cruachan III.



From members of the audience to the Tattoo's sales team and most certainly the cast, it seems no one was impervious to the charm of this diminutive brown horse.

“Everyone just loved him; basically he was the centre of attention every night,” said Cpl William Perrie, Pony Major, who has been working with Cruachan for four years.

Previously the mascot of The 5 Scots, Cruachan III became the mascot of The Royal Regiment of Scotland two years ago. Since then he has appeared at numerous military events, from homecoming parades to Armed Forces Day.

One such event was the Presentation of the Colours Parade on 2 July in Holyrood Park, when Her Majesty The Queen presented the six colours to the six battalions of The Royal Regiment of Scotland since the Regiment's formation more than five years ago.

On that historic day, Cpl Perrie and Cruachan marched in front of all of the battalions, a cherished memory that Cpl. Perrie lists as “a real honour.”

For many at the Tattoo, including much of the cast, Cruachan is the first and often only Shetland pony they will see, making his presence a unique addition to an already iconic Scottish event. But for the soldiers themselves, Cruachan is more than a mascot. For those on active duty, he is also a vital symbol of home and of Scotland's proud traditions.

“It's because he's a Shetland pony; it makes him unique and all the battalions are proud of him,” said Cpl Perrie.

A few facts and figures about the 2011 Tattoo's most popular cast member:

- Cruachan III is 22 years old. He took over the important post from Cruachan II, who passed away at the ripe old horsey age of 34.
- In 2001 he was promoted from Private to Lance Corporal
- Cruachan was the member of the 2011 Tattoo cast to boast his own private trailer.
- His favourite treats are Polo Mints. But if he can't get any, he won't shy from a salt & vinegar crisp or two.
- When he's not on parade, Cruachan takes it easy, sharing a field with his buddy Islay, another Shetland pony brought in to ensure he doesn't get lonely between gigs.
- Cruachan is scheduled to participate in the Black Watch Homecoming Parade in March, 2012, as well as Armed Forces Day festivities.



Cruachan III enjoys a salt and vinegar crisp at a local pub between shows, with Pony Major Cpl William Perrie

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING AT THE TATTOO

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has launched a stunning array of unique hospitality options for 2012, which is a very special year as we host a celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The hospitality packages have been designed for those who want more than a spectacular performance in a magnificent location. There are stand, Premier seat and VIP box seat options available with packages that provide the key ingredients for an unforgettable night out, which are ideal for outstanding corporate entertainment or a special occasion for family and friends.

This year we have ensured that several of the packages on offer are in Edinburgh Castle, which gives fans the opportunity to experience an after dinner escort through the throng of cast members waiting to go on stage, then over the drawbridge and across the Esplanade to their seats to enjoy the spectacle that is the Tattoo.

Premier Packages

The **Stewart Packages** offers you the chance to dine in the Jacobite Room in Edinburgh Castle and meet some of the performers and includes a Premier Seat, which offers the best open-air views of the performance available. The **Bruce Package** offers a private tour and viewing of the World's Largest Collection of Scotch Whisky at The Scotch Whisky Experience followed by a drink and canapé reception with a visit from cast members and a Premier Seat. Finally, the **Wallace Package** offers a Premier Seat only, available on selected dates.

VIP Packages

Enjoy a truly first class array of exciting VIP hospitality with box seats, all of which include the post-show Producers Champagne Reception and come with private fine dining options for groups across a stunning choice of magnificent venues including Edinburgh Castle, The Scotch Whisky Experience, The New Club, The National Museum of Scotland and The Royal Yacht Britannia as well as mixed dining options with a box or stand seat in the Amber Restaurant in The Scotch Whisky Experience and Queen Anne Room in the Castle.

For something a bit different there are our new VIP package additions including a Backstage Tour with a private viewing of the Crown Jewels or the ultimate package on a Saturday where you join the crew for behind the scenes view during the first show then take your VIP seat for the second show.

The Tattoo's renowned hospitality offer looks to improve year on year, as further developments are planned for 2013. Details of all the packages and how to book them is available on the website or by contacting the Tattoo office.



The Queen Anne Room at Edinburgh Castle is beautifully decorated for dinner guests prior to the Tattoo



The tasting table stands amidst the world's largest whisky collection at The Scotch Whisky Experience

TATTOO NOMINATED FOR BAFTA AWARD

The BBC coverage of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo was recently nominated for a BAFTA Scotland Award in the Live Event Coverage category.

The British Academy Scotland Awards celebrate and reward the highest achievements in Scottish Film, Television and Video Games. Held annually, the awards continue to be recognised across the country as the gold standard of excellence in the art forms of the moving image.

The 2011 BAFTA Scotland Award ceremony was held in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow on 13 November and Tattoo Production Manager Steve Walsh MBE and Captain Steven Small, Director of The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, attended on behalf of the Tattoo team. They were joined by Production Assistant Laura Young and Production Executive Mark Munro representing the BBC.

Unfortunately they didn't come away with a BAFTA as the category was won by The Great Climb, a programme covering a live rock climb from the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides.

Although not a winner this time, the BAFTA nomination is recognition of the continuing high standards delivered by the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo year on year and no doubt the posh frocks will be out again before too long.

WINNER: The Great Climb

Directed by Ian Russell
Produced by James Else, Richard Else, Laura Hill & Margaret Wicks
Triple Echo Productions for BBC2 Scotland

NOMINATED: BBC Scotland: Release of Abdul Baset-Al Megrahi

Directed and Produced by James Crook
BBC Scotland

NOMINATED: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Directed and Produced by John Smith
BBC Scotland

HOLLYWOOD ROYALTY COMES TO THE TATTOO

Academy award-winning actress Dianne Wiest took time out of her busy schedule to attend the 2011 sold-out Tattoo.

One of Hollywood's more well-established actresses, she has had a successful career on stage, television and film, appearing in popular movies such as Edward Scissorhands, The Horse Whisperer, The Purple Rose of Cairo, and Hannah and Her Sisters.

The actress, whose mother was born in Auchtermuchty, has won two Academy Awards, two Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe Award.

The Oscar winner is photographed being received by the Tattoo's Guard of Honour provided by The Royal Highland Fusiliers, 2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.



This year the Tattoo is celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and will be focusing on many historic links with diamonds and jewels, the most iconic of these being the Scottish Crown Jewels, on display in Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle. With the offer of adding a Historic Scotland day pass to visit Edinburgh Castle now available at the Tattoo box office, a trip to see the national treasures has never been easier to arrange as part of the Tattoo experience.

The Honours of Scotland, the Crown, Sceptre and Sword of State, are the oldest set of crown jewels in the UK dating from the 15th and 16th centuries during the reigns of James IV and James V and first used together for the coronation of Mary Queen of Scots in 1543. These three elements also appear upon the Royal Coat of Arms of Scotland, which depicts the King of Scots wearing the Crown and holding the Sword and the Sceptre.

Adapted, Hidden, Lost and Returned to Glory

The Honours have had an eventful history which includes being adapted and added to before being used at numerous coronations from 1543 up until 1651, when they were hidden in various locations across Scotland, including under the floorboards of a church near Kinneff, to avoid being destroyed by Oliver Cromwell.

From 1660 they were taken out of hiding to be used at sittings of the Scottish Parliament to represent the monarch, but by 1707 Scotland lost an independent parliament and the Honours were locked away in an oak chest and almost forgotten until 111 years later when in 1818, Sir Walter Scott searched the castle and uncovered the box.

They went on public display in 1819 only to be hidden away again during the Second World War as a precaution in case of a German invasion. In 1953, they were taken out of hiding to be presented to The Queen. Then in 1999 the Crown of Scotland took pride of place at the first sitting on the devolved Scottish Parliament and had made an appearance at subsequent opening ceremonies for each new Session.

What an Honour

Since 1819, the Honours have been on public display in the Crown Room at Edinburgh Castle. When the Stone of Scone was returned to Scotland in 1996, after 700 years in Westminster Abbey, it was also placed in the Crown Room alongside the Honours. Together they are recognised symbols of the Scottish nation and ones that can be seen everyday - what an Honour!



TATTOO SHOP NEWS

The Tattoo Shop is getting into the spirit of the 2012 theme of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, by taking on a new range of beautiful Jubilee items made by Ulster Weavers.

Featuring such classic products such as tea cosies, oven gloves, aprons and mugs, there is both a traditional and a contemporary range to suit all tastes.

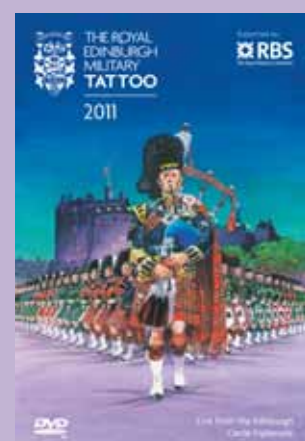
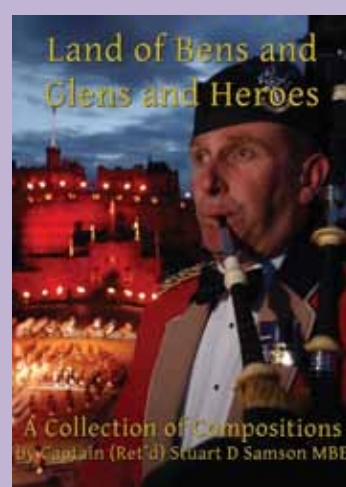
Flying off the shelves ever since it arrived has been the Jubilee canvas bag (£15.95), a sturdy and stunning medium sized shopper with a zip pocket and magnet clasp.

Also new in the shop is the Tattoo Tot Glass (£5.95). Many fans have asked for a wee glass and this sturdy little offering is now available, boxed and ready to wrap.

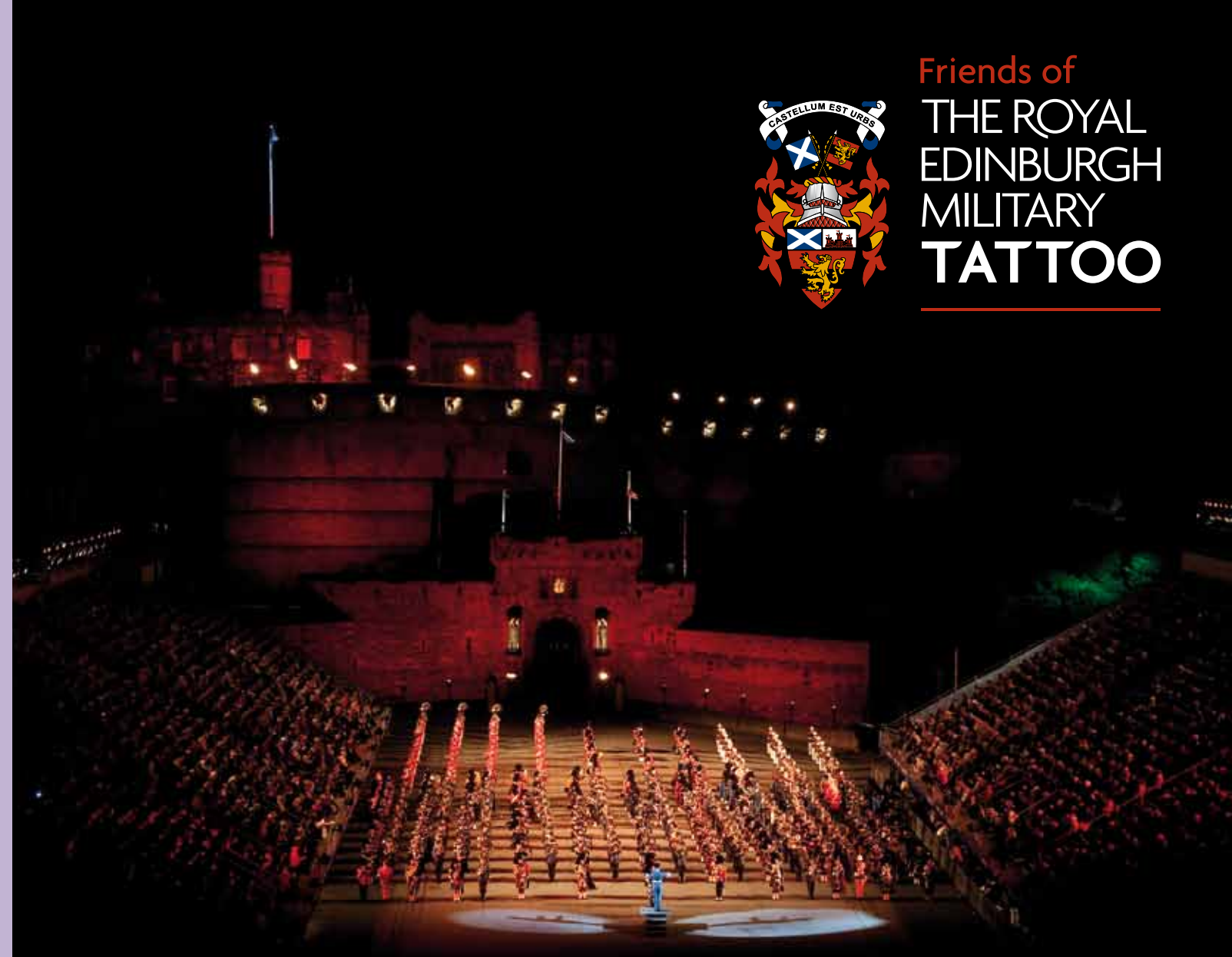
Finally, congratulations to Captain (Retired) Stuart Samson MBE, on the publication of his first collection of compositions, Land of Bens and Glens and Heroes (£15.00)

Formerly the Director of the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming, Stuart has performed several times as the Tattoo's Lone Piper, as well as composing some much loved pipes tunes, including Spirit of the Tattoo, which the Massed Pipes and Drums performed in 2005.

All of these items and more are available to order online or by phone. As ever, Friends of the Tattoo enjoy a 10% discount with the Tattoo Shop. Email us at shop@edintattoo.co.uk to get your Friends discount Coupon Code for online shopping.



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Here for the Tattoo, 10 years and counting

The bands, the dancing and the world famous lone piper. There's nothing quite like the spectacle of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It's central to tourism, culture and is part of our heritage, which is why we've been a proud sponsor for a decade. Here's to the future.