



## FROM THE CHIEFTAIN

Since the last newsletter, my wife and I have travelled to Melbourne to attend the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo. What a show! The Pipes and Drums stir the blood of all of us of Scots descent, and the quality of the performances at the Tattoo made us proud of our heritage.

Whilst on the subject of the Tattoo, the ABC has released a boxed set of DVDs of the Tattoos from 2011 to 2015 titled “Royal Edinburgh Tattoo, Deluxe Edition” which sells for \$59.99 at the ABC Shop. They very kindly sent the Society a free copy which I am holding with the rest of the Society’s library of information.

I would like to remind members that membership fees for 2016 are now due. I have had trouble with bank statements, and I feel that some of you who make your payments by direct debit, may have paid, but have not received a receipt. I have not been able to get copies of all the statements. If you have paid by this method, please let me know. Those of you who have not paid, could you please do so?

**Date Claimer:** I have to advise that the proposed Clan Gathering at Warwick on 15-16 October 2016 has had to be postponed. We are still trying to organise this event, but it will probably take place in 2017. Our intention is to have visits and tours to places associated with Patrick Leslie and his brothers as the focal points of the gathering, but we are finding it difficult to tie down details. There will be more information coming out to advise you of the progress of this project. We are hoping to be able to put it together as an all inclusive package.

**Malcolm Leslie** Chieftain

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## THANKS TO CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

I would like to thank Clan Leslie Society International for the honour of the Bartholomew Award for 2015. I must apologize for not having previously thanked them for the Award but I have

had a few health problems and have not been able to sit down and write a proper thank you.



### *The Bartholomew Award for 2015*

I must mention that all the research on the Leslie Clan and the stories that I have put into the Clan Leslie Society of Australia and New Zealand Newsletter was to find and record the history of the Leslie Clan so that future generations of the Leslie Clan would find it a bit easier to study their family. I must mention the Laurus Lesleana Explicata that I have spent so much time and effort on with an English translation; then Ian Leslie 21<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rothes sent me pages of the Latin Laurus by email, for me to compare with my English translation; also Tim Leslie of Clan Leslie International and I spent a lot of time making the Laurus Lesleana Compendium, which is a collection of the Latin version of the Laurus, the English translation of the Laurus and a collection of entries from the collection of Laurus Lesleana’ from Warthill House in Aberdeenshire. This Laurus Lesleana Compendium is available from Clan Leslie Society International for the very reasonable charge of \$10-00 and it is the only chance most people will have of



**Barrie Leslie with Award and Quaich**

being able to read and study the first history of the Leslie family from 1692.

**Barrie Leslie. D.Ua. JP.  
Gordon. Sydney. NSW.  
Australia.**

with the Leslie family. Here I share some more of what I've discovered.

**KING EDWARD CASTLE.**

In the last newsletter I shared some information on Iden (Eden) Castle and the Leslie connections. I've since learned from a book titled *'Ruined Castles: Monuments of former men in the vicinity of Banff'* by James Spence dated 1873 that the King Edward barony (Which included Eden) and King Edward Castle was also for a period in the hands of a Leslie.



*Scant remains of King Edward Castle. (S. Bruce).*

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**SITUATIONS VACANT**

The following situations are vacant and need enthusiastic Society members to volunteer to take them on:

- Editor, Grip Fast Down Under
- Membership Secretary
- Representative Victoria
- Representative New South Wales

The position of Treasurer has been filled on a temporary basis for some time, so a volunteer to take this job would also be welcome.

If anyone can see their way clear to make any of these positions their own, please contact the Commissioner/Chieftain

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**LESLIE CONNECTIONS IN NE SCOTLAND.  
Stanley Bruce (Banff).**

While carrying out research into the history of Northeast Scotland or during my wanderings of the area I quite often discover interesting things connected

Firstly I need to advise that there is thought to be as many as 24 different spellings of King Edward none of them actually to do with the English King Edward; the original name is thought to have been Kynedor (1178), Kinedar, or Kinnedder. Kinedward 1578. The name, of probable Gaelic origin is thought to be derived from Ceann (a head) and dur (water) Kin-na-dur would signify the height or promontory on the water which fits to describe its locality. Obviously this can make historical research a bit difficult.

The book reads "1478. *The king confirms a charter granted to Alexander Leslie, "Scutiſer, de Warderis", by John of Isla, of the lands of barony, with the exception of three merks (merk lands) of the said lands, with the Castle Hill of the same, reserved for paying the due and usual service for the said lands; and also appointing Alexander Leslie and his heirs as hereditary baillies of the said barony*". The book goes on to say "1490. – James IV. grants the barony, resigned into the hands of the king by John of Isla, to James Stewart ("Hearty James"), Lord of "Uchtirhouse". So the Leslie ownership of the barony including this ruined castle appears only to have lasted 12 years.



I wonder why, does anyone out there have any information?

(A scutifer is an ancient term for a squire - a shield bearer or armour bearer of a knight).



*Interesting (spy?) hole in the north wall adjacent to the former gateway. (S. Bruce).*

The castle is thought to have been built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Comyn Earl of Buchan. It is almost 100% likely that it was destroyed by the army of Robert the Bruce during the Harrying of Buchan after the Comyns were defeated by Bruce at Barra and later at Aikiey both in 1308. Today an outline of where the castle stood can just be made-out, and a 27 feet approx. high fragment of a great gateway still stands at the north side of the castle, however, very little else exists. When inside the castle boundary it is easy to imagine looking south, east, or west, which both have precipitous sides that this was once a seat of power, a great fortress on the edge of the Buchan Earldom. The north side of the castle had a man-made ditch which cut off the neck of the peninsula, and as we see it today has less of an incline than the other sides; however this may have been very different 800 years ago since there is evidence of parts of the north wall collapsing into the ditch. The RCAHMS website states that the ditch was spanned by a drawbridge which served a gateway. This must have been an impressive wooden drawbridge for it is quite a span to get to the north side of the ditch. Perhaps it looked similar to the sketch of the drawbridge of Rothes Castle which can be seen on

[www.clanlesliesociety.org/history](http://www.clanlesliesociety.org/history)



Castle Grid Ref: NJ 7220 5618.

Legend tells us that Isabella MacDuff (1286 to 1313/4) Countess of Buchan, wife of John Comyn Earl of Buchan rode from here in March 1306 to Scone to crown King Robert the Bruce. Her paternal family of Fife had the hereditary right to crown the kings and queens of Scotland. She arrived a day late, however Robert the Bruce agreed to a second crowning which she conducted. When King Edward I found out about her actions he was enraged. Later in 1306 Isobel was captured along with Bruce's wife and family at Tain. King Edward ordered her to be taken to Berwick Castle where she was locked in a cage hanging from the walls of the castle, where she spent the next four years of her life. King Edward I ordered:

*“As she did not strike with the sword, she shall not perish by the sword... let her be closely confined in an abode of stone and iron... let her be hung up out of doors in the open air at Berwick, that both in life and after her death, she may be a spectacle and eternal reproach to travellers”.*

Amazingly Isobel survived her ordeal in the cage and in June 1310 was released and sent to a Carmelite nunnery in Berwick. King Edward II however still regarded her as a threat, and three years later in 1313, she was still held in custody, but I could find nothing about her after that date.

There is a novel (which I must confess I have not read) titled ‘Kingdom of Shadows’ by Barbara Erskine that tells Isobel's story, ISBN 9780747401308.



*Edinburgh Castle mock-up of the crowning of Robert the Bruce by Isabela Duff the Countess of Buchan in 1306. (S. Bruce).*

Crossing the Burn of King Edward (a tributary to the Deveron River) directly below the castle looking south is a category C listed bridge built in 1771 which formerly took the main road from Banff to Aberdeen. The bridge still stands although now only used by the farmer at Castleton and pedestrians visiting Auchmill Pond which thanks to the farmer is open for walkers.



18<sup>th</sup> C bridge at King Edward Castle. (S. Bruce).

### Robert the Bruce and King Edward Castle.

The castle was owned by the Earls of Buchan,  
It was a Comyn stronghold,  
But the Comyns' sided with the English,  
So the story is told.

So after the battle of Aikey in 1308,  
Bruce took control of the north east,  
And he ordered the 'Harrying of Buchan',  
And all the Earls castles were seized.

"A castle with a name like an English King,  
Has got no right to stand,  
Here, or anywhere,  
On our Scottish Land".

"So lift your torch,  
And set it alight,  
And let it burn,  
Long into the night".

So the castle met its fate,  
At the hands of 'The Bruce',  
And to the English,  
It was of no further use.

Our thanks go to Mr Bruce for his interesting and informative article.

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[www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/familytree/newsletters/leslie/index.htm)

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