

# Franco-Scottish Society, Edinburgh Branch

Chairman's Report

**2019-2020**

# Pot d'Accueil

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The “Franco-Scottish Society Edinburgh Branch year” started at the end of September 2019 with the now traditional “pot d'accueil”, which was very well attended by FSS members, friends, IFE staff and speakers.

Below Warden Black, Honorary Secretary, preparing enrolment forms, Anne-Colette Lequet, Honorary Treasurer, welcoming future speaker, Colin Browning, member of Glasgow Branch. Dr Sheila Stevens welcoming future speaker, Walter Perrie, member of Perth Branch.

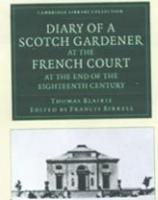


# Thomas Blaikie, jardinier écossais à la cour de France

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
Tom Wight

This talk has now been given seven times: twice in Corstorphine (2017, 2019), birthplace of Blaikie: twice in France (Paris (2019) and Chauny (2019)): once in Aberdeen (2019), Glasgow (2018) and Edinburgh (2019)

CORSTORPHINE LITERARY & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
Founded 1880



**Thomas Blaikie**  
*A Scotch Gardener*  
An Illustrated Talk  
By  
**Tom Wight**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7-45 pm  
St. Ninian's Church - Burns Hall  
Membership £20 Visitors £2-50 per meeting  
For information call Valerie Thomson MBE 0131 3396115



Collège des Ecosais Paris, 2019

Prochaine causerie mensuelle de  
la Société Académique de Chauny

**Le Vendredi 24 Mai 2019**  
**à 20 h 30**  
**Salle Victor-Leducq à Chauny**  
**(Entrée Salle des Fêtes)**



**Sujet :** « Thomas BLAIKIE, un jardinier écossais en France avant, pendant et après la révolution française »

**Intervenant:** M . Tom WIGHT,  
Ami écossais de M. DEGONVILLE

**Entrée libre et gratuite**

# French Film Festival 2019

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019



An introduction in English and French by Richard Mowe and Ilona Morisson, Directors of the annual *French Film Festival 2019*, and their team. This was a joint meeting with the IFE.



**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER  
2019**

# Louis XI and the New Europe

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Walter Perrie

Walter Perrie from the Perth Branch returned as speaker on *Louis XI and the New Europe* . This highly informative talk was given in French and was much appreciated by the members and friends.



Louis XI



Walter Perrie



# Table ronde

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dr Geoff Hare chaired a panel of young French people. The panel was made up of Catherine Guiat, Thomas Chaurin and Jordan Girardin. The audience was invited to ask questions, in French, and the members of the panel gave their opinion on the various prepared subjects (education, culture and current affairs). This was a very well attended and very successful meeting.



# Fête de l'Épiphanie (Les Rois)

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020

The National Youth Choir of Scotland (Edinburgh) provided the entertainment much to the delight of the audience. Once again there was a full house (35+ members and guests). The concert was followed by Galette and Champagne. This was another memorable evening.



# *Quelques aspects sociaux, décoratifs et logistiques de la construction médiévale*

**Colin Browning**

French

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

A fascinating insight into the construction of Gothic cathedrals and other medieval buildings.



Sylvie Decaux, Guest Speaker from France  
Comment se portent la librairie et l'édition indépendantes en France.  
19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

A well attended meeting followed by a lively discussion. Sylvie's talk was much appreciated in Edinburgh as it was in Perth, Glasgow and St Andrews where she gave her talk to the respective Branch members. Thanks to Catherine and Geoff Hare for hosting Sylvie during her visit to Scotland.



# Déjeuner des Membres

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

This was our last event before lockdown. The meal on a French theme was prepared and served by catering students at Edinburgh College. Unfortunately their imminent trip to Brittany to take part in the exchange with a Breton hospitality college had to be cancelled –or rather postponed.



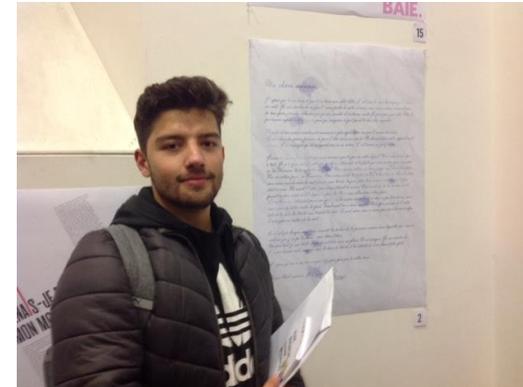
# Concours de l'écriture créative

The Edinburgh Branch offered the prizes for the *Concours de l'écriture créative*. Members of the Branch committee read all entries from Napier, Edinburgh and St Andrews Universities and chose the prize-winners.

Philippe Sibeaud Sylvain Blanche



Le lauréat: Pierre Wessel



# French in schools

“French in Schools” (French language ambassadors) continues to be supported by the Edinburgh Branch with 2-hour weekly visits by the Chairman to a local school to help with the “conversation” practice.



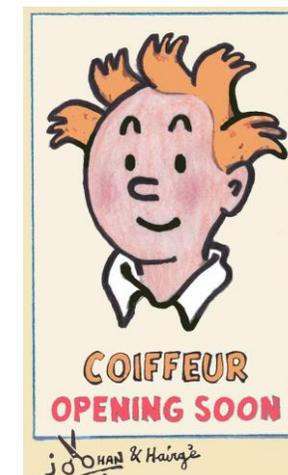
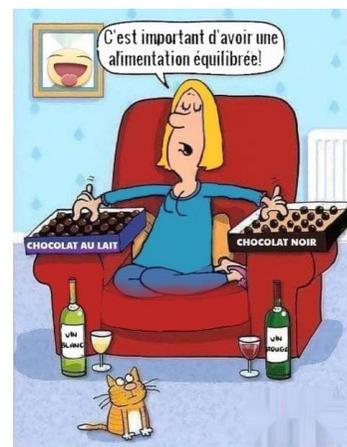
French Higher Group 2020

# During Lockdown

Thanks to all members who, during lockdown, contributed videos, texts, cartoons etc. and to the French Film Festival Team for the free French Films. These were much appreciated not only by the FSS members and friends in Edinburgh but by members in other Branches. We were able to keep in touch and continue to look forward to the day when we can resume our meetings.



"Je sors. As-tu besoin de quelque chose ?"



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**End**