

**Scottish Gemmological Association**  
**Chairman's Annual Report**  
**2015/16**

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2015/16 has again been a busy and successful year for the SGA

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2015:**

AGM & Presentation on the SGA Field Trip to Tanzania by Pauline Jamieson and Louise Johnson

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2015:**

Lisa Elser 'Purchasing Gemstone Rough'  
Wine generously provided by our guests Carlo and Luisa Perrotta

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2015:**

Martin Steinbach of Idar Oberstein 'Gems with a Star' A study of asterism in gemstones and a foretaste of his, soon to be published, book on the subject.

**22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016:**

Our Annual Burns Supper at the Charwood Restaurant

**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016:**

Alan Hodgkinson – Tucson 2016 A review of the recent gem show in Arizona

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016:**

A red gemstone workshop was a popular 'hands on' evening

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2016:**

Jewellery Design Competition Judging took place.  
Our judges this year Gillian O'Brien, Leslie Skinner, Monica Milton and our guest judges - Edinburgh artists Stuart Allan and Ingrid Nilsson.

**29<sup>th</sup> April-2<sup>nd</sup> May 2016**

Scottish Gemmological Association Conference at the Peebles Hydro Hotel

Our guest speakers and workshop leaders were amongst the world's top gemmologists and we thank: Dr Karl Schmetzer, Dr Cigdem Lule, Thomas Hainschwang, Rui Galopim de Carvalho, Joanna Whalley, Clare Dorrell, Claire Mitchell, Kerry Gregory, Sarah Steele, and David Callaghan.

We also thank our numerous sponsors and without their contribution our conference would not be possible.

This year we made the inaugural presentation of the newly created Catriona Orr McInnes Medal. Catriona was a friend to us all and along with John gave much of her life to driving forward our Association and Annual Conference. The presentation was made to our recently retired Chairman, Brian Jackson for his contribution to gemmology education in Scotland and his contribution to the Scottish Gemmological Conference over many years.

Jewellery Design Competition Awards were presented (which can be seen on our website) along with the Pairman Trophy for best Scottish Gemmology Foundation student.

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2016:**

Tom Herbst 'Managing your Raw Gemstones'

Over the last year we have had a very new committee, we are experimenting with new venues, particularly The Methodist Hall at Nicolson Square and in 2017 we are holding our Conference (for one year only) at Stirling University. We have tried a different social format after meetings to encourage social interaction for those who do, and those who do not, wish a meal.

Our website at [www.scottishgemmology.org](http://www.scottishgemmology.org) and our Facebook page have been successful and are both updated regularly.

I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the success of the SGA this year, whether as a committee member, office bearer, speaker or those working quietly in a less visible role.

Alistir Tait