

**Scottish Gemmological Association  
Chairman's Annual Report  
2016/17**

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I am happy to say that this year has been another busy and successful one for the SGA which I hope our members have enjoyed.

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Annual General Meeting at Bonhams on Queen Street (courtesy of Clare Blatherwick)  
Gemmology Trophy presented to Rachel Bailey  
Talk from Ewen Taylor on his recent visit to Idar Oberstein

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Jade Workshop - A short talk with specimens for examination. Thank you to Andrew Fellows.  
Eric Liddell Centre

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Scottish Sapphires - Ian Combe gave an illustrated talk and brought personal specimens for members to examine.  
Eric Liddle Centre

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Whitby Jet - Sarah Steele gave us a very in depth report on Whitby jet and her own original research in to this material. She brought with her an extensive collection of jet and related materials.  
Eric Liddle Centre

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Gemstone Carving - A talk by Deborah Mazza based a research project.  
Eric Liddle Centre

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

Blue John - An informed talk from Prof. Godfrey Fitton  
We also celebrated Alan Hodgkinson's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
Eric Liddle Centre

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Official Judging of the GemSet Jewellery Design Competition  
Judges: Gillian O'Brien, Leslie Skinner, Joanna Thomson, Jan Calligan and our guest judge Kate Atkinson (author)

**28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

SGA Annual Conference  
Venue: Stirling Court Hotel and Conference Centre, Stirling University Campus  
Lectures:  
Friday - David Callaghan,  
Saturday - Ken Scarrett, John Harris, David Fisher, Alan Hodgkinson, Stuart Robertson, Vincent Pardeiu  
Sunday - Ken Scarrett, Charles Evans, Henrietta Lidchi  
Workshops - We had an excellent selection of workshop sessions.

Catriona McInnes Medal - This year the medal was presented to both David Callaghan and Alan Hodgkinson

Presentations were made to the winning Scottish gemmology students and winners of the GemSet Jewellery Design Competition.

Monday - A guided tour around Stirling Castle and the historic old town.

Social events included a Gala Dinner, Ceilidh and an evening out to a local restaurant.

### **13<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Birmingham City University, Gemmology and Jewellery Studies, Degree Course

SGA Award to the Graduating Student with highest marks

Awarded to - Delyth Du Plooy

The prize we award is - an attendance to our Scottish Conference

I attended the Birmingham Jewellery School, Industry Evening where this prize was awarded to Delyth.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017**

Study afternoon. Eleven participants. To Lauriston Castle with a guided tour around the rooms with their guide Mike and particular reference to the world class collection of Blue John. Our resident Blue John expert Godfrey Fitton was on hand for specialist comment and the afternoon finished with a light meal at the Hawes Inn, South Queensferry.

Through 2017 the Eric Liddle has become our regular meeting venue and currently suits our needs. It is easily accessible within Edinburgh with convenient parking. After each meeting our speaker, members and guests join in an evening meal or just for a drink (alcoholic or otherwise) at a nearby restaurant.

A thank you to Gillian O'Brien for setting up a venue and invigilating the theory and practical gemmology diploma examinations in June. Only one student this year.

Thank you to our committee and all those members their partners and others who help organise, set up and run our many events and annual conference, not forgetting our speakers too whether they travel half way around the world to be with us or those from amongst our own membership.

Thank you to Keith Walter standing down as Treasurer and Pauline Jamieson standing down as Conference Organiser.

Alistir Tait  
Chairman