

# Bannockburn memorial gets poetic flourish

## History: Inscription evokes 'love of country' at 700-year-old battle site

BY LUCY CHRISTIE

Preparations to mark the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn have taken a step forward with the inscription of a specially-commissioned poem on a monument at the heritage site.

Scottish writer Kathleen Jamie composed the commemorative poem that appears on a new timber ring crowning the Rotunda monument at the ancient battleground near Stirling.

The National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland are working to transform the site where Robert the Bruce defeated the English army in 1314.

Expert carver Richard Douglas from Andrew Miller Architectural Joinery, based in Stirling, began the inscription works back in June. A weather-beaten statue of Robert the Bruce has already been restored and a new visitor centre is

planned ahead of the 700th Bannockburn anniversary next year. Ms Jamie, a professor of creative writing at Stirling University, said: "From the start I wanted this piece of work to make a nod to the Scottish literary tradition and the Scottish landscape, to evoke the love of a country that makes one

### "The designer planned to bear an inscription"

community out of many people."

David McAllister, director of the Battle of Bannockburn project, said: "The designer behind the original Rotunda monument, architect Sir Robert Matthew, planned for it to bear an inscription, and half a century later we have fulfilled this intention.

"The Rotunda is the central place for commemora-

tion of the Battle of Bannockburn and our intent is to continue that memorial and contemplation.

"Kathleen's poem encapsulates the essence of the Battle of Bannockburn project - introducing a contemporary take on the battle and the landscape while paying respect to the memory of this important moment in Scottish history."

● The poem:

*Here lies our land: every  
airt*

*Beneath swift clouds,  
glad glints of sun,*

*Belonging to none but  
itself.*

*We are mere transients,  
who sing*

*Its westlin' winds and  
fernie braes,*

*Northern lights and siller  
tides,*

*Small folk playing our  
part.*

*'Come all ye', the country  
says*

*You win me, who take me  
most to heart.*





**LAST WORD:** Carver Richard Douglas and poet Kathleen Jamie at the Rotunda monument near Stirling

Ref: 76015140

