



**Dr Frank Rushbrook 1914 - 2014**







































# Forgotten brigade pioneer's legacy lives on in statue

Seven-foot artwork pays tribute to 'the father of firefighting'

■ MICHAEL BLACKLEY

A STATUE of "the father of firefighting" has been completed and is set to be unveiled in Parliament Square.

James Braidwood created the world's first municipal fire station on the Royal Mile, but has until now received scant recognition in his home city.

But a 7ft statue has now been completed following a two-year campaign by 92-year-old former Edinburgh firemaster Frank Rushbrook.

He raised £75,000 – much of it from his own pocket – to create the work and is confident city planners will allow it to be installed in Parliament Square in April.

Mr Rushbrook, who was firemaster of the Edinburgh Fire Brigade for nine years from 1961, said: "I've been working on this for two years so it is a great thrill to see the finished article."

Braidwood founded the world's first municipal fire brigade in 1824 after a series of disastrous fires in the Capital, before becoming the first superintendent of London's fire brigade when it was founded in 1833. He died in a fire near London Bridge Station in 1861.

His methods are still used to teach firefighters to this day.

Mr Rushbrook said: "He is such an important figure not just for Edinburgh but beyond. Edinburgh had the first municipal fire brigade in the world because of him. He was a true hero killed in



HERO: Frank Rushbrook with the statue of James Braidwood

duty and his story will be of tremendous interest not just for the Edinburgh public but for visitors to the city as well."

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service donated £5000 towards the statue and a further £10,000 came from the Surplus Fire Fund, set up from charitable donations by wealthy city businessmen after the Great Fire of Edinburgh in 1824. The remainder came from Mr Rushbrook and other private donors.

Brian Allaway, current chief fire officer in Lothian and Borders, said: "We are very pleased to be moving forward with this planning proposal and the unveiling of the statue is an exciting step."

The statue was created by renowned Scottish sculptor Kenny Mackay, whose most famous work is of Donald Dewar in Glasgow's Buchanan Street. [mblackley@edinburghnews.com](mailto:mblackley@edinburghnews.com)



## A MAN WITH FIRE IN HIS BELLY

BORN in Edinburgh in 1800, James Braidwood was educated at the Royal High School, before entering his father's business as a builder and later qualifying as a quantity surveyor.

After two disastrous fires ruined 50 houses and seriously damaged the Tron Kirk in the Royal



Mile in 1824, he worked with the city council to establish the world's first municipal fire service. In 1830 he wrote a book on the "science" of firefighting.

He was then hired by London Fire Brigade – and killed by a falling wall while fighting the great fire of Tooley Street.





















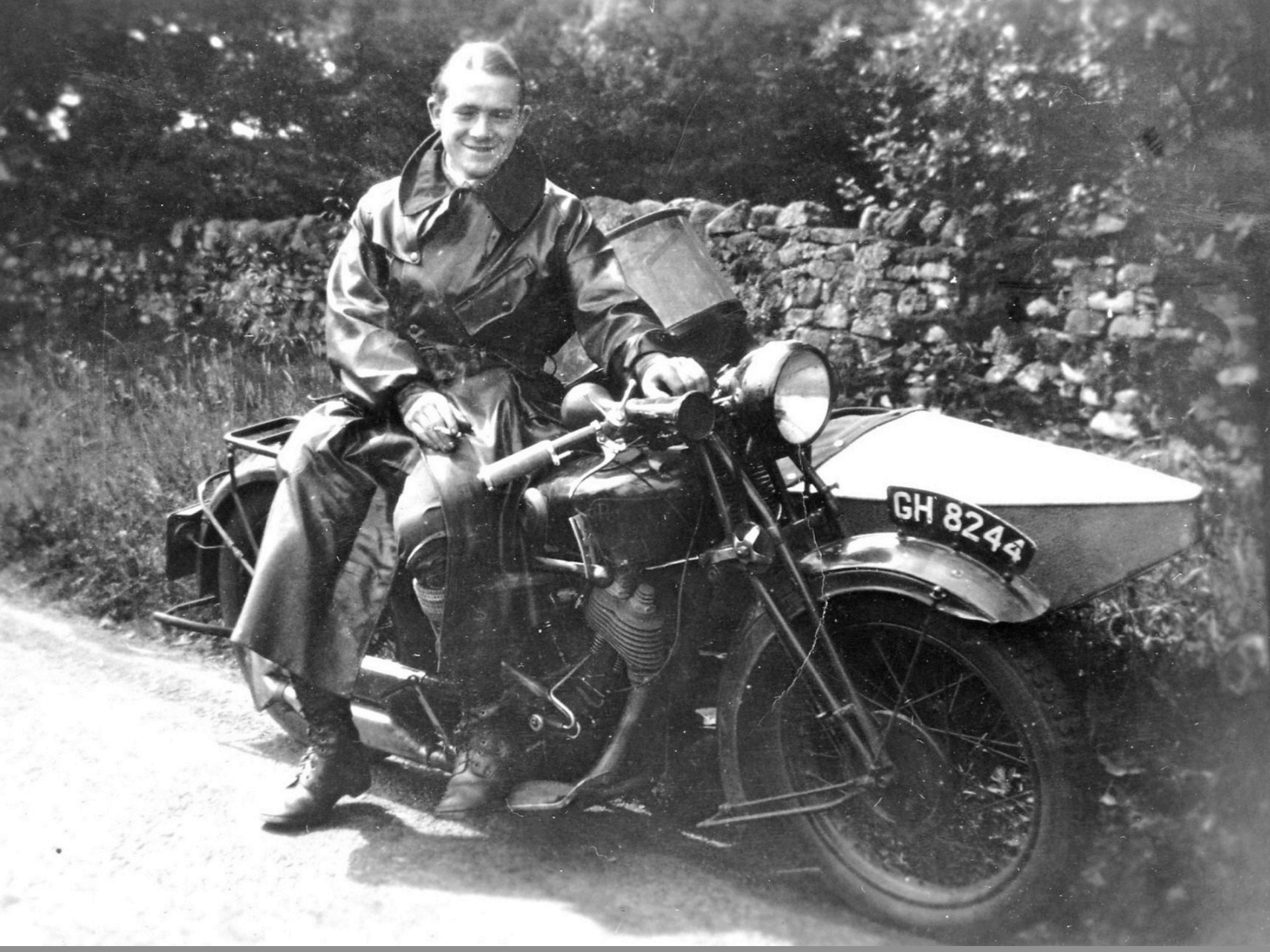


















































# Personal Assets turns 100% liquid in move into cash

**SIMON BAIN**

simon.bain@theherald.co.uk

PERSONAL Assets Trust, the global vehicle for private investors run by bearish Edinburgh manager Ian Rushbrook, is 100% liquid following a series of moves into cash since the credit crisis broke.

It said yesterday: "We continue to believe that in present circumstances it is appropriate to maintain a substantial level of liquidity."

The £187m trust still has £96m in equities, but the exposure is effectively wiped out by a FTSE-100 futures contract liability, leaving it with just £358,000 of equity exposure.

The trust was reporting a 2.3% fall in its net asset value in the six months to October 31, while the all-share index rose by 2.9%.

It said that over the previous three years, the NAV was up 21.2% against 50.3% for the all-share, reflecting "our very cautious attitude to equity valuations".

However, it also reporting continuing demand for its

shares, which trade at a small premium to NAV, and issued 3573 new shares – which trade at £259 each – mainly through zero-charge investment plans. It also bought back 6984 shares to support the price of the stock, and will increase its dividend by 9.8%.

Rushbrook told the trust's annual meeting July that the

**'We progressed in four stages from being 51% liquid ... to being 100%'**

board had considered going 100% liquid and rejected it, and admitted that despite four years of predicting market meltdown "to our shame it hasn't happened yet", resulting in a "pretty awful" relative performance.

"We have grown increasingly bearish of the UK and US equity markets ... and as a result of this we progressed in four stages from being 51% liquid at the beginning of the

period to being 100% liquid at its end," said the trust, whose chairman is Bobby White.

Liquidity had been increased through taking short positions in FTSE-100 contracts, to take liquidity to 60% on July 3, to 70% on August 17, and to 80% on September 4. Two weeks later, it was taken to 100% following comments on the housing market by the former Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan.

In July, Rushbrook sold £7m of shares in Barclays and Royal Bank of Scotland, at prices 38% and 33% higher than yesterday's, and said bank earnings were under threat while the oil majors were the market's only bright prospect.

The value of the trust's holdings in Royal Bank, HBOS and Barclays dropped from £34m (£27m after the sale) to £22m between May and the end of October – before the more severe recent falls in the sector. Its biggest positions, however, now in oil companies BP and Shell, rose in value by almost £4m to £31.3m during the period.



**NEGATIVE:** Ian Rushbrook is known for his bearish views on equities. Picture: Graham Hamilton























## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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My interest in fire investigation was prompted by lectures about fires aboard ships given by Dr Frank Rushbrook our Founder when I was an MSc student at the University of Edinburgh's Department of Fire Safety Engineering. As top student I was invited to continue my studies and I was sponsored by Conoco the operators of the Murchison platform in the North Sea.

Despite coming from a family of Chartered Surveyors (now in its fourth generation) I went to work for one of the UK's foremost marine consultants and reviewed the fires aboard HM Ships during the Falkland's Campaign. In 1991 after a spell in the family surveying business Dr Rushbrook invited me to join him and I jumped at the chance of being mentored by one of the world's leading marine fire investigators.

We quickly found despite the difference in age that there was a synergy between the experienced firefighter and fire scientist which was stronger than the sum of the parts.

That synergy is a model which IFIC Forensics continues to employ today, looking for the best of new talent in fire safety engineering and combining it with those who have long service in the largest Fire Brigades.

In the last 10 years the Fire Service has encouraged officers to specialize in fire investigation and Forensics recruits from those holding the most senior ranks and expertise.

In the last 20 years clients have appointed IFIC Forensics in the knowledge that as experts our first duty is to the Court in which we might eventually appear. That sense of accountability informs the investigation process and no ends are left "loose".

As a Chartered Fire Engineer and Chartered Surveyor I am uniquely placed to take a holistic view of not only the origin and cause of fires but the wider fire safety environment in which those fires have occurred. This holistic view has served my clients well as most fires are not simply the result of an ignition source meeting fuel but the unhappy coincidence of many factors. There is an old adage that the three most common causes of fire are men, women and children to which might be added "and most of them smoke!" whether deliberately or inadvertently I have found over the years the adage to prove true.

**Professor J F Lygate, Chairman & Principal Fire Investigator**



■ Technical Excellence : Rapid Response ■

About IFIC



Chairman's Message



Customer Service Charter



Quality Assurance





# Rushbrook's Fire Aboard

Third Edition



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