

Welcome to Journal 53.

Although summer is en route, Society members, as well as members of the public, continue to keep us busy with enquiries. Otherwise there is little new to report other than to present you with an interesting and fresh set of journal articles. I am sure you will find them of considerable interest.

However, the Society's officers are pleased to announce that this year's Prince Buthelezi Medal has been awarded to Ronald Collyer and Nicole Malan . For several years Ronald and Nicole – who are both based outside Durban – have been spending their free time on the Isandlwana battlefield, tracing and recording the surviving cairns. Further details can be found in this edition.

Members may be aware my latest book is due for publication by Pen & Sword later this year. It is a review of the battlefields from the perspective of a tour guide. Tour guides invariably suffer from a lack of time to explain in any detail the background to the war in Zululand and this usually gets overlooked. I have attempted to put this right as well as explaining the battlefields, about half of which, being inaccessible, rarely get included in most tours. This journal includes a brief overview of my new book's view on the subject. Further information on the war's origin can be found in Damian O'Connor's excellent book, *The Life of Sir Bartle Frere*.

Meanwhile, there is an exhibition that may be of interest to those of you near to, or visiting, London in July, titled "Clash of Empires". Further details can be obtained from the Royal Philatelic Society. I understand it is a private exhibition.

For those of you who are fans of the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*, one of the winter programmes features a Zulu artefact. I'm pleased to inform you that the Society was consulted for verification of the item's background and history – watch this space!

*Adrian Greaves*