



WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2013

WALLACE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY 2013.

We were blessed with wonderful weather and our part of the procession well led by our two youngest members Cormac Greig and Sorley Fairbairn carrying our new Wallace 700 Banner. Though the good weather may have tempted some families to go down to the beach or to one of the city's many fine parks there was still a healthy number of spectators watching the procession, with many continuing down to the Statue to witness our Commemoration Ceremony. Despite unusual last minute hitches with Janice Reavell being replaced by her daughter and the absence of The Reverend Stephen Taylor



through illness, and we wish him a speedy recovery, the ceremony went well and was warmly received by the spectators. The wreath was laid by Lord Provost Adam and Lord Aberdeen and the Annual Wallace address admirably given by Derrick McClure. The Very Rev'd Dr Emsley Nimmo once again acting as compere kept the programme well on time. The traffic light pole with the pedestrian crossing controls, situated directly in front of the Wallace Statue, has blighted previous ceremonies with its perpetual



'bleeping'. A further year's peace and quiet was achieved due to the pre-planning of Donald Kinnear and Neale Burrows of the Aberdeen City Traffic Dept., and the timeous removal of the pole by Siemen's engineer. Our thanks to go out to the Links and Parks Dept., for the excellent job done in cleaning up the base of the statue prior to the Ceremony. No matter how good the contributors, or the weather, all hangs on the provision of an efficient sound system. Our thanks to Atmosphere Sound and Lighting's engineers, Hayley Gordon and Magnus Taitt for coming up trumps again this year. Finally no good performances can be achieved without good back room staff and to those who provided the wreath, decorated the statue, laid out the seats, identified and labelled the seats for invited guests and carried out the final clean up , we say a most sincere thank you, for jobs well done.

As Robert Burns said "The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley", and so did our plans to have Janice Reavell sing "Freedom Come Aa Ye" almost collapse in disarray. With Janice in Australia unable to get back to Aberdeen in time for the ceremony, she was able to contact her daughter who was on holiday in America to arrange for her to take her place.



Fortunately all worked well in the end and her daughter Ellen Mackinnon [pictured left] Ellen, a highly accomplished singer in both Scots and Gaelic. was familiar with the words and music, and gave an appreciative audience an

excellent performance. We may not always appreciate the mobile phone, but it does have its uses.

The A.G.M will again be held in the Queens Cross Church, Kirk Lounge at 7.30pm on Thursday 31st



October. In his usual efficient manner, Convenor, Rev. Dr. Henry Sefton, will have the essential business dealt with by 8pm, leaving

ample time to enjoy our guest speaker Gordon Casely who will give vent to his favourite subject, "Simply Heraldry—Cheerfully Illustrated". To further lift our spirits, Yvonne Morton has promised tae gie us a sang or twa! The usual light refreshments will be provided by members. All are most welcome and please bring a friend.



The young Burnsians, Youth Festival Participants, once again gave an entertaining performance



and their stirring rendition of "Scots Whae Hae" provided a finale never to be forgotten.

Blue Bonnets Over the Border.

In this case well over!! Alan Smail, here with his jaunty Blue bonnet, has along with Allan Angus carried our Saltire Wreath to the Wallace Statue for a number of years. Here resplendent in the Blue Bonnet Alan is pursuing one of his other interests on the upper reaches of the ruggedly beautiful Glen Quoich on the NTS Mar Lodge Estate. John Muir Trust volunteers have been helping National Trust for Scotland's resident ecologist and Rangers with experimental tree planting on the slopes adjacent to Beinn A Bhuid. A worthy job well done!



For over 10 years Jim Allison has been involved with our Annual Wallace Ceremony and most of that time he has played the part of Bernard de Linton, the Abbot of Arbroath, in our little historic cameo. Jim has decided to hang up his cassock, claiming old age [what are 78 year olds coming toye just canna get the pensioners these days !!!].

John Mackay



Over a number of years good working relationships have been built up with the members of Aberdeen Burns Club and Aberdeen and District branch of the Saltire Society. They have contributed greatly to the success of the Wallace Ceremony and where we possibly can Wallace 700 members have returned the compliment by supporting the Burns Club and Saltire Society events. The following are social events not to be missed and we cannot recommend them highly enough to you.

Saturday 30th November : Annual St. Andrews day lunch.

Noon at Aberdeen Cricket Club,

Guest speaker : Gordon Hay of Longside who will speak and entertain on the subject of "the Doric Approach to King James"

Scots songs by Janice Reavell and recitations by Derrick J McClure.

Further details and tickets from Doreen Robertson tel: 484061 or John Mackay tel:861345'

Saturday 25th January , Anniversary Dinner 6.30pm at the Palm Court Hotel

Full details of speakers and entertainment to follow

Further details and tickets from George Stevenson tel: 01467681624- Beth Pratt tel: 870659—John Mackay 861345

ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES in June gave us the opportunity publicise the ceremony and raise some all important funds from our colourfully engaging stall erected on the crack of a Sunday dawn by John Clark, George Coutts, Eric and Betty White [pictured left] and John M a c K a y .



Although well over £300 was raised during the course of a long day, our overheads were also high due to the exceptional number of lucky winners this year! With four bottles "liberated" our exhausted stocks would have meant us shutting shop had it not been for Ronnie Dunk turning up with a litre of Bells!

Pictured right we have one of our lucky winners, Mr Ramkumar and family from the Bridge of Don, posing with Ronnie Dunk.



ONE HUNDRED TARTANS OUT WI WALLACE. The target has not been reached yet, but we managed to encourage Sixty nine differing tartans out on the 27th July. Not all were kilts by any means, but taking the trouble to wear even a Touch of Tartan is what matters. Striding out with Satires, bravely fluttering are part of the Colour Party :-

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| Kelvin Greig | - MacGregor, |
| Allan Angus | - Mac Innes, |
| Cllr John Corall | - Ancient Munro |
| Ronnie Dunk | - Findlayson, |
| Norman MacPherson | - Red MacPherson |



The Wallace Association is a non-political Charitable body registered Charity No. SC 034208 which exists to advance the education of the public about the life of William Wallace. As a charity we are dependant on subscriptions and donations to enable us to continue with our annual Wallace Commemoration Ceremony. Please make sure you have paid your subscription for this year and at the same time why not make it Direct Debit and then you don't have to rely on your memory. Subscriptions are reasonably priced at £10 per individual and £12 per family. To make a Direct Debit please contact John Mackay, 6 Cairn Walk, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9TF. Contact can also be made through our web site www.Wallace700assoc.co.uk