

WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2006

WALLACE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

WITH a very successful commemoration ceremony behind us, the Council have unanimously agreed that we should continue with the good work, and planning has already begun on this years ceremony. With school holidays later this year, we have had to make a change to the date and the ceremony will now be held on Sunday 27th August. J. Derrick McClure has accepted an invitation to give the Wallace Address. J. Derrick McClure is an Author, Historian and Lecturer in Aberdeen University Dept. of English, and is a life long advocate of the use of the Scots language. The Ceremony will follow the traditional pattern with one addition for this year. To mark the 700th anniversary of the Coronation of King Robert the Bruce in 1306, Charles Barron has produced a short humorous but accurate script commemorating the event. This short play will be performed at 1pm by the Loirston Drama Group, in front of H.M Theatre and they will be accompanied by "GAITA" a group of medieval musicians from Edinburgh.



The school pageant is a very popular part of the ceremony and we are delighted to say that once again the Primary schools have agreed to participate. The Schools expressed their appreciation of Craig Pikes contribution and he has agreed to again participate, work commitments permitting. Paul Anderson will play at the statue before and during the procession. Paul is an accomplished fiddle player and composer who is acclaimed Internationally as the greatest current exponent of traditional Fiddle Music. Paul is from Tarland and recently gave a concert at the Cowdray Hall. The Bankhead Academy Pipes and Percussion band will also play at the statue. Both Kintore and Portlethen Pipe Bands have accepted invitations to play in the procession.

THE "Clan Wallace Society Worldwide" announced in their Autumn newsletter that David Irvine, our Council treasurer and his wife Carolyn had received their "Clan Wallace Society's " Presidents Award. David and Carolyn have worked closely with the American Societies of Wallace's' and Irvine's' in planning their visit to Scotland. David and Carolyn also personally conducted a visit to Drum Castle, their family historical home. The award was in recognition of personal time and energy spent in organising their visit, attendance at the reception given by the Lord Provost and their participation in the Ceremony.



WE urgently require a minute secretary and if you know of anyone who would be interested in attending our monthly meetings and is willing to take on this post please contact John MacKay Tel. 01224 861345 or e-mail to johnmackay@uk2.com

Billy Kay who gave the Wallace Address is a well known writer and broadcaster. A popular lecturer, he is invited to give talks all over Scotland and abroad. His radio series "The Scots Tongue" and a documentary "Darien; Key of the Universe" both won International awards from the Australian Academy of Broadcasting and his radio series, "The Scots of Ulster" won a silver medal in the New York.



Rev. Dr Henry Sefton, our new Council Convenor was born in Buchan and raised in Angus. He Lectured on Church History in the University of Aberdeen for 20 years and previously ministered in New York, Glasgow, Eastern Nigeria, Wishaw, Newbattle and Edinburgh. He holds an Honorary Appointment in the Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting, Aberdeen. Dr. Sefton has lived in Ferryhill for the last 34 years.



Important dates for your diary, Aberdeen Highland Games will be held in Hazelhead Park on Sunday 18th June [which is also Fathers day] and Tartan Day on Saturday 5th August. There will be a manned Wallace 700 information stand at both events. This years A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 2nd November and the speaker will be Gordon Caseley who will talk on St Andrew.

SUNDAY 27th AUGUST IS THIS YEARS DATE FOR THE WALLACE COMMEMORATION.



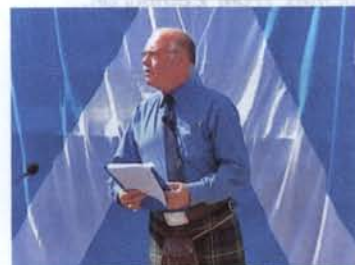
BOTH pictures were taken at the reception given by the Lord Provost for our American visitors, on the Saturday evening prior to the commemoration ceremony. On the left is The Lord Provost with John MacKay, David Irvine, Dorothy Anderson and Helena Anderson-Wright. The photographs were taken and kindly provided by the Aberdeen Council, Publicity Department.



THE A.G.M. was a very enjoyable evening with the business being dealt with in a quick and efficient manner. This was followed by refreshments and a very interesting talk on Scottish history by Derrick McClure. Unfortunately changes had to be made to our Council as two of our prominent members have stepped down. Peter Macari through work commitments has stepped down as Council Convenor, but will continue as a council member. John Anderson who has been our Ceremony M.C. is retiring and will be moving out of the district. New members who have joined the council are Shirley Howley, Alan Steele, Margaret Dundas, Joyce Williams, George Coutts and Allan Muir. Rev. Dr. Henry Sefton who joined the Council last year has agreed to be our new Council Convenor.



JOHN MacKay with Charles Waweru, a Kenyan who is Senior Administrator at the Aberdeen International Centre. Each year we have noticed an increase on the number foreign spectators who have shown great interest in our celebrations. We have also recently received a letter from a lady in France seeking more information on William Wallace. This has been rewarding as one of the Council aims is to encourage foreign groups in Aberdeen participate in future celebrations.



JOHN Anderson has for the past four years been a very efficient M.C. for both the Ceremony and Pageant. Apart from M.C. duties John took considerable time to make contact with as many spectators as he could and always had a special word for the many foreign visitors we have had. Currently Minister for Mannofield Church John is retiring in October and moving to Montrose. John's warm and cheery approach will be missed and we wish him a long and happy retirement.



THE heathers for the Saltire Wreath were collected by our Vice Convenor Eric Whyte and his wife Betty, and the Wreath created by "BLOSSOMS" a Florist in Rosemount Viaduct. The mainly red wreath was laid by Captain John Wallace of the Clan Wallace Worldwide. The wreath with the yellow ribbons was laid by one of the American Ladies on behalf of "Aa Jock Thomson's Bairns". The white and blue wreath was laid by the Society of William Wallace on the day before our ceremony. All the others were laid by the participating Schools.



THERE are still copies of the Wallace 700 DVD available and copies can be obtained from the secretary John Mackay 6 Cairn Walk, Cults Aberdeen AB15 9TF, 01224 861345 or by e-mail john-mackay@2.com. Costs of the UK version is £12.95 and the U.S. version \$15.00 both inclusive of postage and packing.



THE Wallace 700 Association is a non political charitable body [registered charity no. SCO034208] which exists to advance the education of the public about the life, memory and values of William Wallace. Donations are always welcome and membership can be obtained by contacting John Mackay at the address shown above and through the Web site www.wallace700.org provided by Iain Smith & Co.

ANY comments or articles for future Newsletters would be welcomed and should be forwarded to Jim Allison, 9 Redmoss Terrace, Aberdeen AB12 3JU, or e-mail to james@allison8317.fsnet.co.uk.