



WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008

WALLACE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY 2008.

DESPITE the shortage of funding for this years pageant the Wallace 700 Association Council are confident that they will present another successful ceremony. All the invitations have been accepted and the Rev'd John Anderson will give the Wallace Address and Lord Provost Peter Stephen and Lord Aberdeen, Marquess of Aberdeen of Temair will lay the wreath. The good news for this year, is that we will have a procession. Immediately after "Blythe Aberdean" as many performers as possible will march from the statue down Belmont street through St. Nicholas Back Wynd gate through the Kirk Yard and then past M&S back to the Statue. We are now more than confident that there will be one for next year's homecoming and the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. HM Theatre have allowed us to use their dance studio for changing facilities as well as a final rehearsal for "Blyth Aberdeane". They have also kindly arranged for the Coffee shop to be open throughout the afternoon. St Mark's church hall will be also be available for Ferryhill pupils as an assembly area and for final rehearsals for their pageant on Wallace. We look forward to meeting you at the ceremony.



SOME of the volunteers at the Highland games stand, which this year raised the magnificent sum of £250, and distributed 1200 publicity leaflets to interested patrons.

Thirty six people responded to our appeal for support, which has so far raised the sum of £1500, which has eased the situation. If you have not yet responded, please do so soon as we are still short of the final total required

As frequent winners of the Bloom in Britain competition we thought you would like to see this photograph of the beautiful gardens below the Wallace statue.



PROGRAMME.

M.C. The Very Rev'd Emsley Nimmo

- 1.00pm Kintore Pipe Band
- 1.25pm "Gaita"
Medieval Music Group
- 1.30pm "Blyth Aberdeane"
Charles Barron comedic playlet based on William Dunbar's poem.
- 2.00pm **Welcome.**
The Very Rev'd Dr. A.E. Nimmo
Dean of Aberdeen & Orkney.
- 2.03pm **Annual Wallace Address**
Rev'd John Anderson.
- 2.13pm **Wreath Laying Ceremony**
Lord Provost Peter Stephen & Lord Aberdeen.
- 2.16pm **Floors O the Forest**
Pipe Major Jim Leith.
- 2.20pm **"Freedom Come Aa Ye"**
Barbara-Anne Burnett.
- 2.30pm **Wallace Pageant**
Life and Death of Sir William Wallace.
Pupils of Ferryhill Primary School.
- 2.55pm **"The Declaration of Arbroath"**
Loirston Drama, Medieval Realm players
read and mime the signing of the Declaration.
- 3.11pm **Dedication.**
Rev'd Stephen Taylor of the Mither
Kirk of St Nicholas.
- 3.18pm **Kintore Pipe Band.**
Reform and play at the statue.



ABOVE are the pupils of Ferryhill and Albyn Primary schools in the Wallace pageant. For this year, Davina Symons of Ferryhill School has kindly volunteered her pupils to take on all the parts in the pageant. This has solved the logistical problem involved in rehearsing two schools for one performance. Below we see the Pipe Band beating the retreat.



Brian McDonald. Artistic Director of Charles Barron playlet, has managed to recruit Jill Hay and Yvonne Murray two of Aberdeen's best known actresses. Jill and Yvonne will play "Twa Slop wifies" in Blyth Aberdeane".

THE 2008 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER



WE are delighted to welcome the members of Medieval Realm, who play costumed parts in “Blyth Aberdeane” and in the signing and reading of the “Declaration of Arbroath”. Medieval Realm are based in Banchory and perform on their own basis at events both locally and nationally. They are one of the largest re-enactment groups in Scotland and entertain using a full range of historical displays. They boast authentic style clothing, tents, armour and display authentic combat techniques. For more information on Medieval Realm, check out their informative and colourful web site www.medieval-realm.co.uk. This year they have already performed in Leeds, the Archaeolink, Castle Fraser, Drum Castle, St Ternans Banchory, Urquhart Castle, Tewksbury and at the Die Hansa Day in Aberdeen. The

following is their programme for the remainder of this year.



LANARK	August 16-17th.
ABERDEEN	7th September [Wallace 700]
CASTLE FRASER	September 13-14th. [Battle of Harlaw]



Charles Barron has proved to have been a very good friend to the Wallace 700 Celebrations. His short play “Wallace”, based on several incidents from the life of our Scottish hero, was written especially for us and it is performed annually by local school pupils. Two years ago he wrote “A King Crowned Twice” based on the little known fact that Bruce was actually crowned



“King of Scots” twice, and this year there is “Blyth Aberdeane” which promises to be another entertaining and historically informative playlet. In 2009 we will be presenting another of his short plays in celebrating the visit of Robert Burns to Aberdeen. Not just content to write plays, Charles took time to appear in “A King Crowned Twice”. In May this year his play “Amang The Crows” has been performed in various halls in the North East by Fleeman Productions. The play follows the life of a North East farm lad who finds himself in Death Row in America. This play was published in 2005 by Learning and Teaching Scotland, who placed a copy in every secondary school in Scotland. The play is studied both in Doric and English. In June there will be a performance of “Lotte”, a new play based on the inhabitants of the Inverurie Poorhouse, which can be seen at the Lemon Tree on 6th 7th and 8th of August. The information for this article was taken from Charles web site www.charlesbarron.co.uk

OUR request for ‘EventsScotland’ funding to cover 50% of the budgeted costs for next years Homecoming programme has not been met. This combined with the continuing constraints of Aberdeen City funding means that we will have to curtail our ambitious plans for the Homecoming event. Despite this the Council agreed that we should have the courage to go ahead and arrange a worthy Commemoration, albeit a less ambitious one. ‘EventsScotland’ also turned down the Aberdeen Burns club, funding request, and it is thought possible that they might not be able to continue with their proposed celebrations. Perhaps this would be an opportunity for both organisations to meet and consider organising one joint spectacular celebration in 2009 for two of Scotland’s greatest heroes. A fresh application for funding, would surely be more likely to attract funding from ‘EventsScotland’.

Dorothy Anderson of Aberdeen City Council Events Department is currently on extended sick leave, having recently had a serious operation.



Dorothy has proved to be one of our most valuable contributors to the organisation of our celebrations. Representing the City Council she brought a great deal of experience to our meetings, guiding us through the intricacies of road closures, processions and publicity to name but a few. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing Dorothy back in her post soon.

This years A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 22nd October and we are delighted that Lindy Cheyne will speak on “Living with a Leopard” More details will be given in the Autumn Newsletter.

ACCORDING to the “Sunday Post” newspaper, a row is breaking out over the significance of a letter, written by the King of France in 1300 granting Wallace “safe conduct” to visit the Pope in the Vatican. The letter, believed to be Wallace’s only surviving possession, was used in 1305 in the infamous London show trial for treason. Campaigners have repeatedly called for it to be returned North as being part of Scotland’s history. However, George McKenzie, Keeper of the Records of Scotland, in rejecting the calls for its return, now doubts that the document, written by King Philip 1V of France is the “safe conduct” letter. David R. Ross convenor of the Society of William Wallace stated that the letter is of significant importance and that he has seen this kind of denial before, when it comes to the return of Scottish documentation and artefacts. Renowned historian Geoffrey Barrow, former professor of Medieval History at Edinburgh also insisted that the letter is significant and having sighted it has no doubt that the letter was issued to William Wallace by King Philip 1V of France. One consolation is that the Keeper of Records hopes to borrow the letter for displaying the National Archives of Scotland, as it relates to one of our great historical leaders.

Jim Allison, newsletter editor, would welcome any feedback or contributions for publishing. E-mail Jim at “jim1allison@yahoo.co.uk” or phone on 01224 890747.

The Wallace Association is a non-political Charitable body registered Charity No. SC0034208 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 the web site www.wallace700.org, provided by Iain Smith Solicitors LLP.