

WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2007

WALLACE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY ON SUNDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER, 2007

PLANS for this years ceremony are well in hand and we are delighted to say that our Council Convenor The Rev. Dr. Henry Sefton, a lecturer in Church History and currently holding an honorary appointment in the Kirk of St Nicholas, Aberdeen, will give the Annual Wallace Address. We are also pleased to announce that Charles Barron's Pageant on the life and death of William Wallace returns to the programme and will be enacted by the pupils from Albyn and Ferryhill primary Schools. Loirston Drama are preparing to extend their reading of the "Declaration of Arbroath" to include an enactment of the signing, and for this year only, Mike Gibb is presenting a specially edited version of his play "Mother of all the Peoples". Many thousands of visitors are expected in the Aberdeen area, attracted by the Braemar Gathering on the Saturday and the following week to the bi-annual Oil Exhibition, we are hopeful that our publicity will encourage many of these visitors to join us at Schoolhill. The Braemar Gathering attracts so many North-East bands that it is always difficult to get them to turn out again the following day. However we are extremely fortunate in having secured the Portlethen and Kintore Pipe Bands, whose performance was much appreciated at last years ceremony. This year we have a new Lord Provost, Peter Stephen and we are delighted that along with the Lady Provost, he will attend the ceremony and lay the wreath. Aberdeen City Council will again provide a seated area opposite the statue and apart from seats provided for the Lord Provost and guests, seating will be available on a first come, first served basis. The H.M. Theatre coffee shop will be open for the duration of the ceremony and we are grateful for this most welcome gesture.

"MOTHER OF ALL THE PEOPLES" will be a showcase version of the play written by Mike Gibb and Mairi Paton and based on the life of the Aberdeen born missionary, Mary Slessor. It tells the remarkable story of Mary's journey from the slums and mills of Dundee, living in fear of a drunken and violent father, through her work in the Dundee Mission halls, to her years in the deepest jungles of Calabar [now part of Nigeria]. Since 2003 the show has enjoyed sell out runs in Aberdeen



[twice], Dundee [twice] and the Byre Theatre, St. Andrews, raising more than £25000 for charities, most of the money going to the Mary Slessor Foundation who are valiantly continuing her work in Calabar. Showcases have previously been performed

in the Caird Hall and in March this year, as part of Mary Slessor Memorial Year, in the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, the first musical ever to be performed there. Mary was born and lived in Mutton Lane (Gilcomston) which no longer exists but there is a plaque in Belmont Street outside what was formerly the Church where she worshipped. A new sculpture is to be unveiled in Union Terrace in her honour in Autumn 2007

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

- 13.00 Hrs. - Kintore Pipe Band at Marks and Spencers.
- 13.00 Hrs. - Portlethen Pipe Band play at the Statue.
- 13.20 Hrs. - "Mother of all the Peoples".
- 14.00 Hrs. - Welcome—Rev. Dr. Canon Emsley Nimmo.
 - Wallace Address - Rev. Dr. Henry Sefton.
 - Wreath Laying by Lord Provost.
 - "Freedom Come aa Ye" Barbara Ann Burnett.
- 14.45 Hrs - Wallace Pageant— pupils of Albyn and Ferryhill Primary Schools.
- 15.10 Hrs. - Arbroath Abbey Pageant. Loirston Drama Group
- 15.20 Hrs - Dedication—Rev. Stephen Taylor.
- 15.23 Hrs - Closing Remarks—Rev. Dr Canon Emsley Nimmo.
- 15.25 Hrs. - Combined Pipe Bands at the Viaduct.
- 15.30 Hrs - Portlethen and Kintore Pipe Bands will Beat the

ONE of the attractive features of the Ceremony are the Gorfannons which have been made by three very talented ladies namely, Jennifer Bain, Aileen Reith and Ann Arthur, of the Aberdeen Embroiderers Guild. In total they have produced two flags and 6 Gorfannons. The patterns on five of the Gorfannons were all based on Scottish Heraldry with the remaining one, created from images of a fish, a deer and a goose. The images were copied from carvings on a Pictish stone. This year they are making a table cloth from Calico with an ornamental fringe. The cloth will be seen on the table used in the Arbroath Abbey Pageant upon which the Declaration will be signed



The magnificent statue erected to the memory of Sir William Wallace stands on Union Terrace in front of His Majesty's Theatre. The statue is approximately 16 feet high and is supported on a foundation of a triple base of red granite. On top of the foundation there is a pedestal of large blocks of Corennie granite each around several tons in weight. These are the facts but

J. Derrick McClure at the 2006 Ceremony.



what not so well known is that the statue was a gift to the city from a Mr. John Steill. In a letter of instruction to his trustees, John wrote of his great admiration of the character of William Wallace and of his wish to leave a token of his love for the memory of this great man. In his letter he gave detailed instructions on the style of the statue he wished to be erected in his memory. It was to take the form of a colossal statue in bronze and to be supported on a basement of adequate proportions. The basement design was not to be of neatness of finish, or of costly fancy work, but massive and symmetrical in shape and bold in detail. Mr Steill also selected the incident in history where Sir William Wallace met with the English Ambassadors before the battle of Stirling Bridge, as the portrayal of

the figure. He regarded this interview as one of the finest affording a noble theme for the artist to work on. The attitude in which Wallace is depicted, with the left hand extended and the right hand grasping his sword, can easily be identified with his famous words "We came not to treat, but to fight and set Scotland free". As was John Steill's wish competitive designs were sought, and over 20 sculptors from England and Europe competed with the final decision made in favour of Mr. William Grant Stevenson, A.R.S.A., of Edinburgh. William and his brother David Watson Grant were in partnership and both worked on the design and fabrication of the statue. Other notable works of the brothers are the Scott monument in Edinburgh and the Robert Burns statue in Kilmarnock. The statue was unveiled on the 29th June 1888, by the Marquis of Lorne, accompanied by the Lord Provost Henderson and W.G. Stevenson, the designer. There was guard of honour of 50 men and a band played "Scots Wha Hae". Despite the poor weather thousands turned out to witness the unveiling. Surely a moment that John Steill could never have envisaged, despite his thorough plans. He would however, have been proud of what was, and still is regarded as one of the finest statues in the country.

As a charity we are dependant on subscriptions and donation to continue our efforts in making everyone, and in particular, the children of today aware of the wisdom and bravery of Sir William Wallace. Please make sure that you have paid your subscription for this year and at the same time why not make it a direct debit and then you don't have to rely on your memory. Subscriptions are very reasonably priced at £10 per individual and £12 per family. To make a direct debit please contact John MacKay, 6, Cairn Walk,

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 of William Wallace. Donations are always welcome and membership can be obtained by contacting John Mackay at the address shown elsewhere in this newsletter letter Contact can also be made through the web site www.wallace700.org provided by Iain Smith & Co.



Victoria Lethbridge and Lindsay Cromar in the playlet "A King Crowned Twice" written by Charles Barron, pictured below with Brian McDonald.



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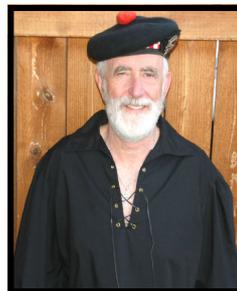
john-mackay@2.com

CAPTAIN J.R. Wallace of the Clan Wallace society World Wide [CWSW] having completed his three year term of office, has now retired and has been succeeded by William J. Wallace. In 2005 along with members of the Clan Wallace and Irvine, he attended a reception given by the Lord Provost and on the following day participated in the Procession. Captain John served with the Coast Guard and retired in 1989, after 32 years service. William [Bill] who is now a trustee of our Association, was also on the 2005 visit. Bill, a retired Army Officer with 24 years service, was also a manager with the Boeing Helicopter Company for 17 years before going into a consultancy business with this wife Norma. Both John and Bill were welcome visitors to Aberdeen and we look forward to meeting them again the future.

Capt., John R. Wallace



William J. Wallace



Bill were welcome visitors to Aberdeen and we look forward to meeting them again the future.

THERE will be changes to the Loirston Drama group part of the ceremony, to include an enactment of the signing of the Declaration. Approximately 23 characters, who were present at the reading of the Declaration will be in the new extended playlet. Some of the characters who will be represented are King Robert the Bruce, the Abbot of Arbroath, Bernard de Linton, the Lord's Douglas and Randolph, the Earls of Fife, Moray and Lennox to name but a few. The Bishops of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Aberdeen will also appear, as well as the Bearer of the sacred Banner of St. Columba, whose job was to carry the Breccbannoch. A copy of this famous relic will be carried throughout this ceremony. Margaret Vierra, Shirley Howley and Alan Muir are providing the costumes, with Brian MacDonald directing the playlet. The aim is to make the signing a more prominent part of the ceremony as befits what was a significant moment in the History of Scotland.

