



WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION

2009 SPRING NEWSLETTER

WALLACE 700 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY 2009.

The council of Wallace 700 Association agreed last year with officials within Aberdeen City Council Events Department that this year's Ceremony should take place within the umbrella of the City's Tartan Day celebrations on Sunday 2nd August. The reason for the change was partly financial but mainly to take advantage of the highly publicised year of the Homecoming celebrations. We missed out on funding this year and there was a distinct possibility that our proposed stand alone event would be overshadowed by the publicity of the many other Homecoming events which will be taking place in the North East, in the Autumn. On that basis we agreed to add our colourful Historic ceremony to the full day of activities planned for Tartan Day. We look forward to seeing you all again at this year Commemoration.

Programme details yet to be finalised.

- 11.00 Grand procession down Union Street.
- 12.00 Union Terrace Gardens - musical Concert and displays.
- 13.30 Pipe Band strikes up at Wallace Statue.
- 13.35 Wallace 700 Colour Party, and Medieval Realm proceed from Union Terrace Gardens to the Wallace statue.
- 13.40 Welcome by The Very Rev'd Dr. A. E Nimmo.
- 13.42 Wreath Party and Drum Core Proceed from Union Terrace Gardens to the Statue.
- 13.44 Formal wreath laying followed by Solo pipe lament.
- 13.46 "The Declaration of Arbroath" with members of Loirston Drama Group and Medieval Realm re-enactment group.
- 13.56 Dedication by the minister of the Kirk of St. Nicholas, Rev'd Stephen Taylor.
- 13.58 Closing remarks by the Reverend Emsley Nimmo, inviting all to join in singing Robert Burns anthem "Scots Wha Hae".

Wallace 700 will have an information stand set up at the Highland games, please contact Eric White 638711 or John Mackay 861345 if you can spare an hour to help.

TARTAN DAY is celebrated across the globe wherever large ex-pat populations have settled as an acknowledgement of our shared culture. In Canada all the states from Nova Scotia to British Columbia have agreed to celebrate Tartan Day on the same date. We in Scotland have a bit of catching up to do and why not start your contribution this year. During previous Wallace Ceremonies 53 different Clan and district Tartans have been on display by participants. Unfortunately not all at the same ceremonies. Wouldn't it be a wonderful spectacle, if all those kilted folk who have taken part previously, would turn out for this special Wallace Celebration on Tartan day in the year of the Homecoming. Resplendent in their garb O' Auld Scotia, in the presence of our welcome visitors, we would show that we too honour, that "Cloth of many colours".

The tartan on the right is Aberdeen, one of the oldest district tartans to survive. The first written reference being in the books of Wilson's of Bannockburn in 1794.

Here's to it!

The fighting sheen of it,
The yellow, the green of it,
The white, the blue of it,
The swing, the hue of it,
The dark, the red of it,
Every thread of it!
The fair have sighed for it,
The brave have died for it,
Foemen sought for it,
Heroes fought for it,
Honour the name of it,
Drink to the fame of it -

THE TARTAN!

The Clan Wallace Society World Wide have confirmed that it will make the second of five contributions of \$400 towards the annual cost of our annual Commemoration of William Wallace. We are most grateful for their continual support.



ABERDEEN HIGHLAND GAMES AT HAZLEHEAD ON SUNDAY 21st JUNE.

TARTAN DAY AND WALLACE 700 PAGEANT SUNDAY 2nd AUGUST.

Medieval Realm who will be appearing in the Declaration of Arbroath part of this years Wallace Commemoration, have a busy year ahead and can be seen in various locations . Their remaining programme for this year is given below.

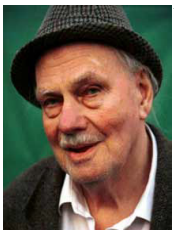
14-15th	June	Drum Castle.
14th	June	Banchory
5-6th	July	Urquhart Castle
11-14th	July	Tewksbury
19th	July	Isle of Lewis
2-3rd	August	Harlaw
9th	August	Inverness
16-17th	August	Lanark
2nd	Sept.	Aberdeen Tartan Day
13-14th	Sept.	Castle Fraser
26 th	Oct.	Archeolink



“SCOTS WHA HAE”

We are aware that many folks particularly our visitors will not know the words to Robert Burns famous anthem. And therefore we will be handing out words to all present at this years ceremony. A surprising number of Scots are unaware that Burns wrote “Scots Wha Hae” and put it to our oldest pipe tune “Hey Tuti Tuti”. What is also not widely known is that Burns wrote it under an assumed name due to the political situation at that time. Burns career as an Excise man would have been in jeopardy, had he expressed his political opinion openly.

Hamish Henderson who wrote the Anthem “Freedom Come Aa Ye” was born in Blairgowrie on the 11th



November 1919. His mother, a single parent, introduced him to folk song and brought him up to speak Gaelic. Educated at Blairgowrie High School and Dulwich College, London he then studied modern language at Cambridge . During the second world war he served as an intelligence officer in Europe and North Africa. In 1947 he was awarded the Somerset Maugham award and he used the prize money to travel to Italy. In 1951 he accompanied the American folklorist Alan Lomax on a collecting tour in Scotland, which was the beginning of an upsurge of interest in Scottish folk music. Henderson became a collector and later a permanent member of staff with the newly founded School of Scottish studies at Edinburgh University where his particular activity was with the tinkers/travellers. Henderson considered at this time his greatest achievement, to be the discovery of Jeannie Robertson a story teller and singer. Along with this University work Henderson became involved with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe through his involvement in folk music and it was at this time he wrote the anthem which has been sung with such evocative beauty by the highly regarded Barbara-Ann Burnett during the past 8 Wallace ceremonies. The song was written in 1960, and according to an article by Timothy Teal published in the Leopard, the gist of it was composed on a train journey from Strichen to Aberdeen. The music was adapted from the first world war Pipe March “The Bloody Fields of Flanders” which Henderson first heard on the Anzio Beach Head in world war two. Henderson held several honorary degrees and after his retirement became a fellow of the School of Scottish School of Studies. In 1983 he refused an O.B.E in protest at the Nuclear arms policy of the Thatcher government. He died in Edinburgh in March 2002.

Charles Barron who has contributed greatly to past **William Wallace Ceremonies** with his scripts for the children’s pageant on the life and death of William Wallace, “The King who was crowned Twice” and “Blyth Aberdeane”. Charles’s play “Guts” about Aberdeen fish wives during WWII, is due to tour 9 North East venues starting Midmar Village Hall on 20th May and finishing at Inverurie on 27th June. There is a performance at Aberdeen Arts Centre on 30th May.

The Wallace Association is a non-political body registered charity No SCO0324208 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. 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.

My thanks to Medieval Realm and the Aberdeen Journals for the use of the photographs.