

WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY 2011

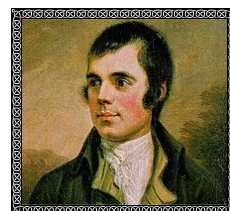
Once again the Commemoration Ceremony is being held alongside the Aberdeen city tartan day. The date for your diary is Saturday 30th July with the actual timings and programme to be decided later. This year we will be honoured by the presence of Bob Wallace, President of the Clan Wallace World Wide. Bob and his wife Lois are visiting Scotland to attend the International Pipe Band championships being held in Glasgow and will visit Aberdeen for a short stay, before moving back for the championships. An invitation has been extended to Bob to assist in the laying of the Wallace wreath alongside our Lord Provost. The Tartan turn out last year was rewarding and it would really be impressive if we could double our number of marchers, all in Tartan or other national costumes, parading down Union Street.

Margaret Farquhar, one of our trustees, has suggested that it would be appropriate for the audience to stand whilst the wreath was being laid. This proposal was accepted by the Council and will be adopted at all future ceremonies.



We have two vacancies on the Council and would appreciate some willing volunteers to come and give us a hand. The next two Council meetings will be held on the 7th April at 14.00hrs. and on the 12th May at 19.30hours. Both to be held in the Queens Cross Kirk, Albyn Place. We are also anxious to increase our membership to over 150 as the income from regular subscriptions would go a long way to covering most of the Ceremony costs. To this end we urge existing supporters to renew their contributions for 2011 and new supporters to make a small but essential contribution to our unique Ceremony.

Our concern that the temporary "flower containers" on the Wallace Statue Plinth were in danger of becoming permanent, was raised with Bill Cormie, one of the Councillors' for Rosemount. Skateboarding damage to the plinth was ugly and very visible and immediate action was required. The temporary flower containers have done the job admirably, but they detract from the majesty of the monument flowers in growth tend to obscure some of the inscriptions. After 4



Aberdeen Burns Club with whom we have a good working relationship, are currently discussing the possibility of holding a wreath laying ceremony on Tartan Day. With road closures and more hospitable weather in August being a more attractive time for their tribute to our National Bard. The timing on Tartan day would of course be arranged to avoid any interference with our ceremony. The Council welcomed this proposal and offered their full support including participation if required.



The council took a brief look ahead, in particular to 2014, when there would be another "Homecoming". This was planned to coincide with the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn as well as the Bi-annual Rider cup and the Commonwealth games. The aim was to see where we could fit in with planned events and the benefits of dovetailing into them.

Not since Charles Barron's play "Wallace" have we had so many children participating in the Ceremony. It was also noticeable that many of the adults attending had brought children and grandchildren to witness our tribute to Sir William Wallace. We can only hope that they have been left with a good impression of our efforts, and that they will in turn show more interest as they grow older.



MEDIEVAL REALM.

- May Traquhair
- June R AF Leuchars
Marymass Inverness
HIGHLAND GAMES
- July Peterhead
TARTAN DAY
- Aug. Fort George
Lanark
- Sept Archeolink—Harlaw
- Oct Archeolink—Wickerman
- Nov Perth

All dates other than Tartan day [July 30] and the Aberdeen Highland games [June 19] are provisional and await confirmation. Full details can be found on the Medieval Realm website at:-
www.medievalrealm.co.uk

In our Summer 2010 newsletter we noted that the Scottish Government had asked a group of experts to produce a report on the letter of "Safe Conduct". The letter is crucially important because it is one of very few surviving possessions of Wallace. It is said to have been written by King Philip IV of France, granting Wallace safe passage to visit the Pope. The authenticity of the letter was put in doubt by English Historians but it is believed that the present group of experts will confirm it to be authentic. The Scotland on Sunday has confirmed that the report is almost finished and preliminary findings are encouraging enough to hope that the letter will soon be returned to Scotland.



The girls above are members of Castlegate arts who came in at the last minute and made a valuable contribution to the Ceremony as did the two young lads on the right seen marching in the procession. All are thanked for their contribution.



The Wallace 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 . 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 a 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.