



WALLACE 700 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2007

WALLACE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY 2007.

WHAT a complete contrast to last year when the Ceremony was within 5 minutes of cancellation through a heavy shower of rain. This year, the day was warm and the sun shone throughout the Ceremony, making it a pleasant day for both spectators and performers. A late and very welcome addition to the Ceremony was the choir of Palmerston Road Church, Aberdeen. Musical Director, David Emele was a sight to behold as he enthusiastically exhorted his fellow Nigerians to renditions which were the match of any Welsh choir. Their singing and participation was much appreciated, and we hope they will return in the future. Mike Gibb's excerpt from his play "Mother of all the Peoples" was beautifully performed by the cast and their performance left us with a wish to see the full performance. The school Pageant returned after a years absence and reminded us how good it is to see children enjoy themselves in an entertaining and enthusiastic performance of Charles Barron's playlet. The children from Albyn and Ferryhill Primary Schools were a credit to both their teachers and their parents. Loirston Drama's performance, of the "Declaration of Arbroath", under the direction of Brian McDonald was colourful, symbolic and well received. A special word of thanks to Dorothy Anderson for her logistical support and to Lord Provost Stephen, our newest member, for laying the wreath. Our thanks to "Schiltron" for the use of their costumes and armour, our Convenor Rev. Dr Henry Sefton who gave the annual Wallace Address, full of interest, and a summary of his speech is on page 2. Many thanks are due to the Kintore and Portlethen Pipe Bands, all contributors, Emsley Nimmo an excellent M.C., Rev Stephen Taylor, Barbara Ann-Burnett, Margaret and Joseph Vieira and all the background workers for making this a memorable day.



THE Nigerian Choir in full song and below the cast of the Mike Gibb play "Mother of All the People."



WALLACE 700 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

WE extend a warm welcome to one and all to come and join us at our Annual General Meeting, to be held on Wednesday 17th October at 7.30 pm in the Queens Cross Church Lounge. Gordon Casely [See top left for Gordon's personal coat of arms] will again be our speaker and his topic this year will be "Heraldry Made Simple". Business is short and normally finished by 8 pm after which there will be a delightful buffet with light refreshments, provided by the members.



PRIMARY pupils of Ferryhill and Albyn Primary schools showing plenty of energy in their entertaining performance of the life of William Wallace.



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

WALLACE ADDRESS by REV. Dr. Henry R. Sefton.



On 7th July 1307 the Hammer stopped hammering. Edward Plantagenet, King of England, though nicknamed Longshanks by his subjects was better known as the Hammer of the Scots as he hammered away at Scotland from 1296—1307. Henry then outlined how fanatical Edward had become explaining that on reaching Burgh-by-sands on the English side of the Solway firth he realised that he could go no further and that death was near. He summoned his son Edward Prince of Wales to his bedside and made him promise to boil his body in a cauldron, separate his bones, wrap them in a bull's hide and that they be carried at the head of the army every time they tried to subdue Scotland. Prince Edward ignored his father's wishes and took his body intact to Westminster Abbey where it remains to this day. In 1774 the tomb was opened and the corpse was measured at 6ft 2ins. Edward was indeed Longshanks. Edward was a remarkably successful soldier. When a Crusader, he had re-captured Nazareth from the Turks, he had subdued Wales and covered it with castles, but he could not conquer Scotland, though he very nearly did because of the disunity and the divided loyalty of most of the great Nobles, but to his disgust he failed. The reason he failed was of course William Wallace who was also a big man and a born leader and a charismatic man who inspired great loyalty, but also much jealousy. Above all he was a patriot. Continuing, Henry stated that there was little doubt that there was personal animosity between Edward and Wallace, which accounted for the appalling treatment of Wallace, who after his capture was treated as a traitor, when he should have been treated as a prisoner of war. Branded as an outlaw no defence was allowed at the show trial in Westminster Hall. Wallace protested that he could not be a traitor because he had never sworn allegiance to England, but John Balliol had conceded that Edward was overlord of Scotland and his concession included all Scots and of course Wallace himself. In the closing of the address, Henry said that Edward may have thought that Wallace's death would have scared the Scots into submission, but instead it had the opposite effect. The Scots found a new unity under the leadership of Robert Bruce, who had been inspired by Wallace's life and even more by his death. Wallace was a big man, much bigger than Longshanks the English King, but more than that he was a great man. whose name is honoured all over the world.

Wallace was no plaster saint but he is an icon of freedom and national aspiration. It is no small measure due to him that we have survived

Pipe Bands are always popular and both Kintore and Portlethen were appreciated by the spectators.



J. Derrick McClure gave last years Wallace Address, this year returned to play the part of King Robert Bruce. Also in the photo is "Barron" Sandy Cheyne



Bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld, Aberdeen and the Abbot of Arbroath



Lord Douglas and Bruce's colours and Robert the Bruce.



Herald Royal and Ladies in Waiting.



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 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 & Co.