



THE NATIONAL WALLACE MONUMENT

Friends of The National Wallace Monument Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2009



St. Andrew's Day set to bring another busy season at the Monument to a close

St. Andrew's Day is now a well established holiday in Scotland - and it is being celebrated at visitor attractions north, south, east and west across the country, many of which are marking the day by opening their doors to visitors free of charge. Admission to The National Wallace Monument will be free of charge on Saturday, Sunday and Monday - from 28th to 30th November.

A programme of special events over the weekend will also mark the milestone of 140 years since the famous tower was opened in 1869. On Saturdays and Sundays there will be presentations of the script "Impressive, don't you think?" - in which a costumed actor

will play the character of J.T. Rohead. The eminent Victorian architect was the winner of the competition to select the designer for the monument, and the presentations (which will take place regularly between 11.00am and 3.00pm) tell how he was inspired to create his masterpiece - now such a distinctive feature on the city's skyline.

Wallace's achievements in battle will be recalled as a soldier tells what it was like to fight alongside the leader of the victorious Scottish army at The Battle of Stirling Bridge, whilst children can enjoy special attractions including free face-painting (Saturday and Sunday) and 'The Monument Mastermind' quiz. They can also join in the hunt to find William Bear inside The Monument itself, and could take home a prize if they discover where he's hiding!

Throughout November (and until the end of March 2010) The National Wallace Monument is open each day from 10.30am until 4.00pm, and further information is available on (01786) 472140, or from www.nationalwallacemonument.com.



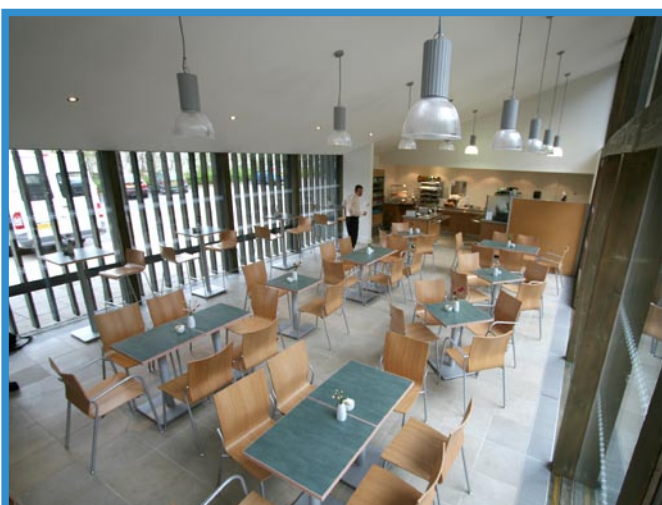
Making The Abbey Craig easier to explore –

If you have visited The Monument or The Abbey Craig over the summer months you will have noticed that work has been taking place to develop the network of pathways in and around the rock on which The Monument has stood for 140 years. The principal aim of the programme has been to improve access to the woodlands which surround The Monument, and the work has been undertaken as part of The 'Woodlands In and Around Towns' initiative being implemented by Forestry Commission Scotland with the objective of improving quality of life in towns and cities across Scotland by creating new woodland, bringing neglected woodland into active management and working with people to help them use their local woodland.

In conjunction with this project a new map of The Abbey Craig has been commissioned, and this shows all of the pathways, and the trails which can now be followed more easily thanks to the special waymarkers which have been installed. The map is available to download from The National Wallace Monument Web Site, and printed copies are also available from the Visitor Reception building at The Monument.

Was William Wallace 'The Greatest Scot'??

Television viewers in Scotland have been given the chance to vote for the person whom they believe should be recognised as 'The Greatest Scot', with a special series on STV tracing the achievements of those who have made an outstanding contribution in all walks of Scottish life, including of course Sir William Wallace. And who will the winner be? The results are due to be announced on St. Andrew's Day - Monday 30th November, and will be available on www.stv.tv. It's time to keep fingers crossed for Scotland's national hero!



Legends hits the spot

Since its opening at the start of the main 2009 season, Legends Coffee House at The Monument has been proving to be a really popular venue, not just for visitors to The Monument, but for anyone who wants to enjoy a relaxing coffee at any time of the day.

Free car parking at The Abbey Craig means that it's easy to pop into Legends for a coffee with friends, or take a break at lunchtime to enjoy one of the great offers such as Home-made Soup of the Day, complete with a sandwich, at just £5.75.

An important service

The courtesy shuttle bus which operates between The Car Park at The Abbey Craig and The Monument is appreciated by visitors - and it has just been given a boost with the arrival of a new minibus.

With space at The Monument very restricted, a Ford Transit was chosen as the new vehicle, offering the best combination of manoeuvrability and capacity.



What are your plans for Christmas and New Year??

If you're in the Stirling area, and you're ready for some exercise after your Christmas lunch, then you'll find The Abbey Craig offers a choice of woodland walks and nature trails.

After your walk you can call into Legends Coffee House for a drink or a snack - it will be open every day (from 10.30am) except Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year's Day.

Preparing for another busy year...

The year 2010 won't be very old when preparations start to make sure The Monument is ready to welcome visitors throughout the year, and the work starts in early January with essential maintenance (including the testing of electrical equipment and safety checks) being carried out in all parts of the building.

As a result The Monument will be closed to visitors from Monday 11 January to Wednesday 13 January, and will re-open again as normal at 10.30am on Thursday 14th January 2010.

For the latest updates and news on Opening Times please visit www.nationalwallacemonument.com.

