



# THE NATIONAL WALLACE MONUMENT

## Friends of The National Wallace Monument Newsletter – Spring 2009

### Looking forward to a new season – - AND A NEW STANDARD OF WELCOME FOR VISITORS

The National Wallace Monument was the scene of intense activity during the second half of 2008, as contractors progressed with the construction of the new Reception Building at the Car Park, which was completed just before the Christmas holiday period.

On completion of the building the first priority was to re-open the Souvenir and Gift Shop, with its Reception Desk providing visitors with a first point of contact and a welcome when they arrive at The Monument. This part of the building also houses toilet facilities, and provides visitor information.

Work is now continuing on preparing for the opening of Legends Coffee House, in time for the start of the main holiday season in April. This will involve the installation of furniture (with seating for up to 50 customers), and the recruitment of staff who will be providing a warm welcome to visitors, and serving a range of speciality coffees, home-made soups, wraps, paninis, cakes, and freshly-made sandwiches.

Visitors will discover that Legends Coffee House is bright and spacious - and it has been designed to provide wonderful views, looking up towards the wooded slopes of The Abbey Craig and to The Monument itself.

## LEGENDS COFFEE HOUSE -

- a new name, from the past!



Legends have always surrounded The Abbey Craig, and in 1861 it was the legend of William Wallace, Guardian of Scotland, which drew thousands of men, women and children from all across the country, who came to the rock outside Stirling. They came to witness the laying of the foundation stone for the building of a monument which would salute the country's greatest patriot and martyr.

Today that monument draws visitors from the four corners of the world who come to discover more about the legends surrounding the man who fought for his country's freedom, to become Scotland's national hero.

As The Abbey Craig and The National Wallace Monument look to the future with the opening of the new Reception Building, the choice of Legends as the name for the Coffee House seems to be a perfect way of linking the past, the present, and the future.

## THINKING OF A SPECIAL EVENT?

Now there's a special place!

With its wonderful views towards The Abbey Craig and The Monument, Legends Coffee House is the perfect choice for a special event - a private reception or a celebratory get-together, and it can be reserved for private use outside normal opening hours. For enquiries, or to obtain further information please contact The Monument on **(01786) 472140** or e-mail [info@nationalwallacemonument.com](mailto:info@nationalwallacemonument.com)

## ENJOYING THE ABBEY CRAIG



The Abbey Craig has been the focus of extensive work carried out recently to improve the quality of the woodlands which surround The National Wallace Monument, and to make these more accessible to visitors. The work has been carried out as part of The Woods In and Around Towns (WIAT) Programme, which provides a focus for The Forestry Commission Scotland to improve the quality of life in towns and cities. Phase I of the programme ran from April 2005 to March 2008, and Phase II involves a commitment of £8m per year on work in and around towns from April 2008 to March 2011. The project is designed to:

- Create new woodland.
- Bring neglected woodland into active management, and
- Work with people to help them use their local woodland.

Managing the WIAT project in the local area is The Stirling and Clackmannanshire Woodland and Greenspace (WAGS) Partnership, which brings together Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Stirling Council, Clackmannanshire Council and Greenspace Scotland, with the aim of protecting and enhancing the urban woodland and other greenspace in and around the city and towns of the two council areas.

As part of this project a new pathway is being built from the rear of the new Reception Building, leading towards The Monument, and providing a safer route for pedestrians walking to and from The Monument. New pathways have also been developed to offer routes which visitors can use for woodland walks in and around The Abbey Craig, and to provide easier access to the viewpoints.

A new map of The Abbey Craig is also in the course of preparation, and this will be used to provide a directional and orientation guide for visitors, and to ensure that they can enjoy the area to the full.