

# HALKIRK HERITAGE & VINTAGE MOTOR SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Issue No. 2 - SEPTEMBER 2006

<p>The summer exhibition held throughout July and August, in the Ross Institute, was a wonderful success. An estimated 650-700 people came through the doors and surprisingly, this included around 200 children. Numbers were boosted by the attendance of primaries 5, 6 &amp; 7 from Halkirk school. They have been tasked with writing an essay on what they saw.</p> <p>25 pages of the visitors' book were filled with praise and included such comments as; wonderful, most interesting, well presented, very informative, well worth the visit, wicked, ace and cool! Visitors from throughout the UK were joined by a few from Australia, Canada, USA, Holland and New Zealand.</p> <p>The opening day on 1<sup>st</sup> July went very well. Lord Thurso officially opened the</p>	<p>exhibition in front of 50 members and invited guests. They enjoyed a (crowded) private viewing with food and drinks, before the doors were opened to the general public. Professional photographer John Baikie produced some stunning photographs that appeared in the press and the Caithness.org website.</p> <p>The exhibition also attracted new members and the membership list now totals a very impressive 75.</p> <p>Visitors were given the task of guessing the uses of two wooden items that were on display (we didn't know what they were used for!). Apparently, one was an early form of a clay pigeon trap. It fired glass balls filled with feathers. The other was a variable angle drilling machine, for making bolt holes in roof trusses.</p>	<p>Particular praise was given to the embroidered Ross Institute bedspread and this is now framed and permanently stands in the front hallway of the Institute.</p> <p>The Society is very grateful to Sinclair Windows for donating the frame and glass and to Alec Budge and team for installing it.</p> <p>The 7 foot high vinyl banners also attracted attention and were often described as a modern work of art. They were designed by professional graphic designer Duncan McLachlan of Studiograff, a Murkle based company.</p> <p>Many people offered to donate items to the Society and these offers will be followed up over the winter. The main problem is a lack of storage space for these items.</p>
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<p>However, the good news is that planning permission for the new sports complex adjacent to the Recreation park has been granted. Phase two of this exciting development will include storage and display areas for the Society.</p>	<p>The books and information include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The whisky distilleries of the UK in 1887</li> <li>• Scotch missed – the lost distilleries of Scotland</li> </ul>	<p>Some of the ideas for next year's exhibition include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halkirk and the wars</li> <li>• Sports clubs</li> <li>• The Gala week</li> <li>• Farming</li> <li>• Caithness stone quarrying</li> </ul>
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<p>The Society is very grateful to the “Awards for All” organisation. Our application for a £5,000 grant was successful and a very relieved Treasurer received the cheque four weeks after the exhibition opened.</p> <p>The grant, along with donations, membership fees and weekly fund raising, means that the Society now owns;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 mobile display stands</li> <li>• 3 glass display cases</li> <li>• 17 display panels</li> <li>• 2 vinyl banners</li> <li>• 1 advertising board</li> <li>• 1 digital camera</li> <li>• 1 digital camcorder</li> <li>• 1 flat screen TV</li> <li>• 1 DVD player</li> <li>• 1 laptop computer &amp; printer</li> <li>• plus various books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halkirk parish 1841 &amp; 1851 census</li> <li>• Ye booke of Halkirk published in 1911</li> <li>• Parish of Halkirk statistical account</li> <li>• The standing stones of the parish of Halkirk, by Les Myatt</li> <li>• Pre 1855 monumental inscriptions of Halkirk parish cemeteries</li> <li>• The parish of Halkirk in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, by the Rev John Munro</li> </ul> <p>The Society will have a display stand at the Caithness Heritage fair, which will be held in Thurso High School on Saturday 23d September 2006 (11am to 4.30pm) and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> (1pm to 4pm). This event is part of the Caithness Arts week.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halkirk and the Sinclairs of Ulbster</li> <li>• Salmon fishing</li> <li>• A DVD on Halkirk attractions and events</li> </ul> <p>If you have any further ideas please let the Chairman or Secretary know.</p> <p>Chairman – Billy Manson, 01847 831 459</p> <p>Secretary – James Gunn, 01847 831 558</p> <p>If you would like to join the Society and help preserve local history, the annual membership fees are:</p> <p>Full - £5.00          Associate - £2.50          Junior - £1.00          Family - £10.00</p> <p>Contact the Membership Secretary, Mrs Joan Porter, Gerston. Telephone 01847 831 230.</p>
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