

HALKIRK HERITAGE & VINTAGE MOTOR SOCIETY

Newsletter

Issue No. 3 - February 2007

<p>The new year started with a fascinating slide show and talk by local historian George Watson in the Ross Institute. Twenty two members enjoyed lots of history snippets about Halkirk and district, covering such diverse topics as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the RAF underground fuel tanks at Hoy railway station• the firing range on Sour hill• the bee bols at Spittal hall• the commemorative stone for the construction of the original Halkirk bridge (still visible on the East wall along from the public toilets)• the location of the last fatal duel in Scotland.• Different uses of Caithness flagstones	<p>The talk was followed by discussions on the 2006 exhibition and the content of the 2007 summer exhibition.</p> <p>The exhibition will again take place in the Ross Institute over the summer, but with revised opening times of;</p> <p>Tues and Thurs 2-3pm Wednesdays 7-8pm Sundays 2-3.30pm</p> <p>As per last year, admission will be free.</p> <p>Extra openings for groups or individuals can be made by prior arrangement. The new themes that will be on display cover;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gala week• Sports clubs• The Wars• The Braehour peat fired power station <p>If you have any information or photographs of the above</p>	<p>themes, please contact James Gunn, Billy Manson, Edward Sutherland or Janet Mowat. Also contact them if you have any items that you think will be of interest and suitable for display (on any theme). The format, content and extent of the new displays will depend on successful applications for grants.</p> <p>In order to boost funds, the management committee have bought a supply of white plastic coasters featuring the Society's logo. They are 110m in diameter and the logo is purple in colour. They are on sale at £2@ from the Hon. Secretary. In the spring there will also be Halkirk postcards for sale.</p> <p>Membership numbers are a very healthy eighty and it is heartening to know that so many people take an interest in the Society's objectives.</p>
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<p>The fees for 2007 are due by 31 January, please contact Mrs Joan Porter if you have not already paid.</p> <p>Standing orders forms are available to make the</p>	<p>The Society presently shares a link on Halkirk's excellent community website;</p> <p>www.thisishalkirk.co.uk</p>	<p>It is also possible to buy copies of the professional display panels that were shown during the 2006 summer exhibition. Again, contact the Hon. Secretary.</p>
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<p>Membership Secretary's task a lot easier. The fees are;</p> <p>Full - £5.00 Associate - £2.50 Junior - £1.00 Family - £10.00</p> <p>Joan's contact details are;</p> <p>Mingulay Gerston Halkirk KW12 6XQ.</p> <p>Tel. 01847 831230.</p> <p>The Society's AGM will be held on Monday 16 April 2007 at 7.30pm in the Ross Institute, Halkirk. All members are invited to attend and have a say in the running of the Society.</p> <p>The evening will start (at 7.30pm) with a talk and slide show by local historian James Campbell, covering Halkirk's history. James has a fantastic collection of photographs, books and information on Halkirk and the presentation is one not to be missed.</p>	<p>The intention is to have our own website with regular news updates and copies of our newsletters.</p> <p>Two other useful Halkirk websites, both with a sporting theme, are;</p> <p>www.halkirkgames.co.uk www.ebigH.com</p> <p>The remaining walls and gravestones of the historic St Thomas' chapel at Skinnet are in danger of being knocked down by nosey cows! There used to be a protective fence around it, but this has fallen into disrepair. The Society is looking into the possibility of a grant to erect a new fence and so keep this ancient monument in a reasonable state.</p> <p>The Society has access to various photos of old Halkirk plus ariel photos of the village and Dirlot castle, taken in June 2006. If you would like to buy a copy, contact James Gunn, Hon. Secretary.</p>	<p>There is a walking festival being held in the North during May 2007 and Halkirk is featured. On Tuesday 15 May at 10.30 am, Billy Manson will act as a guide and take people along the riverside path to the site of the second Gerston distillery and then onto Braal castle. More information on the festival is available from www.walkcaithness.com</p> <p>However, the terrible floods during October 2006, the worst in living memory, washed away a large section of the riverside path and the walk may be curtailed. The Village Council is investigating the funding for the repair of the path. It may not be repaired for many months.</p> <p>James Gunn, the Society's Hon. Secretary has moved house. His new contact details are;</p> <p>4 Princes Street Thurso Caithness KW14 7BQ Tel. 01847 890096</p>
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