

Successful Facelift at Flag Heritage Centre



Work in progress at the Doocot in November 2006 - the scaffolding providing access for the lime-washing.

(£3,675) and an East Lothian Council tourism grant (£1,137).

The contractor appointed was John Laidlaw & Son of Jedburgh, and the works were largely carried out during November 2006. This comprised the re-harling of the east gable (having made sure it was carried out during a frost-free period), and then the lime-washing of all four walls. The choice of colour, a warm ochre, was made following three samples being applied, with the ochre being considered to be closest to the previous slightly faded pink lime wash.

Visitors are now faced with a gleaming new structure, and the transformation is especially striking when approaching the village from the west when the sun is shining.

Friends of the Trust will recall the article in last year's Newsletter regarding the condition of the harling on the east elevation of the 16th century Hepburn Doocot that houses the Heritage Centre. This was starting to spall badly, probably because of frost damage at the time it was first applied back in 1997.

Happily, the Trust was able to put together a funding package of £5,000 for the external upgrading works. This would not have been achieved without the generous support of Viridor Waste Management Ltd



Members of the St Andrew Society visiting the Doocot in April 2007 following the upgrading.

Note: The Flag Heritage Centre is open daily each year from 1 April to 31 October, and on St Andrew's Day – 30 November. Opening hours are from 09.00 until 18.00. Visitors can enjoy an audio-visual dramatisation of the 832AD battle of Athelstaneford in which the St Andrew's Cross appeared in the sky and inspired the Scots/Picts to victory. Entry to the Centre is free.

Message from the Treasurer

The Trust's funds were given a much-needed boost during the year thanks to two unexpected sources. The first was a generous bequest of £'a3500 received from the will of the late Miss Mary McDonald, a former Friend. The second was a generous donation of £'a3200 towards the general upkeep of the Athelstaneford site from Mrs Helen Bovey who is also a Friend. The Treasurer, Malcolm Duncan, provides Friends with a financial overview in a separate sheet accompanying this Newsletter, comprising an extract from the Trust's audited accounts for the year to 31 December 2006, together with a more detailed breakdown of income arising from Friends and through Gift Aid. The two main messages are first, that the Trust needs to attract more Friends, and second, that Friends who don't already do so are encouraged to complete and return a Gift Aid form.



Flag Wear and Tear!

The Flag Trust now flies Saltires at Athelstaneford that are in the proportions 5:4 length to height. This has resulted in less wear, compared to the previously used longer version which frayed badly (see above example!). A number of old and slightly tattered Saltires that have flown at this historic site are still held, and anyone interested in acquiring (for a modest amount) one of these unique flags should contact the Trust.

Floodlighting

The St Andrew's Cross that flies permanently above the Saltire Memorial is floodlit at night, while another two floodlights illuminate the frontage of Athelstaneford Church. The floodlight at the Memorial was damaged earlier in the year. Happily, Charlie Blair and his son-in-law David Ogilvie have undertaken to make secure cages of welded steel mesh to sit over each of the three floodlights, and these are being installed in October. This is greatly appreciated by the Trust and the Church, and the cages will afford much more security, without impairing the illumination.

MOUSE MATS

The Trust still has a supply of Athelstaneford Mouse Mats available, and the cost is only £2.50 with an extra 0.25p for postage. On multiple orders, postage is free. The distinctive Mouse Mat would make an excellent souvenir or gift for friends or relatives.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Scottish Flag Trust, which is a registered charity (No: SC002778), was established in 1984. Its objectives are:-

- to maintain and upgrade the Athelstaneford Heritage Centre and Saltire Memorial
- to raise public awareness about the origins of Scotland's national flag.

For information, or to order a school information pack, mouse mat or T-shirt, write to the Scottish Flag Trust at PO Box 84, Edinburgh EH3 8LG.

Key contacts are:-

David Williamson, Chairman (Tel:01368.863.239)
Charlie Blair, Custodian (Tel:01620.880.297)
Malcolm Duncan, Treasurer (Tel:01620.880.306)

VISIT THE WEBSITE

Information about Athelstaneford can be found via the St Andrew Society Website at

www.st-andrew.org.uk