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Turnbulls turn out in force



Clockwise, from above: crowds gather for the celebrations; Hawick pipe band leads the parade; the bull is unveiled; clan president Wally Turnbull files the flag. PHOTOGRAPHY: ROB GRAY



ORGANISERS of the weekend's Turnbull Clan Gathering in Hawick have deemed the event as "magical".

Hundreds of Turnbulls from around the world turned out to support the event and take part in events including a special dinner and a concert by local band Scocha.

The highlight of the programme, however, was the unveiling of a specially-commissioned £100,000 statue of the very first Turnbull.

One of the organisers, George Turnbull, told *The Southern*: "It was quite a magical day. The atmosphere at the muster was pulsating, with a big crowd milling around The Horse."

"It was a great joy to see so many locals and visitors, young and old, following the Turnbull standard behind the pipe band for the first time in my lifetime."

"And to cap it all, the weather was fine and the Hawick people came out in force to give us great support. It was a joy."

Mr Turnbull says the ceremony to unveil the bronze statue, created by Innerleithen sculptress Angela Hunter, went without a hitch.

And he added: "Our sincere thanks to our most elegant provost, Zandra Elliot, our worthy keynote speaker, Alistair Moffat, and of course our own president, Wally Turnbull."

"There was intense emotion as Wally unveiled the new monument to a rendition of Highland Cathedral by the Hawick Pipe Band."

"Angela Hunter has put heart and soul into the creation of William of Rule wrestling with the bull. She has rightly been recognised by everyone for the movement and energy she has achieved from a piece of cast metal. The detailing is simply superb. People just love to touch it."

"After all the hard work, our small committee have great satisfaction in having delivered a job well done for Turnbulls, Hawick and the Scottish Borders in this year of Homecoming."

"Our thanks to everyone who has donated, raised money, sold tickets and of course to those who came along to enjoy themselves. Well done Hawick!"



Provost Zandra Elliot



Keynote speaker Alistair Moffat