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NEWS RELEASE

Model T Ford Centenary Rally comes to Scotland

In May 2008, one hundred Ford Model Ts will come to the Borders to celebrate the centenary of the production of the first Model T in 1908.

The rally has attracted entries from Sweden, Denmark, France, Holland, Norway, Ireland and, of course, the USA.

Based at the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, this motoring extravaganza will be seen touring through the Scottish Borders. The route will take in many towns including Kelso, Selkirk, Melrose, St Boswells and Peebles. Cllr Hutton, Convenor of Scottish Borders Council, said, "This will be one of the biggest events of the year in the Borders and will attract people from around the globe, so the eyes of the world will be on the Borderland. It is a marvelous initiative and Scottish Borders Council is right behind it all the way".

The Model T, which was voted Car of the Century, was first described in 1908 as being "homely as a mule and useful as a pair of shoes". From this fabled car came the 20th century industrial and social revolutions. Ford's Model T would reshape manufacturing techniques and put the world on wheels.

News Release

Apart from the Dryburgh Abbey Hotel, other Borders based businesses have come on board to collaborate with the event. Selkirk based weavers, Lochcarron of Scotland, in conjunction with Mike Povey, the rally's organiser, have produced the Model T tartan. This attractive new tartan, the colours of which incorporate colours significant to the Model T, will be a lasting memento of the centenary of the Model T. Fraserburgh coachbuilders, Gray and Adams, are also sponsoring the event.

The rally will also take in Edinburgh, including Bute House. A civic reception will be held in the City Chambers in the presence of members of the Scottish Parliament, the American Ambassador and the Lord Provost. Members of the Alexander family will also attend. Henry Alexander made the Model T famous by driving it to the top of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, in 1911.

Editors' Note:

The Model T was very powerful for the time with a 20 horsepower, four cylinder, three bearing engine. The engine had a unique, detachable cylinder head and three point suspension. A pedal-operated planetary transmission and only two forward gears, with only two speeds enabled the driver to shift easily without danger of damage to gears. The engine, transmission and rear axle were completely enclosed.

The production of Model Ts in America came to an end in 1927, its successor being the Model A.

Scotland has long had strong connections with the famous car. In 1903, the first chairman of the Ford Motor company, Alexander Malcolmson, hailed from Dalry, Ayrshire.

The interior of the Model T used leather from the Bridge of Weir Leather Company, still renowned for producing the highest quality leather in the world.

This event is being supported by Scottish Borders Council.
For further information on the event, please contact Mike and Maria Povey (rally organisers) on 01835 830316 or email mapov@aol.com

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