

Ferguson kicks off Tartan Day by opening Wall Street

ELEANOR COWIE

PATRICIA Ferguson, the tourism minister, yesterday opened the American Stock Exchange during her Tartan Week visit to New York.

Ms Ferguson rang the bell at 9.30am to start the day's business and later visited a memorial garden being constructed in memory of the 67 British victims of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks.

The minister, who was celebrating Tartan Day in New York, described the garden as a "fitting tribute" to those who lost their lives.

She presented gifts of Scottish stone to Bernadette Castro, commissioner for New York State parks department, which will be incorporated into the Manhattan garden's design.

Ms Ferguson said: "The design of the garden will include limestone from Morayshire and Caithness stone throughout - a symbol of the part Scottish-American communities have played in influencing and shaping New York, and the genuine warmth of feeling that we Scots share with America."

Designed by British architects Isabel and Julian Bannerman, the garden also includes carvings and sculptures.

Tartan Day finished off with the Dressed to Kilt fashion show - themed Glasgow Meets Havana ... at the Copacabana - featuring creations by a range of talent including Yvette Jelfs, an Edinburgh milliner, and Pringle of Scotland.

A 700-year-old sword wielded by William Wallace was also on display.

Those strutting down the catwalk included Scott Hastings, the rugby star, Darius, the pop star, and Mo Johnston, the former Old Firm footballer.

Meanwhile, Tom McCabe, the finance minister, attended meetings in Washington DC.

Mr McCabe said: "Building on our work with the US at a national level, it is crucial we ensure politicians and officials at state level understand what modern Scotland has to offer."

