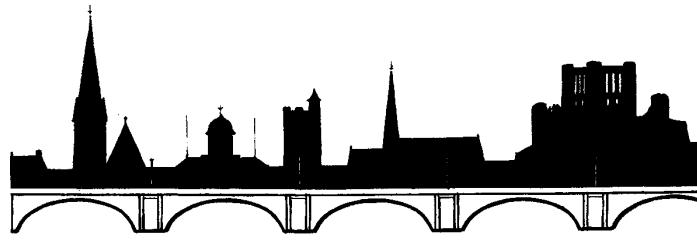


KELSO HERITAGE SOCIETY



Logo courtesy of A. Binnie

January 2021

NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year and welcome to the first newsletter of 2021. We hope that soon we will all have been vaccinated and be able to return to some sort of normality.

Meanwhile, until we are able to host speaker events, we will produce a monthly newsletter with articles of local historical interest, quizzes, update information etc. We would welcome your feedback.

We are pleased to announce that on-line talks have been arranged for the third Tuesday of each month for January, February and March. Talks will be arranged for April and May if required.

The talks will take place via Zoom and will be open to members and friends. An invitation to join the talk on **19th January 2021 at 7:30pm** will be sent out to the members in the next few days. In our first Zoom talk **David Welsh**, one of our Trustees, will present '**The Railway between Tweedmouth & Kelso**'

If you wish to register for this event please email hazel.woodsell@btinternet.com by Friday 15th January 2021. The details for joining the meeting will be sent to you on 18th January 2021.

CENSUS 2021

The next UK wide census is scheduled to take place in 2021 however in Scotland a decision has been taken to defer the exercise until 2022 due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

An official census of population has been taken every ten years since 1801 with the exception of 1941. Little information about individuals survives for 1801 to 1831 but the enumeration records from 1841 are held in the custody of the Registrar General for Scotland in Edinburgh.

The census provides a snapshot of the people at a particular address on a given night. Census records are closed for 100 years: the 1921 census returns will be released in 2021.

Extract from the Census Records in 1861 for the Parish of Kelso -

The population taken at the Census of 1861 was **4309** within the Burgh Boundaries and 5192 in the Parish of Kelso . There were 1264 families.

One family lived in a house with no windows

369 lived in houses with one window

369 lived in houses with two windows

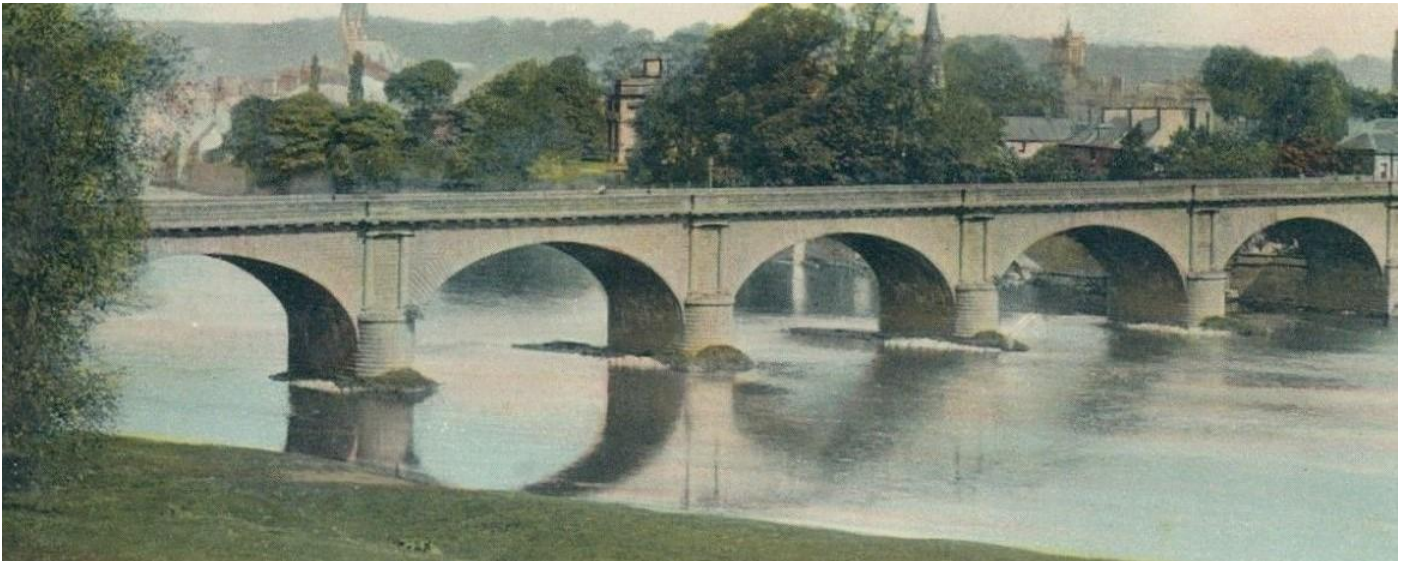
525 lived in houses with three or more windows.

NOTE:- Census 2011 Population of Kelso 5639

Back in Time

200 years ago - John Rennie, the architect who designed Kelso Bridge, died.

John Rennie lived from 7 June 1761 to 4 October 1821. A farmer's son from East Lothian, he went on to become one of the greatest engineers of his age who designed many bridges, canals, and docks.



Kelso Bridge circa 1900's

Before the 18th century there was no bridge at Kelso, only ferries and a couple of fords. Kelso's first bridge was built by local masons in 1754, just upstream from the present bridge. It was washed away in a disastrous flood in 1797. It was decided to get a leading engineer in to build a replacement bridge. The elegant structure John Rennie designed with its graceful elliptical arches would later be used as the model for his Waterloo Bridge in London. It was paid for by tolls and the toll-house still stands at the town end of the bridge. At first this caused no problems, but after the railway came to Kelso in 1850 there was trouble. The new station was in Maxwellheugh on the south side of the river, and to reach it you had to cross the bridge and pay the toll. Discontent about this led to the famous Kelso Bridge Riots of 1854, after which the tolls were eventually abandoned. Built for the days of horse drawn vehicles, Rennie's bridge continued to carry all the town's traffic, including increasingly heavy lorries, until the opening of the Hunter Bridge and the new by-pass in 1998.



100 years ago – Kelso War Memorial was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer in 1921 and unveiled in September of that year.



Kelso War Memorial November 2020

With the end of the war, there began the mission to honour the Kelso dead with a fitting memorial. Before the Treaty of Versailles was signed, a public meeting unanimously approved the Duke of Roxburghe's offer of ground at Abbey House, and a proposal to erect a monument in the space provided there. A large committee was appointed: subscriptions of £3214.18s.5d were gathered with a further £63.7s. promised. Permission was granted to demolish the building of Abbey House in order to erect a war memorial.

The eventual cost of the memorial was over £4000

The architect selected was Sir Robert Stodart Lorimer, [KBE](#) (1864 –1929) and the sculptor Charles Pilkington D'Orville Jackson [ARSA](#), [FRBS](#), [FRSA](#) (1887 -1973).

The memorial was unveiled on Sunday 25 September 1921 at 3pm by the Duke of Roxburghe with over 4000 people present. A large number of volunteers and ex-service men formed a guard of honour

On the large plaques are the names of the 243 men who fell in the war.

STREETS AND PLACES IN KELSO - ANSWERS

1. How many markets are there in Kelso? Can you name them? *Horsemarket, Woodmarket, Coalmarket*
2. Kelso's water supply used to come this way. *Pipewell Brae*
3. After whom is Solomon Way named? *Georgiana Solomon, campaigner for women's' and black rights*
4. What were The Tofts originally? *Gardens for the townspeople*
5. No, there wasn't a laundry here. *Dryinghouse Lane*
6. Where might you have practised your shooting? *The Butts used for archery*
7. This road sounds cross and level. *Angraflat*
8. You must be right on top here. *Pinnaclehill*
9. Where were the bakers of Kelso formerly? *Oven Wynd*
10. How many of Kelso's old trades can you think of remembered in street names. *Mercers, Dyers, Weavers, Masons, Tanners, Farriers*

(Contributed by Christine Henderson)

Some Online Events

A link to the Society of Scottish Antiquaries YouTube channel, which has some very good lectures.

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCaBwXCoN1MKFSpgXuZcTfag>

National Museums of Scotland

<https://joyofmuseums.com/museums/united-kingdom-museums/edinburgh-museums/national-museum-of-scotland/>

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed

Email info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk

Tel. 07766 781 555

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