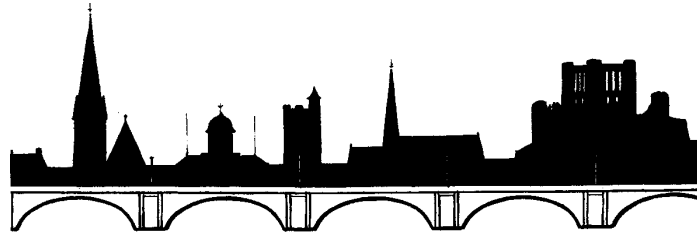


# KELSO HERITAGE SOCIETY

PATRON: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE

Logo courtesy of A. Binnie



September 2021

## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the September 2021 issue of our Newsletter.

We will continue to produce a monthly newsletter over the autumn with articles of local historical interest, update information etc. We would welcome your feedback.

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed.

We held our first event in the new venue, Kelso Rugby Club, on Monday evening 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 when Christine Henderson presented 'Walter Scott's Kelso.' The event was also live streamed via zoom.

The continuing restrictions for Covid 19 were adhered to throughout the evening. Attendance at this event had to be booked in advance and likewise the next 2 events are bookable with limited spaces available in order to maintain social distancing.

The feedback from the audience at the venue was very positive and the few issues experienced will be addressed for the next meeting.

The next event will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm in Kelso Rugby Club when David Welsh will present – The Battle of Carham and the Anglo Scottish Border.

This event will be bookable with limited spaces available in order to maintain social distancing. If you are interested in attending please email - [info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk](mailto:info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk) or ring Mob. No. 07766 781 555.

Additionally if you are interested in taking part via zoom please email [info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk](mailto:info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

Many of you will be aware that we had outgrown the previous venue at the Abbey Row Community Centre due to the popularity of our talks and were in the process of looking for an

alternative venue before the Pandemic hit us all. The Trustees feel that the move to the Rugby Club will be very successful and in normal circumstances will enable us to welcome the numbers of visitors we had become familiar with. At present, in order to comply with social distancing, the Rugby Club Committee and Kelso Heritage Society have set a limit on the audience at 50 persons.

The Trustees will be considering the membership fees for the coming year in the next 2 months to take into consideration the considerable rise in Venue Charges. The membership fees will be ratified at the AGM in November

## UNVEILING OF THE WAR MEMORIAL AT KELSO ABBEY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1921



Image copied from Kelso Mail 27<sup>th</sup> September 1921

'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.

The Rev. D.G. Hamilton delivered the dedicatory address and engaged in prayer. The "Last Post" was sounded by three trumpeters from Berwick. The Rev. T. C. Kirkwood Trinity U. F. Church pronounced the benediction, and the National Anthem was sung by the crowd led by the choir.

There was immediately a crush of the spectators inside the memorial circle – people eager to read the names inscribed on the tablets.' – *Extract from Kelso Mail 27<sup>th</sup> September 1921*

## PROPOSAL TO ERECT A MEMORIAL TO HONOUR THE KELSO DEAD FROM WW1

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 of the Duke of Roxburghe's offer of the ground at Abbey House\*, and of the

proposal to erect a monument in the space there provided. 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 architect selected was Sir Robert Stoddart Lorimer, KBE (1864-1929) and the sculptor Charles Pilkington D'Orville Jackson ARSA, FRBS, FRSA (1887-1973). On the large plaques are the names of the 243 men who fell in the war. The eventual cost of the memorial was over £4000.

## **\*ABBHEY HOUSE**

Abbey House, a dyke and an orchard were demolished in order to create the War Memorial Area. The property was owned by the Duke of Roxburghe and had been occupied by the 'Fiscal' and his staff for a number of years. Following that it became the residency of the Episcopalian Clergyman and finally of Dr. Rutherford.

## **THE WAR MEMORIAL TODAY**



## DOORS OPEN DAYS

Doors Open Days first took place in Glasgow and Ayr

in 1990 as part of the European City of Culture celebrations.

The success of the event encouraged other areas to participate the following year and has now grown to cover almost every area of Scotland. Around 1,000 buildings have been open during September, generating over 200,000 visits to sites and hidden architectural gems of all kinds in locations throughout Scotland.

Watch interviews with the original Doors Open Days Coordinators, John Gerrard and Michael Hitchon, to discover the good, the bad and the unexpected changes that have happened since the first Doors Open Days in 1990.

Many of this year's events were virtual and are still available to view

<https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/>

## Online

***National Museum of Scotland*** \*

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/>

Various exhibitions to view

National Library of Scotland – Map Library

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

Well worth a visit!!

\*including Scottish Archaeology Month

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Email [info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk](mailto:info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk)

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Deadline for October issue 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021