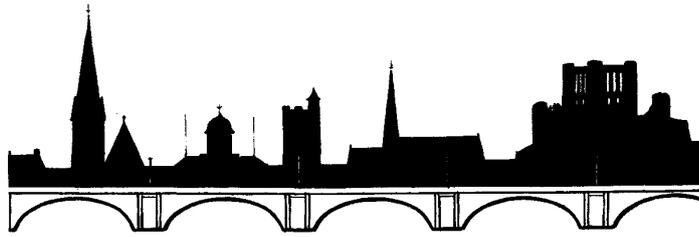


# KELSO HERITAGE SOCIETY

PATRON: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE



Logo courtesy of A. Binnie

October 2021

## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the October 2021 issue of our Newsletter.

We will continue to produce a monthly newsletter over the autumn and winter with articles of local historical interest, information updates etc. We would welcome your feedback. Contributions to the Newsletter are also welcomed.

The October talk in the new venue, Kelso Rugby Club, took place on Monday evening 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 when David Welsh presented – The Battle of Carham and the Anglo Scottish Border. 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 this will also apply to our next event. The feedback from the audience at the venue was very positive and the few issues experienced with zoom will be addressed for the next meeting.

The next event will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm in Kelso Rugby Club when Kenneth McLean will present –

Great Weather Events of the Scottish Borders.

This meeting will also be the AGM.

The 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)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

Paperwork for The Annual General meeting will be sent out by email and post on Monday 2nd November.

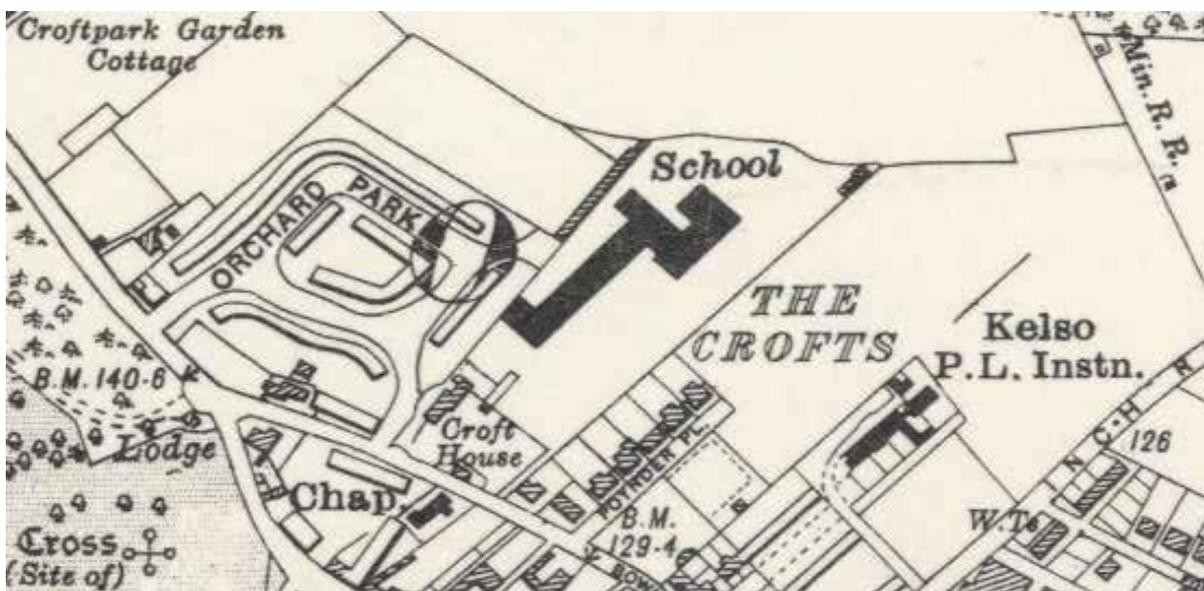
### THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL SITE

You will have noted that the redevelopment of the old High School has now started. It will bring back memories of school days to many Kelso Residents. We gave a brief history of the 1939 building in our newsletter in August - here is a brief reminder.

In 1934 the roll at Kelso High School stood at 697 and it was becoming increasingly difficult to provide facilities to educate pupils to the desired standards. The search began for a site on which to build a new school and in 1939 a new building was completed at the top of Bowmont Street.

Some references date the building to 1936, but it is clear that the school did not move to the new premises until 1939 probably due to access problems [see August newsletter]

The new school opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1939 with 693 pupils but by the 11<sup>th</sup> September the intake had increased by a further 283 children who had been evacuated to the Kelso area due to the start of the second World War.



The estimated cost for erecting the new school was £50,000 and the architects Reid and Forbes were appointed. The architects favoured the Art Deco style and the central clock tower and arrangement of the east block reflect this.

The inevitable alterations and extensions were in some cases sympathetic to the original design but in some cases attention had to be given more to functionality than to design. A typical example was the Games Hall built in 1978.

### **Kelso High School 2017**

The present High School in Angraflat Road was estimated to cost £22.5 million and was completed in late 2017. Once the new building was occupied a short ceremony was held to mark the occasion and the historic Kelso High School flag was raised.

### **Other events which may be of interest:**

#### **Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Archaeology Conference**

Saturday 20 November 2021

10:00am - 3:00pm

This year the conference will be held online and is free to attend.

To book a place, please visit: [Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders Archaeology Conference | Archaeology whats on? | East Lothian Council](#)

#### **Bedrule Heritage Project 2021-22**

Excavation Thursday 11th to Saturday 20th November 2021 10.30am-4pm – Bedrule Castle

Join this heritage project to excavate and investigate the remains of Bedrule Castle. They will also be providing targeted skills workshops within this period:

To book contact: [adopt@archaeologyscotland.org.uk](mailto:adopt@archaeologyscotland.org.uk)

## Online

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

Various exhibitions to view

National Library of Scotland – Map Library

Well worth a visit!!

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

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

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed

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

Tel. 07766 781 555

Deadline for November issue 31st  
October 2021