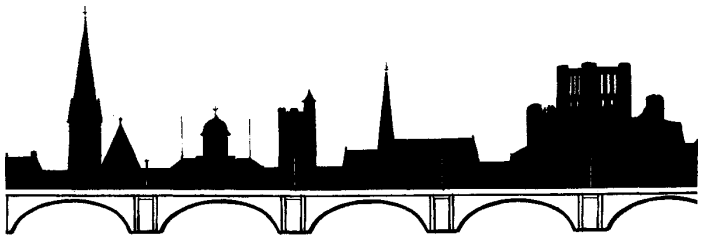
KELSO HERITAGE SOCIETY

PATRON: HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE



Logo courtesy of A. Binnie

September 2022

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the September2022 issue of our Newsletter. I hope you have all had a good summer and have managed to get out and about more after two years of being socially distant. We still need to be vigilant but it is good to see events and meetings taking place again.
I plan to issue four Newsletters per year in September, December, March and June and will welcome any contributions which you think may be of interest to other members.

Speaker Events 2022-23

We will be continuing to hold our Speaker Events in Kelso Rugby Club on the 3rd Monday of each month from September 2022 to April 2023. We also plan to offer the talks live on Zoom for those members unable to attend the venue. Now that most pandemic restrictions have been lifted there is no need to book for attending at the venue but we will continue to ask all attendees to sign in to comply with fire and safety regulations at the Rugby Club.
Booking for participation via Zoom is essential (please see the separate information for the September event for details on how to book).

Listed below is the Full Year Programme and details for the September Event.
We look forward to seeing you all there.

Full Year Programme

19th September 2022	Ian Hill	Hume Castle Excavations
17th October 2022	Phillip Munro	South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project
21st November 2022	Christine Henderson	Roxburgh Castle and **AGM**
16th January 2023	David McLean	Votes for Women in the South East Scotland 1870-1920
20th February 2023	Margaret Fox	Scotland's Law Lords versus Northumbrians Behaving Badly – a look at cross-border crime
20th March 2023	David Jones	Dere Street
17th April 2023	Geoff Parkhouse	The Lost Medieval Bridge at Ancrum

September Speaker Event – Monday 19th September 2022 at 7.30pm in Kelso Rugby Club.

Hume Castle Excavations

The Contextualising Hume Project ran from 2018 to 2022, completing survey, research and recording in the Hume area, including excavation of the former medieval village surrounding Hume Castle. Ian Hill presents the results of the excavations and wider survey work from this community archaeology project.
This talk will also be presented live on Zoom for anyone unable to attend the Venue.

Booking for the zoom event is essential -
Please email info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk or ring Tel. No. 01573 224 951 by Friday 16th September

Return of the Hogback Stone to Ancrum Graveyard.

Last Sunday, 21st August 2022, a dedication ceremony was held to mark the return of the Hogback Stone to Ancrum Graveyard. The Hogback stone dates from the 12th Century and is one of only seven in the Scottish Borders. They are so called because the shape resembles a hog's back.
Ancrum and District History Society are in the process of fundraising, started in 2017, to restore the stone and surrounding grave. The stone was removed in 2018 for restoration work and has now been returned to site so that further work can be carried out. The plan is to form a protective canopy over the stone and to create a visitor experience in the graveyard which dates from the 1100s.

Kelso Abbey Community Orchard

The Orchard is looking good and has been much admired by visitors and locals alike.
Two benches have been installed for the use of all who want to rest and enjoy the view. The funding for these benches was generously donated by Charity Begins at Home, way back in 2019 before the pandemic overtook our lives. Many thanks to Charity Begins at Home.
The commemoration stone, carved by Finn McCallum, is a wonderful addition to the site.
The trees which were planted in February 2020 are, in the main, surviving well and have produced a reasonable crop this year. The wildlife has attacked some of the apples,(perhaps large birds or deer) but they seem to enjoy them. The replacement trees for those stolen last year are growing well but not ready to produce fruit for this year.

There are insufficient apples and pears as yet to do apple pressing ourselves but it may be that we can link up with another group to come to some arrangement. If any of you are aware of such a group could you please give me the details?
Other suggestions for what to do with the fruit would be very welcome. We have offered them to the Kelso Food Bank but they do not have the facilities to store fresh produce.
The gladioli, planted by the Kelso Guides, which were a much admired feature over the past two years have sadly been eaten by the wildlife with only a very few surviving.
Last year we created a raised bed at one end of the orchard in which the Kelso Guides planted wild flowers. Sadly this year, before they could plant anything, someone decided to use the raised bed to dispose of their garden refuse. This was repeated on several occasions despite the fact that we cleared it put up a notice stating that the box was for wild flowers not refuse. If any of you can identify the culprit we would be very grateful.
We are very fortunate that a local professional gardener has volunteered to cut the grass for us for which we thank him very much. Additionally a resident of Mayfield has kindly volunteered to prune the trees at the appropriate times.
We would be very grateful for any other offers of help in maintaining the orchard.

Finally we are pleased to announce that the Four Border Abbeys U3A, based in Kelso, will be planting a field hedge along the fence adjacent to the Glebe Field replacing the shrubbery which we took out when clearing the field for excavations in 2019. The planting of the hedge will mark the 20 years since Four Border Abbeys was set up. There will be a plaque placed on the fence to note the occasion.





Doors Open Day 2022

The Scottish Borders is taking part in Doors Open Days 2022 on 3 and 4 September.
Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old. It takes place each year in September across Scotland as part of European Heritage Days.
This year we are celebrating what makes the Scottish Borders special, by showcasing not only the heritage, culture and places for which the region is already famous, but also some of the more unusual gems still waiting to be discovered.
Local events, coordinated by us but delivered by a range of partner organisations and individuals, will take place online and in person at venues throughout the region. Just some of the great opportunities available include:

- free tours of Riddell Estate's wild garden and the General's Tower
- the chance to explore Borders College's Hawick Campus, including the award winning Eco Room and advanced manufacturing hub, where a showcase of sustainable and robotic technologies will also be available
- the opportunity to get behind the scenes at the Scottish Borders Archive at the Heritage Hub in Hawick
- a tour of the 200 year old grandstand at Kelso Racecourse, Scotland's oldest sporting building.

More information
Full details of all the events and activities taking place both locally and nationally - including how to book - are available on the Doors Open Days website.

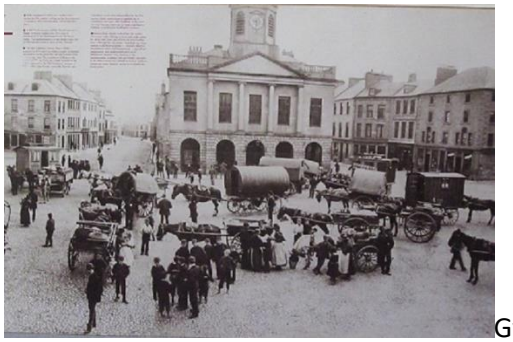
An overview of the events taking place in the Scottish Borders can be found at
www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20012/planning_and_building/1204/doors_open_days

St James Fair

After the destruction of Roxburgh, Jedburgh became the Royal Burgh with the right to 'cry' (proclaim) the Fair and to receive one third of its revenue (the remainder to the Duke of Roxburghe). The Fair continued to be held on the Fairgreen across the Tweed from Wester Kelso and latterly, Bulmans a local builder, erected a temporary wooden bridge across from the Cobby. By the mid-19th century a little business was done in hiring shearers and settling wool and manure accounts and Gypsy 'muggers' sold ponies and horses, but the Fair was mostly for pleasure and from 1850s crowds were brought by train. Drunkenness was a problem and eventually the Temperance Society erected a tea tent.
The day after the Fair, The Square was filled with gypsy caravans as all had to be out of the town by noon. They were accompanied by small carts covered in bunting. By the 1930s, the Border Union Show held at the end of July meant the end of the St James Fair on 5th August. The Fair was resurrected by Trevor Black and Kelso Community Events in 2004 on the first weekend in September in The Square with market stalls and a two-day programme of entertainments. Sadly, it has been mothballed since 2014.

St James's Fair – letter from Rosebank 6th August 1790

"....just about that time the magistrates of Jedburgh, who preside there, began their solemn procession through the fair. For the greater dignity …., they had a pair of boots among three men – i.e. as they ride three in a rank the outer legs of those personages … were each clothed in a boot. This and several other incongruous appearances were thrown in the teeth of those cavaliers by the Kelso populace, and, by the assistance of whisky, parties were soon inflamed into a very tight battle."


Gypsies in the Square

Online sources of information

National Museum of Scotland https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events
Various exhibitions and events to view

National Library of Scotland – Map Library https://maps.nls.uk/
Well worth a visit!!

Contributions to the Newsletter are welcomed-

Email info@kelsoheritagesociety.co.uk
Tel. 07766 781 555