

TWEEDDALE SOCIETY - PROGRAMME FOR 2013 – 2014

All meetings except the AGM held within the Auditorium of the Eastgate Theatre at 7.30 p.m.

26th August 2013 - Peebles Arts Festival

Sponsored by the Tweeddale Society but not part of our winter season. Members must purchase tickets from the Eastgate Theatre box-office.

“BEYOND THE BORDER : SIR WALTER SCOTT’S MINSTRELSY IN STORY AND SONG”

Folklorist and singer Margaret Bennett is joined by singer and fiddler Lori Watson as they weave together an evening of songs and stories that have travelled far beyond the Borders, where they were first collected by Sir Walter Scott.

Storyteller **Margaret Bennett** is a folklorist, writer, singer and broadcaster. Since the late 1960s she has been listening to and recording Scottish traditions, as well as singing and storytelling on both sides of the Atlantic

Award-winning fiddler **Lori Watson** is rooted in the Borders where she grew up, though she is now known in many parts of the world.

8th October 2013

“HIMALAYAN ADVENTURES”

Graham Little

Graham's talk will major on an expedition he made to the Indian Himalayas in 2007, with Chris Bonington and two other friends, whilst reflecting back upon a number of other Himalayan trips. Graham will consider the nature of risk, success, failure and friendship whilst revelling in the diversity of local culture and scenery.

Graham Little is a geographer by profession but has devoted much of his free time to mountaineering. He has climbed in the Himalayas, the Andes, the Arctic and North Africa as well as extensively throughout Europe, making many first ascents.

Graham was President of The Mountaineering Council of Scotland (1986-89) and was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 2000 for his 'distinguished services to geography and exploration'. He is the author of many magazine and journal articles and has made major contributions to several climbing guidebooks.

Graham retired from his post as Head of Production in Ordnance Survey in 2012 at the age of 63 but is still a very active climber. His last overseas climbing trip was to Albania in 2011.

Graham has lived with his wife and son in Peebles for the last 16 years – the longest he's lived anywhere!

12^h November 2013

“DIGGING FOR A VICTORY: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BANNOCKBURN”

Derek Alexander

Head of Archaeological services - National Trust for Scotland

Mr. Alexander will review the archaeology of the Wars of Independence and in particular the work that has been done as part of the project to build a new visitor centre to mark the 700th anniversary of the battle.

Mr. Alexander graduated in Archaeology from Edinburgh University in 1990 and worked for 10 years for the University's commercial unit, the Centre for Field Archaeology. He joined the Trust in 2000 as the West region Archaeologist based in Glasgow and in 2011 was promoted to the position of Head of Archaeological services.

HALKETT HENDRIE MEMORIAL LECTURE

JOINT MEETING WITH PEEBLES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY WHO HAVE ORGANISED THE SPEAKER THIS YEAR

10th December 2013

“BEYOND THE BRIDGES OF THE TWEED” A journey along the Tweed from source to sea.

Dr Jim Lyon

The River Tweed flows roughly along the border between England and Scotland, through country which in the past has been invaded, fought over and pillaged many times through the centuries. The River has been a major obstacle to passage north and south and was first bridged by the Romans. The early crossings were wooden structures and over the years have disappeared without trace. Today the Tweed Valley supports bridges which date from the 16th to the 21st centuries. Local craftsmen perfected their skills, first by trial and error using wood, stone and steel. New techniques were developed inspired by emerging technologies, with success sometimes achieved in the wake of failure. Several bridges were National, European and World firsts with many still in daily use. One of the newest structures is a 21st century world first. The designers and builders include local artisans and eminent engineers. Funding was provided from the common purse, a group of Trustees, private concerns, wealthy individuals, eccentrics, Christian charity, and uniquely, one was funded entirely by the Crown. The need to build came from military, commercial and social sources. Every crossing has a tale to tell.

Jim Lyon was born in Hawick, studied civil engineering at Edinburgh and Cambridge and has been involved with projects in many countries, including the design of several major bridges in the UK, Africa and Australia. A retired partner of consulting civil & structural engineers, Fairhurst, and an Honorary Professor of Civil Engineering at Glasgow University, he now lives in Cardrona.

11th February 2014

“ENJOYING THE WILD HARVEST OF TWEEDDALE”

Fiona Martynoga

Foraging had always been a small but significant part of Fiona's way of life but it was in 2005, when she spent a year living as if she were in the eighteenth century, that she began to realise its importance for sustaining life, even in the recent past. Discovering some different food plants then, she has gone to find many more. In 2012 she worked with members of the Scottish Wild Harvests Association to produce A Handbook of Scotland's Wild Harvests. It charts what is readily available around us, not just for eating and drinking but for craft materials, dyestuffs, simple home remedies, firewood and much more. Her illustrated talk will take you on a journey through hedgerows, woodlands, and through time.

Fi Martynoga is a writer and museum researcher who lives in Tweeddale. In 2005 she spent a year living as if she were a late 18C ancestor and wrote about it in monthly instalments for The Herald. The story is now available as a book, The Garden Cottage Diaries, published under Fi's maiden name of Fiona Houston. Since then she has contributed to Woodlanders, a book about people who live and work with wood or in woods, and has edited A Handbook of Scotland's Trees, both of them for Reforesting Scotland. Last year she brought out A Handbook of Scotland's Wild Harvests, with members of the Scottish Wild Harvests Association. She is a member of the Carrifran Wildwood Steering Group and is active in the Food Group of TweedGreen.

THE CHARLES MORRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE

4th March 2014

N.B. At the request of Music in Peebles we have moved this meeting to the first Tuesday of the month.

“ROBERT BURNS' S TOUR OF THE BORDERS”

Ian W. Landles

Robert Burns after the successful publication of a second edition of his poetry in Edinburgh at the end of 1786 was hailed as a sensation. Although flush with money he soon tired of Edinburgh society and decided to see something of his native land. In May 1787 he set out on a tour of the Borders. This is the first of two lectures covering this tour.

Mr. Landles needs little introduction to any audience in the Borders. He is a member of a well known Hawick family, was educated in Hawick then graduated with an M.A.(Hons.) in History at Edinburgh University. He has now retired from the post of Principal Teacher of History at Hawick High School but still lectures at a Night Class on Local History.

A Hawick man to the core with great love for its history and language, his interests, however, stretch well beyond Hawick. He is a minor author and broadcaster, singer-songwriter, poet, Charity fund-raiser, First World War Battlefields Tours organiser and is in much demand as a speaker at Burns Suppers.

Mr. Landles has held many honorary positions in Hawick including Past-President and Secretary of Hawick Archaeological Society. Married with three children and six grandchildren he is pleased that the Landles name will continue in Hawick.

8th April 2014 - AGM and SOCIAL in the Studio of the Eastgate Theatre