

HISTORY WARDROBE - AGATHA CHRISTIE AT PALLINSBURN

Lucy Adlington and her colleague Meredith of the History Wardrobe came to Pallinsburn in September to perform some delightful scenes from fashion history. The centenary of the publication of Agatha Christie's first novel 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles' is marked in October 2020 so we chose their talk about the authoress and Art Deco fashion.

We were entertained by insights into Agatha Christie's background and why she had such a habit of poisoning her victims; how references to slightly inappropriate items of clothing are often clues to dodgy characters and how fashion played its part when Christie was discovered alive after her disappearance when a hotel maid recognised her very distinctive handbag.

Lucy and Meri are both textile fanatics and where possible, they restore original clothing for their performances. They have amassed armfuls of 1920's clothes, dressing in a silk pyjama suit, evening dresses, day dresses, maid's uniform, tennis dress (worn with the wrong shoes if you were paying close attention!) furs, hats and wigs.

When a victim was found lying on the floor we all had to use everything we'd learnt to detect which of the characters had committed the crime. I'm not sure anyone got it right but it was a very jolly afternoon with tea given by the committee and a most excellent presentation given in a light-hearted and thoroughly absorbing way.

Jane Farr



HAMILTON & INCHES VISIT

It was a privilege to be shown around the workshops at Hamilton & Inches earlier this year, Edinburgh's premier destination since 1866 for fine jewellery, luxury watches and handcrafted silver. We met in the showroom which was filled with mouthwatering pieces of jewellery, silver, Scottish gold and crystal glassware. After an introductory talk we were taken in groups to the upper floors where the workshops are situated. It was fascinating to have explained to us the various complex and intricate skills involved with silversmithing, polishing and engraving. It can sometimes take longer to polish a piece than it does to create it but what a result! It was no surprise to learn that Hamilton & Inches have many celebrated clients including royalty and J.K. Rowling and that they were responsible for making the Doddie Weir Cup. Everyone was so enthusiastic and informative and also very generous with their time - they are a real team. The whole building is undergoing renovations and I for one cannot wait to see the results.

Jenny Hedgecoe

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic we will not be able to hold our AGM in September. The documents will be sent to all members and for voting by post and email.

AUGUST 2020

VOLUNTEERS IN LOCKDOWN

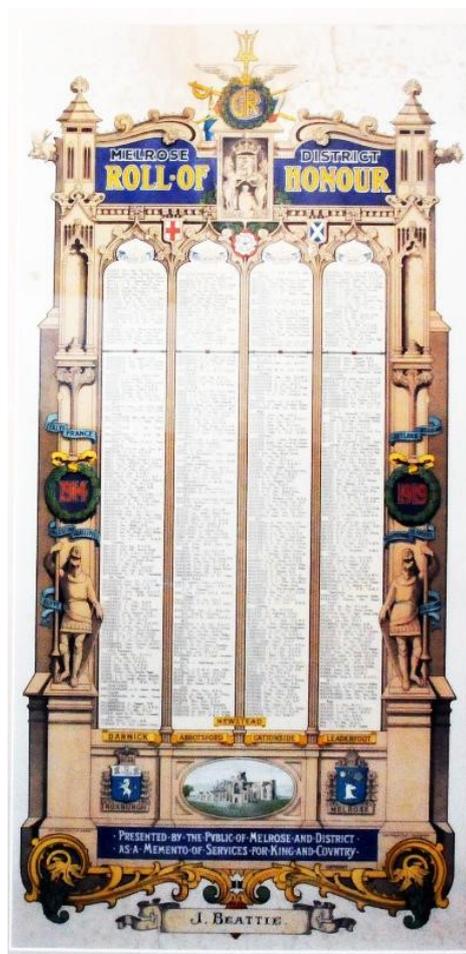
The new restrictions have altered everyone's lives, none more so than our volunteers! After a most eventful and productive 2019, this year started with much promise. The Bowden Church Trail of Discovery was completed and ready for presentation and the new Toy Museum at Thirlestane Castle was ready to be opened, thanks to the efforts of the Heritage Volunteers throughout 2019. In Hawick the Church Recorders had embarked on recording St. Cuthbert's Episcopal Church. None of these projects have progressed - but once restrictions are lifted however, the volunteers will have a great deal to complete. Until then they do nothing!

It has been possible to partially proceed with one project. The Church Recorders' field work on the Parish Church in Melrose was completed in late 2019. the process of finishing off the record was underway over winter 2019/2020. Since March it has been possible to remotely proceed with the proof reading and complete the record.

There are several unique features in this church. One in particular is a memorial to those who fought in the First World War in the form of a Roll of Honour, (*see right*) a framed paper record which hangs in the Chapel. Normally there would be nothing unusual about this as many churches have these in addition to metal memorial plates but the one in Melrose is unique. It was not created for the church at all but for the soldiers and their families resident in Melrose, Newstead, Darnick, Abbotsford, Gattonside and Leaderfoot who were members of the congregation.

As can be seen in the photograph, the scroll is elaborately decorated with local scenes and Medieval imagery. The four columns in the centre of the scroll contain the names, ranks and regiments of 439 men. The horizontal line towards the top of each column marks those above who were killed and those below who survived. Seventy eight men of Melrose were killed. At the base of the scroll is a central space which contains, in this case, the name 'J.Beattie' - the name of the person this particular roll belonged to, making this Roll of Honour personal and most unusual. As it is unique, once the lockdown has finished it would be well worth visiting the church to see it in all its detail.

Ray Cartwright - May 2020



YOUNG ARTS

ARTS SOCIETY SPONSORED LIFE DRAWING CLASSES



The Arts Society Borders sponsored life drawing classes for senior pupils in the region wishing to apply for art college as these are not provided by the school curriculum. The pictures show a life drawing class in progress at Earlston High School. These classes are an important part of our Young Arts programme which we hope to be able to sponsor again in 2021. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic we were unable to hold our Bridge Tea fundraiser in the Spring and so any donations to fund this project would be most welcome. Many thanks to members who have sent us donations this year.

ONLINE ART RESOURCES

Arts Society House is providing a huge range of articles, mini lectures, interviews, special offers for members and discussion forums on the Arts Society Connected area of its website. If you have not already discovered this mine of information please have a look at

connected.theartsociety.org

Most of the major galleries and museums are offering virtual tours of their collections if you visit their websites. Tours include the Louvre, the British Museum, Scottish National Galleries, Tate Britain, Musee d'Orsay, and the Rijksmuseum.