

Ayton Heritage

Newsletter 008
August 2022

Welcome to our eighth newsletter. The St Dionysius project has achieved some success in recent months and we will see some tangible results in the coming weeks.

Grant Applications

We are applying for grants from a number of charities simultaneously with the aim being to tackle the preservation of St Dionysius in stages as funds become available. In the last few months, we have received the following awards.

Heritage Lottery Fund £20,318

Reston & Auchencrow Community Council Benefit Fund £1,000

Drone Hill Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, administered by Foundation Scotland.
£3,500

In addition, the Open Day which we held at Ayton Church on 12th June raised £521. At that time a visitor from USA, Doug Outterson, who had ancestors from Ayton, gave us a very generous donation of £464. Ayton Heritage is very grateful for these grants and donation.

Ownership

Not being able to identify the owner of St Dionysius continues to be an obstacle in obtaining grants from some funding organisations. Having done a search in the Registers of Scotland for deeds we have been helped by the Community Ownership Support Service in interpreting these for us. We are currently following up some leads they have suggested.



Volunteer work

Archaeology Scotland had a drone at one of our volunteer days and took some aerial video of volunteers at work cutting ivy.

Ctrl+Click [here](#) to view it.

We are very grateful to all who support Ayton Heritage with their annual membership and to those who come to volunteer days when we have been cutting ivy. This has made a real difference to the look of the site.

Next steps

On 29th August work will start on cutting all the ivy from the ruin. This will be carried out by professionals with the equipment necessary to reach the higher parts of the stonework. Any remaining roots will be treated to prevent re-growth. It will also make it possible to carry out a more detailed examination of the building and allow a work specification to be written for the consolidation of stonework. This will have to be approved by the relevant bodies before going out to tender for the work.

The first part to be tackled will be the Fordyce Aisle so hopefully by the end of the year we will begin to see some real progress in our goal towards complete preservation of our local and nationally important monument.

Bill Black