

Ayton Heritage

Newsletter 007
January 2022

Welcome to our seventh newsletter. Progress on St Dionysius has been frustratingly slow but we are determined to work towards our ultimate goal of preserving the ruin.

Grant Applications

You may remember that we were trying to obtain grants to carry out the complete preservation of St Dionysius as a single project. All applications we made were turned down so the trustees have decided to take a staged approach, with the first stage being the removal of all ivy without disturbing any of the stonework. This is estimated to cost £3,500 so we are currently making grant applications to meet this cost.

Archaeology Scotland Membership

We have taken group membership of Archaeology Scotland and this gives us access to people with good experience in fundraising. They have suggested trusts which may be sympathetic to our cause and they vet our applications in advance of them being submitted.



Ownership

Not being able to identify the owner of St Dionysius was a problem in some of our previous funding applications and we are looking at ways of overcoming this obstacle. One possible route is through the Community Right to Buy legislation and this is being investigated.

Volunteer work

We had another good day on 28th September when Alan Hogarth gave us two hours of his time free of charge. He used his specialist equipment to cut some of the ivy which we were unable to reach

from ground level. Volunteers did all the tidying up, and with the help of Sandy Mole's Jiminy truck, carried the ivy to the free skip provided by Scottish Borders Council. Other tidying up and cutting of thick ivy stems was also carried out during the last year, as shown on the photos below.

