

Ayton Heritage

Newsletter 006
August 2021

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

Grant Applications

After getting the condition report done (which was a requirement of the major funding bodies) we made applications to Historic Environment Scotland (£122,000) Heritage Lottery Fund (£93,000) Pilgrim Trust (£50,000) and Fallago Trust (£50,000)

Our HES application was rejected because the ownership of the ruin could not be established. The HLF application was submitted but they want to see more emphasis on involving people in heritage rather than just the stone and mortar. The ownership may also be an issue with this application. Pilgrim and Fallago applications are under review.

Ownership issue

Scottish Borders Council is the landowner of the cemetery but does not have ownership of any buildings contained within it. This is claimed under the conditions of the Church of Scotland (Property and Endowments) Act 1925 when responsibility for cemeteries was transferred to local authorities. The Church of Scotland also claim to have no ownership.

This is the issue which we are pursuing at present. Until we get this resolved we will not be successful with major grant applications.

Volunteer work

We had a very productive day on 5th May when volunteers cleared much of the thick ivy stems entwined around the railings of the Cameron enclosure and adjacent recumbent gravestones as well as clearing undergrowth in the Dickson enclosure.



In preparation for information boards which will be included in the finished project, volunteers are required to carry out historical research work on the church itself as well as the people who are commemorated on the memorials. Please let me know if you can help.

Soil Sisters at Ayton Castle

We will have a stall promoting Ayton Heritage at Ayton Castle on Saturday 21st August from 11am to 3pm. There will be competitions, woodland walks and Soil Sisters produce for sale. Why not bring a picnic and come and chat to us.

Bill Black