

Ayton Heritage scio

Newsletter 010
December 2022



Welcome to our tenth newsletter. The St Dionysius project has made some significant progress with major ivy cutting taking place.

AGM and Trustees

We held our AGM on 24th October when one of our trustees, Mike Wilson, stood down. Mike had been a trustee since the formation of Ayton Heritage in 2019 and was responsible for obtaining significant funding from The Heritage Lottery, Pilgrim Trust and Tweed Forum (Fallago Windfarm). He made valuable contributions in other activities of the group for which we are very grateful. Fortunately, we were able to persuade John Slater, Peter Hemingway and Angus Scott to become trustees and along with the other trustees who remain look forward to their involvement in the St Dionysius project. The full list of trustees is now:-

Bill Black (chair)	Aline Robertson	Peter Hemingway
Isabel Kellie (secretary)	Bill Stewart	John Slater
Chris Nitsche (treasurer)	Angus Scott	

Ivy Cutting

Some of the funding we have obtained has been used to clear ivy from the Fordyce Aisle and this has made a huge difference to the look of the ruin as well as allowing detailed assessment of the stonework. The cutting has been done by Alan Hogarth's team with the gathering up of the cut ivy completed by Ayton Heritage volunteers. This voluntary work is extremely valuable as it allows us to use our funds more effectively. We are also very grateful to Scottish Borders Council who provide a skip and dispose of the ivy for us.



Fordyce Aisle before and after ivy cutting



Volunteers at work

Next steps

Our Archaeology Scotland Project Officer, Phil Richardson, has completed a photographic survey of the Fordyce Aisle and produced a method statement for carrying out preservation of the stonework. This will go to Scottish Borders Council Archaeologist and Heritage Council Officer as well as Historic Environment Scotland for approval. When that is obtained it will allow us to go out to tender to approved stonemasons. Once we have one appointed, we will be able to proceed with the consolidation of the stonework and preserve the ruin for many years to come.

Bill Black