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MELROSE FESTIVAL
2023



Cover illustration by
Florence Munro

18TH - 24TH JUNE

MELROSE

FESTIVAL 2023

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



	MONDAY 5TH Junior Rideout	18:00 Triangle, Greenyards
	SUNDAY 18TH Wreath Laying	10:45 War Memorial
	Kirkin' of the Melrosian	11:00 Parish Church
	Festival Football Competition	12:30 Gibson Park / Greenyards
	Festival Netball Competition	13:30 Melrose Primary School
	9 Hole Golf Competition	18:00 Melrose Golf Club
	MONDAY 19TH Rideout (meet at 17:30)	18:00 Triangle, Greenyards
	TUESDAY 20TH Fancy Dress & Disco	18:15 Gibson Park
	WEDNESDAY 21ST Bike Ride & BBQ	18:30 Gibson Park 20:00 Annay Road
	THURSDAY 22ND Installation of the Melrosian and Crowning of the Festival Queen	19:00 Melrose Abbey
	FRIDAY 23RD Festival Ball	19:30 Annay Road
	SATURDAY 24TH Tour of Ceremonies	08:50 Market Square
	Sports & Family Day	14:30 Gibson Park
	Festival Dinner	19:45 G&A Hotel

PLEASE NOTE: All times and venues are provisional - any changes and additional information will be posted on the Melrose Festival Facebook page. Please send us a message if you need any assistance. Thank you.

#MELROSEFESTIVAL  



HERE'S TAE MELROSE

Words by Reverend Jack Drummond

**By Tweed's flashing rill 'neath the Eildon Hill
There is set our jewel fair;
Tho' we wander far o'er the wide, wide world,
Our hearts are still lingering there.**

Refrain -

**It's oor ain toon,
It's the best toon
That ever there be:
Here's tae Melrose, gem o' Scotland
The toon o' the free.**

**We will play by the Cross, we will play by the Bow
We will drink at St Dunstan's Well;
We'll slide doon the scaurs on the green Weirhill,
And list to the Abbey bell.**

Refrain -

**Then here's to all those in the toon o' the Rose,
To each lad and each lassie there:
And here's to the Queen who will tryst at the Tree
The fairest of all the fair.**

Refrain -



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



FESTIVAL TIME! I said last year that it was an honour and privilege to be chairman of the Festival. It certainly is and Sue and I had a super week last year. In fact we had a thoroughly enjoyable summer, attending all the other common ridings and festivals.

"Oor ain toon " is the best toon, however, and this is the time for us to join together and celebrate all that is good in our community.

Thank you to all our committee for all their time and efforts behind the scenes to ensure that all events run smoothly. Thank you to everyone who backs the Festival in some way - it is very much appreciated.

Have a great week and give the Melrosian, Queen and her Court your enthusiastic support.

Here's tae Melrose.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Moffat'.

Rob Moffat
Festival Chairman

THE MELROSIAN 2023



Will Owen

OUR MELROSIAN this year is Will Owen. Will was born in Melrose and now lives in Gattonside. His family, namely mum Angie, dad Tim and sister Sarah, all enjoyed supporting Will as Left-hand Man last year at our Festival and indeed all the other festival and common ridings.

Will was educated at Melrose Primary School and Earlston High School. On leaving school he did an HND in sports coaching. He now works for Charlie & Phil Robson at Monksford.

Will is a talented sportsman, with rugby, cricket & golf being his main sports. He represented Scotland at rugby at U18 & U19 level and is a regular member of the Melrose 1XV squad. He also played for the Southern Knights last season. He plays for the Melrose cricket 1st X1 and cuts the wicket at Huntlyburn. He also plays the guitar.

Will thoroughly enjoyed his role as Left-hand Man last year and can't wait for this year's Festival to come round.

Robin Sharp Left-hand Man 2023, Melrosian Elect 2024



Robin Sharp will be Left-hand Man this year and Melrosian Elect for 2024. Robin was born in Melrose and was also educated at Melrose Primary School and Earlston High School. He is interested in all sports and is a regular in the Melrose rugby squad.

He trained as a barber and now works for Bruce Colvine electrical where he is doing an electrician's apprenticeship. The Sharp clan of mum Susan, dad John and sisters Amy, Leigh and Faye will give Robin 100% support.





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- Honorary President:** Ex-Melrosian G.J. Bunyan B.E.M.
- Honorary Vice-Presidents:** Ex-Melrosian J.A. Swan
Mr W.M.G. Brown
Ex-Melrosian J.D.Hardie
Dr I.G. Houston
Mrs A. Waldie
Mr J.Y. Marjoribanks
- Chairman:** Ex-Melrosian R. Moffat
- Honorary Secretary:** Mrs E. Oliver
- Honorary Assistant Secretaries:** Mrs L. Hutchison
Mrs K. Hunter
- Honorary Treasurer:** Mrs H. Chisholm

CONVENERS

- Ball:** Miss A. Sharp
- Brochure:** Mrs T. Aitken
- Ceremonial:** Mrs L. Paterson, Ex-Melrosian K. Brown
Ex-Melrosian S. Hutchison
- Crowning:** Mrs R. White
- Cycle Run:** Mr E. & Mrs K. Marshall
- Fancy Dress:** Ms S. Hirstwood
- First Aid:** Mr J. Thom
- Rideout:** Mr M. & Mrs L. Hume
- Social Media:** Miss C. Hume
- Special Events:** Mrs S. Mozumdar
- Sports:** Ex-Melrosian D. Crawford
- Transport:** Ex-Melrosian I. Oliver

- Rep from Ex-Melrosians Association:** Ex-Melrosian B. Thom
- Rep from Festival Supporters Group:** Mrs C. Fletcher
- Rep from Melrose Primary School:** Mrs G. Innes
- Rep from Community Council:** Mrs L. Paterson



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THE QUEEN AND HER COURT A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL WEEK

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OUR PRINCIPAL GUESTS



Willie Allan MBE and Pamela McGowan

Willie Allan MBE was born in Edinburgh & brought up in Dunfermline in the kingdom of Fife. He was educated at Queen Anne HS in Dunfermline and the Scottish School of Physical Education in Glasgow.

He was a physical education teacher for 32 years, and for 22 of these years Principal Teacher of Physical Education at Buckhaven HS in Fife.

A keen sportsman, Willie played for 13 seasons for Dunfermline and also represented the North & Midlands. At Buckhaven HS he re-established rugby, forming the Sharks & Sharkettes.

He is a renowned after dinner speaker, entertaining at dinners and functions all over the country and overseas. For his work for charity & youth rugby Willie was awarded an MBE in 2017.

He is a keen golfer, being a member at Lundin links & The Royal Burgess Society in Edinburgh.

Willie is a real character and he very much appreciates his upbringing and the influences of his family. His father and grandfather were both miners and his parents ran The Bruce Tavern in Dunfermline for over 50 years.

Willie's partner Pamela is very excited at the opportunity of crowning the Queen.

THE QUEEN AND HER COURT 2023



Olivia Milne

Dundas Terrace

Festival Queen



First Attendant

Millie Ashman

Douglas Road

Second Attendant

Hannah Ramsay

Darnick

Courtier (Proclamation)

Brodie McLean

Gattonside

Courtier (Crown & Sceptre)

Rory Wight

Newstead

Herald

Finlay McLean

Newstead

Herald

Finlay Brown

Ormiston Grove

Trainbearer

Charlotte Allan

Trainbearer

Arabella Warwick

QUEEN AND COURT 2023



Olivia Milne Queen

Interests and Hobbies

I enjoy sports and being active, especially playing tennis. I like art and being creative as well as going to a variety of local clubs. In school holidays I love going to the beach and paddle boarding with my family.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I am delighted to be part of it and to be representing the town as Festival Queen along with the rest of the Court and P7s. I am so excited for it all but especially the crowning and the bike ride with all my friends.

Family

I am the eldest of 4 siblings living in Melrose with my three brothers Elliot (7), Joshua (5), Samuel (3) and my mum and dad. They are all looking forward to taking part in this year's festival too particularly the bike ride as it's the first year the whole family will be taking part.

Last year I sang with my class at the crowning ceremony which was very memorable. I also really enjoyed being a trainbearer to Queen Iona in 2016 and can't wait to experience festival week this time as Queen.



Millie Ashman First Attendant

Interests and Hobbies

I enjoy playing piano. I also go to swimming and play chess.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I feel very happy, I'm delighted to be part of the Court.

Family

I don't have any siblings.



Hannah Ramsay Second Attendant

Interests and Hobbies

Gymnastics, football and tennis. I have started mountaineering and climbed some of Scotland's highest mountains such as Schiehallion, Ben Macdui and the Cairn Gorm.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

It's an honour to be part of it and I shall cherish this moment for the rest of my life.

Family

Mum and Dad - who are both very proud. My brother Callum (P4) is excited to see me in an official role this year and is already looking forward for his chance when he's in P7.



Brodie McLean Courtier (Proclamation)

Interests and Hobbies

I love playing the brass instrument the Euphonium. I also love playing rugby with the boys (Finlay B, Finlay M, and Rory W) at Melrose Hornets. I'm also in Melrose Scouts.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I'm looking forward to representing P7 with my friends and can't wait to be taken to the shows on the Saturday! I'm a proud person diagnosed with AAD - ADHD, Autism and Dyslexia - and hope it shows everything is possible.

Family

My mum Olivia and dad Stephen who are very proud. My older sister Ava is going into 4th year at Earlston High School when I go into 1st year. My younger sister Hollie is now in P4 at Melrose Primary School. My Mum was in the Court in 1986 as a P1 attendant.



Rory Wight Courtier (Crown & Sceptre)

Interests and Hobbies

I really enjoy playing sport - I play football for Earlston and train with the Border Development Squad on Friday nights. I play rugby for Melrose Hornets and also enjoy golf and tennis.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I'm excited to be part of the court for 2023 and I'm looking forward to taking part in all of the Festival activities.

Family

My dad Scott, mum Lucy and sister Zoe (who was an attendant in 2020, however due to Covid the Festival never went ahead).



Finlay McLean Herald

Interests and Hobbies

I enjoy playing football, rugby and tennis. I play for Melrose Rugby Hornets and Melrose FC 2011s. I also enjoy gaming and playing with my friends.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I'm excited about being part of the 2023 Melrose Festival and I'm really looking forward to all of the events.

Family

My mum Claire, dad Paul, and younger brothers Rory (P5) and Tom (P3).



Finlay Brown Herald

Interests and Hobbies

I play rugby for Melrose Rugby Hornets P7s and play golf at Melrose Golf Club.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I am so happy - I have wanted to do this since I was little.

Family

My mum Ashleigh, dad Kevin and I have one younger sister Lucy (P5) who hopes to be in the court one day.



Charlotte Allan Trainbearer

Interests and Hobbies

I enjoy ballet and performing arts at Creative Stage and loved being part of the recent production of *We Will Rock You*. I also enjoy horse riding and swimming.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I'm very excited about the Festival, especially wearing the beautiful dress.

Family

Mum and Dad, brother Jack and Max the dog.



Arabella Warwick Trainbearer

Interests and Hobbies

I enjoy gymnastics.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

So excited!

Family

I have a little sister.

LEAD CYCLISTS 2023



Lexie Wright Lead Cyclist

Interests and Hobbies

Football - I play for Melrose FC, tennis, swimming, performing arts. I play piano and enjoy art. I also like being outdoors walking my dog or riding my bike.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I feel really happy and honoured to be chosen to take part in this amazing festival.

Family

I live in Melrose with my Mum and Dad, my brother Brodie (S3) and dog Broca.



Patricia Janczuk Lead Cyclist

Interests and Hobbies

Reading, swimming and cycling.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

Proud and excited that I have a chance to be actively involved in this year's Festival.

Family

A brother Kaspian, and sisters Soraya and Xena.



Emma Montgomerie Lead Cyclist

Interests and Hobbies

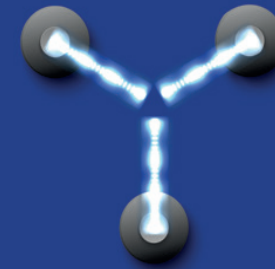
I play football for Melrose FC and I enjoy tennis and drawing.

How do you feel about being involved in this year's Festival?

I have always loved festival week, so it's a great opportunity and privilege to be a lead cyclist.

Family

I live with my Mum, Dad, Brother and my dog Luna.



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Melrosian, The Queen and her Court*



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2023 JUBILEE QUEENS



2023 PLATINUM JUBILEE QUEEN



Margaret Hope • Festival Queen 1948

Festival Queen in 1948, our Platinum Jubilee Queen this year is Margaret Hope (now Hunter), who lived at Easter Housebyres and is the younger sister of Mary and Robert, who were Queen and Courtier Crown & Sceptre respectively in 1946.

Margaret married Bill Hunter, who sadly died in 1995, but she still lives independently in Dunbar, where they brought up their family.

A very modest and stoical lady, Margaret's life has been dedicated to the service of others - her family, her neighbours and also Belhaven Church, serving as an Elder and an office bearer in various capacities.

She particularly enjoys spending time with her grandchildren Ross, David and Struan, and her great-grandson, James.

She also loves the countryside, enjoys trips back to Melrose and is a keen gardener with a formidable knowledge of plants.

1948 COURT

Attendants	Sally Hewat and Janet Fraser
Courtiers	John Hart (Proclamation) and Stuart Porteous
Trainbearers	Irene Porteous and Betty Todd
Orator	Baillie Major R E Douglas (Edinburgh)
Crowning Lady	Mrs R Douglas

2023 DIAMOND JUBILEE QUEEN



Christine Billing • Festival Queen 1963

Festival Queen in 1963, our Diamond Jubilee Queen this year is Christine Billing (now Masini), who had already featured in the Court as a Trainbearer in 1957.

Christine was the only daughter of Mr & Mrs Len Billing, who lived at Birch House in the High Street, where they had a small tearoom and operated a couple of looms in the former bake house at the back of the house. She completed her schooling at Eastwood High School after the family moved to Glasgow, before going on to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow, where she gained her diploma in Musical Education, then did a further year to specialise in piano accompaniment, followed by teacher training a Jordanhill.

She taught music in St Columba's High School in Gourrock before moving to Italy, where she married sculptor Maurizio Masini in 1975. They now have a son, a daughter and two grandsons. Christine continued to teach music in secondary schools in Italy until 2011 and, in 2012, became one of the stable accompanists at the flute master classes taken by Sir James and Lady Jeanne Galway in Milan and Weggis, Switzerland.

In the last year Christine has become the harpsichordist in a string ensemble, performing Baroque music by Vivaldi, Corelli and various other composers, and so she is, unfortunately, unable to join us for Festival Week, as she has a busy agenda of concerts right through the summer season in San Gimignano.

1963 COURT

Attendants	Janey Allan and Sandra Cumming
Courtiers	David Hutchison (Proclamation) and Richard Smith
Heralds	Sandy Hewat and James Henderson
Trainbearers	Shirley Wight and Evelyn Brown
Orator	Lord Primrose
Crowning Lady	Mrs Patricia Maxwell-Scott of Abbotsford

2023 JUBILEE QUEENS



2023 GOLDEN JUBILEE QUEEN



Jennifer Herd • Festival Queen 1973

Festival Queen in 1973, our Golden Jubilee Queen this year is Jennifer Herd.

Born in Edinburgh, Jenny moved to Melrose Grammar School from near Morpeth during Primary 6. At the time of her crowning, she lived at Lowood Mains, where her dad was the farm manager for Mrs Hamilton of Lowood Estate.

After leaving Melrose Grammar, she went to Gala Academy but a change of job for her Dad took them, in May 1974, to the Isle of Islay, where her parents stayed until the early 1980s, when they moved to the Isle of Bute. In the meantime, Jenny had spent a gap year in London, before going to University in Glasgow in 1980, from where she graduated with an honours degree in Philosophy and then did a teaching diploma.

She worked as a vegetarian cook in Edinburgh for a couple of years and then moved to the Lake District in 1988. After working as a cook for a further 2 years, she held an admin post with the then Nature Conservancy Council for 4 years, then moved on to charity development work, got married and had two sons, one of whom is profoundly physically disabled with cerebral palsy. She is no longer in paid employment, but is involved in a number of committees and campaigns regarding disability and communication. She enjoys cooking, baking and going to the Alps and Italy when time, money and support for her disabled son allow!

1973 COURT

Attendants	Elizabeth Wayness and Marion Gell
Courtiers	Kevin Brown (Proclamation) and David Sanderson
Heralds	Robert Tinto and Keith Borthwick
Trainbearers	Melanie Russell and Catherine Herrod
Orator	Lady Polwarth of Harden near Hawick, deputising for her husband, Lord Polwarth
Crowning Lady	Lady Polwarth

2023 SILVER JUBILEE QUEEN



Hannah Syme • Festival Queen 1998

Our Silver Jubilee Queen this year is Hannah Syme, daughter of Paul and Sarah Syme of Gattonside and elder sister of William.

Hannah was crowned in the Abbey on a misty June evening in 1998 and, at the end of the Tour of Ceremonies on the Saturday, she felt lucky to be the first Queen to lay a wreath on Robert the Bruce's heart, which had been reburied in the Abbey earlier that year. The Tour also gave her the opportunity to meet both the Laird of Abbotsford, Mrs Patricia Maxwell-Scott, and her sister, Dame Jean, who were responsible for first opening up Abbotsford House to the public and were Sir Walter Scott's last direct descendants to live there. Later in 1998, she was honoured to return to plant a sapling in Abbotsford's grounds in Mrs Patricia's memory. This has grown into a big oak tree these 25 years later.

After her stint as Queen, Hannah went on to be Head Girl at Earlston High School, before studying medicine at the University of Oxford. She has travelled extensively, including a short stint working in remote parts of the South Pacific with the Red Cross. She settled in Edinburgh where she works as an NHS GP partner, teaches at Edinburgh University Medical School and volunteers as medical support for the Borders Book Festival. In her spare time she still enjoys learning about history and exploring Scotland through long-distance trail and Munro hiking, skiing and wild swimming.



1998 COURT

Attendants	Mairi Morton and Kirsty Leitch
Courtiers	Steven Condy (Proclamation) and Douglas Brown
Heralds	Andrew Stark and Stuart Leckie
Trainbearers	Gillian Paterson and Elspeth Murray
Orator	Councillor W D (Bill) Smith
Crowning Lady	Mrs Jean Smith

2023 JUBILEE MELROSIANS



2023 GOLDEN JUBILEE MELROSIAN



Roy Mack Melrosian 1973

Our Golden Jubilee Melrosian this year is Roy Mack. Roy was the only child of Alex and Ella Mack of Newstead and much of his boyhood was spent on various farms around Melrose, following his father's employment.

He attended Melrose Grammar School and Galashiels Academy and was a member of the Melrose Company of the Lifeboys and of the Boys' Brigade. He was keen on sport, particularly rugby,

playing for a time in a very good Melrose Colts side.

After school, Roy followed his mother's footsteps in PE, attending Jordanhill College, where he earned a DipPhysEd and, in 1972, he embarked on what became a 42 year career at George Watson's College in Edinburgh, starting as a Physical Education teacher, then Boarding House Master, APT Guidance, Principal Teacher of PE and, finally, Director of Projects for the school at the time of his retirement in 2014.

In 1975, having announced their engagement at the Festival Ball in his Melrosian year, he married Florence Purves, whom he had met at school, and they have a daughter, Morven, a son, Stuart, and four grandchildren, Jack, Abbi, Alfie and Ruby. Home is in Swanston, Edinburgh, but they also retain the former family home in Newstead, where they enjoy frequent breaks.

Sport was always important to Roy, particularly rugby, and over the years he coached his school's top teams, as well as the Scottish U15 and U16 teams and the Currie and Watsonians senior sides.

He has always been a faithful supporter of our Festival, returning regularly for Festival events, and he served for a time as Secretary of the Ex-Melrosians' Association.

Since retirement, Roy has become a Murrayfield stadium guide, is a Trustee of the Watsonian Benevolent Fund and also a Former President of the Watsonian Club. He enjoys spending time with his family, fishing and playing golf.

In 2015, Roy and Florence were Principal Guests for Festival Week, when Roy delivered an outstanding oration in the Abbey and Florence crowned the Festival Queen, Robyn Mackay.

2023 SILVER JUBILEE MELROSIAN



Laing Robson • Melrosian 1998

Our Silver Jubilee Melrosian this year is Laing Robson.

Laing is the eldest son of Ian and Sheila Robson of Fauhope, Gattonside, and brother of Charles (who was Melrosian in 2001 and 2002) and of Philip.

At the time of his appointment, Laing played rugby and was a very competent horseman, competing in eventing and team chasing, and was also a keen traveller.

Having studied Engineering Design at Napier University, Laing has been living in the United Arab Emirates for the past 10 years with his wife Sophie and his children Isabella and Hugo.

He is currently working for Standard Chartered Bank as an Executive Director in their regional office covering Africa and Middle East. His job requires a lot of travel across 26 countries, including some interesting destinations such as Iraq, Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Laing has now given up horse riding and rugby and is more likely to be seen on a bicycle riding around the roads of Dubai. He has qualified for the Cycling World Championship in Glasgow this summer, where he is hoping to race in the UCI Road race in August.



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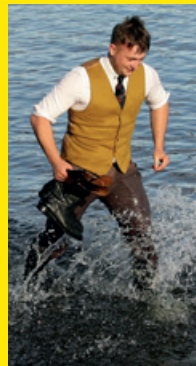
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AT THE WAR MEMORIAL 2022

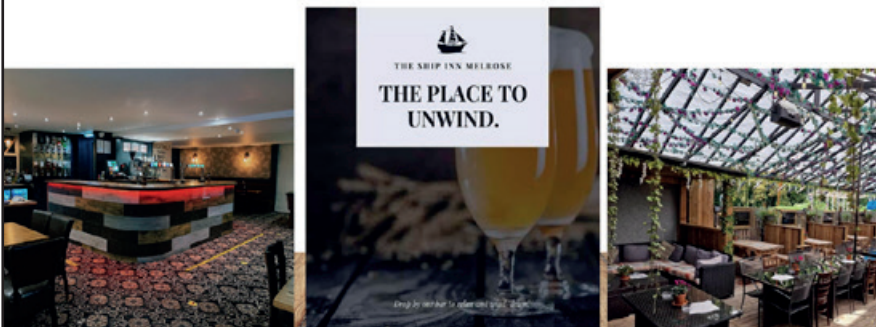


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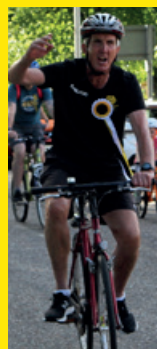
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INSTALLATION 2022



THE CROWNING 2022



2023 FESTIVAL EVENTS

STAY UP-TO-DATE BY CHECKING THE MELROSE FESTIVAL FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM PAGES

#MELROSEFESTIVAL  



MONDAY 5TH JUNE



Junior Rideout (see page 48) **18:00** Triangle, Greenyards

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE



Wreath Laying **10:45** War Memorial

Kirkin' of the Melrosian **11:00** Parish Church



Festival Football Competition **12:30** Gison Park / Greenyards



Festival Netball Competition **13:30** Melrose Primary School



9 Hole Golf Competition **18:00** Melrose Golf Club

MONDAY 19TH JUNE



Throughout the week the Melrosian visits care homes, nurseries, schools and hospitals.

Rideout (meet at 17:30) **18:00** Triangle, Greenyards

Concluding Ceremonies **21:30** Market Square

TUESDAY 20TH JUNE



Fancy Dress & Parade **18:15** Gibson Park

Disco (until 21:00) **following parade** Melrose RFC

WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE



Bike Ride **18:30** Gibson Park

BBQ **20:00** Annay Road

THURSDAY 22ND JUNE



The Melrosian will visit to St Mary's School (13:00)

Installation of the Melrosian and Crowning of the Festival Queen **19:00** Melrose Abbey (Melrose Parish Church if wet)

In order to protect the stonework of the Abbey, Historic Scotland is restricting the areas which can be accessed during our ceremonies. A section of extra seating will therefore be provided for spectators. If you would like to reserve a seat, please contact **Evelyn Oliver** at melrosefestival@hotmail.co.uk or on **07732 778384**.

FRIDAY 23RD JUNE



The Melrosian will visit Melrose Primary School (09:15) and Borders General Hospital.

Festival Ball **19:30** Annay Road

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE



Tour of Ceremonies assemble **08:45** Market Square

Start/leave **Market Square** **08:50** Market Square

Visit **Newstead** **09:10** Newstead

Visit **Trimontium** **09:40** Trimontium

Visit **Gattonside** **10:00** Gattonside

Visit **Abbotsford** **10:55** Abbotsford

Visit **Darnick Tower** **11:35** Darnick

Arrive **Melrose Abbey** **12:05** Melrose Abbey



Sports & Family Day **14:30** Gibson Park



Pipe Band music **19:00** Market Square



Celebration Festival Dinner **19:45** G&A Hotel

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE



Cricket Sixes **13:00** Huntlyburn



Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team - Proud to support Melrose Festival



Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Team is part of the network of Mountain Rescue Teams affiliated to Scottish Mountain Rescue. The team is a charity and all the members are volunteers who are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to go to the assistance of people (and occasionally animals) who are missing, injured or otherwise in need of assistance in the hills and remote countryside across our operational area. The team has its base in Melrose and covers West Lothian, Mid Lothian, City of Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders west of the A68.

Tweed Valley MRT relies on public donations to keep the team trained, equipped and ready to respond whenever called upon to help those in distress. You can donate using the QR code below, just point your smartphone camera at the code and click on the link.



To find out more about the team please visit: tweedvalleymrt.org.uk or follow us on Facebook

ANY HOUR, ANY DAY, ANY WEATHER...

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE



Wreath Laying, Kirkin' of the Melrosian, Football, Netball & Golf Competitions

10:45 Wreath Laying at the War Memorial

11:00 Kirkin' of the Melrosian

at Melrose Parish Church and Inauguration of the 2023 Festival

12:30 Melrose F.C. Festival Football

Gibson Park / The Greenyards

13:30 Festival Netball Melrose Primary School

18:00 9 Hole Golf Competition

Melrose Golf Club



To enter a netball team please contact **Arabella Brett** on **07787 611503** before Wednesday 14 June.



To enter a **7-a-side adult football team** please contact **Greg Simpson** on **07813 776791** before 14 June.

Men's and Women's teams will play in separate competitions, held on The Greenyards, 12:30 - 4pm. **£25 entry per team.**

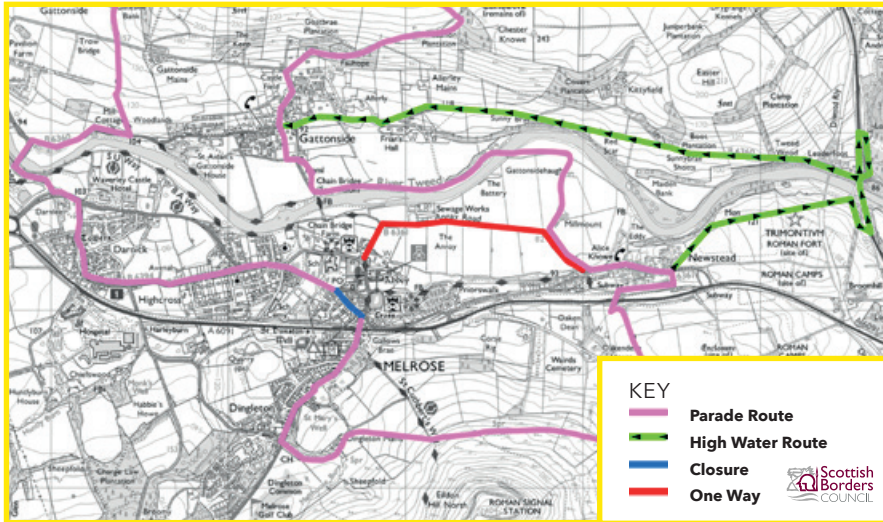
Primary age football teams will be pre-selected by Melrose F.C coaches. You do not have to be a member of Melrose F.C. to play. Matches will take place on Gibson Park, 12:30 - 4pm.

A **'Mini Kickers'** taster session will run 12:30 - 1pm on Gibson Park (for children born in 2018).





Melrosians Rideout Route 2023



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Junior Rideout MONDAY 5TH JUNE 18:00 – 19.30 approx

Leaving the triangle (next to Greenyards) at 6pm the ride will parade through the town via East Port, High Road onto Dean Road and return to the town via Annay Road (approx 4 miles). Refreshments for riders at Annay Road kindly sponsored by Abbey Fine Wines.

Under 16s welcome; suitable for lead rope and beginners/novices.

All riders will receive a medal on completion of the ride and a cup will be presented to best turned-out horse and rider. Please come out and show your support for this year's Melrosian his Right and Left-hand Men and their young followers.

PLEASE NOTE: All participants must wear approved head protection and should have appropriate insurance. All riders requiring a lead rope must be accompanied by an adult.



MONDAY 19TH JUNE



Melrosians Rideout

17:30 Prompt at Triangle

Judging of the Best Turned Out Rider and Mount in 2 classes - Under 12 years, Open

18:00 Leave Triangle

18:05 Pass through Market Square

18:15 Dingleton

There will be no vehicle parking or spectating from any section of the Melrose By-pass. Spectators should use the old Bogle Burn road.

18:45 Newstead

19:05 Tweed Crossing at Millmount

(If no river crossing Rideout will take 20 mins longer)

19:20 Gattonside

21:00 Darnick

21:15 Procession into town from the Weirhill

21:30 Concluding Ceremonies in Market Square



ALL RIDERS please read the safety notice printed in this brochure to continue to enjoy this event. Riders must stay behind the Melrosian and follow Police and Marshalls' instructions.



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TUESDAY 20TH JUNE



Fancy Dress Parade & Disco

18:15 Fancy Dress arrive at Gibson Park

Disco for all participants, after the parade
at Melrose Rugby clubrooms (until 21:00)



Individuals

Pre-school • Primary 1-3 • Primary 4-7 • Over 12s

Couples and Groups

Pre-school • Primary 1-3 • Primary 4-7 • Over 12s • Mixed

Me and my Pet

Floats and Motorised Vehicles

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FLOAT ENTRANTS please contact **Sarah Hirstwood** on **07771 998232** in advance of the event. Please read the safety notice in the brochure.

ALL CHILDREN must be supervised at all times (fancy dress and disco).
If wet please assemble in the marquee on Annay Road Rugby pitch.

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WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE



09:00 - 13:00 P7 Activities in Gibson Park

Melrose Community Bike Ride

18:00 Cyclists assemble in Gibson Park

18:15 Sashing of Lead Cyclists

18:30 Bikes leave Gibson Park

20:00 Finish with Family BBQ at Annay Road pitch



All welcome! There will be burgers, soft drinks, beer and wine for sale, with free fresh fruit for the children. Finish time is approximate.

ROUTE

Buckleuch Street - Abbey Street - Market Square - East Port - Priorswalk - Dean Road/cycle path to Newstead

Newstead Village - Annay Road - Chain Bridge and across the Tweed to Gattonside

Bakers Road - Gattonside Road - Lowood Bridge to Darnick - Abbotsford Road

High Cross Avenue - Weirhill - St Mary’s Road - Annay Road rugby ground (finish)

ALL CYCLISTS and young children in child’s cycle seats must wear appropriate safety helmets. Please ensure your cycle is in good working order, that the brakes work and tyres are pumped up. Optional short route can withdraw at Croft Field.

ALL CYCLISTS please read the safety notice printed in this brochure to continue to enjoy this event. Riders must stay behind the Melrosian and follow Police and Marshalls’ instructions.

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THURSDAY 22ND JUNE



13:00 Melrosian visit to St Mary's School

Installation of the Melrosian and Crowning of the Festival Queen

19:00 Installation and Crowning Ceremonies
in Melrose Abbey (Melrose Parish Church if wet)

General public enter via the shop, invited guests enter via Cloisters Road.



INSTALLATION OF THE MELROSIAN

Will Owen by Chairman, Festival Executive

Golden Jubilee Melrosian **Roy Mack**, Silver Jubilee Melrosian **Laing Robson**,
Retiring Right-Hand Man **Ben Magowan**



CROWNING OF THE FESTIVAL QUEEN

Olivia Milne by Pamela McGowan

Platinum Jubilee Queen **Margaret Hope**, Diamond Jubilee Queen **Christine Billing**,
Golden Jubilee Queen **Jennifer Herd**, Silver Jubilee Queen **Hannah Syme**



ADDRESS BY WILLIE ALLAN MBE

Triumphal procession through the town by the Melrosian and the Festival Queen and her Court.

METRICAL PSALM 121 (tune French)

I to the hills will lift mine eyes,
from whence doth come mine aid.
My safety cometh from the Lord
who heav'n and earth hath made.

Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will
he slumber that thee keeps.
Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

The Lord thee keeps, the Lord thy shade
On thy right hand doth stay:
The moon by night thee shall not smite
Nor yet the sun by day.

The Lord shall keep thy soul, he shall
preserve thee from all ill.
Henceforth thy going out and in
God keep for ever will

Gloria - To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom we adore,
Be Glory as it was and is,
And shall be evermore - Amen

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FRIDAY 23RD JUNE



09:15 **The Melrosian** with his Right and Left-hand Men will visit **Melrose Primary School**



Festival Ball

19:30 Festival Ball
at Annay Road marquee
(until 02:30)



20:00 Dinner

DRESS CODE:

Black Tie • Full Length Evening Dress

DRESS CODE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED BY THE DOOR STAFF

THANKS

With grateful thanks to **The Ship Inn**, East Port, Melrose for their continued support and generous donation to Melrose Festival Ball.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

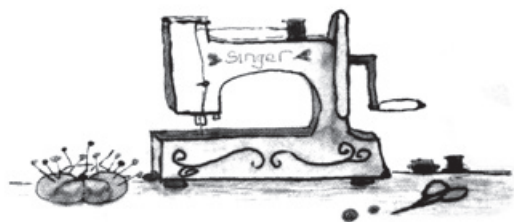
The Melrose Festival Ball Committee wishes to acknowledge with grateful thanks and appreciation all the support and assistance received from many different sources.

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ALL STAFF WISH THE MELROSIAN, FESTIVAL QUEEN AND HER COURT A WONDERFUL WEEK

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE



Tour of Ceremonies, Sports & Family Day, Festival Dinner



08:45 Assemble in Market Square

08:50 Start of Ceremonies

14:30 Sports in Gibson Park, commencing with the **Eildon Hill Race and Ribbon Dance**

19:00 Pipe Band music in Market Square

19:30 Celebration Festival Dinner in the G&A

(20:00 start) Tickets (£35) are available from Ex-Melrosian **Greig Anderson**, Andersons Fishmongers: **07929 633214**. All welcome!

TOUR OF CEREMONIES approx timing of arrival at each place visited:

Leaves MARKET SQUARE	08:50	ABBOTSFORD	10:55
NEWSTEAD	09:10	DARNICK	11:35
TRIMONTIUM	09:40	MELROSE ABBEY	12:05
GATTONSIDE	10:00		

Coaches are provided free of charge for the general public. No booking required. Anyone with mobility issues can book a seat on the minibus by contacting **Evelyn Oliver** on **07732 778384**.

SPORTS

Please be aware that an area between the tarmac path and the running oval in the Gibson Park will be marked as KEEP CLEAR. The area will begin at the fire hut gate and end opposite the play park while following the curvature of the running oval.

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SUNDAY 25TH JUNE



Cricket Sixes

13:00 Start at Huntlyburn



TO ENTER A TEAM

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E: Melrosecricketclub@yahoo.com

M: 07468 579964

£10 team entry (pay on the day)

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Festival Queen & Her Court

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THE BALL 2022



THE BALL 2022





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ENJOYMENT & SAFETY



Monday - Rideout Safety

- All riders must be in good state of health, capable and wearing appropriate safety clothing and protective headgear.
- It is the responsibility of the riders to ensure they have appropriate insurance cover.
- Please note that spot checks will be carried out at the rideout to ascertain that this is the case.
- All riders must follow the instructions given by the Marshals, who are identified by high visibility clothing.
- All riders under secondary school age or novice riders must be accompanied by an experienced adult rider who will take responsibility for them during the rideout.
- Prior to the commencement of the rideout, official ribbons will be passed to all riders who assemble at the triangle and meet the above requirements. Please note that only those riders wearing the ribbons will be deemed to be taking part in the Melrose Festival Rideout.
- All headgear must comply with current British Safety Standards.

Tuesday - Fancy Dress Safety

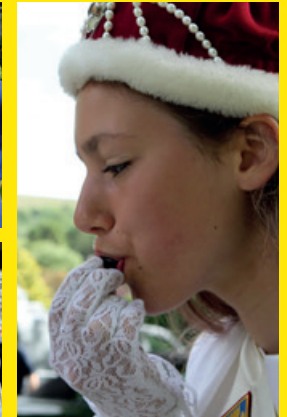
- All participants must follow the instructions given by marshalls, who are identified by hi-visibility clothing
- All children, especially those on floats, must be supervised at all times.
- All floats must have edge protection and a safe means of getting on and off. The Melrose Festival will inspect all floats prior to the parade.
- When travelling on floats, all children must remain seated at all times.
- All ponies must be led by experienced handlers.

Wednesday - Bike Ride Safety

- Cyclists must be at least Primary 1 school age and all cyclists attending Primary School P1-P5 must be supervised by cycling adults. Please note that younger children may participate if they are travelling with a responsible adult cyclist on a child's cycle seat or in a bicycle trainer.
- All cyclists and young children in cycle seats must wear appropriate clothing and safety helmets.
- Cyclists must remain between the front and rear Marshals' car and remain in the left hand carriage way, unless instructed to move by the Police or Marshals. Children of primary school age must cycle only on the inside of this lane at the kerbside.
- All cyclists must follow the instructions given by the Marshals, who are identified by high visibility clothing.
- If a cyclist cannot maintain the pace or experiences mechanical difficulties with their cycle they will be requested to leave the cycle ride. In the case of children, a responsible adult must remain with them.
- Prior to the commencement of the cycle ride, official ribbons will be passed to all cyclists who assemble at Gibson Park and meet the above requirements. Please note that only cyclists wearing the ribbons will be deemed to be taking part in the Melrose Community Bike Ride.

TOUR OF CEREMONIES

2022



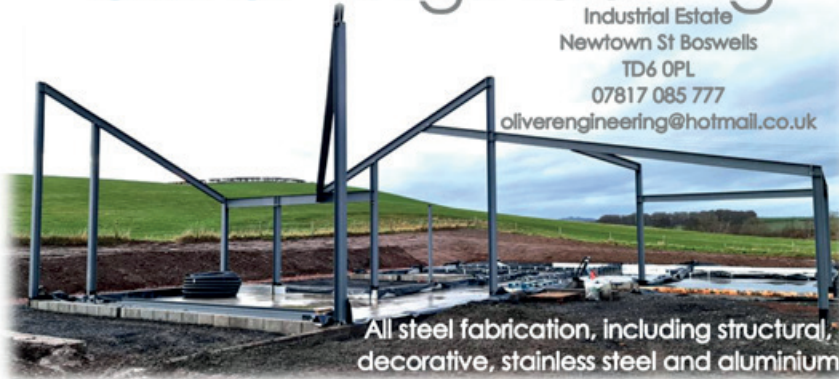


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1985 J. K. G. Purves	1999 Lochcarron of Scotland and National Trust	2010 Butterfly
1986 Rae Murray Woollens	2000 Alex Dalgetty & Sons	2011 House of Hogarth
1987 Dalgetty Bakers	2001 National Trust and Purvis Design	2012 Butterfly
1988 All Sorts	2002 Ormiston & Renwick	2013 House of Hogarth
1989 All Sorts	2003 Ormiston & Renwick	2014 House of Hogarth
1990 Jas. R. B. Tinto & Sons	2004 Ormiston & Renwick and Lochcarron	2015 Fabric Shop
1991 Dalgetty, Bakers	2005 Lochcarron	2016 Apples for Jam
1992 Williamson, Fruiterer	2006 Butterfly	2017 Apples for Jam
1993 National Trust	2007 Lochcarron	2018 Fabric Shop
1994 Rae Murray, 'Woolcraft'		2019 Butterfly
1995 Hetties		2021 Butterfly
1996 Alex Dalgetty & Sons		2022 Rhymer's Fayre

FESTIVAL FOOTBALL

2022



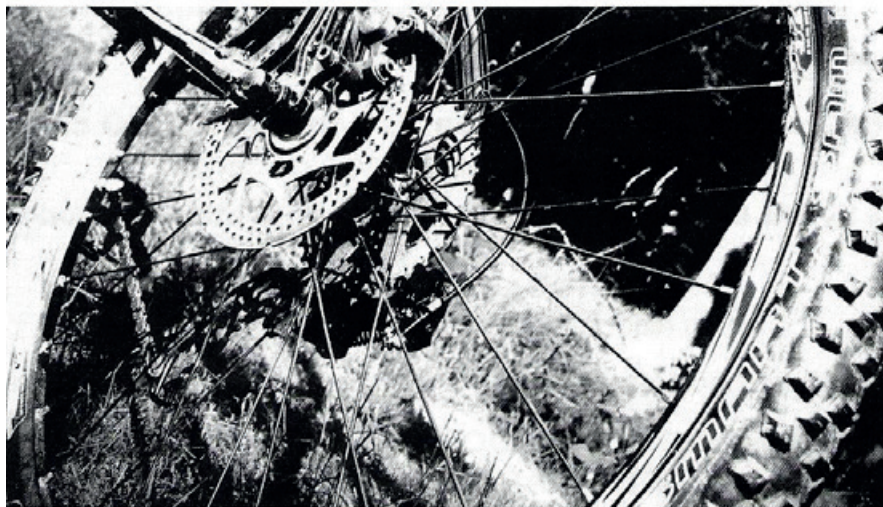


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SPORTS DAY 2022



TOUR OF CEREMONIES

Notes for Saturday's tour of Historic Sites



The Square

Saturday's tour of Melrose's historic places begins in the Square under the shadow of the Mercat Cross, at one time the hub of all community life and activity. Sadly none of the original Cross, the main part of which once stood at the main gate to the Abbey which was located at the top of the present-day Abbey Street, now remains on site. The Cross was moved to its present position in more recent times, and the finial was replaced with a unicorn holding a shield bearing the Royal Arms of Scotland in 1645. It is understood that the base of the Cross, although now much the oldest part, has been rebuilt several times, and the shaft (the last part of the original Cross) and the finial, due to the ravages of time and weather, were renewed in 1988 and 1990 respectively.

All too rarely now, the 'marriage ball' is kicked off from the Cross by newly-wed brides, the only remaining, albeit tenuous, link with the ancient Eastern's E'en Ba' game, held annually in the town until abolished by the Town Council in 1901.

Before the days of tarmacadam, the Square was unsurfaced, providing a natural venue for the annual sheep market, which was reputedly a lively and prosperous event. The drove roads brought flocks into Melrose from all directions and the event doubtless provided many a culprit to stand in the jousts, which were held by the staple still to be seen in the shaft of the Cross.

Newstead and Trimontium

Newstead was built to accommodate the camp followers of the Roman legions, and since those days, has been inhabited without a break. When King David built the first Abbey of Melrose, his stone masons stayed there and from them several families in Melrose trace their descent. On the spot where these masons founded the Masonic Lodge of Melrose, claimed to be the oldest in the land, Office-Bearers of the Lodge greet the Melrosian and assure us that the industry and craftsmanship which built the Abbey still flourishes today.

Trimontium, a strategic site commanding the river crossing of Dere Street, was important enough to figure in Ptolemy's Geography. First established to house Agricola's troops, both foot and horse, in 80 A.D., it was periodically rebuilt and reoccupied until about 200 A.D. At the stone erected by the Edinburgh Borderers Association to mark the camp site, the Melrosian and party are greeted by a figure garbed as a Roman soldier and he, in well chosen words and resounding tones, links distant Rome and present Melrose.

After the Romans came the Cross. From the way down to Leaderfoot with its three bridges, we can see beyond the A68 the wooded headland of Old Melrose, where the names of Chapelknowe, Holywell and Monksford tell us that here was the first monastic settlement, founded in 653 by St. Aidan.

Gattonside

House names of The Orchard, Orchard Neuk and Orchard Cottage are a link with the days when the lay brothers of Melrose cultivated here their south facing orchards. A pleasant ceremony is enacted at the village green when a resident of modern Gattonside in monks' garb invites the Melrosian to partake of cherries, the fruit of the orchard.

Boston House is a reminder of a family for 600 years resident in the village. Its reputed founder Bastoun, a French harpist with Edward's army at Bannockburn to sing the greatness of the expected English victory, found himself a prisoner with the Scots. So well did his celebration of Scotland's triumph please Bruce, that he was rewarded with lands in Gattonside.

Abbotsford

The next point in the morning's pilgrimage is Abbotsford. The warm, personal relationship which Sir Walter Scott established with Melrose and its townsfolk has been continued since then, and each year the citizens pay tribute to the fact that to him, to his first great poem and to his successful efforts to save the Abbey from collapse, Melrose owes the worldwide interest it enjoys.

Darnick Tower

Darnick Peel Tower, guarded by two stalwart Men-at-Arms, is the second last ceremonial call for the Melrosian. It is one of the most perfectly preserved specimens of Peel Towers in the Borders, built and until very recently, owned by the Heitons and still used as a residence today. It was built in 1425 by the Heiton family and owned by them until 2017. Partially destroyed by Hereford in 1545, it was rebuilt in 1569, although it appears to have been sufficiently habitable to provide Mary Queen of Scots with a night's lodgings on her way to Jedburgh in 1566 according to one tradition. Round Darnick Tower the last clan battle of the Borders took place in 1526 between the followers of Angus and Buccleuch, and it is said that James V watched the progress of the fight from the battlements of the tower. Close to the tower were two others - of one there is now no trace and of the other, three of the original outer walls remain. After a welcome from the new owner, Mrs Julie Chapman-Purchas, the Melrosian will receive honey from the roses of the garden and to the Lord Abbot, soon to play a role at the Abbey, is offered a gift of wax 'to lighten your convent at Melrose'.

Melrose Abbey

The final ceremony of the morning takes place at the Abbey, where over 850 years of ecclesiastical history are recalled. The Abbey of St. Mary is the earliest Cistercian settlement in Scotland. Under Abbot Richard, a colony of monks from Rievaulx in Yorkshire began building and the church was dedicated in 1136, on a site chosen because of its fine water supply and drainage. The monks enjoyed extensive lands, the right of pasture, fishing and timber as far afield as Traquair.

Against this sermon in stone which is the Abbey, the last deeds of remembrance and thanksgiving take place. The Melrosian narrates the history and Abbot Richard and monks receive the founding charter from King David (1136).

"I, David First, King of Scots, confirm by this, my charter to you, the Abbot and Convent of Saint Mary, the endowment which I have been pleased to give to found my new church here, and by it I have given to you the lands of Little Fordel, Darnick, Gattonside, Newstead and Eildon, for the glory of God and as a perpetual possession to your order."

The later part in the Abbey's history, involving Robert Bruce, is then commemorated by the laying of flowers. Robert Bruce's heart was brought to the Abbey, and following reburial, it now resides in the cloister gardens.

The story of the Abbey will then be briefly brought up to date, before the ceremony is concluded by a short service of thanksgiving for the Festival Week.

TOUR OF CEREMONIES

THE 23rd PSALM

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green, He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

Yea, tho' I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill.
For Thou art with me and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.

My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own sake.

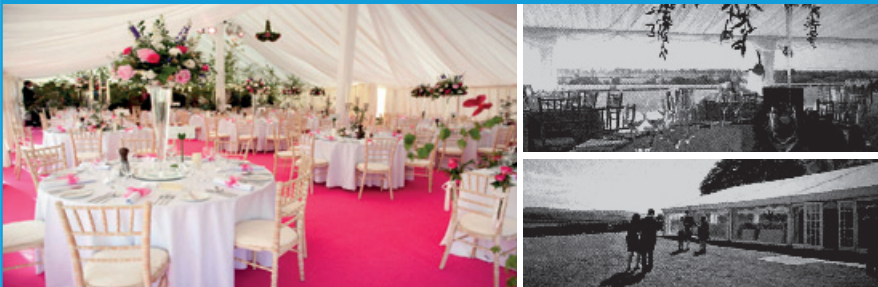
My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes,
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me.
And in God's house for evermore
My dwelling place shall be.



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1949	Leslie Allan	1989	Cameron Crawford
1950	Alistar Frater	1990	Brian Jones
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1953	Gordon Bunyan	1993	Graham Shiel
1954	Jimmy Lyall	1994	Gavin Ross
1955	Raymond Allan	1995	Stephen Scott
1956	George Bunyan	1996	Ian McDermott
1957	Donald Campbell	1997	Alasdair Fairbairn
1958	George Haldane	1998	Laing Robson
1959	Jack Hutcheson	1999	Gavin Hastie
1960	George Wallace	2000	Greg Anderson
1961	Robert Hastie	2001	Charles Robson
1962	Ian Johnstone	2002	Charles Robson
1963	Gavin Frater	2003	Jamie Murray
1964	Iain Drummond	2004	Kenneth Brown
1965	John Bunyan	2005	Brynmor Thom
1966	Jim Boyd	2006	David Crawford
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1968	Jim Swan	2008	Scott Roy
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1980	Robert Moffat	2022	Douglas Crawford

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1938	Doreen Tait	1982	Mhorag McKenzie
1939	Annie Simpson	1983	Louise Matthew
1943	Joan Lawrie	1984	Jan Brown
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1947	Anne Brownlee	1988	Amanda Fothergill
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1967	Claire Elliot	2008	Alexis Green
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 HIS RIGHT HAND MAN DOUG CRAWFORD
 AND LEFT HAND MAN AND MELROSIAN
 ELECT ROBIN SHARP

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Best wishes
to the Melrosian,
the Festival Queen
and Her Court.

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