

THURSDAY 17th AUGUST 2023

VISIT TO ANCRUM and THE MONTEATH MAUSOLEUM

Visit leader: Chris Neville-Taylor, Past President (07938353191)

Book a place at https://bnc_ancrum.eventbrite.co.uk/

Ancrum has borne witness to Prehistoric ceremonies, Iron age fortifications, Roman infantries, Anglo-Saxon warriors, Medieval pageantry, Border Reivers, Georgian carriages and Victorian farmhands. All of Scottish and European history and society has made the village a site of continual occupation for over 4,000 years.



The Ancrum & District Heritage Society is a very active group devoted to discovering more about their “Small Village with a Big History” and are very keen to share their findings with kindred organisations. They have kindly offered to show us some of the sites of historical significance in and around the village and have also arranged a visit to the nearby Monteith Mausoleum.

Comprehensive details of their activities will be found at
<https://www.adhs.co.uk/home>

Meet: at 10:00 in the picnic area in front of the “Out-there artisan” Café. TD8 6UQ
///professed.trying.slack
<http://www.out-thereartisan.co.uk/>

There is ample car parking, toilets, and catering on site. For those familiar with the area this was formerly known as Harestanes Visitor Centre. We suggest picnics are eaten at approx. 13:00 after the kirkyard visit.

Directions: Satnav suggests accessing the site from the A68 Gala to Jedburgh. From the A68 take the B6400 signed for Nisbet and Roxburgh with an additional brown sign indicating “Visitor Attractions”. 500 yards along this road turn right and follow the various signs to your destination. There is ample parking near the café but if this is full there is an overflow car park nearer the junction.

Parking at the Mausoleum is limited so we suggest that you car-share for the rest of the day.

Border Buses service #68 Galashiels – Jedburgh (and v.v.) calls at the B6400 junction.
(South Myrescroft stop)
<https://www.bordersbuses.co.uk/services/BORD/68>

Toilets are available at the Rugby Club

Timetable

10:00 The Big Tree Society

Collect take-away coffees, etc. from the café and cross the yard to meet Eoin Cox MBE who will talk to us about “Wood”.
<http://www.thebigtreesociety.co.uk/about-us.html>

11:00 Ancrum Village Green
///sway.school.pipes

Geoff Parkhouse of the ADHS will talk to us about the history of the village and the Bishop of Glasgow’s palace.

12:00 Ancrum Kirkyard
///absorb.crawled.skater

Visit the picturesque and historic kirkyard on the banks of the Ale Water. The kirkyard contains some interesting structures and monuments.

13:00 Ancrum Bridge and SSSI

///knots.flat.brownish

Picnic lunch and then hear about the discovery and dating of the bridge by ADHS.

15:00 Monteath Mausoleum

///duty.pursue.gliding



Thomas Monteath was a Victorian soldier born in 1788 to a Scottish father and English mother. He joined the 35th regiment of the Bengal Infantry at the age of 19 and spent most of his military career in northern India (now Pakistan) defending the border region with Afghanistan. Rising steadily through the ranks, he became a Major General in 1854 and was Knighted by Queen Victoria in 1865. At the age of 62 he inherited the Douglas Support fortune, a condition of which was to append the name 'Douglas' to his own.

It is unclear why he chose this site at Gersit Law for his mausoleum, as his family hails from Lanarkshire. However, his youngest daughter had married William Scott of Ancrum, son of the Liberal MP for Roxburghshire, who owned this land which overlooks the historic Battle of Ancrum Moor (1545) where Scottish forces routed the English during Henry Eighth's "rough wooing". Where better for an old soldier with a fortune to erect a monument to himself?

The building was completed during his lifetime, to a design by Peddie and Kinnear of Edinburgh, using local craftsmen including Hawick sculptor Alexander Pirnie, who created the magnificent lions guarding the entrance and the angels inside the crypt.

Members of the Friends of the Mausoleum have offered to guide us round this remarkable structure with its stunning views of the Border landscape. We have been granted the privilege of access for a limited number of cars.

This day out will not be particularly strenuous, but we will be walking off footpaths so stout footwear is advisable. Hopefully we'll need sunscreen. Seats/benches will be limited.

Please book via Eventbrite https://bnc_ancrum.eventbrite.co.uk/ . There is no charge for the trip.