



NO.68 MAY 2021

What a relief!

As we hinted at in the last newsletter, as the country begins to open up, we are beginning to put back together our schedule of events and activities.

We are delighted to bring the delayed premiere of the specially commissioned play "Leein' Jamie" by Michael Fenty to the stage at Duns Playfest.

Also, the July Event at the Radio Rooms mentioned in the last Newsletter is now confirmed as going ahead.

## **Duns Playfest 2021 featuring 'Leein' Jamie"**

The Wilsons tales project has a long history of bring live enactments of WilsonsTales to new audiences.

We have worked with Duns Playfest to sponsor an award for a fresh presentation of one of Wilsons famous tales. "Leein' Jamie ", is an amusing tale of the trouble that boastful lying can get you into, set in a time of suspicion and civil conflict. Dramatised by Michael Fenty, the inaugural winner and the most recent of several Wilsons tales he has successfully translated to the stage.

To attend the event, you will need a Festival Pass costing £15, which provides access to over 30 events. Register and buy your Pass [here](#).

For more information, here is the latest from our friends at Duns Play Fest

The latest news from DunsPlayFest 2021 hosted by Duns Players, a theatrical group from the Scottish Borders.





## Online 22 - 29 May

### More time to enjoy the Festival!

The great advantage of an online festival is although all the events will be released at specified times from May 22 to 29, the festival content will be available until June 12. You can watch events when you want - Eventbrite will email you a link for each event. So if the weather's fine, enjoy it, and watch the Festival when and as you like.

Find out more news below, there's some good news about buying tickets, details of our programme, and our fabulous FREE Festival Launch Party.

If you are reading this e-newsletter via social media and would like to receive regular updates, click [here](#).

*Best wishes and enjoy the Festival!*

### Duns Players

## BUY TICKETS UNTIL MAY 29



The flexibility of viewing the Festival online from May 22 until June 12, when you want, means you can buy your Pass up until May 29. A Festival Pass costs £15 providing access to all events, except Workshops which are FREE and you need to register. Register and buy your Pass [here](#).

## OUR FULL LINEUP

*Our At A Glance Programme* gives details of all our events over eight days. It also includes details of the Festival's Launch Party on the evening of May 21 and is available [here](#).





### *Friday July 2nd Live Event*

We are delighted to be confirming this event too.

## *Traditional Northumbria- exploring Wilson's Tale's background in ballads*

John MacKay Wilson was one of Tweedmouths most famous sons. His "Tales of the Borders" were a publishing sensation of the 19th century, out selling Walter Scott. Many were based on Border ballads and the evening will explore Wilsons life, the tales and their musical roots. Included will be a retelling of local tales including the Tale of Tweedmouth Muir. Eilidh Campbell will perform a selection of ballads and other works connected with the tales.

Over the course of the evening we will retell some of his more famous local tales and recite the Ballads and songs that either inspired them or where inspired by the tale. An intoxicating mix of local heritage and history, story telling and music.

#### Highlights

The tale of Tweedmouth Muir & Cochranes Grizzly  
The tale of the Laidley Worm of Spindleston  
The Royal Raid & the Ballad of The border Widow's Lament."

Not to be missed!

***Tickets £5. (plus 50p if booked on-line) Doors open at 6pm.***

Event details are available here from the Radio Rooms website

and details of the Radio Rooms, and map are here  
<https://www.radiorooms.co.uk/about>



## 5th August visit. Thirlestane Castle Exclusive

Continuing our programme of exclusive visits to locations of Tales in the Borders, we have August 5<sup>th</sup> arranged for the next of our visits. If you particularly want to be advised of details nearer the time, send a note to [wilsonstales@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonstales@gmail.com) or contact us via the website. The format will follow previous visits, with an opportunity for a picnic on the greensward, followed by a glass of something and a personal tour of the castle, interspersed with readings and performances of Tales.

## Volume 7 on Sale

The closure of our usual outlets prevented the usual launch event and our sales of Volume 7 are lagging.

Once book shops are open again you should find them or will be able to order them in all good booksellers.

At the moment, we have stocks of Volumes 1 to 7, as we have had to reprint some of them. Our on-line sales are available at [Wilson's Tales shop HERE](#)

## *Intoxicating tales remains On-Line*

Wilson's Tales event featuring Tales 'The Heir of Elphinstone' and 'The Pentland Smuggler', told by Stuart MacHardy, as well as items from other members of the group is still on-line if you wish to review it, thanks to the magic of Internet, [now you have a chance to see it again by clicking here.](#)

so you still have chance to raise a dram to Wilson.

## Volume 8 of Re-Told Tales

is progressing well. Tales have been re-told, and surplus words rained down to the cutting room floors of our dedicated re-writers. Once again, we are commissioning artwork from an artist new to our venture, and she is sharpening her crayons. This volume will be presenting:

- Wilson; What was he like?
- The Rival Sheriffs
- Rattling ,Roaring Willie
- The Monk of St Anthony
- The Lost Heir of Elphinstone
- The Battle of Dryffe Sands
- Lord Kaimes Puzzle

plus, in default of the usual school writing entries, a selection of our own 100 word Tales,

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For more information, to contact us, or to purchase any of the Revival Editions, go to:

[www.Wilsonstales.co.uk](http://www.Wilsonstales.co.uk)



*Wilson's Tales first appeared as occasional "fill ins" in The Berwick Advertiser in the early 1830s, penned by its editor, Tweedmouth resident John Mackay Wilson. They were well-received and this encouraged him to start publishing them in his own standalone weekly publication "Wilson's Tales of the Borders" from November 1834.*

*They became a publishing sensation with runaway demand and the original series ran to 312 editions over six years. Reprints and compendium editions became a global success and they were seldom out of print over the century that followed.*

*The Wilson's Tales Project is giving fresh life to the tales and the historic events and times, many are based on and celebrating Berwick's literary hero of the 19th century.*

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