

## **Castles, Guardians and Kings**

Archaeology, History and Performing Arts  
Summer 2014

The Castles, Guardians and Kings project is for young people aged 11 – 25 years who wish to explore and develop skills in Archaeology, History and the Performing Arts.

This is an exciting opportunity to investigate the heritage and connections of past communities with life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Through archaeological research and hands-on practice we shall explore the sites of Selkirk Castle and Howden Motte.

Selkirk Castle, recently the subject of an archaeological dig in the grounds of the Haining House in Selkirk, was built at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Edward 1 was on the English throne and William Wallace was resting in the Ettrick Forest. Wallace became Guardian of Scotland around that time and the castle was held variously by the Scots and the English at different times. It is understood that Wallace was crowned as Guardian in the Old Kirk at Selkirk. It is a fascinating period in Selkirk's history and will inspire a thought-provoking performance project, integrating history and archaeology with the creative and performing arts.

A mediaeval historian will delve into the stories of that time, exploring these with the young people and linking in with the archaeology to understand how these castles would have looked and functioned and what life would have been like then.

The choreographer will then use those stories and explorations to weave and create a series of vignettes to create a dance performance that explores and brings to life that period of history in a way that relates it to the present day and to the lives of the young people themselves. The choreographer will work closely with a film-maker and composer to create the work, giving participants the opportunity to work in dance, music or film, or any combination.

The project aims to develop skills and confidence and to encourage an understanding and experience of archaeology, history and the performing arts. Participants may choose to engage with all aspects of the project or to select those that most interest them. All aspects will lead towards the creation of a piece of performance that will be given to the wider public at the end of the project.

A group of young people will be encouraged to form a steering group to help lead the project from the early stages, thus helping to shape and form the experience from a young person's perspective. This steering group will work closely with the archaeologist, historian and choreographer and help to deliver the project.

The archaeology and history workshops will take place sometime between the beginning of June and mid July and the performing arts workshops will take place over 3 weeks from 14<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August. Two performances will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Times and dates will be further arranged with the steering group.

Workshops and rehearsals will take place at Selkirk Castle, Howden Motte and The Studio On The Green, Selkirk.

A first meeting of interested parties will take place at **Rowland's**, West Port, Selkirk on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm**. Please come along to hear more of the plans and to meet the team and find out how you can be involved. This is going to be an exciting project!

For further information or to register your interest in this project please contact Jenna Agate on 01750 21997 or [info@thestudioonthegreen.com](mailto:info@thestudioonthegreen.com)



Building a Motte – Bayeux Tapestry



Mediaeval Castle