

BRIEF BACKGROUND TO DALKEITH HISTORY SOCIETY

The Dalkeith History Society was set up in 1975 by Provost David Smith when the independent burgh of Dalkeith became part of Midlothian District.

The Society was given the use of three rooms in the old Council Chambers in Buccleuch Street, to be used as a small museum and workshop. Here, they were able to build up their collection of artefacts, documents and photographs and to do further research into Dalkeith's past.

Over the years, the Society has organised meetings, exhibitions, visits and research into Dalkeith's history and heritage. Since 1985, the Society has produced a number of publications, helped to restore the old Cemetery Watch Tower, researched and preserved many aspects of town history and through their meetings and outreach, encouraged a lively interest in old Dalkeith.

In 2015, the Society registered as a charity and in 2016 the new Museum opened in the refurbished Corn Exchanges.

Dalkeith History Society relies on a dedicated team of volunteers to staff the Museum and on donations and grants to enable the collection to be cared for and developed. All donations are very much appreciated.



If you would like to arrange a special visit to the museum or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please get in touch.

You can find us at:
Dalkeith Museum,
Dalkeith Corn Exchange,
61 St Andrew Street, Dalkeith,
Tel: 0131 663 4683
Email: museums@dalkeithcx.org

Please note our facility is fully DDA compliant

Supported by:



WELCOME TO DALKEITH'S MUSEUM



DALKEITH MUSEUM IS LOCATED AT THE REAR OF THE DALKEITH CORN EXCHANGE.

Dalkeith Corn Exchange has been through a period of restoration which began in December 2014 and was completed in March 2016.



The restoration of the Dalkeith Corn Exchange, once the largest in Scotland, was a key element of the regeneration project carried out in Dalkeith's conservation area with grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland.

The 3 year funded project enabled the Grade A listed Victorian building to be fully repaired and restored and to incorporate a bespoke Museum facility for the town.

The Museum provides an open, welcoming public space where the rich history and heritage of Dalkeith can be discovered and explored by both visitors and local residents.

The Museum is run by Dalkeith History Society and a team of local volunteers.

Dalkeith History Society's vision for the museum is:
"to create a friendly and stimulating environment, managed by trained and motivated volunteers, where local residents and visitors can share and explore the history and heritage of Dalkeith"

Over the years, the History Society has built up a fascinating collection of artefacts reflecting the local history and heritage of the area. In the Museum, they now have dedicated display space to exhibit some of this collection under a number of local themes.

- Industry in Dalkeith
- Society in Dalkeith
- Agriculture in Dalkeith
- Leisure and Education
- Domestic Life
- Crime, Banking and the Forger's story
- Old Railways of Dalkeith
- World War 1
- Shopping and the Co-operative Society
- Local bricks and local brickworks
- Architecture of Dalkeith
- History of the Corn Exchange

In addition, themed temporary exhibitions will be staged at intervals throughout the year.

Dalkeith has a fascinating and unique history, and, through the exhibition panels, display cases, cupboards, films and photographs, aspects of the Dalkeith story will be revealed to the visitors.

Schools and community groups are actively encouraged to visit and handling boxes with artefacts can be borrowed for outreach activities, projects or presentations.

Memories and stories of Dalkeith are very important. If you would like to share them, please come along and talk to our volunteers.

Explore Dalkeith and learn about its rich history by following the Dalkeith Heritage Trail. The Museum is included in the trail which visits the Churches, closes, graveyards and points of interest around the town. At certain times tailor made evening tours exploring the darker side of Dalkeith's past will also take place.

Special visits by groups of visitors or individuals, during the day or evening can be also be arranged.