



Kelso Community Council

5 Eschiehaugh
Kelso
TD5 7SJ
Scottish Borders

Dear Sir/Madam

I send you sincere greeting from the town and people of Kelso Scotland.

I have the pleasure to introduce myself on behalf of the town of Kelso in the Scottish Borders, I am Provost John J Bassett of Kelso, I would like to give you a short insight in to my title and history of the town,

Historically the Provost was the chief magistrate or convener of a Scottish burgh council, in England they use the title Mayor, now Community Councils which include former burghs also use the title Provost for their chairmen.

Kelso a picturesque country town, which lies in a fine setting at the junction of the rivers Tweed and Teviot. full of architectural and historic interest. In 1128 David I granted monks permission to build an abbey in Kelso across the water from his castle, [Roxburgh]. Even now in its fragmented state, the abbey is a superb piece of architecture.

To the west, a grassy mound, deep ditch and a few ruined walls are all that remain of the once mighty Roxburgh Castle. James II was killed there during a siege in 1460, by an exploding cannon.

Kelso Square claims to be the largest in Scotland. At its centre is still the Bull Ring, a reminder of our past market days. The square is now host to many specialist shops. The graceful five-arched bridge over the Tweed, built by John Rennie in 1803, was the model for London's Waterloo Bridge.

Floors Castle, Scotland's largest inhabited house, stands in parkland overlooking the Tweed. It holds outstanding collections of paintings, furniture, porcelain and tapestry.

A lively programme of events in the town reflects the predominantly agricultural community, with the Border Union agricultural show, ram and horse sales, Kelso Races, point-to-point and the Scottish Championship dog show. Kelso Civic Week, held in summer, is the town's annual festival, adopting many of the features of the older Border Common Ridings.

Kelso Community Council and myself would like to look in to having closer ties with both towns here in Scotland and your self's in the United States of America. I have also sent you a book, to show you the history of our town, it was written by two members of our community, I hope you find it interesting, we look forward to hearing from you.

So it is with great pride that I as the Provost of Kelso present myself and the town of Kelso Scotland to you.

Yours Sincerely
John J Bassett
Provost of Kelso