

Dunse History Society Lecture – Bruce Keith – Underground Scotland

At another very well attended meeting last Thursday evening members of Dunse History Society welcomed back author Bruce Keith who had previously given very much appreciated talks on the perhaps unlikely subjects of Bridgescapes and Signpostings. The talk followed publication of his latest book, 'Scotland, Beneath the Surface', which he described as a subterranean odyssey looking at the history of Scotland below ground. So much has just been lost or is not appreciated.

The talk started out looked at caves and caverns, skeletal remains and what they could tell us about the people who lived there from the earliest of times and indeed until quite recently as even yet in some census records a cave dwelling is listed as a main residence.

He then looked at and talked of dungeons such as the Bottle Dungeon at St Andrews dating back to 1297, and the undercroft at Yester Castle, the Viking Treasure found in Kirkcudbrightshire, Mary King's Close in Edinburgh and the vaults found on the building of the South Bridge.

He went on to talk about mining and its history, about 277 miners killed in one explosion, about the old railway tunnel under the River Forth, of the discoveries made during the building of the Forth Bridge and the Glasgow Underground, of the draining of the Nor Loch in Edinburgh, of secret wartime bunkers and so very much more.

All so very interesting and so much unearthed.

The next meeting is Wednesday 27th when Dr Kristian Pedersen will be talking on 'Mesolithic Berwickshire'.,.

Ronald Morrison

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