



**ALNWICK U3A Architecture Group**

***Thursday 25th April 2019***

## **Visit to Selkirk & Bowhill**

### Timetable:

9.25 am	Depart from Alnwick (Playhouse first then Leisure Centre bus stop)
11 am	Arrive at Selkirk.
2.15 pm	Depart from Selkirk
2.30 pm	Arrive at Bowhill House for a private tour.

We will leave Bowhill shortly after 4 pm  
and should be back in Alnwick by 6 pm.



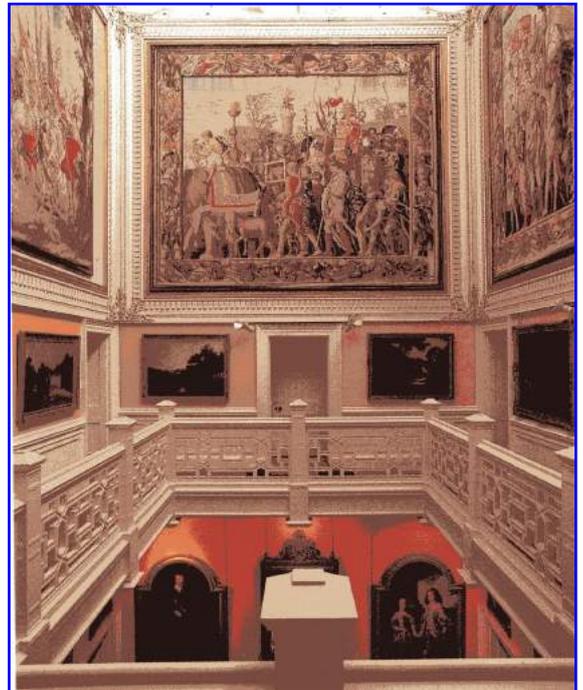
**Bowhill House** is the seat of the Dukes of Buccleuch. The original house, a two storey mansion with two linked pavilions to the south was built in about 1708. The owner at that time was John Murray, Lord Bowhill. The estate was bought by the 2nd Duke of Buccleugh in 1747, and it was his great grandson who, in 1812, commissioned William Stark to design a two storey villa to be fitted to the south front of the old house.

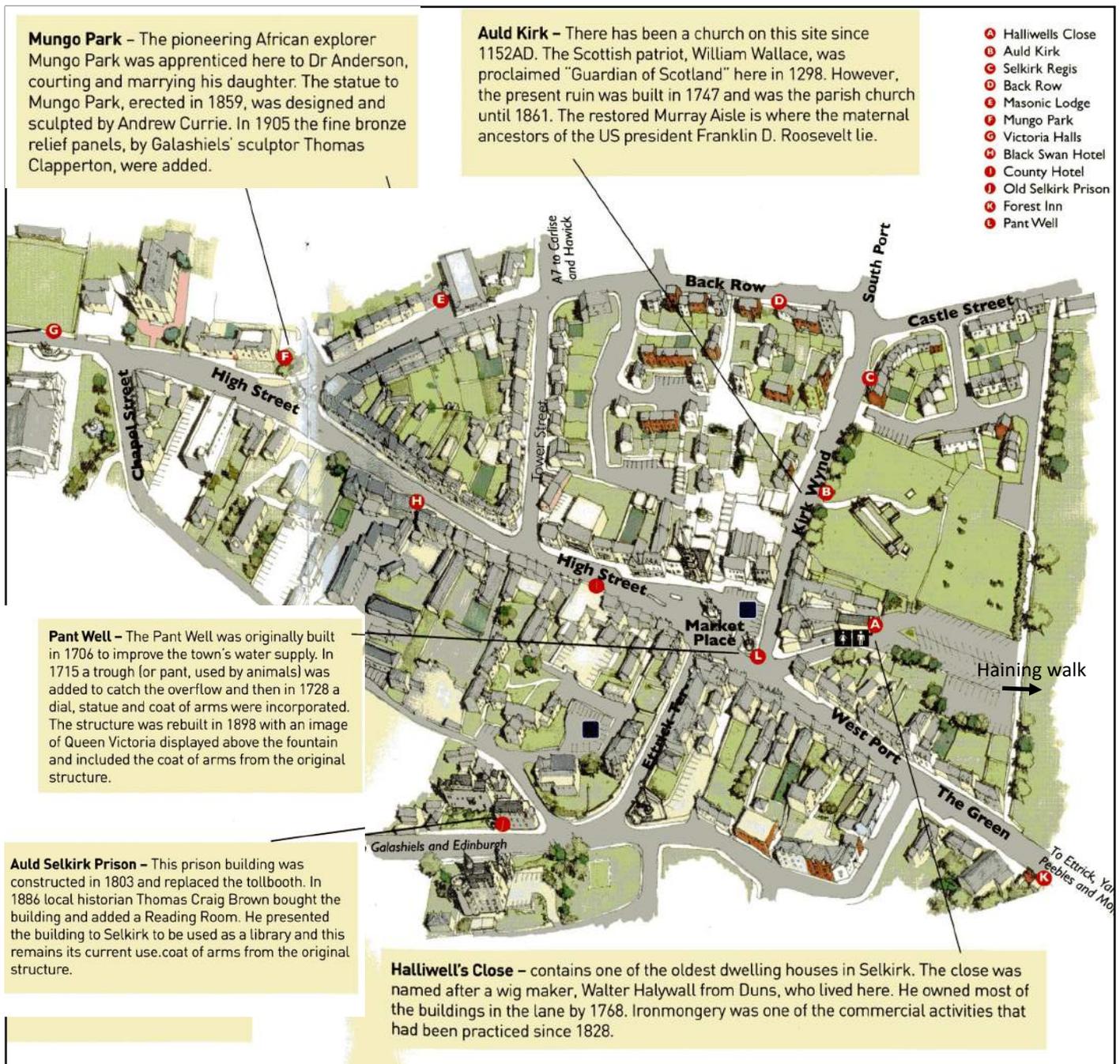
As soon as it was finished, William Atkinson, the architect of Abbotsford, was asked to design two long east and west wings. These were to replace the 18th century pavilions. In the event, the Duke died when only the west wing had been built.

Work started again in 1831 with the architect William Burn. The east wing was completed and the decision taken to move the main entrance from the south side to the north. This entailed rebuilding the 18th century house with an additional storey. A further major extension was made to the east in 1875-7.

The house today has an enormous, 437 feet, frontage and contains a fine art and furniture collection with paintings by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Van Dyke and Canaletto as well as Mortlake tapestries. There is also a room of memorabilia of Charles II's son the Duke of Monmouth, who was executed in 1685 after attempting to seize the throne. He was married to a Duchess of Buccleuch.

*The pictures show above the south front, top right the upper gallery of the gallery hall, and bottom right the dining room.*





**Mungo Park** – The pioneering African explorer Mungo Park was apprenticed here to Dr Anderson, courting and marrying his daughter. The statue to Mungo Park, erected in 1859, was designed and sculpted by Andrew Currie. In 1905 the fine bronze relief panels, by Galashiels' sculptor Thomas Clapperton, were added.

**Auld Kirk** – There has been a church on this site since 1152AD. The Scottish patriot, William Wallace, was proclaimed "Guardian of Scotland" here in 1298. However, the present ruin was built in 1747 and was the parish church until 1861. The restored Murray Aisle is where the maternal ancestors of the US president Franklin D. Roosevelt lie.

- Halliwells Close
- Auld Kirk
- Selkirk Regis
- Back Row
- Masonic Lodge
- Mungo Park
- Victoria Halls
- Black Swan Hotel
- County Hotel
- Old Selkirk Prison
- Forest Inn
- Pant Well

**Pant Well** – The Pant Well was originally built in 1706 to improve the town's water supply. In 1715 a trough (or pant, used by animals) was added to catch the overflow and then in 1728 a dial, statue and coat of arms were incorporated. The structure was rebuilt in 1898 with an image of Queen Victoria displayed above the fountain and included the coat of arms from the original structure.

**Auld Selkirk Prison** – This prison building was constructed in 1803 and replaced the tollbooth. In 1886 local historian Thomas Craig Brown bought the building and added a Reading Room. He presented the building to Selkirk to be used as a library and this remains its current use. coat of arms from the original structure.

**Haliwell's Close** – contains one of the oldest dwelling houses in Selkirk. The close was named after a wig maker, Walter Halywall from Duns, who lived here. He owned most of the buildings in the lane by 1768. Ironmongery was one of the commercial activities that had been practiced since 1828.

**Selkirk** is a small town grouped around a triangular Market Place. In the eighteenth century it had shoe making businesses and later, in the nineteenth century, it became a prosperous textile manufacturing town. The mills were based along Ettrick Water and there are still two there, with visitor centres, but it is a very steep walk back to the town centre!

Most of the buildings we can see today are of the nineteenth century. The High Street begins at the Market Place where the dominant building is the former Town House, now known as Sir Walter Scott's Courtroom. It was here that Scott presided as Sheriff for nearly 30 years. It is now a museum mainly geared to Scott and his association with the town. The building dates from 1803-4. The present court house, built 1868-70, is in Ettrick Terrace, near the prison which is now the library. Victoria Halls at the end of the High Street is in the French Renaissance style, built 1895-6. Within its grounds is an elegant fountain - unfortunately without any water.

Haliwell's House is a museum of the town and its history. Free entry. Besides the walk around the town, there is 1½ mile (about 1 hour) walk to Haining House and loch. The house was built in 1795 near the site of the old castle. Only a mound remains of the castle.