Melrose, Scottish Borders

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
  (Redirected from Melrose, Scotland)

Melrose (Scottish Gaelic: *Maol Ros*) is a small town and civil parish in the Scottish Borders, historically in Roxburghshire.[1] It is in the Eildon committee area.

Contents

- 1 Etymology
- 2 History
- 3 Sport
- 4 Festivals
- 5 Other events
- 6 Notable people
- 7 References
- 8 See also

Etymology

The town's name is recorded in its earliest form as *Mailros*, 'the bare peninsula' (Old Welsh or Brythonic), referring to the original site of the monastery, recorded by the Venerable Bede, in a bend of the river Tweed. The original monastery at Melrose is referred to in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle with the name *Magilros*.

In the late Middle Ages, when the monastery had been re-founded in its present position, its name was symbolically represented by the visual pun of a *mell* (mason's hammer) and a rose (symbolising the Virgin Mary, to whom all Cistercian abbeys were dedicated).

History

Melrose is the location of Melrose Abbey, originally founded by John Edgar and re-founded for the Cistercian order by David I in the early 12th century, one of the most beautiful monastic ruins in Great Britain. It is the site of the burial of the heart of Scottish king Robert the Bruce. An excavation was led to find a sealed casket, but it was not opened, and it was actually discovered by high school students involved in the dig. The casket was placed in a sealed lead cylinder, and was then re-buried in the abbey back at its proper resting place. The remains of the Abbey are cared for by Historic Scotland (open all year; entrance charge).

Melrose	
Scottish Gaelic: *Maol Ros*	
Scots: *Melrose*	

Melrose shown within the Scottish Borders

Population	1,671 *(2001)*
OS grid reference	NT5434
Council area	Scottish Borders
Lieutenancy area	Roxburgh, Ettrick and Lauderdale
Country	Scotland
Sovereign state	United Kingdom
Post town	MELROSE
Postcode district	TD6
Dialling code	01896
Police	Lothian and Borders
Fire	Lothian and Borders
Ambulance	Scottish
EU Parliament	Scotland
UK Parliament	Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk
Scottish Parliament	Roxburgh and Berwickshire
List of places: UK · Scotland	

Nearby is the Roman fort of *Trimontium*, and Dryburgh Abbey. Melrose is surrounded by the small villages of Darnick, Gattonside, Newstead, Lilliesleaf and Bowden.

Sport

Melrose is the birthplace of Rugby Sevens and also has a rugby union team, Melrose RFC. Melrose is an area where rugby union has always been the most popular sport.

Melrose Golf Club is a nine hole golf course situated on the edge of the town at the foot of the Eildon Hills.

Melrose Cricket Club (http://www.melrosecc.co.uk/) is situated next to Borders General Hospital at Huntlyburn.

Festivals

Every year in June, the week-long Melrose Festival takes place. This involves appointing a Melrosian who has lived in the town for most of his life; and a queen and her court are appointed from the local primary school, Melrose Grammar School.

Melrose is now host to the annual Borders Book Festival (http://www.bordersbookfestival.org/) which also takes place during June. The 2005 festival hosted guests including Michael Palin and Germaine Greer; Ian Rankin and Rory Bremner appeared in 2006.

Melrose Abbey

Other events

Melrose hosts the annual Eildon Two Hills Race, attracting many runners, and the Melrose Pipe Band Championships, attracting pipers from all over the world.

Notable people

- King Arthur is supposedly buried in the Eildon Hills, which overlook the town
- Craig Chalmers, rugby union footballer, capped 60 times for Scotland
- Keith Robertson (rugby union), rugby union footballer
- Sir Walter Scott's home Abbotsford House, lies a few miles west of the town
- Catherine Helen Spence (1825–1910), Australian author, teacher, journalist, politician and suffragette was born in Melrose, and left for Australia aged fourteen
- Jim Telfer, rugby union footballer and coach

A wall plaque at the Townhouse Hotel in Melrose, Scotland. Spence lived the first 14 years of her life in a building which is now part of the hotel.

References

1. ^ "Database: Melrose" (http://www.gaelicplacenames.org/databaseresult.php?redirect=true&keyword=Melrose&

lang=en) . *Gaelic Place-names of Scotland*. Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba. http://www.gaelicplacenames.org/databaseresult.php?redirect=true&keyword=Melrose&lang=en. Retrieved 31 October 2011.

See also

- Borders General Hospital
- Harmony Garden, a National Trust for Scotland garden in Melrose
- Priorwood Garden, also NTS
- List of places in the Scottish Borders
- List of places in Scotland