

Why conserve it? Heritage in danger



The stone when the project began

Gravestones depicting Adam and Eve were once common throughout the Lowlands of Scotland, but over the last 300 years numbers have dwindled. This is one of the earliest in Scotland and is the only known example in Peeblesshire. Probably carved by a local mason, the Lyne gravestone is a unique example of Scottish folk-art sculpture.

During the 1980s, the stone was covered with a perspex box and mounted on an unsuitable concrete plinth. Over time, the cover loosened and was scuffing against the stone in windy weather.

Lack of ventilation created a humid microclimate that encouraged the growth of mosses and lichens which damaged the stone. Salts and moisture passed from the soil into the stone through the less porous concrete base causing further harm.

How was it done? The project stages...

1 and 2

A graveyard survey was carried out. Details such as design, stone type, inscription and location were recorded for each stone, helping to build a picture of the history of the Kirkyard and putting the Adam and Eve stone into context.



3

Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation was commissioned to undertake the work on the stone. Carefully padded for protection, the stone was removed and taken to their studio in Edinburgh.



4

The base was carefully removed and the stone was steam cleaned and treated with a special fluid to reduce biological growths.



5

A poultice was applied three times to reduce salt levels and any cracks or fissures were filled in.



6

A new secure foundation was laid for the stone's return.



7

The stone was returned with a new sandstone base and toughened glass display case supported by a stainless steel frame. Gaps between the panels allow the free flow of air.



**LYNE KIRK
'ADAM & EVE' STONE**

Understanding the 'Adam and Eve' Stone

Lyne Adam and Eve stone is a beautifully carved early 18th century memorial to Jannet Veitch, the daughter of a local farmer. Her home 'Hamiltoune' is still visible on the hillside north-west of the Kirk. She died in 1712, aged only 16.



Post-reformation Scotland was a place of great religious fervour where stress was laid on Sin, Death and the Resurrection.

These three themes are all present on the Lyne stone:

- Original Sin is represented by the carving of the Fall of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden
- Symbols of mortality are placed above this scene - an inverted skull with the words MEMENTO MORI ('Remember you must die') and an hour-glass with FUGIT AETAS ('Time flies').
- Belief in eternal life is declared in the poignant verse beneath Jannet's inscription:

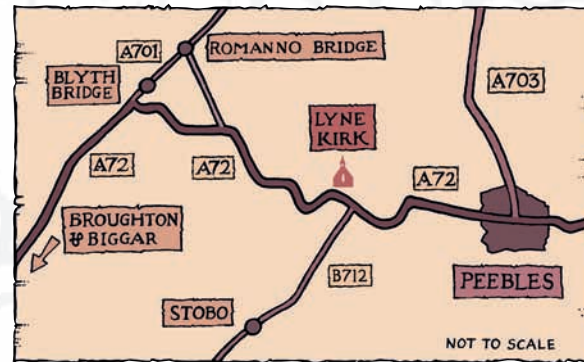
HERE/LYES JANNE(T)/VEITCH DAUGHTE(R)/
TO JOHN VEITCH/TENNENT IN HAMILTOUNE/
WHO DYED THE 31 OF JAN/
UARY 1712 AGED 16 YEARS/ & 6 WEIKS.

LIFE IS THE ROAD TO DEATH
AND DEATH HEAVENS GATE MUST BE
HEAVEN IS THE THRON OF CHRIST
AND CHRIST IS LIFE TO ME

Get involved!

Many of Scotland's graveyards are under-researched. Why not carry out a project to record your own graveyard? For tips on how to get started:

www.scottishgraveyards.org.uk



Directions

Lyne Kirk is four miles to the west of Peebles on the A72.

Further information

For more information about our project at Lyne visit Peeblesshire Archaeological Society's website at:

www.peeblesarchsoc.org.uk

The project was carried out with the assistance of Archaeology Scotland's Adopt-a-Monument Scheme. For more information visit:

www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Rev Nancy Norman and the congregation of Lyne & Manor Church; Scottish Borders Council; Helen Bradley (Archaeology Scotland Adopt-a-Monument Scheme) and everyone at Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation. The project was funded by Historic Scotland and The National Lottery through Awards for All.



GRACIELA
AINSWORTH



LYNE KIRK 'ADAM & EVE' STONE



What makes this gravestone special?

This stone is a fine example of a now rare type of memorial. Scottish graveyards are a treasure trove of social history, with stones that reflect the beliefs, ideas and trades of the time. Sadly, today many of these monuments have disappeared through neglect or vandalism.

Peeblesshire Archaeological Society decided to conserve this particular stone and explain its importance. Read on to find out more about the project...

