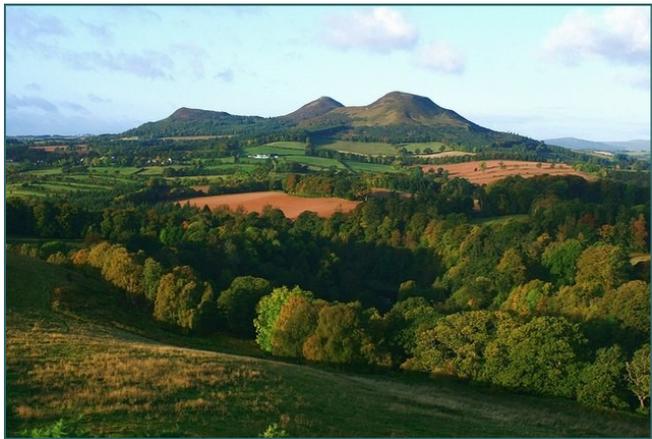




**ABBOTSFORD HOUSE**, the ancestral home of Sir Walter Scott, the 19th century novelist and poet of "Waverley", "Ivanhoe", and "Lady of the Lake". Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford remains today as one of the most famous houses in the world, it reflects, almost as no other place, the mind, enthusiasms and preoccupations of the man who built it. Constructed on the ample proceeds of a literary career without parallel, it is an enduring monument to the tastes, talents and achievements of its begetter. The stones of Abbotsford speak eloquently both of triumph and disaster.



**MELROSE, THE TWEED, THE EILDON HILLS**  
The three shapely summits of the Eildon Hills are perhaps the best known landmark in the Borders region. They make for a fine half-day hill walk from the attractive town of Melrose.

## HOW TO GET THERE

**MELROSE** perhaps the most picturesque town in the Scottish Borders, is easily accessible. Edinburgh (approx. 35 miles), Glasgow and Newcastle (approx. 70 miles) are all within striking distance.

Major routes: A1, A68, A7.

If you are travelling by bus, coach or train and would like further information please contact **traveline** on 0871 200 2233 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

**ABBOTSFORD** is only an hour south of Edinburgh by train or car, close to Melrose.

### By car

The postcode is TD6 9BQ for Sat. Nav. directions. **Train services** from Edinburgh Waverley to Tweedbank, roughly a mile from Abbotsford, run seven days a week and take just under an hour. Both, Tweedbank Station as well as the earlier stop at Galashiels Interchange, are served by the 'Border Weaver' bus service, taking only minutes and dropping off outside the Visitor Centre.

Alternative bus services stop at the Tweedbank roundabout, a short stroll from Abbotsford.

**Bus services** run from Edinburgh to Carlisle via Galashiels, taking just under 1.5 hours. Visitors can transfer to local buses as well as the 'Border Weaver' service at Galashiels Bus Station. Several local bus routes stop at Galafoot Bridge, 10 minutes walking distance via a public footpath to Abbotsford.

**Walking and cycle routes** are easy alternatives, with the walk from Tweedbank Station taking only 20 minutes. For a scenic riverside walk, you can take the Borders Abbeys Way.

### FROM MELROSE TO ABBOTSFORD HOUSE

by car 7 min (3.4 miles) via A6091

by bus 25 min line 60/61

on foot 52 min (2.5 miles)

by bicycle 20 min via B6394 and A6091



The Scottish Federation of Organists

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017**  
Friday 5th and Saturday 6th May



Hosted by BORDERS GUILD OF ORGANISTS





Dear all

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the 2017 SFO Conference in the Scottish Borders. ABBOTSFORD and MELROSE are our venues for this year's gathering, for which the Committee of the Borders Guild of Organists has prepared an exciting and varied programme.

On Friday we walk in the footsteps of Sir Walter Scott in Abbotsford House, his country estate next to the river Tweed.

An illustrated talk about Mendelssohn, with live performance of selected works sung by the Edinburgh-based vocal ensemble Cantica Alba, will see us assembled in Scott's library. The great Romantic composer also visited Abbotsford as part of his Scottish grand tour. A champagne reception, shared with the Friends of Abbotsford House, and dinner in the Ochiltree Restaurant in the grounds of Abbotsford will round off the evening.

On Saturday Melrose Parish Church will be our base for the day. The programme will include a presentation on Romantic music, focusing on Mendelssohn and his contemporaries, a vocal workshop with the voice tutor Frances Cooper, and preparation of our new Conference Anthem, which has been commissioned from the young Edinburgh composer Andrew Carvel. The SFO organ recital will be given by the renowned recitalist Paul Stubbings, Director of Music of St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Borders in May.

Brigitte Harris  
President, Borders Guild of Organists

## SFO ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017 PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY 5 MAY: THE BORDERS EXPERIENCE: SCOTT AND MENDELSSOHN, ABBOTSFORD HOUSE

- 3.00 Welcome in Ochiltree's Restaurant  
Abbotsford Visitors Centre  
Refreshments served
- 3.30 Guided Tour of House and Garden
- 4.45 Light refreshments available at Ochiltree  
Restaurant
- 5.15 Illustrated Lecture in the Library with Cantica  
Alba: Mendelssohn and the Romantic Spirit
- 7.00 Pre-dinner reception
- 7.30 3-course Dinner in Ochiltree Restaurant:  
Guest speaker Rev Ian Gilmour
- 9.30 Closure

**Price: £45**

**Please book early to avoid disappointment  
as numbers for dinner are limited**

### SATURDAY 6 MAY: MELROSE PARISH CHURCH

- 9.00 Dawn Chorus Singing  
Melrose Parish Church Sanctuary
- 9.45 Registration
- 10.00 Tea/Coffee & biscuits
- 10.30 Vocal Workshop: leader Frances Cooper
- 11.15 Rehearsal of the commissioned Conference  
Anthem
- 12.00 Talk by Michael Harris: Romantic Music -  
Mendelssohn and his contemporaries
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 AGM
- 2.45 Short rehearsal of Conference Anthem
- 3.00 Organ Recital by Paul Stubbings
- 4.15 Short act of worship  
singing of Conference Anthem
- 5.00 Tea/Coffee - closure of SFO conference

**Price: £40**

## BOOKING FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*We will hold your details on our database to enable us to inform you of our news and activities. None of the data that you give to us will be shared with any third party without your permission.*

*If you do not wish to receive such information please tick here*

I would like to book:

Fri 5 May \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) @ £45 £ \_\_\_\_\_

Sat 6 May \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) @ £40 £ \_\_\_\_\_

Total £ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques made payable to BORDERS GUILD OF ORGANISTS.

Please post to Sarah Brown, 16a Cross Street,  
Peebles EH45 8LE

For further information contact Eileen Merchant  
on 01968 673 634 or visit our website  
[www.bordersorganists.org.uk](http://www.bordersorganists.org.uk)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

