

**Ancestral Home of the Clan Armstrong
Press Release
Gilnockie Tower – Anniversary Weekend.**

Gilnockie Tower at Canonbie in the Anglo/Scottish Borderland is the ancestral home to the Clan Armstrong and is one of the finest examples of a Scottish 16th century tower house or pele tower. A Clan Armstrong stronghold and home to a Scottish legend, it stands in what became known as the Debateable Lands – so called because no one knew if they belonged to Scotland or England. The building has a chequered history but in 2015, the current owner, business man Colin Armstrong decided that he wanted to open the building to the public. He wanted the public to have an insight into life as it was in the 16th century. In addition he wanted to encourage tourism in the area. Extensive repairs have had to be carried out but in April 2018, the doors were opened to the public. The building is now a visitor centre featuring a fully refurbished replica 16th century tower house complete with furnished rooms and the Clan Armstrong museum. The building also houses a small coffee shop and a gift shop featuring many items associated with the Clan Armstrong.

Neil Armstrong, first Freeman of the Burgh of Langholm and first man to step on the moon is also remembered in a special exhibition within Gilnockie Tower. Neil Armstrong visited Gilnockie Tower on 11th March 1972. Among the many items on display in the Neil Armstrong Collection is an imprint of Neil Armstrongs ‘Moon Boot.’

Colin Armstrong came up with the idea that as Gilnockie Tower was 500 years old and that 2019 was the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, a celebration event should be held. The moon landing was on 20th July 1969 followed by the historical steps taken onto the moon on the 21st July 1969. To commemorate these historical events, a special anniversary weekend is taking place at Gilnockie Tower on the weekend of 20th and 21st July 2019. During that weekend there will be a re-enactment of 16th century life. There will be an array of craft skills being demonstrated as well as a replica 16th century village and an insight into how people lived at that time. There will also be musical entertainment, refreshments and a bar. Gilnockie Tower will be open to the public. A full programme of events is currently being assembled and it is hoped that this will be published no later than mid-May.

The event is open to the public. It is expected that many overseas visitors, especially those with ancestral connections to the Clan Armstrong will attend this momentous event. Early indications suggest that about 100 members of the Armstrong Clan Association of America will be in attendance. Enquiries about the event have also been made from Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It promises to be an eventful and enjoyable weekend.

CLAN ARMSTRONG CENTRE

Notice to Editors:

Should interviews be required they can be arranged by contacting the Gilnockie Tower Project Manager – Ian Martin.

Phone: +44(0) 13873 71373 and +44(0) 13873 71474

Mobile/Cell: +44(0) 7733 065587

Email: gt@gilnockietower.com

Website: www.gilnockietower.com