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# Trust preparing for reopening of public galleries



Trimontium crop marks from the north-east. Photo: The Trimontium Trust

IF you have enjoyed the current Netflix hit 'The Dig' then you will be interested to know that Melrose, Newstead, Galashiels and the wider Borders area will soon be home to a stunning new archaeological museum, a programme of dig events and activities, and an unparalleled display of Roman archaeological finds (writes Rob Longworth from the Trimontium Trust).

Rising above Melrose, home of The Trimontium Trust, stand the Eildon Hills. Eildon North with its imposing hillfort, ever watchful over the ancient landscape below, including the site of the Roman fort of Trimontium, at the eastern end of the village of Newstead.

The trust is currently busy preparing for the reopening of their stunning new museum development in the heart of Melrose this summer. The

new public galleries will explore the story of the Roman fort at Newstead, highlight the groundbreaking archaeological investigations undertaken by local Melrosian James Curie and examine the role of the local Iron Age population in the history of the Borders and beyond.

There are also strong links between the The Dig's lead characters and the rich post-war archaeological history and heritage of the Borders.

The Dig's principle characters of Stuart and Peggy Piggott were central to the post-war archaeology of the Borders. Stuart dug at Torwoodlee Broch in the early fifties while Peggy famously dug at Hownam Rings, Hayhope Knowe and Bonchester Hill after the war. The results of these digs stamped her name on the understanding of hillforts, for which the Borders are famous.

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## Opinion

John Lamont is the Conservative MP for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Selkirk...



I recently met with Greener Melrose, an environmental group, to discuss legislation that may soon come before the House of Commons. We met by Zoom after they got in touch with me.

I always do my best to meet with different groups from across the Scottish Borders if they want to chat to me about an issue close to their heart. Although I may not agree with them on all of their proposals, I know that it is really important for me to listen to voices from all backgrounds and all points of view in the area I represent.

As always, we had a lively discussion about their focus topic, protecting our environment. It is absolutely right that climate change and the environment are receiving evermore attention. I notice it in my mailbox. Importantly, when I talk to young people in schools it is always one of the first issues to

be raised. They know that if we want to protect our oceans, produce food sustainably and save the planet we need to change our ways.

This year, the eyes of the world will be on Glasgow as the UK hosts the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26.

This is a real opportunity for the world to come together and coordinate action to tackle climate change and treat it like the emergency it is. Heads of State, climate experts and campaigners will gather to try and find a common way forward.

It is right for the UK to exercise its diplomatic might to forge a way forward for our climate, and this is not only demonstrated by hosting

COP26. We were the first country in Europe to legislate for 'net zero' emissions by 2050. We are the first country in the world to introduce laws to ban the import of agricultural products that are grown on illegally deforested land. And we created the Global Ocean Alliance of countries calling for the protection of 30% of the world's ocean by 2030.

We are moving forward in tackling it at home too.

By 2024, coal power stations will be banned, ridding our energy productions from the dirtiest fuel.

The UK is also investing to support our offshore wind sector, which is not only producing clean energy, but providing high quality jobs in towns in our area, like Eyemouth.

There is still much more to do. And I know that groups like Greener Melrose will make their voices heard in pushing government of all levels to strive to do more even more quickly.

There is a huge challenge ahead. It is vital that as we recover from coronavirus, we build back better, but also build back greener.

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