



**Strathclyde Group: Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026**  
**Scottish Borders Gems**  
**From Renaissance to Classical**  
**Guided Tours to Mellerstain House & Floors Castle**



**AHSS**  
 THE ARCHITECTURAL  
 HERITAGE SOCIETY  
 OF SCOTLAND

Speaking for Scotland's Buildings

A day in the Scottish Borders by car to visit two outstanding properties of significant historical, architectural and cultural interest.

**Mellerstain House**

You should arrive at Mellerstain (TD3 6LG) by 11.00am prompt, where we shall start our visit with morning tea/coffee & scones, followed by a private guided tour.

A somewhat plain exterior, partly by William Adam, behind which are some of the most exquisite original untouched interiors by his son Robert.

The crowning glory of the library at Mellerstain is its plasterwork ceiling, still decorated in Robert Adam's green-and-white colour scheme and incorporating three painted medallions by Antonio Zucchi. There is a significant art collection including works by Van Dyck, Ruysdael, Gainsborough, Ramsay and other Old Masters. The Baillie family, Mellerstains' creators and now Earls of Haddington, still use the grand reception rooms to entertain – rooms that have scarcely changed since the 1770s.



**Floors Castle**

Following the visit to Mellerstain, we travel to Floors Castle (TD5 7RL) for a self-pay lunch. You can choose between the Courtyard Café or the Terrace Café or take a picnic. The guided tour will commence at 2.30pm.

Floors Castle, the home of the Dukes of Roxburgh, was originally designed in Palladian style by William Adam in 1721. By 1837, tastes had changed, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke commissioned William Playfair to remodel the castle into a fairy-tale palace with a roofscape so fantastical it can scarcely be believed. Turrets (there must be at least 70) stand in silhouette against the sky, with ogee caps resembling the tents of a medieval army.



*(Photographs: Wikipedia Commons).*

This huge mansion – Floors is reputedly the largest house in Britain, with 154 rooms and 365 windows – houses 17<sup>th</sup>-century Gobelin tapestries, paintings by Matisse, Bonnard, Oriental ceramics and French and English Furniture.

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The cost for the event is £55.00 per person, including morning coffee and guided tours.

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Book by Eventbrite or by post: include both an email address and a mobile number in case we need to contact you.

Early bookings for members are advised. Closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

- (1) For Eventbrite bookings, go to: <https://ScottishGems.eventbrite.co.uk>. There will be a booking fee payable to Eventbrite. Confirm your booking by sending an email to Hamish Macbeth attaching the booking form to your email or return the form by post to the address below.
- (2) Postal Bookings: Complete and return the form with your cheque.

For all bookings return the form to Hamish Macbeth, 3 Kirklee Quadrant, Glasgow G12 0TR or email to [piano.nobile@outlook.com](mailto:piano.nobile@outlook.com)

NAME(S): .....

ADDRESS: .....

POSTCODE:..... TELEPHONE(Day/Evening)..... Mobile:( ..... ) \*

EMAIL: .....

I confirm that I have made an on-line booking via Eventbrite for  place(s).

I enclose a cheque payable to STRATHCLYDE GROUP – AHSS for  place(s) for £