

# Norwegian Merrylees/Merrilees Visit Scotland – August 2017

## By Guri Utheim



We just got home from a wonderful journey in Scotland. There were 30 in our group of Merrylees/ Merrilees included partners, ranging from 13-80 years old. The trip was very well organized and everything went smooth and nice.

We arrived the afternoon of Thursday 3 Aug at Motel One in Princess street. A hotel which has a great location and easy access to all the main sights and shopping. We had a lovely welcoming and received our schedule information for the weekend before dinner.

Friday morning we started on our bus journey at 9am. Bill Merrilees, MFA Scottish Chief, enjoyed us during the bus journey. It was a pleasant meeting and we exchanged information from the family tree, and how we are related. He will send me some more information from the family tree. It is great to meet people from other country who have the same interest and are "related". We visited the Merrylees Cottages, where getting photos was a highlight, both of the stone cottages and the sign with the Merrylees name.



Then we had a guiding tour by The Binns, it was very enjoyable and interesting. There is so much history in that building, both local and national, it could for sure have been enough history/material for a movie or TV series. Both the youngsters and the grown up enjoyed it very well.



Then we went to East Lothian and East Linton. The village were our ancestor Adam Merrylees was born in 1731 and baptised 17 April 1732 in Prestonkirk Parish Church. We had a nice lunch at the Crown & Kitchen. We also visited the church with Minister David Scott was waiting for us. The musician family Baker were playing bassoon, trombone and bagpipe for us. It was such an emotional experience to be a part of that. To me the atmosphere was magic because of the great

Minister David Scott, who made us feel so welcoming, like coming home. He had a great humorous sense, told us the history of the church, explained the baptism ritual at the time Adam Merrylees was baptized and how the church looked at the time. We brought Norwegian gifts of salmon and chocolate to the Minister and the musician. And for Bill too.

That same evening we went to the Prestonfield House for dinner and a Scottish Show. It was a wonderful evening. The last evening we had in Edinburgh, we went to the Military Tattoo, it was also great!!!

The journey back to our ancestor birthplace and to Scotland went just fabulously.

