

APPLICATION FROM – SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL MUSEUMS AND
GALLERIES SERVICE (TWEEDDALE MUSEUM)
BRIEFING NOTE

In response to the continuation of the grant application by the Museums Service of Scottish Borders Council made to the Common Good Fund Sub Committee on 6th March 2013 for clarification as to the ownership of the paintings which were the subject of the application, I have carried out initial enquiries as to the status of these paintings.

The majority of the collection was in the Chambers Institution building when Tweeddale District Council put in staff to make an inventory of contents of the museum in that property in 1982-84. Evidence as to the history of the contents is not immediate and whilst it may be contained in the minute books, there are six volumes and the Service does not have the resources to carry out that research at present.

It can be said however that between 1859 and 1982 a collection was formed for the education/benefit of the people of Peebles and was housed in the Chambers Institution.

In addition a small number of paintings held within the collection were donated to Peeblesshire County Council, Tweeddale District Council and Scottish Borders Council and these are included among the ones requiring work.

Further clarification of the ownership of the collection will require more work which, within the time frame of the wider grant application which it is hoped to submit, is not feasible. The application to the Esmee Fairbairn Collection Trust represents a unique opportunity to access funding to carry out essential work on these paintings which will allow the display and interpretation of this historic collection for the benefit of the people of Peebles and enhance public access to the local heritage regardless of the ownership of the collection. The grant applied for to the Common Good Fund will allow preliminary work to go ahead to prepare an application for this funding.