

# FUND RAISING IN KELSO & DISTRICT

The people residing in Kelso and the surrounding area were quick to respond to the appeals for help to support those engaged in active service for the country. Initially the efforts were concentrated in the provision of “comforts” – including clothing, books and food to the Kelso Territorials and Reservists serving with the 4th K.O.S.B. This soon expanded to all Scottish wide aspects of appeals. Young and old alike contributed in whatever way they could.

## “Comforts for Soldiers”

The Ladies Guild of Kelso, formed in August 1914, worked tirelessly throughout the war to provide “comforts for the soldiers”. The comforts took the form of (providing) socks, mittens, flannel shirts, vests and other articles for the men in active service. Initially the group was formed from ladies living in Kelso but eventually they incorporated auxiliary groups from the surrounding villages and communities.

Among other similar groups who organised such provisions were – The International Organisation of Good Templars, The Kelso Branch of the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies, Church Groups, Needlework Guild, Bowling Club and Golf Club.

## Belgian Relief Fund

Germany invaded Belgium in early August 1914 with devastating consequences for the Belgian people. Many soldiers found refuge in the UK. There were a few soldiers billeted in a house in Roxburgh Street.

The Belgian Relief Fund was set up to provide hospitality to the refugees and to provide food, provisions and farming material to the people left behind in Belgium.

Fund raising concerts and other events were held regularly to provide funds for this cause. B.U.A.S. held “Free Gift Sales” throughout the war years which enabled them to donate agricultural materials and funds directly to the Belgians in Belgium and to the serving Belgian Soldiers.

### B.U.A.S. “Free Gift Days”

The Border Union Agricultural Society did not hold shows in the years 1915-1918 but instead held “Free Gift Sales” enabling them to make cash donations to – YMCA Huts Scheme, Belgian & Serbian Relief Funds, The Red Cross, Edenhall Hospital, Newton Don Hospital, Newington Hospital and the Kings Fund.

In addition they managed the collection and distribution of Scrap Metal.

### National Relief Fund, Princess Mary Relief Fund, Serbian Relief Fund etc.

These organisations and many others all benefited from National Flag Days, Concerts, Whist Drives, Domino Matches, and Garden Fetes etc.

### Egg Donations

Children and Schools were encouraged to coordinate the collection of eggs from Poultry Keepers and to donate them to local hospitals etc.

### Edenhall Hostel, Newton Don Hospital & the Cottage Hospital

Fund raising events and concerts were held almost on a weekly basis to assist in the running of the hospitals and to entertain the patients. Donations of food and dairy products etc. were made weekly.

### Red Cross, Scottish Hospital in the Front Line & Scottish Hospital Ships

All benefited from National Flag Days, Local fund raising at Concerts, Whist Drives, Domino Matches, Garden Fetes etc. as well as name days e.g. “Margaret Days” or “September Days”.