The Society for Folk Life Studies

**Annual Conference, 2022**

**Biggar, South Lanarkshire, Scotland:**

**8th to 11th September**

*\*\*Power to the people\*\**

The Society’s annual conference for 2022 will be held in Biggar. The theme of the conference has been inspired by the social and economic development of the area. It will examine the sources of power which drove the industrialization of Lanarkshire, from the Clydesdale horse to the Albion car and truck company and so much more. The conference sessions will be based in Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum, with excursions exploring the town and its environs and to the Wanlockhead lead mine and museum. The conference accommodation will be at the Kirk Style and Elphinstone hotels.

Biggar is a thriving town in the Southern Scottish Uplands lying between the river Clyde and the river Tweed. Occupied since Mesolithic times, the present-day High Street (A 702) follows the line of a Roman road. In the 12th century the Normans came to the area. Built around 1150CE there are remains (you’ll need your magnifying glass though!) of the motte and bailey castle in the town, which belonged to Baldwin of Biggar who had emigrated from Flanders in France. Biggar was made a burgh of barony in 1451 which allowed it to hold a market on Thursdays and the town has retained its medieval layout of a wide road running through the centre to allow markets and fairs to be held, with closes running to parallel back streets and buildings with long gardens. The town prospered in the 18th and 19th centuries. During this time a number of banks opened, fairs were held each year, the Gasworks was established, the rat-infested Meal House was replaced with the Corn Exchange and a new parish school was built. Most of all, Biggar's prosperity was helped by the coming of the railway in 1860. Large country houses became a feature in and around the town. The railway made a daily journey to Glasgow easy for industrialists, professionals and trades people alike.

Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum opened to visitors in 2015. It has a gallery illustrating the history of the area from early times up to the 20th century, a street of shops recreated from the town and furnished from the collection, and a special exhibition room which can house items loaned from national collections.

If you wish to attend this year’s conference, please complete the application form attached and send it **by 30 June 2022** with **a non-returnable deposit of £100**, to:

The Conference Secretary (Steph Mastoris)

National Waterfront Museum,

Maritime Quarter, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3RD, Wales, UK.

**The closing date** for all bookings is **8th August 2022** and final payment will be required by this date.

The cost of attending the whole conference will be:

* **£420** per personwith accommodation and meals for **single occupancy of a room.**
* **£370** per person with accommodation and meals for **two people sharing** **a room.**
* **£240 per person with meals but NO accommodation**
* **Day rates** for the conference (**with lunch and dinner, but NO accommodation**) are available:
  + **£80 EACH DAY** for Friday 9th and Saturday10th September

**BOOKING FORM**

The Society for Folk Life Studies

**Annual Conference**

**Biggar, South Lanarkshire, Scotland:**

**8th to 11th September 2022**

I/We wish to attend the 2022 annual conference:

Name/s: ………………………………………..........................................................

Address: ……………………………………………………………….....................

………………………………………………............................................................

Telephone: ……………………..... E-mail: ………………………………………..

I/We understand that the total cost of the conference will be:

WITH ACCOMMODATION: **£420** for single occupancy of a room

**£370** per person for two people sharing a room

Please indicate your preferred hotel (the conference organiser will book your room)

Kirkstyle Hotel www.kirkstylehotel.com/

or

Elphinstone Hotel www.elphinstonehotel.co.uk/

WITHOUT ACCOMMODATION: **£240** per person

DAY RATES (with lunch and dinner, but NO accommodation) are available at:

* + **£80** EACH DAY for Friday and Saturday 9th & 10th September.

Please book ….. place(s) with / without accommodation and I/we enclose a non-returnable deposit of £100 per person.

I understand that the remainder of the conference fee will be due for payment **by** 8th **August 2022.**

Dietary requirements: ……………………………………………………………..

Mobility requirements: …………………...............................................................

***Please return this form with payment or notification of BACS transfer to:***

**Steph Mastoris**

**National Waterfront Museum,**

**Oystermouth Road, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3RD**

([steph.mastoris@museumwales.ac.uk](mailto:steph.mastoris@museumwales.ac.uk))

Please pay either

by **cheque,** payable to *The Society for Folk Life Studies,*

or

**UK BACS transfer** to the Society’s bank account:

Sort code: 40-35-18 Account number: 11226363

**International transfer details:**

Account No: GB61HBUK40351811226363; Branch code: HBUKGB4108N

*(Please identify the transfer as ‘Conference 2022 + [your surname]’)*