

New Hawick statue celebrates Turnbull origins

By Mark Entwistle
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A STATUE costing £100,000 is to mark the town's links with the famous Borders family, the Turnbolls.

Sculpted by Galashiels artist Angela Hunter, the larger - than-life statue depicts William of Rule 'turning' an angry bull to save the life of Robert the Bruce, said to have occurred in 1313.

It was commissioned by the Hawick born Turnbull Clan Association -formed 30 years ago this year – and will be erected outside the new Heritage Hub at Hawick. On a visit this summer, the group will spend the majority of the time in the Borders but also plan to visit



Stirling, where William of Rule 'turned the bull' and saved the life of King Robert the Bruce, so leading to the origin of their famous name. As reward for his deed of bravery, William of Rule was knighted Sir Turn e Bull and granted lands at Bedrule – it is this heritage that the Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) wants to commemorate in Hawick.

The £100,000 statue has been funded entirely by the TCA, although the Heart of Hawick project has confirmed it is funding the plinth it will rest on, which is expected to be situated in the courtyard to the left of the Hub building. The project is the brainchild of president Wally Turnbull who runs the USA branch of the group from his home in North Carolina. When visiting the site recently, Wally commented: "The monument will be an illustration to be enjoyed by those who know the story, and an enticing invitation to be investigated by those who do not. It will provide a strong pull towards the Heritage Hub and Genealogy Center."