



## Gullane and Dirleton History Society



Newsletter 38

March / April 2017

Dear Member,

### **Curling in East Lothian.**

The full house that attended the lecture by David Affleck at Dirleton were treated to a presentation on the history of curling, curling clubs and the political machinations within them. The Dirleton Curling Club, substantial parts of whose pond are still extant, was supported by Rev. Kerr well known for his books on curling and golf. He was also minister at Dirleton. The minister of Gladsmuir, Rev John Ramsey, suffered at the hands of his curling club officers. It is surprising perhaps that players of this sport often including ministers of the kirk should be condemned for playing on a Sunday from the pulpit in Gullane in 1912!



Where did curling take place in Gullane? It is recorded as being played on a flooded tarmac surface. Did this surface come to be used later as a tennis court? We will give you an answer as soon as we find out.

Should you want to find out more about curling pond sites in East Lothian and indeed Scotland I recommend this website which provides an interactive Google map from which details and pictures can be accessed.

<https://sites.google.com/site/historicalcurlingplaces/home/scottish-curling-places>

### **The AGM of your Society.**

Once a year your Officers and Committee place before you an annual report and accounts. This is a chance to hear about the activities of your Society and particularly of those individuals who by quietly beavering away in the background enable the Society to achieve its aim of promoting the study of local history.

There will be information on the plans for the future and the speakers we are engaging to lecture in the next winter season.



Once the business is over Bill Nimmo will make a short presentation on last year's archaeological digging in Dirleton and there will be a display of many of the artefacts uncovered. Why not mull over, and share reminiscences of these objects whilst having a tea or coffee.

### **The website.**

We are fortunate to have a website under the umbrella of East Lothian Council Heritage Department. This has been a bit neglected recently due to upgrading by the Council. The operating system has been changed which has provided your webmaster with a steep learning curve yet to be fully mastered. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Michael (Thomson)