



# Gullane and Dirleton History Society



Newsletter 53

May 2019

Dear Member,

## The Outing.



The History Society outing to the Cousland Smithy project is just over two weeks away. This venue doesn't seem to have been so popular as previous places of interest.

I am assured that the smithy will be in action so if you are contemplating attending send in your name soon to [michael.thomson2@talktalk.net](mailto:michael.thomson2@talktalk.net) or ring 01620 843310.

## Outside activities.

During the warmer more clement days of summer there are plenty of opportunities locally to explore historical sites or try your hand at digging into the past.

The decaying Black Bull Close area in Dunbar is the scene of investigation and recording before the evidence of past Dunbar is lost for ever. You can lend a hand in unlocking the secrets of this site. Ring 07534 304789 or visit [www.the-ridge.org.uk](http://www.the-ridge.org.uk) for more information.

**Historic Scotland** runs Dirleton and Tantallon castles. Both are well worth a visit. Or try the new exhibition at the **Coastal Communities Museum** in North Berwick. Its youth activities display entitled 'Teenage Kicks' is full of memories for those who were growing up in the years between the end of the war and 2015.

Look out for the programme for **Archaeology Fortnight** in eptember which features talks, walks, demonstrations and events.

East Lothian has plenty of history. Examine it, explore it, enjoy it.

## The last lecture and AGM.

Those of you who heard about the Prestonpans waggonway will know what an interesting lecture this proved to be even though the Trust struggled to provide a speaker as they battled with unavailability and illness. It is difficult to imagine that the waggonway, used for moving coal, was in place before the battle of Prestonpans in 1745. The fearsome highlanders must have charged across the rails to rout the English government troops.



At the AGM Bill Nimmo had collected a selection of odd items to test the knowledge of members and in addition some quiz pictures were displayed on the walls. Members enjoyed the challenge.

This is an army knife bearing the upward pointing WD arrow on the blade.

Michael (Thomson)