



Gullane and Dirleton History Society



Newsletter 58

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Dear Member,

Losing stalwart members...

The Society has lost several long serving and active members recently through death. Many of you will know that Jim Sinclair, the immediate past Chairman of the Society passed away on New Year's Day. He provided the steady hand on the helm at the time of the stabilization of the St Andrew's church ruin in Gullane dealing expertly and doggedly with the bureaucracy of Government and charitable organisations. His drive and enthusiasm, along with that of others no longer with us, is what keeps up the Society's profile in fulfilling its aims of recording, informing and promoting the study of local history. We miss them.

Jim's funeral is at Warriston Crematorium on Friday 10th January at 2pm.

...and the need to replace them.

Active members are the life blood of the Society and it needs a transfusion. Gratitude is due to some recent new members who are contributing to the running of the Society but more will be welcome. It behoves all of us to talk to friends and acquaintances, particularly those of less mature years, extolling the activities and achievements of the Society and the need for new blood.

The Society's archive.



Most of you will be aware that the Society maintains an archive of local interest contained in documents, maps, books, scrapbooks, photographs and digital material. Under the guidance of the Society's archivist, Anne McCarthy, a small group of enthusiasts carries out the painstaking tasks of sorting, listing and storing this information as well field enquiries by local historians and those further afield.

It is an impressive source of information on local history but it is under threat because the building in which the archive is

stored may be undergoing a change of use forcing the Society to find a new home. Accommodating cabinets, files, albums, books, flat packed maps and other bulky material locally and where maintenance can be continued is a difficult ask.

Your committee will be formulating a strategy to address this crisis but any ideas from members on available space will be welcome.

This year's outing.

An outing for Society members is arranged each year. This year it was hoped that a tour of Colstoun House could be arranged to follow on from the lecture on the Marquess of Dalhousie on 23rd January but this has proved difficult to organize. Some of you will remember the lecture last season on the Waggonway project at Cockenzie. The Trust organizes open days in the summer when their museum, current archaeological investigations and a demonstration of salt panning is available for viewing.

Details of a tour for members will be circulated in due course.

Michael (Thomson)