



Gullane and Dirleton History Society



Newsletter 60

March / April 2020

Dear Member,

History in the making.

The current national crisis due to the spread of coronavirus will surely be recorded in history. The advent of social distancing and isolation is profoundly affecting the way we live. Rather than writing letters, meeting face to face or attending lectures there will be more reliance on electronic communication. The rise of e-mail, Skype, Whatsapp, smartphones, shopping on line, working from home, services and sermons by U-tube seems inevitable and not only temporarily.

It is an opportunity however for the effects of these changes on the local area to be recorded in documents and photographs. Whilst the villain, the coronavirus can not be pictured its effects on deserted streets, closed shops and displays of public notices would be worth tucking away for posterity and future research. Your Society with its archive is well placed to take in such historical material. If something catches your eye locally which epitomises the current emergency think 'Gullane and Dirleton History Society'.

The AGM and beyond.

How else does all this affect your Society? Most of you know that the last lecture by Roy Johnstone had to be cancelled. He was very sanguine about this and will be willing to fill a lecture slot in the future.

It has become apparent that the **AGM on April 2nd** will not take place. A decision on the **outing on April 22nd** will come later. The loss of the AGM presents your officers with a dilemma since it is a requirement of the Charities Commission that an annual report and independently examined accounts are prepared and sent to them. Happily these have been prepared and signed off by your Treasurer, Chairman and independent examiner. Your committee has agreed their content electronically.

It is proposed to seek your approval electronically or by post in lieu of an AGM. Those of you for whom the Society have an e-mail address will receive pdfs of the annual report and accounts with this newsletter, similarly by post to those without electronic means of communication.

Please feel free to send any comments, corrections or suggestions before **April 16th** to michael.thomson2@talktalk.net or 01620 843310 or 26, Erskine Road, Gullane, EH31 2DQ.

Before the storm.



The last public appearance of your Society took place at the Heritage Gathering at Cousland on Saturday 14th March. There was a stand depicting its activities and that of the Coastal Communities Museum in North Berwick. A short presentation was made entitled 'Promoting local history'. There were interesting talks by other organisations outlining what they do or have done. A last fling of networking and social intercourse took place as the storm clouds of the international threat loomed.

In your isolation, stay safe.

Michael (Thomson)