

Gullane and Dirleton History Society

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Dear Member,

The virtual AGM

The good number of members 'attending' the AGM last week heard that in spite of the current pandemic restrictions, the Society thrives with sound finances, encouraging membership numbers and continuing book sales. Whilst the on line lecture programme had been very popular the loss of group activities was keenly felt. No outing has been arranged for this summer but your officers will keep an eye on the loosening of lockdown to see if anything can be organised at short notice. Meanwhile a further programme of lectures for the winter of 2021 / 2022 is being arranged.

Over the summer it will still be possible to access electronic sources of information on local and distant historical subjects. The links are repeated from the last newsletter below.

<http://eastlothianheritage.co.uk/gullanedirletonhistory/> The Society's website

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/gullanenews/> The Gullane village Facebook page

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/156128654829633/> Dirleton village Facebook page.

<https://www.slhf.org/newsletter> The Scottish Local History forum website.

The Scottish Local History Forum is running a free online mini-conference entitled '**Scotland's Involvement in Slavery – the local view**' on two evenings **28th and 29th April 2021**. For more information and to register please go to <https://www.slhf.org/event/online-mini-conference-scotlands-involvement-slavery-local-view>

Ancient Dirletonians?



Some of you will know that as a preliminary to the building of new houses to the east of Dirleton Castle an archaeological survey was carried out which involved the digging of exploratory trenches. These revealed evidence of old post holes arranged in circles and have been tentatively identified as remains of iron age dwellings. The archaeology company AOC have taken many samples of earth to analyse for charcoal which would be possible to carbon date. It would appear however that Dirleton was inhabited by

early man long before the castle was built.

I came, I tried, now I go.

I assumed the chair of the Society in April 2013 taking over from Jim Sinclair, my distinguished predecessor who had guided the Society's big project to stabilise the St Andrew's kirk ruin in Gullane to a successful conclusion. His was a difficult act to follow but I have tried to move the Society forward in meeting its aims of promoting local and more distant history to the locality. There may not have been any standout event during the years of my chairmanship but there have been many moments of inspirational lectures, fun archaeological digs, companionable outings and well received exhibitions.

It is time, however for me to step aside to allow fresh thinking and renewed enthusiasm. I shall be vacating the chair of your Society at the AGM in 2022.

Michael (Thomson)