

Gullane and Dirleton History Society

Scottish Charity number SC037547 **Number 71** December 2021



Dear Member,

Business as usual?

Wariness still abounds but your committee, who met this week feel that the New Year is a time to test nerves in as a responsible way as can be devised. An experiment of a hybrid meeting is planned for the lecture on January 12th which will be delivered by Sandra Goodswen live but also on Zoom in Gullane Hall. There will be appropriate social distancing and mask wearing in place. Details will be circulated to you after Christmas but opinions either before or after this trial will be welcome.



Meanwhile it is pleasing to announce that following the technological hitch for the last lecture Carol Tweedie will be delivering her talk entitled **'Living close to the edge – Fair Isle in the 19th century'** on **Thursday 2nd December at 7.30 pm** on Zoom only.

Supporting the Society...

At the committee meeting this week it was noted with satisfaction that the finances of the Society were healthy and that membership numbers had held up well in spite of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. It was pointed out however that the Society's unavoidable expenses (insurance, hire of venues, speaker fees etc.) were now more than the income from membership subscriptions and donations.

...by continuing your membership...

Re-newing membership of the Society is much appreciated but if you are one of those yet to continue your financial support of the Society the Treasurer or Membership Secretary will be pleased to hear from you. It only requires you to fill in a **membership form** a copy of which comes with this newsletter. Please send these to Esther Sharpley, 9 West Fenton Gait, Gullane. EH31 2HS or e-mail them to Margaret McSorley at margaret4mcsorley@gmail.com

...or buying the Society's books...

Due mainly to the prolific output of the Society's author, George Simpson the sale of publications bolsters the Society's finances. Christmas is coming and while your goose supplier might be under pressure to deliver the Society's books are in stock and available at a number of outlets in Gullane and North Berwick as well as from the Society's website at Gullane and Dirleton History Society



...or why not visit the **Dirleton Green Christmas Fair on Sunday 12th December from 1100 to 1500** where the Society's books will be on display and available for purchase.

Archaeology Conference.

This year's conference was held on line with a series of presentations of archaeological projects which have taken place in spite of the pandemic related restrictions. The talk which may have been of most interest to members was that of the discovery of evidence of prehistoric dwellings on the land to the east of Dirleton Castle shortly to be covered with houses. Post holes in a circular arrangement were identified and once carbon dating of samples has been carried out the project could be the subject of a lecture.

Another member who will be missed.

We are saddened by the passing of David Robinson another stalwart member of the Society. David was a very able worker on the Society's archive particularly in the meticulous filing of photographs. He and his wife Beryl were a part of golden era of the Society's activities and we shall miss them both.

It only remains for me to wish you a happy and Covid free Christmas and I look forward to meeting many of you 'in the flesh' in the New Year.

Michael (Thomson)