

NEWSLETTER

Gullane and Dirleton History Society

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The 2023/24 programme of talks was very successful, with good attendance at meetings. The February event, concerning the impact of WW2 on East Lothian, was particularly well received, with standing room only for some. A new sound system, introduced and managed by Eric Thomson, has enabled members to enjoy presentations more fully.

The summer outing to North Berwick's Coastal Communities Museum was a great success. Michael Thomson, Bill Nimmo and several of the Museum volunteers were on hand to guide members round the interesting exhibits. Lunch was then provided at the Glen Golf Course, with its magnificent view across Milsay Bay.

Dirleton Summer Fete was blessed with fine weather and the Society stand was particularly busy. Bill Nimmo's quiz, centred on a display of old photographs attracted much attention.

Michael Thomson has resigned as Chairman of the Society, having performed that role admirably for many years. His departure leaves a huge gap to fill in many aspects of the Society's organisation. Fortunately, Michael will continue to work on the Society's archive. His resignation was formally announced at the AGM, at which time Bill Nimmo made a speech in appreciation of Michael's valuable contribution over the years and presented a pair of framed historic maps.

Unfortunately, the position of chairperson remains vacant. In the short term, the committee members have agreed to accept that responsibility on a rotating basis.

Furthermore, we require the services of an audio-visual guru to assist, particularly, with visual aspects of our meetings. This is vitally important to ensure that our speakers can continue to use projected illustrations to augment their presentations. The current committee feels it lacks the necessary IT skills and hopes that someone with such expertise can offer some assistance.

As we begin to plan for the 2025/26 session, we urge members to inform us of any speakers who might be willing to speak to the group in the future. We are particularly interested in people willing to speak about East Lothian topics.

And finally, if any members have copies of the book "Dirleton, Stories and Reminiscences" by John Fergie, which they no longer need, the committee would be pleased to accept these, since this book is now out of print and we feel it would be of interest to newcomers to the area. The Committee is always happy to accept copies of old photographs of the Gullane and Dirleton area, should you come across something that you might feel would be of interest for the future. Photographs can be scanned and returned quickly, so we are not asking for treasured snaps! We also bring to your attention the current display of old photographs in North Berwick Shops which will no doubt stimulate memories for many.