

# ARTEFACTS!

The newsletter of Dalkeith History Society and Dalkeith Museum



Issue 1: February 2019

## ABOUT US

Dalkeith History Society exists to promote an understanding of, and research into, the history of Dalkeith.

The annual membership subscription is currently £5.00

Our meetings are held on the second Monday of the month in Dalkeith Baptist Church, North Wynd starting at 7.30 pm.

Non-members are welcome to come along - for a contribution of £2.00.

Over the years the History Society has built up a fascinating collection of artefacts reflecting the local history and heritage of the area. Items from this collection are displayed in Dalkeith Museum.

Dalkeith History Society is a registered charity - No. SC045434.

## OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman Norman Brett

Secretary Brian Scott

Treasurer Norma McNeill

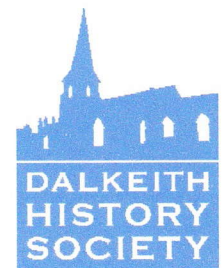
## WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for supporters of the Dalkeith History Society (DHS) and Dalkeith Museum. We plan to issue a biannual newsletter to give you:

- updates from the DHS Committee
- news and developments at Dalkeith Museum
- information on upcoming events.

## UPDATE FROM DHS COMMITTEE

Members of the committee have been working closely with Sharon McIntosh and representatives from Midlothian Council on the erection of a commemorative plaque dedicated to local hero, James Stagg.



Group Captain Stagg was the chief meteorological officer for Operation Overlord and notably persuaded General Eisenhower to change the date of the D-day landings from 5<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. This year will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-day landings. Details on the unveiling of the plaque will follow later.

Our History Society Secretary, Brian Scott's book on the history of railways in the local area was published last year. *Early Railways of Dalkeith* explains the history of east Midlothian's rail network while delving deep into the coal-mining heritage of the area. The book is currently on sale at Dalkeith Museum and at Eskbank Trading (Costcutter) priced £7.00.

The History Society/Dalkeith Museum website is currently under development.

## THE DHS PROGRAMME 2018 - 2019

We are now half way through our current programme of talks by guest speakers. The talks have been well received.

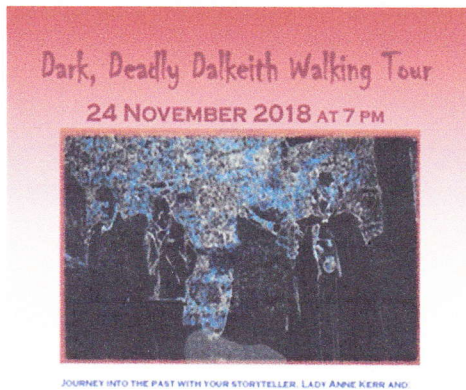
Here is a reminder of the programme for the current session.

- |                           |                                                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February | Women Pilots of World War II (R Johnstone)             |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> March    | 'Bridgescapes' – History of Scottish Bridges (B Keith) |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> April     | Buccleuch Estates (Cameron Manson)                     |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> May      | AGM (Plus Local Topic)                                 |





Around 660 visitors came to our WWI exhibition



## MUSEUM OPENING HOURS IN WINTER (until the clocks change)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday  
– 10.00am to 3.00pm\*  
(Thursday opening 10.15am)

The museum is open on the first  
Saturday of each month from  
10.00am to 3.00pm\*

\*In Summertime we will be open  
until 4.00pm.

Guided tours for groups can be  
arranged on request.

## CONTACT US

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Email: [museums@dalkeithcx.org](mailto:museums@dalkeithcx.org)

## DALKEITH MUSEUM NEWS

### UPDATE ON RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Museum staged an exhibition on Dalkeith in the First World War which was unveiled at Doors Open Day on 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

Members of the History Society played a major role in pulling the exhibition together, researching into the effect of the war on life in the town and sourcing items for display.

We are grateful to individuals who kindly loaned items for this exhibition.

Gill Arbuthnott, author of *The Secret Diary of the First World War*, gave an illustrated talk on the research for her book based on the diaries of James Marchbanks, a boy soldier from Dalkeith. Gill had visited the museum and spoken to History Society members as part of her research. She had been visiting schools to talk to children about her book and told us it made a change for her to have an adult audience.

The Dark and Deadly Dalkeith walking tours conducted by Rae McGhee and Norman Brett were very popular – all three were sold out. The evenings were rounded off with more dark tales at the museum and refreshments were served by museum volunteers.

### EXHIBITION NEWS

We are currently planning a small exhibition commencing in February 2019: This will feature:

- carpet making at Widnell and Stewart and
- china souvenir ornaments stamped with the Dalkeith crest.

**Can you help?** We do have several suitable items in our collection that we will bring out of storage. However, if you have any artefacts relating to the above topics you would be willing to lend for exhibition, please speak to a member of the History Society Committee.

In June, an exhibition will feature local heroes. This will coincide with the unveiling of the plaque dedicated to James Stagg.

### FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

We are delighted to report that Dalkeith Museum is now working towards formal accreditation with Museums Galleries Scotland. To gain accreditation, we must demonstrate that we meet certain quality standards. We have been allocated a mentor, Ross Irving, who will be guiding us through this process.

### VOLUNTEERING AT THE MUSEUM

The museum is run entirely by volunteers. If you would be interested in helping please call in for a chat and pick up an application form, or call the museum on 0131 663 4683.

