

## Editorial

The Charette process, although perhaps rather hurried in its conception, may well be the blueprint for development of the villages and by that we do not mean expansion. There is little doubt that the villages have somewhat rested on their laurels over the last couple of decades, retaining the traditional seaside resort of warm summers on the beach and inexorable golf. In many respects as we have said before the development of the facilities and the villages' infrastructure has often been demand-led rather than pre-planned.



## Making a difference

There is now an opportunity to make some difference to the villages but how should these differences be focused. Should we be looking to provide more facilities for the casual visitor, should we be concentrating on providing more permanent facilities for residents or should we just be looking at upgrading some of the existing facilities – or indeed a combination of them all. We could take the traditional line of not wishing to open up too much to casual visitors. Parking is impossible as it is without encouraging more. There has been a noticeable increase in weekend short stay visitors in the last 12 months, influenced by there being 275 properties as listed on the Airbnb website. Long weekends off season have resulted in an increase in the use of catering facilities – who wants to cook in someone else's kitchen. This is more likely to be the trend and perhaps the villages should be offering more in the way of activities for the off-peak visitor. A brisk walk along the beach in exacting weather is only sustainable for one day of the weekend.

## Themed weekends

Should we not be looking at increasing the indoor facilities for visitors with weekend films shows, small touring plays or ensembles for the Town Hall or church hall or themed week ends. We should, of course, be trying to make the villages more attractive to the casual visitor by maintaining the environment but we also have to encourage more visitors to appreciate the joys of this place.

## Ramp at Toft

This question rumbles on. There is a move to put some sort of barrier across the pathway at the end of the front gardens in the Toft which is used as a pedestrian access route to harbour beach. It is difficult to establish that it is a right of way, but it has been in use for a long time as an access point and at one time Fife Council had constructed a disabled ramp to enable wheelchairs easier access to the beach. It may be that compromise could be reached whereby there is an openable gate there which will reduce the flow and sand but not of pedestrians.



## Seminar 8 February

Elie and Earlsferry Community Collaborative Ltd (Comcol)

held a seminar at the Sailing Club on 8<sup>th</sup> February. The idea was to explore the various initiatives that might have come out of the charette process and find out whether any of them were likely to gain some support. There were about 30 attendees representing various organisations locally, although competing with the Calcutta Cup match meant some important players were absent. The seminar consisted of a number of short presentations which are more fully reported elsewhere in this issue.

The chairman, Graham Meacher, outlined the structure and scope of the seminar and Comcol's involvement in various projects in the village. David Brown of the Crail Community Partnership explained what Crail had done since their charette; it was clear that they had produced a Community Place Plan, outlining what the village wanted in the way of development and especially the parameters within which any development would be welcomed.

Fife Coast & Countryside Trust explained the new trial arrangements for campervans at Ruby Bay. The meeting was also brought up to date with the Earlsferry Town Hall project and the progress being made with the feasibility of a Community Asset Transfer. Continued support from the village would certainly be of help.

Graham Johnston introduced the History Society's project for a Golf Heritage Trail and Museum to recognise the significant contribution of the "Ferryman" in developing the popularity of golf between 1850 and 1920. Graham Meacher then outlined plans that the Environmental Action Group (EAG) had for Toll Green enhancements. The Community Buy Out of the Toll Green Hall, if it went ahead, would be the jewel in the crown.

Ronnie Sinclair, chairman of the Harbour Trust, then

outlined improvement plans for the harbour area to make it more visitor-friendly by increasing the facilities on offer. The seminar then split into groups to discuss these projects. Generally speaking, the impression was that it was a worthwhile venture but that none of these initiatives would ever make progress without people from the village taking an active part in them. So, the reports later about the plans are very much open to feedback from the village and Comcol would encourage views from the community.

**You can contribute online at Comcol's new website:**

[www.elieandearlsferry.co.uk](http://www.elieandearlsferry.co.uk)

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## Blast, icy or otherwise, from the past

**From the department of "Aye Right" comes this newspaper report of 1915:**

### *MIXED HOUSEBREAKING AT EARLSFERRY.*

*Mary Gordon and Jemima Cameron, from Earlsferry, and George Murray, a soldier located at Elie, were charged at Cupar to-day with having broken into Prospect Cottage. German's Wynd, Earlsferry, and stolen a pillow and a pair of blankets. The women pleaded guilty, and the soldier said he took the pillow. Mr J M Mitchell, solicitor, said that Mrs Gordon had a keg [?] that filled the door, and to shelter from a blizzard the three accused went inside and not being over comfortable in his billet the soldier removed the pillow, not with the intention of detaining it as stolen property, but more as joke than anything else. He had returned it to the police. Murray had been about a year and a half in H.M. Forces. The Fiscal said—The women have been using this house for immoral purposes for a considerable time. Mr Mitchell responded—That is not stated in the complaint. It charges housebreaking. The Sheriff then asked, "What took them into the house?" "The wet weather", Mr. Mitchell responded. Mrs Cameron, who had a previous conviction, was fined 10s, or five days' imprisonment, while the other two got off with 5s, or five days each.*

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## Golf House Club

**W**hilst we are on history .....

There are times when something momentous happens in Elie (not often but sometimes). Such an event happened recently in the Golf House Club. At an extraordinary meeting of the Club it was agreed, by the narrowest of margins, to allow ladies to join GHC. For those who do not know this area, this will come as welcome news of "inclusivity", but for those in the know it will raise many more problems than it perhaps is designed to solve. Problems with which no doubt a sub-committee of the GHC are currently wrestling to provide solutions.



There are five clubs which operate golf in this area; the GHC, Elie and Earlsferry Ladies Golf Club (EELGC), Earlsferry Thistle Golf Club (ETGC), Earlsferry Thistle Ladies Golf Club (ETLGC) and the Sports Club. As the names imply only the Sports Club has gender equality in membership. Sports Club membership does not entitle the member to play on Elie Golf Course, but all the other clubs' members have playing facilities and rights on Elie Golf Course. However, playing times and availability are restricted (other than GHC).

## Conundrums

So now any lady who wishes to become a member of a golf club in Elie has a choice of GHC, EELGC. and ETLGC. On the assumption that the current subscription for ladies becoming members of GHC will be the same as the men pay (which is roughly double what a member of EELGC pays) one wonders what incentive there is for a lady to join GHC. Other than perhaps being able to play anytime she wanted, and of course sit in the bay window of the main lounge! She would not be able to compete in the many and various competitions that the EELGC run and, presumably now being able to compete in the GHC competitions, there would have to be parity in playing facilities. Ladies tees would not be available.

## Unisex Changing rooms?

That may be the easiest part to resolve, but much more challenging issues are raised in the use of the clubhouse facilities. At the moment the ladies lounge, changing and toilet facilities are "guarded" by a door which clearly says EELGC. Does this mean that lady members of GHC will not be allowed to use these facilities resulting in there being a need to construct separate facilities in GHC premises? It seems most unlikely that current members of EELGC will want to transfer their allegiance to GHC. The EELGC has carefully guarded them independence for years, although the precise legal relationship between the two club is not known it will be interesting to see how this all turns out. The golf course is owned by the GHC and the clubhouse likewise, so it may be that the GHC have the upper hand. Laudable the decision may have been in these politically correct times, there are many hurdles still to be overcome. As for transgender aspiring golfers one assumes that the options are now many and variable. The solution is radical, but it could be to put all the clubs together into one unit with universal playing rights to all and equality of subscriptions. The political ramifications of that move however may well be insurmountable at least in the medium term.

## Anniversary

One suspects life will go on much as it has since 1875 when the GHC and ETGC were founded. Wait a minute! that means they are 150 years old in 2025. Well, who knows what changes might be celebrated along with that anniversary; perhaps the radical solution would be to dissolve the Golf House Club and reconstitute it with all members of all the clubs joining the new entity. This would solve the problem!

## History Society Quiz Night

**O**nce again, 40+ eggheads sat to endure one of George Harvey's night of conundrums. Fuelled by the odd libation, the entrants seemed to enjoy themselves with the winning team repeating their previous performance - but who cares as long as they enjoyed themselves. For the chairman's fiendish quiz see later.

## 'Phone Mast

**A**pparently, the construction of the 'phone mast at the entrance to the village in Park Place has been put on the back burner, if that is what one does with such edifices. There is an increased concentration in providing 5G coverage for the conurbations and much effort is going in that direction, rather than improving 3-4G in the rural areas. Get your priorities right, we say!

## Telephone Box

The big red BT 'phone box is under threat, but an offer has been made by BT to sell it to the village for a nominal sum to do with what we like. The

Community Council is pondering this offer and looking for possible uses. Some thought about wi-fi hub seems most likely to cater for those who like to eat their carry out from the Rankeillor Street take away and access the Internet at the same time (frankly, vinegar on an iPhone can't be good for it). Another idea is conversion to an ATM. There's a 'phone box for sale on eBay at the moment, priced £3,600.



## Community Speedwatch

A couple of years ago we reported on the creation of a Community Speedwatch group whose task would be to try to reduce the speed at which vehicles enter the village from east and north. For some reason that initiative foundered somewhat but it has been resurrected and four members of the community are currently being vetted and trained how to use the speed equipment. It is important to know that this group will not be in a position to prosecute drivers or give speeding tickets.



The procedure would be that a vehicle exceeding the speed limit would be noted and the owner/driver receive a notice from the police – “Your speed has been noted....” This would serve as a warning, but even more so, it would give a detailed statistical view of the speed at which vehicles enter and leave the village whereas previously we lacked this evidence.

When we sought a 20mph limit the speed measuring equipment was placed at the bell mouth of Woodside Road where the speeds were nominally lower than 19 mph. At that time the fire in the Deli had invited more vehicles to bypass the High Street and thus emerging from or into Woodside Road meant that their speed was nominal. Further statistics would increase the pressure on more permeant speed restriction notices. This however should not be taken as an excuse for exceeding the speed limit.



## Comcol and the Toll Green Hall

It is looking increasingly likely that the application for a Community Buy Out will be rejected by the Scottish ministers and the Church of Scotland. Prior to the application, an email was received on 24th September from the Church of Scotland General Trustees, who own the building, advising that no decision had been taken by them to dispose of it. Now apparently, they say a decision **was** taken on 11th September and the application is therefore likely to be rejected as being too late. This is a major disappointment and it seems further that the Church of Scotland General Trustees are not prepared to engage in any discussions. How a decision apparently not made on

24th September can suddenly be back dated to 11th September is a mystery. And this is all the more disappointing since we were led to believe quite a number of the members of the East Neuk Trinity Church Session were in favour of giving Comcol a chance. *C'est la vie!*

## Seminar discussions - future projects

### Project 1 - Toll Green Enhancement

The view is that this space could be better used and tidied up to make it more conducive to leisure, strolls, picnics and a horse sales ring - well perhaps not (the jackdaws permitting of course). Even without the benefit of being able to convert Toll Green Hall into a community hub there is no reason why that space should be neglected. It has a great deal of potential.

### The Water Pump

The water pump is one of only two remaining pumps in the UK (the other is in Faversham, with whom contact has been made for advice) and it is a listed structure. Comcol is keen to refurbish it, but also provide a new modern water top-up point where water bottles can be refilled. It is intended to create a “Conversation Corner” round the water pump. An application to the Sports club to use the green slatted benches at the Pavilion, in exchange for more modern ones, has been made. It is therefore hoped that they would be re-sited onto Toll Green to create more of a period feature. The old picnic tables have been replaced by new ones and there is a proposal to site a History Board on the Green. The fence is to be retained (although replaced if funds can be found) and the intention is to have the trees pollarded in order to deal with the issue of bird droppings. Problems however arise in that Fife Council claim that they do not own Toll Green, and no one seems to know who does.



*Ideas and suggestions from the plenary session at the seminar include:*

- Purchase of the 'phone box which could be developed and used as ATM/bookex/Wi-Fi hub.
- Creation of a pedestrian crossing between the Station Buffet Bar and Toll Green.
- Investigate the creation of a bandstand on Toll Green – all we need now is a band!

### Project 2 - Golf Heritage Trail and Museum

Earlsferry was home to at least 27 young men, who between 1880-1920 left Scotland to go to America where they became golf professionals. They were responsible for the huge development of golf in USA and were pioneers in creating golf clubs and making them. The Golf House Club has built up a collection of 140 different types of clubs made by the club makers of Earlsferry.

James Braid, the grand old man of golf, was born in Liberty in February 1870. He went on to win the Open Championship five times and learnt his golf along with all the others on the golfing tract that was Earlsferry Golf Course.

Jack Simpson who was one of six brothers, all born in Earlsferry, was another Open Champion. And four Mackie brothers contributed to the empire in America. In support of this important historical asset, The History Society is keen to erect a statue to James Braid.

It would like, in addition, to:

- *Plan a Heritage Trail in Elie and Earlsferry*
- *Erect plaques and information boards around Earlsferry and Elie showing where they were born and lived with short bios.*
- *Celebrate their huge influence in golf, especially in USA.*
- *Give them pride of place in any golf/heritage museum*
- *Have a Golf Heritage Day each year to acknowledge their contribution. Perhaps even insisting on the use of hickory golf clubs.*

Further thoughts include starting a pilot audio visual project to cover the history of the golf course and also the golfers from Earlsferry, possibly look at a small heritage exhibition somewhere like Toll Green Hall or Town Hall as a start. Make contact with Dumbarnie and the St. Andrews Golf Museum to see if links could be explored. Gather as much information as possible from the living relatives of these Ferrymen and promote the James Braid connection. Try to establish fraternity connections with the golf clubs which had them as professionals.



**ELIE HARBOUR TRUST LTD**  
THE HARBOUR, ELIE, LEVEN, KY9 1DT

### Project 3 – Elie Harbour Improvements

It has long been the view that the Harbour area could be a serious magnet to attract not only photographers but especially tourists interested in the Harbour and water sports. There are a number of small bus tours to the East Neuk and it is felt that there should be facilities for these – and other - visitors. One thought has been the provision of an audio tape tour of the history of the Harbour and the History Society and Harbour Trust are in discussions. Without good toilet and catering facilities there would be little incentive for these buses to stay very long.

The franchisees of the cafe at the Harbour are happy to look at providing a more comprehensive service, but of course this rather depends upon the toilet facilities. There are issues with regard to the toilets, which require refurbishment costing about £30-40k. There is also a desire to keep the toilets at the harbour open 365 days of the year.



The short- and medium-term goals are to:

- Improve attractions for:
  - tour buses.
  - coastal path walkers.
  - visitors and local residents.
- Achieve and maintain Blue Flag beach status.
- Provision of improved catering Facilities.
- Increase access to toilet facilities.

## Storms and Damage

It will have been noticed that the ivy on the bents *ex ad verso* Earlslea has been cleared and marram grass replanted by the Scottish Rural College in Cupar. The fencing has been erected to enable the marram grass to take hold and will be protected for a couple of years. We are in this part of the world at mercy of south-westerly gales



and the last two “named” storms have wreaked their havoc. Sand has been blown everywhere as usual with vast sand sculptures at Telford Wynd and Fountain Road, but the combination of high tides and the storms has resulted once again in much erosion on the beach. The Earlsferry end tends to benefit from the shelter of Chapel Green so the sou’westerly has an effect from about Ferry Road eastwards. Again, much of the dunes have been lost by the high tides. Each year we seem to have more and more of the dunes eaten away.



The new format for Christmas was a great success and next year there are plans to make it even better with increased festive lighting at Toll Green.

The Scarecrow Festival weekend is 7-10 May; since VE Day 75 is Friday 8 May, the weekend has been extended by a day. The organisers are looking to increase the number of scarecrows from last year’s 47, so put on your thinking caps and pick up a bale of straw from somewhere.....I suppose you can get that from a pet shop, since it’s used as hamster and guinea pig bedding.



In addition, and in support of SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, Fayre Day Group is organising a Dance on Sat 9 May in Earlsferry Town Hall, so watch out for the publicity for that. As a special treat, and in case it is needed with a coronavirus outbreak, there is going to be a replica of an Anderson Shelter erected on Toll Green...reserve your place now. Fayre Day itself is 18 July, so a lot to look forward to with the enterprising and enthusiastic committee of Fayre Day Group. Keep up to date with what’s on by using their ‘What’s On’ App downloadable for Apple r Android devices. The link to the Fayre Day Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/eliefayredayfun/>

On this occasion the boondocks correspondent has decided to wax lyrical though little difficult to appreciate the analogy but maybe “the Ruin” is mothers’ ruin? Or wherever.

See Culture. See Herald

### THE RUIN

*Pale Ghosts - where once the  
measured tread of soldiers' feet  
Echoed along the battlements.  
Soft green with moss, the flags that paved the way  
For peasant and for prince.  
Blood-red the fruit of mountain ash that tightly clings  
Where scaling ladders were denied  
The maiden fern adorns the entrance walls That held  
the gates of iron  
Rich brown the earth, now newly ploughed, in fields  
nearby That once knew tents of siege  
Where fanfare blew to sound the call to arms, the  
raucous crow gives cry.  
Grey blocks lie tumbled on the ground. Crumbled  
mortar Returned to dust where it began.  
Where pennants flew, the doves of peace reside, The  
sheltered ledge their home  
White clouds enshrine the rugged face  
The features blurred that time has carved away Once  
towering strength, symbol of power and might, now  
only ghosts remain.*



## Earlsferry Town Hall

All the effort spent into trying to save the Town Hall seems at last to be bearing fruit. There is no doubt that all things being equal it would be a tremendous asset to the community if it could be acquired via a Community Asset Transfer and sufficient business engendered to run the property. Make no mistake, there is a huge amount to be done to make it acceptable as a venue for anything and the repair bill in itself is massive, but it is certainly worth the effort. So Earlsferry Town Hall Limited (ETHL), a new company limited by guarantee, has been set up to seek an asset transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The Hall is owned by Fife Council but is part of the common good fund of Earlsferry/Elie and was advertised for a community asset transfer in June 2017. The Hall is currently under-utilised and is in need of significant upgrading.

In 2018, Community Enterprise carried out a feasibility study and identified a number of needs within our community. ETHL proposes to meet these needs by acquiring Earlsferry Town Hall, refurbishing it and turning it into a community hub. Specifically, ETHL will use it to offer:

- A Kids’ Club with social activities throughout the year, and sports activities such as short tennis, in the winter months.
- A Cinema Club showing films for a variety of ages but with screenings specifically for children in the holiday months.
- Support for the elderly in our community including classes to improve their physical fitness and a variety of stimulating opportunities to get together and socialise.
- A venue for other clubs in the community, such as the Elie & Earlsferry Wine Club, to bring people together and increase our social capital.
- A range of learning activities such as IT, bridge and art classes.
- Regular concerts and an annual pantomime.
- Regular exercise classes such as yoga and Pilates.
- Regular social get-togethers such as coffee mornings and seasonal suppers or lunches.
- A series of educational talks on topics of interest.
- A James Braid Room containing a permanent display commemorating his golfing career and achievements.
- The facility for occasional office/meeting space with high speed broadband, to support those in our community who work from home.
- The Hall as a venue for weddings, discos and private parties.

Community Enterprise found that 90% of their survey respondents supported taking the hall into community ownership.

ETHL believes that external funding is available for both the acquisition of the hall and its refurbishment. Any contributions from the community will be entirely voluntary.

ETHL is currently seeking members of the community to meet the statutory requirements to seek an asset transfer.

Application forms for membership can be obtained from Trisha Ritchie (e: [patricia.ritchie11@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.ritchie11@gmail.com)) or Neil Cuthbert (e: [wneilcuthbert@gmail.com](mailto:wneilcuthbert@gmail.com))



## Looking forward

### History Society

**Thu 12 March**  
**“Past, Present and Future”**

Short presentations from members based on the theme of the past and what we can look forward to in the future,

followed by questions and answer discussions on anything about Elie and Earlsferry that you want to know or want to share. 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

**Thu 9 April** Pat Hughes celebrates the one hundredth and something anniversary of the Hercules Curling Club with a dip deep back into the past. 7.30pm at the Church Hall.

**EXHIBITION** - the History Society also plans to mount an exhibition later in the year (1-2 August) with the theme ‘Fun and Games’.

## Campervans - Solution ?



The presence at Ruby Bay car park of a large number of mobile homes has been a constant irritation to a number of people in the village. It has become well known in the motor home fraternity that a free overnight stay at Ruby

Bay is a "must experience" facility. Various schemes have been mooted from complete embargo to a regulated and properly constituted site complete with power outlet and water facilities. It is not unknown during the summer months for there to be as many as 20 vans parked in a haphazard way there overnight. Tents have also appeared in the area and camping seems to have been accepted as a fine way to spending time at a Fife beauty spot. Fife Coast and Countryside Trust under pressure from the community council over a number of years and hopefully with the blessing of Fife Council have now produced a consultation document in which there is a proposed solution. For a trial period (12 months) a scheme will operate called a Parking Charge Notice. ("PCN"). There will be five dedicated overnight parking motor home bays. There will be notices and a ticket machine. Broadly it is expected that the scheme will apply to all vehicles parking at Ruby Bay and during the summer April - October there will be no charge for up to 2 hours but thereafter more than 2 - 4 hours £1, more than 4 up to one day £2 and all year round motor home parking overnight will be £10. Frequent users can obtain an annual parking permit for cars only of £10 and there will be an enforcement of £60 for those not complying with the regulations. Of course the scheme will only be as good as its enforcement but there seems to be confidence that enforcement will not be a problem. Indeed consultation with motor home owners suggests that they would be happy to pay this for such a lovely spot. The price compares favourably with Shell Bay where the price is from £25 upwards but of course this includes hook up facilities. It is proposed also to site an Elsan Disposal point for chemical toilets. Watch that space .....very soon there will be a campervan on it !

### Golf Management Changes

Whilst we were talking about the GHC there have been considerable changes in management of the club and Sports Club. Gavin Cook the professional at the Sports Club and perforce also the GHC has been appointed to the vacant secretary job at GHC but probably with an



enhanced role as administrator. Michael Bradfield who previously served his time at the Sports Club is returning from a spell in Europe and has been appointed the new professional and Julie Otto who has done so much for ladies golf



hereabouts is taking on the role of Director of Operations as well as her coaching and teaching responsibilities. We wish them well for a busy summer.



- c. Which building was set on fire and then built over with other buildings? d. Which building went on fire in about 1880 and was never restored – it is now just a ruin?
5. Who met the committee of recreation park in 1923 to discuss the layout of the ladies' golf course?
6. What was it, in 1767, that the Baillies of Earlsferry advertised for lease with the words '...very fit for Advertised as being suitable for paving the streets of London or elsewhere...'
7. Who laid the foundation stone for Earlsferry Town Hall in September 1872 - and for a bonus point, what was his occupation?
8. What is or was the connection of a "Schneider Revolver" with Earlsferry?
9. Who in 1982 sued the Golf House Club for £150 for damages to his tomato crop by weed killer being sprayed on the golf course?
10. A 1949 newspaper reported that the Council decided to '...dispense with Jimmy after he had been beaten in a bucket-lifting race with a tractor.' - who or what do you think was Jimmy?
11. In 1949 an Elie person was fined £5 for breach of election law – what was the breach?
12. Berolino was a house in Links Place – what is its current name?

1. Shipbuilding, hence the slipway at the end of Toft.
2. Chapel Green. 3. The Naims. 4. Fires: a. The Marine Hotel b. The Dell c. The Station d. Grange House
5. James Braid – he was visiting Elie for his mother's funeral. 6. It was a quarry, which was advertised by Earlsferry Magistrates as being within quarter of a mile of Elie Harbour but then later it says half a mile. We can only speculate that since it was in Earlsferry, since it was owned by the Earlsferry magistrates it must have been on the common, i.e. golf course, so it was probably on the 6th Fairway of the golf course.
7. Alexander Henry, who was a freemason and it was laid with full masonic orders, a procession through Elie and Earlsferry and a time capsule was buried - "a bottle containing the coins, papers, &c., into the cavity prepared for its reception" Where this is we do not know but it may be under the front steps of the hall. Henry lived in Chapel Green house and was rifle maker of some repute and wealth. Apparently:
8. A trophy competed for by Thistle GC. It was won outright by George Mason in 1877 having won it the previous two years. In these days winning a trophy three years in a row the trophy became your property.
9. Dr Todd. The action was eventually settled for £150 payable to Dr Todd 5 years later with expenses in excess of £2,500. 10. A horse, but ironically after he was retired and taken to his pasture by his new owner, he was called back into service almost immediately because the tractor driver had failed his driving test. 11. Monty Moncreiff, he hired taxis to take people to the polls. 12. Ochter House, it was built in 1915 by a Mr Lampson from Berlin who was related to Mr. Harold Smith who owned Amphion House at that time, hence the name but he became concerned at the outbreak of WW1 that he might be thought to be a spy and be signalling ships in the Forth so he and his family went to live in Peebles where, presumably, he could not see the sea or more likely the sea could not see him.;

Below is an edited version of the Chairman's Quiz from the recent History Society Quiz Night. See how you score..

1. What business did the Steele family run in the Toft? 2. Where would you have seen Earlsferry's German Gun.
3. Which family bought Elie House in 1927? 4. Fires: a. Which building twice went on fire, was restored the first time but not the second? b. Which building recently went on fire and was Reinstated?

The [Elie Herald](http://www.elieandearlsferry.net) welcomes feedback constructive or destructive and we can be contacted at [info@grahamjohnston.scot](mailto:info@grahamjohnston.scot) or if you want to look at previous editions visit: <http://www.elieandearlsferry.net>