

# Ayton Heritage

Newsletter 004  
November 2020

*Welcome to our fourth newsletter. Things have been quiet due to coronavirus restrictions but there has been some progress.*

## Current position

We are still working under the Historic Environment Scotland “Adopt a Monument” scheme run by Archaeology Scotland with Phil Richardson as our project manager. We have been advised that before we can apply for grants to carry out the preservation work on St Dionysius, we must carry out an ecological survey and obtain a report from a conservation architect detailing the work which will be required for the preservation. We obtained quotes for this work and early this year applied to various grant giving bodies to fund it. Unfortunately, the covid lockdown started soon after and all work by these organisations came to a halt. However, some are beginning to get going again and we are hopeful of hearing some positive news by the end of the year.

## Ecological Survey

The key part of this survey was to determine if bats (a protected species) are present in the ruin. It had to be done between May and September so if not done this year would have delayed the whole project considerably.

Thanks to three local organisations (Ayton Community Hall Association, Ayton Horticultural Society and Ayton Cow Club) who agreed to fund the survey we were able to have this done before the end of September. No bats were found to be roosting in the ruins although some evidence of bird nesting was found. This will have to be taken into account in the timing of future work.

## Conservation Architect

We are applying for funding for conservation architect fees from the potential funders mentioned above after the planned open days at Ayton Castle formal gardens had to be cancelled due to covid restrictions.

## Amazon Smile

If you make purchases from Amazon, you can help our fundraising by nominating Ayton Heritage as your nominated charity. Every time you make a purchase a small donation will be made to us. When shopping with Amazon use this link to Amazon Smile which will divert the donation to Ayton Heritage at no cost to you. Every little counts! <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC049592>

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