

Ayton Heritage

Chairman's report for first AGM January 2021

It seems like a long time since we set up Ayton Heritage and it may appear odd that we are having our first AGM in 2021. The coronavirus situation and associated lockdown rules meant that it was not possible to organise the AGM in the normal fashion.

Here is a summary of the main events since Ayton Heritage (AH) was formed.

June 2019: Public meeting held and support obtained for AH to be set up.

June 2019: AH accepted into the Historic Environment Scotland Adopt a Monument Scheme, run by Archaeology Scotland.

Sept 2019: AH became a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Sept-Nov 2019: Volunteers removed ivy up to head height from St Dionysius and carried out building survey and interpretation work.

Jan 2020: Conservation architects asked to quote for preparatory work.

Feb-Jun 2020: Grant applications made to various bodies

Feb 2020: AH website created in conjunction with Ayton Local History Society.

Apr 2020: Funding for ecological survey obtained from Ayton Cow Club, Ayton Horticultural Society and Ayton Community Hall.

Aug 2020: Ecological survey completed.

Dec 2020: Funding for conservation architect obtained from Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme.

Membership

It was decided to charge £5 annual membership fee and the current membership is 42.

Trustees

In accordance with our constitution, trustees have to be elected from the membership. At the public meeting in June 2019 the following were elected.

Chair: Bill Black

Vice Chair: Danny Dutton

Secretary: Isabel Kellie

Minute Secretary: Mike Wilson

Treasurer: Aline Robertson

Membership: Bill Stewart

Danny left the area during 2020 and his expertise will be greatly missed by Ayton Heritage.

Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, Aline is stepping down as treasurer. She has done a great job in getting our banking set up and a new treasurer will have no difficulty in taking over.

Thanks go to all the trustees who have worked hard since AH was set up and thanks also to the volunteers who put so much work into cutting back the ivy. The support given by Phil Richardson of Archaeology Scotland (our Adopt a Monument Field Officer) is also greatly appreciated.

Looking forward

With funding in place for the conservation architect, Adams Napier Partnership has been employed to carry out a survey to determine the extent of work required on St Dionysius and to estimate the cost of these works. This is planned for January. Once costs are known the next stage will be to obtain grants for carrying out the preservation work.