

FOREWORD

This series of historical booklets was quite specifically developed to provide an authoritative briefing for all who seek to enjoy the heritage of what were the medieval baronial lands of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun. All are available on the Internet at www.prestoungrange.org the Barons Courts' website.

They have been sponsored by the Barons Courts of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun which my family re-established when we gained access to the feudal baronies in 1998 where my paternal great-grandfather, James Park, worked as a miner at the beginning of the 20th Century. But the credit for the scholarship involved in these books, and their timeous appearance, are entirely attributable to the Scottish historians who work with the Barons Courts led by Annemarie Allan, and the myriad authors concerned.

This particular title puts our own contemporary woes into perspective. Two of my own ancestors died in the Inveresk Poorhouse. It also affords an excellently researched example of how small industrial townships learned to work, play and survive together building as they went a social structure that remains the envy of today's great conurbations.

We were at the outset confident that this series would find a welcoming readership and so it has transpired. But it has done much more than that for it is now providing the historical bases for the Arts Tourism programmes conducted by the Barons Courts through their own Arts Festival Society and in particular the insights required for the murals now being painted.

We thank the authors one and all for their contributions and for a job well done. It is one very practical contribution towards helping visitors and tourists to the town of Prestonpans towards a better understanding of the lives and ambitions of those that went before us all. For better and for worse we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors as we in turn craft our futures and tomorrow's world for our children. So often we see in the pages of history that whilst the cast of characters most certainly changes the issues that matter and get argued about remain the same.

Dr Julian Wills
Baron of Dolphinstoun
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A Bit of Time to Play



The Band Tradition Lives On

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