

## East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists' Society

### **Summary of visits for 2026**

*Members only*

#### **Field naturalist visit to St Abbs Head on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 2 PM**

This visit will be guided by the Society's Field Naturalist advisor John Hunt. The spectacular cliffs at St Abbs are owned by National Trust for Scotland and are designated as a National Nature Reserve. The cliffs provide for great views of over 60,000 nesting seabirds of 10 different species. Additionally the fresh water Mire Loch and grassland provide additional bird and botanical interest.

#### **Return visit to Papple Steading on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 10.30 AM**

The Society has enthusiastically supported the amazing rescue of one of Scotland's finest farm steadings. We are delighted to have been invited for a return visit by the owner and visionary George Mackintosh after the project's formal opening. Members will enjoy teas, coffees and cake followed by a presentation by George Mackintosh on Papple's restoration journey. This will be followed by an opportunity to explore the buildings including those showing agricultural heritage and the Demarco Gallery. Finally there will be an optional opportunity to visit the Wildflower Meadow which is close by. Transport assistance to the Meadow will be available if required.

#### **Private tour of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Newhailes pleasure garden on Saturday 26th September at 2.30 PM**

The Society is delighted that Members have been offered a free invitation to a private tour of the Newhailes estate. Hitherto it has been little known that the estate that surrounds the house is a time capsule of pleasure garden design from the 1700's. Unlike most grand estates in Scotland it was never "Victorianised" and so offers a unique opportunity to see how our forefathers took the ideas of the Enlightenment and their experience of the Grand Tour of Europe and reflected them in a Scottish landscape. The event will conclude with tea, coffee and sweet treats in the glasshouse. Whilst the visit will be complimentary there will be a £6 charge for the refreshments.

Note: for those who have not visited the house, a discounted rate of £12 has been offered. Personal booking on one of the scheduled tours in the morning would be required, mentioning that you are part of the ELAFNS PM garden tour.

## **Private visit to St. Mary's Church, Whitekirk on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

In 2021 the Church of Scotland put up this church for sale and it was sold to a newly formed Trust: the Whitekirk New Life Trust. St. Mary's Whitekirk has stood for over 700 years. It was first constructed as a project of gratitude by the Countess of Dunbar who believed that she had received a miracle of healing at the holy well attributed to St. Baldred. The church and the ground upon which it sits has been both a place of home and refuge and of beauty and restoration. It's long historical past has included connections to popes and kings, pirates and revolutionaries, artists and multitudes of ordinary folk. On the day a Trustee will provide a tour of the church, inside and out, together with a talk on its history. To conclude refreshments will be provided.

### **Talks programme**

Information on our six talks October '26 to March '27 will follow in due course.

### **Latest information**

Please visit our website <https://eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk/> and / or [info@eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk](mailto:info@eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk)

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Events Manager

12<sup>th</sup> May 2026