Chirnside History Group

The group has been ongoing since 2004.
We currently have a membership of 18 which cost £10 per session.
We meet 3rd Monday of month from September to May enjoy a wide
Variety of talk by a very mixed group of speakers
This year we have enjoyed such fascinating subjects as
Death on the Berwick Sloop Juno – it examined a culpable homicide case. Tried in the High Court in Edinburgh in 1855 involving the master of the sloop Juno berthed in Leith who was responsible for the death of the ships mate on board the vessel. The master was found guilty, but his punishment was very lenient possible because the ships owner was the Mayor of Berwick who must have interceded on his employee's behalf.

James Hutton and Siccar Point - how the geology of siccar point was formed.
Exploration of the different types of rock found there, and the implications of James Huttons observations changed thinking about the age of the Earth. And his part in the Scottish enlightenment.

HMS BERWICK history of three of the 10 HMS Berwicks through the ages. We learned about the types of ships and life and working conditions on them. The first HMS Berwick was commissioned in 1679 the last HMS Berwick was launched in 1961 decommissioned in 1986 all the HMS Berwick had a long history of service in the British Navy

Lady Waterford and Ford Estate – Life of Louise Waterford wife of the 3rd Marquis of Waterford who owned Ford Estate. About how they improved the lives of the tenants and workers by improving their homes, schooling, health, by providing a village nurse she was an accomplished artist she painter the Muriel in the hall (old school).

Charterhall Aeordrome in WW11 – RAF Charterhall was a landing ground named RAF Eccles Tofts from 1917 – 1919 used by No77 Squadron. During WW2 was used as a training station from 1942 – 1946 was a large facility. Many of the crew here from the Commonwealth sadly it had a very high accident rate with 2,000 accidents in 1942 200 of which were fatal.

From 1952 to 1964 the old runways were used for motor racing when the club moved to Ingleston.

Angola in my Heart –
the life of Ruth Hadley who went to Angola in 1982 as a missionary she worked with the Choke people when the civil war broke out in 1984, she stayed on she lived and worked in Angola for 34 years she oversaw the building of rural schools organised medical aid. She endured disease gun battles hunger and many other perils.

Industrial History of Cocklawburn – story of the large community of 190 people who lived at Cocklawburn and were involved in the lime industry Which was at its height from 1870's to 1900's. There was also quarrying brick making and coal mining in the area. The kilns were filled in when production ceased for safety. The area is now a very popular dog walking part of the coast and a favourite picnic area.

Lord of the Rings – we learned about the very popular sport of quoiting in Berwickshire played by the farm labourers from 1820's to 1930's.
A quoit is a heavy iron ring weighing 8 – 12 pounds they were thrown at a steel pin driven into a three-foot square bed of clay the green was 22 yards long No women played.
At one game at Leitham there was a crowd of 2,000 for a game that Chirnside played at.
Chirnside had two clubs one in the village the other at the Station.
Modernisation of farm work and the reduction of workers played a part in the decline of the game.