

## 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. They are complemented by learning guides for educational leaders. All are available on the Internet at [www.prestoungrange.org](http://www.prestoungrange.org) the Baron Courts' website.

They have been sponsored by the Baron 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 Baron Courts now led by Annemarie Allan, and the myriad authors concerned.

This particular title focuses on the whisky that we have officially appointed at the Baron Courts. It is, I must confess, distilled outwith the former baronial lands but very much in their vicinity – and its reputation spans the globe.

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 Baron Courts through their own Arts Festival Society and in particular the insights required for the murals now being painted. And Glenkinchie will always be recommended whisky at the restored Prestoungrange Gothenburg public house.

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 the cast of characters most certainly changes but the issues that matter and get argued about remain the same.

Dr Julian Wills  
*Baron of Dolphinstoun*  
July 1st 2003



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