

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

Welcome to Issue 57 of *Clish-Clash*. We hope you are looking forward to a glorious Spring and our face-to-face conference on Thursday 27 April in Perth.

■ A meeting of the SLHF trustees took place on 13 February. There was discussion about continuing to use Zoom for trustees' meetings rather than meeting in-person. On balance it was agreed that the savings in travel costs and the convenience for trustees in not having to travel long distances outweighed the disadvantages. The resumption of live events should allow trustees the chance to get together over the course of the year.

■ Talking of live events, the trustees were able to hear more details of the forthcoming programme. Dr Nicky Small has arranged an interesting programme for our annual conference on Engineering, Science and Technology. Our venue is the Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Perth on 27 April 2023. See below for further details and visit the events page of our website to book your place.

■ We are also in discussions about resuming the SLHF lecture at the National Library of Scotland. Tom Dowds has been waiting to give his lecture on the 1820 Radical Rising since the pandemic hit and we hope this can take place soon. NLS staff are keen to resume and to fit the lecture into some complementary activities on their part.

Planning is also being undertaken for a Walk & Talk to take place in Dundee on 30 August 2023, which will include visits to Discovery Point and the Verdant Works. Captain Scott's famous Dundee-built research ship and the museum of the jute industry are both run by Dundee Heritage Trust. Watch this space for further details.

■ The Forum is still looking for a suitably qualified individual to take on the external examination of its annual accounts and our treasurer Jan Bateman will be pleased to hear from anyone who can help. [Contact SLHF | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ The Spring 2023 edition of *Scottish Local History* (issue 114) has now been published. Work on another splendid edition, issue 115, is already well under way. The articles to be included are *St Bridget's Kirk, Dalgety* by R Arnott; *Burntisland Vitriol Company* by J Harris; *The Battle of Stirling Bridge* by J Harrison; *The 1884 Typhoid Outbreak* by C Hawksworth; *Tourism in Dunbar* by J Herring and *Stevenston Jubilee Bridge & Fountain* by D Lockhart.



WANTED INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR SLHF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023

We are desperately seeking an independent examiner for our annual accounts. We would love to hear from you if you can help or perhaps recommend someone with the required skills and experience which might include:

- qualified accountants currently in employment
- retired accountants
- other people familiar with financial matters who can demonstrate familiarity with the current reporting requirements for Scottish charities.

To find out more or discuss what is involved please email the Honorary Treasurer at – scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com

Scottish Local History Forum Annual Conference 2023: Engineering, Science and Technology

Thursday April 27 2023 at the Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street,
Perth PH1 5HR.

Join us as we return to an in-person, full day conference at this historic venue.



27 April 2023

Programme

10am - 10.30: Welcome, and registration, tea and coffee.

10.30 - Prof Christopher Whatley: 'Introduction: A short overview of the importance, often overlooked these days, of science, engineering and technology to the rise of modern Scotland and Britain'.

10.45 - Ian Shearer, Chairman, The Friends of Kinneil: 'The Partnership between Dr John Roebuck (Carron Iron Co.) and James Watt at Kinneil House, Bo'ness'

11.15 - Dr Denis Smith, B.Sc., Ph.D., C.Eng., FIPEM, FSA(Scot), Retired Hospital Physicist: 'The Vital Spark: Electricity as a treatment in mid-18th century Scottish Medicine'.

11.45 - Andrew Eadie: 'John Ritchie: a forgotten Scottish pioneer of hydro-electric schemes in Scotland at the end of the 19th century'.

12.15 – 12.30 - Question & Answer Session, Chaired by Steve Connelly

12.45 – 14.00 - Lunch

14.00 - Steve Connelly: 'David Gorrie & Son, boilermakers and coppersmiths, Perth: the largest manufacturers of laundry equipment in the world'.

14.30 - Dr Graham Clark: 'The rise and fall of Scotland's corrugated-iron buildings.'

15.00 - Roderick Stewart: 'A Hacklemaker's Tale'

15.30 - Question & Answer Session, Chaired by Dr Nicky Small

16.00 - Summing up by Prof Christopher Whatley

Book here: [SLHF 2023 Annual Conference: Engineering, Science and Technology | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

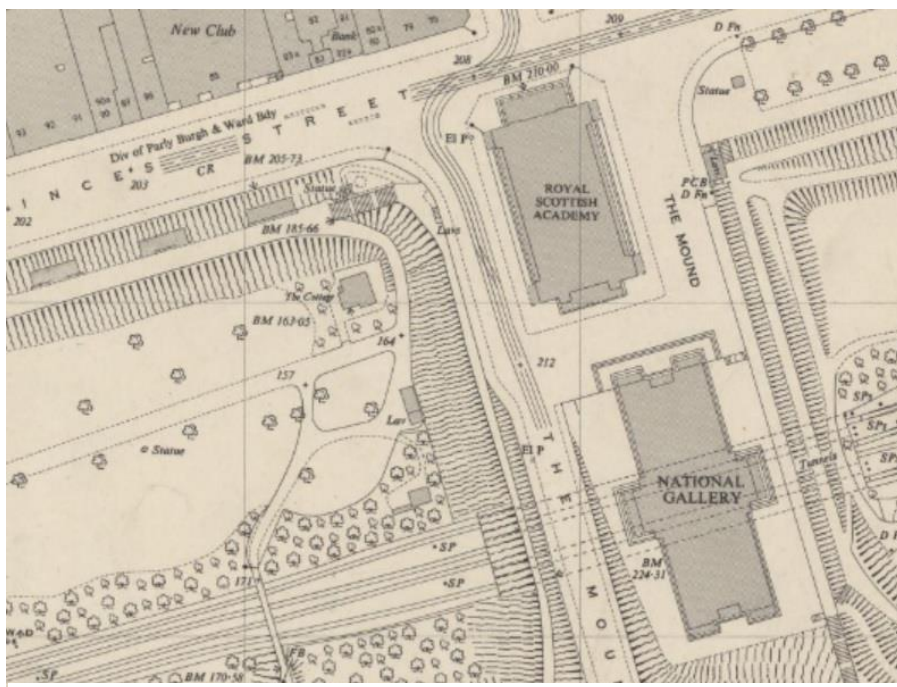
■ **The National Library of Scotland** provides a wide range of talks and workshops, many with a strong local history theme. Before Covid-19 these were run in the Library but were made available online at the beginning of the pandemic. Audiences are bigger and researchers from around the world can now attend. However, they're easing back into offering workshops in-person, so keep an eye on their website for details. The main local history events are:

- Introduction to Family History • Maps for Family and Local History • Navigating the Maps Website • House History
- Women's Lives and Writing • Exploring the Climate Crisis at NLS

The current programme is listed on the NLS website

<https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours> – and each event appears between three and one weeks before it happens (this varies depending on the workshop). A link leads to Eventbrite where the talk or workshop can be booked. Please be aware that these events fill up very quickly, so it is advisable to ask Eventbrite to send an automatic reminder when an event becomes bookable.

In *Clish-Clash 56* we reported on the National Library of Scotland's urgent appeal for donations to save its archive of Scottish newspapers dating back to the 1600s. These newspapers were never made to last longer than a day and many are now at risk of decay. We are pleased to learn that there has been a huge response to the appeal. Work has begun on protecting the most at-risk titles and some of these have been added to the NLS website: [Scotland's News - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#). There are still



NT2573NW - A, c1950, 1:1,250 depicting the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery in Edinburgh

hundreds of thousands of pages to conserve. Every donation will help NLS save their stories for the future.

■ **British Newspaper Archive** - Anyone researching people in this online resource should have a look at the latest tips about finding an obituary or details relating to deaths. There are several examples of the type of information that you might find and a handy top ten of the best tips the team at BNA can suggest. [The British Newspaper Archive Blog Obituaries On The Archive | British Newspaper Archive](#)

■ **Stories from the Scottish Shale Museum: wonder soap and the By-Prox ladies** by Lorna Weir and Sarah Heaton. A new guest blog from the Scottish Shale Museum tells the story of a post war cleaning wonder product and the women who worked to produce it. [Stories from the Scottish Shale Museum: wonder soap and the By-Prox ladies – Museum Crush](#)

■ **HMS Unicorn**, the 1824-built warship located in Dundee's Victoria Dock, has re-opened to the public after essential repairs enabled by a £100,000 grant from the Headley Trust and a donation of £20,000 by American businessman John Paul DeJoria. Longer-term the Unicorn Preservation Trust is looking to raise £1,000,000 for a more extensive renovation, which will result in a lengthy closure period. In the meantime, the museum is offering half price entry until 21 March.

■ **Museums Galleries Scotland** recently launched Scotland's museums and galleries strategy for 2023 to 2030, which has been developed by and for the Scottish museum sector with the aim of working together to create valued, inclusive and enterprising spaces. The strategy document is available through this link: [Scotland's Museums and Galleries Strategy - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

■ **Uncertain Territories – Women and Nature** an exhibition of work by women artists and scientists who have explored the natural world is on display at the Tower Building of the University of Dundee until 1 April. This exhibition celebrates a variety of women artists and scientists from Dundee and beyond who have explored the natural world and left tangible traces through the artefacts, specimens and artworks in the University of Dundee Museum Collections. Whether through pioneering research, collecting or creating, these women have helped us to understand nature and the world around us. For further details: [Uncertain Territories – Women and Nature | University of Dundee](#)

■ Coming too late in December for inclusion in our last issue was a fascinating blog from the **National Records of Scotland** relating to food recipes found among its archive holdings. See images of recipes for chicken curry, seed cake and orange jelly alongside step-by-step photographs of the tests carried out by NRS archivists. It may be wise to consult current food-handling guidelines before following the late-18th century instruction to wash the chicken! [Food and Family – Open Book \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

■ **Perth and Kinross Archives** is one service that has arguably come through the restrictions of the last couple of years in better shape. A small reorganisation of the space on the first floor of the A K Bell Library has provided a larger area for readers and has meant that the former search room has become a very useful space for collections work and cataloguing. The new search area is also better served with sockets for readers' laptops etc. The lack of suitable places to plug in was always a design fault in the old search room.

Create a listing for your library, archive or museum in the SLHF Directory of local history resources. It is easy to do and free, just go to <https://www.slhf.org/submit-listing>

SOCIETIES

■ **SCOTTISH LABOUR HISTORY SOCIETY AND IAN MACDOUGALL.** Stewart MacLennan, Chair of the Scottish Labour History Society, reports on activities to commemorate and celebrate the life and work of historian Ian MacDougall, who died aged 86 on 7 April 2020:

Many readers will be familiar with Ian's work through the many paths he took in a lifetime's indefatigable promotion of popular history: as tutor at Newbattle Abbey College; as founder and driving force of, first, the Scottish Labour History Society (SLHS) and, later, the Scottish Working People's History Trust (SWPHT); as a pioneering researcher and oral historian; as author of some thirty works of history.

30 November 2021 saw the National Library of Scotland (NLS) host a highly successful virtual conference sponsored by SLHS and SWPHT on the theme: 'Hard Work, Ye Ken': the Past, Present and Future of Scottish Labour History – the title drawn from that of one of Ian's works.

The same organisations inaugurated the annual Ian MacDougall Memorial Lecture at the NLS on the 2022 anniversary of his death, Prof. Lynn Abrams addressing the audience on Listening to People Speak: the Values of Oral History to Working People. This year's Lecture will be given by Prof. Jim Phillips on 20 April 2023.

At the 2022 Lecture, the Ian MacDougall Essay Prize was launched, offering an annual substantial cash prize for the best undergraduate essay within the broad theme of Scottish Labour History. An excellent response to both initiatives has ensured their ongoing viability for many future years.

Ian's activity as SLHS Secretary involved fifteen years of characteristically unremitting work in discovering, salvaging and preserving labour records in Scotland. The results may be seen in over one hundred deposits at NLS, and in his massive early masterwork, A Catalogue of Some Labour Records in Scotland, published in 1979 and now long out of print.

Sandra MacDougall, Ian's widow has most generously made available a supply of this volume to raise money for the Ian MacDougall Essay Prize fund. Readers wishing to contribute and receive their copy can do so by making a minimum donation of £25 to <https://www.scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot>

A full address should be provided for delivery purposes.

Scottish Labour History Journal, Vol. 57 (2022) carries extensive reports of both the November 2021 conference and the April 2022 Lecture events, and is available from the same address free to new SLHS members (annual subscription £20 waged; £13 unwaged).

A reminder to Member Societies please take a few minutes to make sure that you put your latest programme on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/events>

If your society would like SLHF to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

WEBSITES

■ **Random Scottish History** is a somewhat unique collection and sharing of Pre-1900 Book Collection of Scottish Literature, History, Art & Folklore with *host Jenny Eeles*. You can also catch up using their podcast.

<https://randomscottishhistory.com/>

■ **Railway Work, Life and Death Project** That the coming of the railways changed the UK is a well-known aphorism – but what impacts did they have at a smaller scale? Local historians have been wrestling with this question for a long time, thinking about population movements, life opportunities, occupational structures and more. But what of the people needed to run the railways - the workers? Check out [here](#) for further information.

UNIVERSITIES

■ An astonishing discovery found at a 13th century Scottish castle has shed new light on the day-to-day domestic life of Robert Burns and his family, academics at the [University of Glasgow](#) have revealed.

■ **Great Tapestry of Scotland improving visitor perception**, according to University research. An independent study led by the [University of Aberdeen's](#) SPOT (Social and Innovative Platform on Cultural Tourism) Team has highlighted that the five-star Great Tapestry of Scotland visitor centre in Galashiels has improved public perception of the historic Borders town.

PUBLICATIONS

■ **History Scotland Vol.23 No.2 March/April 2023** includes The Highland War, part 2; The House of Fas - a lost gypsy dynasty and a focus on the life and career of Sir Henry Stirling. <https://www.historyscotland.com/>

■ **BBC History Magazine January 2023** includes articles on the discovery of a Pictish stone near Forfar and a short article about the island of Iona. <https://www.historyextra.com/>

■ **UK Association for the History of Nursing** have just published their Annual Bulletin

<https://mailchi.mp/6585c19fb818/the-bulletin?e=fd0d8b10d1>

■ **Who Do You Think You Are Issue 200 February 2023** includes details on the 1921 Scottish Census and how best to search the records and also a feature on a guard book containing details of youth poverty and crime in Victorian Aberdeen. There are also some useful guides on researching houses as well as nurses. This edition's 'Family Hero' item takes the readers to the Stanrigg and Arbuckle Pit in North Lanarkshire.

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/>

■ **Who Do You Think You Are Issue 201 March 2023** continues with some material relevant to Scotland including more on the 1921 census, a short history of crofting and a guide to archives in the Highlands and Islands.

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/>

■ **Celebrating Archaeology in Scotland 2022 Issue 5** is an online magazine celebrating various archaeological discoveries from last year. <https://tinyurl.com/234zd2wt>

■ **History Revealed Issue 117 February 2023 includes an article about the Scottish mariner Alexander Selkirk.**

■ **Tigers at White City – Glasgow Speedway 1928 to 1968** by Jim Henry. Pub: February 2023 by London League Publications Ltd. 306 pages, paperback illustrated with over 70 photos. £16.95 ISBN: 9781909885318. Available to order from the publisher at www.llpshop.co.uk.

■ **Arbroath Abbey and its Abbots** by Ishbel Barnes. Pub: 2022 by Strathmartine Press. 309 pages, paperback with black and white illustrations, £20. ISBN: 978-0-9955441-3-0. This is the first history of Scotland's richest abbey. It describes how religious worship in Angus developed from Pictish Christianity into the new Roman faith encouraged by the foundation of the abbey in 1178, richly endowed by King William. The development of the abbey's estates and wealth through the centuries, its influence on the men and women living on the abbey's lands, and the reasons for the abbey's centrality to medieval Scottish politics, religion and education are all thoroughly explored, ending with a discussion of the sixteenth-century Scottish Reformation, and the parts played by the abbots, the abbey and its religious community in that religious and political revolution. Available from the publisher www.strathmartinetrust.org.

■ **Rev. James Fraser, 1634-1709: A New Perspective on the Scottish Highlands before Culloden** by David Worthington. Pub: January 2023. 248 pages, hardback. £85. ISBN 9781399501279. [Rev. James Fraser, 1634-1709 \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](http://www.edinburghuniversitypress.com)

■ **Agnes Finnie – The Witch of the Potterrow Port** by Mary W Craig. ISBN 9781804250198 Paperback. £9.99. [Agnes Finnie — Luath Press](http://www.luathpress.com)

■ **Our Fathers Fought Franco** by Lisa Croft, Willy Maley, Jennie Renton and Tam Watters. ISBN 9781804250402. Paperback. £12.99. [Our Fathers Fought Franco — Luath Press](http://www.luathpress.com)

■ **Dramatic Events from Scottish History, Vol 1** This special souvenir booklet features 20 expert guides to some of Scottish history's most dramatic events, including: Scotland's colony of Nova Scotia; the storming of Dundee, 1651; the George Square riot, 1919; famine in the 1690s; the Gowrie conspiracy; the Marian civil war; the murder of Cardinal Beaton and the 'killing time'. Written by History Scotland's consultant editor Dr Allan Kennedy, and originally published in the pages of History Scotland magazine. £11.99. [History Scotland](http://www.history-scotland.com)

■ **Scottish Journal of Geology 53** An abstract of this paper 'M. A. Taylor, A. McMillan, S. Stewart and L. I. Anderson 2023. The geological and historical milieu of an ornamental cephalopod limestone ('orthoceratite limestone', Ordovician, Sweden) used in the Clerk Mausoleum (1684), St Mungo's Kirkyard, Penicuik, Scotland' is available here <https://doi.org/10.1144/sjg2022-007>

■ An Introduction to Local History Research is a recent blog by the British Association for Local History digital strategy coordinator Megan Kelleher. [An Introduction to Local History Research | Local History News | British Association For Local History \(balh.org.uk\)](http://www.balhf.org.uk)

If your society would like SLHF to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

WATCH, RADIO AND PODCASTS

Watch and Listen:

■ [Shackleton's Cabin](http://www.bbc.com) having been used as a garden shed for nearly a century, the Antarctic explorer's cabin is restored to its former glory. Available to watch on BBC iPlayer for over a year. Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922) was based in Edinburgh while he worked at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS). Shackleton's requests for funding and support for the expedition were met from all across Scotland. Read more using the National Library of Scotland <https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/enduring-eye/scottish-connections/>

■ [The Crowning of Everest](http://www.bbc.com) It is 1953, and Britain is preparing to crown its young Queen, Elizabeth II. The nation is also poised to hear news from Mount Everest. Has the British team made it to the top? Available on BBC Sounds



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■ **PBS America** is always worth watching out for if you have access to Freesat or Freeview. Recent programmes have focussed on Hadrian's Wall and the archaeology of Orkney. Programmes are listed in the Radio Times or you can subscribe to their weekly e-mail. If you missed something you can be fairly certain that it will be repeated!
<https://www.pbsamerica.co.uk/>

Create a listing for your event (including online ones) in the SLHF website diary. It is easy to do and free, just go to <https://www.slhf.org/submit-event>

WHAT'S ON

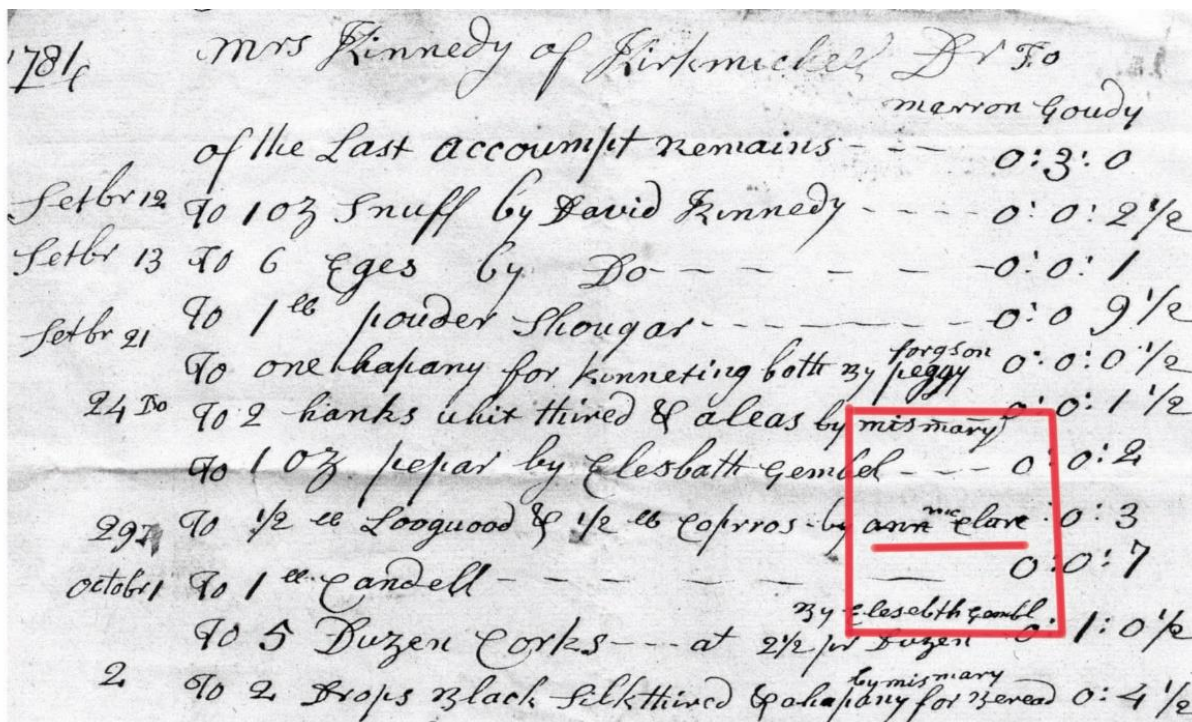
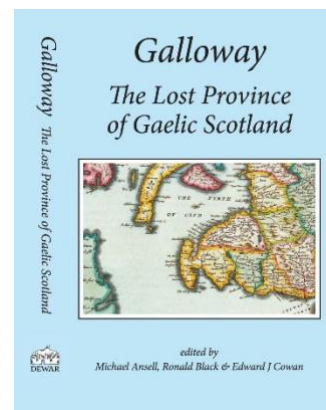
A reminder to Member Societies please take a few minutes to make sure that you put your latest programme on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/events>

BOOK REVIEWS

(our thanks to James Brown for this review)

■ **Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland**
 edited by Michael Ansell, Ronald Black and the late Edward J. Cowan (448 pp., John Dewar Publishers, £19.99), available from Michael Ansell: braidnoch@gmail.com

The Gaelic heritage of Galloway and Carrick is explored by a group of academic writers in this wide -ranging account of language, laws, land-holding, society, place-names and family names, principally of Galloway, but including its one-time component, Carrick, in south Ayrshire. The essays alter current impressions of the region to a startling degree. Until now it had been generally believed that Gaelic arrived in south-west Scotland from Ireland around AD500. That date is shifted to AD 870 at the earliest, that is to say, AD 870 is the earliest point when the name 'Galloway' could have come into being. Behind it lies the Gaelic name *Gall-Ghàidheil* or *Gall-Goídil*, meaning 'foreign-seeming Gaels', or 'Scandinavian-like Gaels', or 'Gaels under Scandinavian rule', or 'Gaels paying tribute to Scandinavians', or 'people who were Gaelic-speaking, but materially Norse', or (particularly intriguing) 'foreigners who spoke Gaelic'. All of these definitions can be found in the book, and they are all helpful in making us think about it.



Maybole merchant, Marion Gouldie's bill dated 1781

Considering that in the past the seas provided the most efficient and convenient routes of communication, the book's cover shows that Galloway formed a significant component of a ring of Gaelic-speaking territories from the Isle of Man to Ulster, Arran, Kintyre and Carrick. Often it is family and place-names that provide the residual traces of the presence of Gaelic in spite of many of them have been 'scoticised' (i.e., appearing to be of Gaelic origin but not with original spelling) or 'anglicised' obliterating them completely as in the case of the family name, MacLamraich, becoming Landsborough!

Assembling this treasure trove of evidence and concrete proof of the strength of Gaelic heritage was a considerable task, interrupted like so many other aspects of life by the COVID pandemic. Eleven diverse chapters lift the veils of past misrepresentations and ignorance. Thomas Clancy deals with place-names and in particular the origins of the church prefixes, *cill* and *kirk*. Richard Oram also focuses on place-name specifics that indicate land valuation and tax assessment while Michael Ansell puts 'boots on the ground' to give understanding to geographical features in the toponymy of the Galloway Highlands. In one chapter Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh delves deeply into the Gaelic elements of Galloway Scots speakers and in another he assesses the usefulness of place-names in giving clues to linguistic characteristics and dialect affinities of Galloway Gaelic.

The lesser-known Lowland Clearances and its impact in erasing so much of Galloway heritage in the second half of the 18th century is covered by Alastair Livingstone. It was with great sadness that he died prior to this book's publication. That low note was compounded by the death, again prior to publication, of one of the book's editors, the much-respected, Prof Ted Cowan.

As a former Trustee of the *Scottish Local History Forum*, I'm honoured to say I was invited by one of the editors, Ronald Black, to join this company of erudite scholars by virtue of a very local piece of evidence of Gaelic I found in the household accounts of Lady Kirkmichael. Her servant, Ann NicClure, was preserved in the historic record by using the feminine prefix to her name, *nic* (daughter) rather than *mac* (son). From that three-letter seed a whole chapter grew and by further research continues to do so.

Such is the extensive scope of this book it is best summed up by Prof Donald Meek:

'This ground-breaking book addresses the challenges of salvaging the wider Gaelic dimension of Galloway, and sheds brilliant beams of light on the 'lost' Gaelic cultural heritage of the region ... it 'catches the moment' by assembling a team of present-day scholars of the highest calibre ... I would regard it as one of the most important Gaelic 'recovery projects' of my lifetime. (James Brown)



Girvan Councillor, Alec Clark, proudly shows one of several new bi-lingual signs appearing in Galloway and Carrick

■ Barnes, *Ishbel Arbroath Abbey and its Abbots*

Strathmartine Press, St Andrews, 2022, pp.309, £20.00, ISBN 978 0 9955441 3 0

According to the back-cover blurb of this book, it is 'the first history of Scotland's richest abbey'. It traces the abbey's origins from its origins as a twelfth century bastion of the Roman version of the Christian faith down to the Reformation (1178-1560). This is achieved by means of eleven chapters, each one dealing with the period of service of one or more of its abbots. In her Introduction Dr Barnes, a professional archivist, refers to academic historians' practice of 'writing books primarily for other historians and not for the general public'. In this book, in a style that is very readily understood, she addresses a general readership but does so in a way that will surely win the approval of academic historians, with carefully referenced sources, a comprehensive bibliography and a good index. The illustrations include several by Ron Wilson RIBA ARIAS, such as maps of land holdings of Arbroath Abbey and plans of the abbey buildings. A full review of this book will appear in a future issue of *Scottish Local History*. (Don Martin)

MEET AN SLHF TRUSTEE – COLIN BROWN

Colin Brown has been a Professional Actor since 1971 and was a member of the SLHF Committee before becoming a Trustee. As Chair of the Leith Local History Society. He was the first Supervisor of the Scottish Working Peoples Oral History Project; the tapes and transcripts being stored in the School of Scottish Studies. He was the Director of the oral history video company Serendipity Productions and had an article in issue 53, Winter 2001, page 48 of *Scottish Local History* entitled 'Serendipity, Worthies and ROSH'. He has a Certificate in Teaching Adults and a Bsc (Hons) in Film and Media Studies. This year he will be conducting Post-graduate studies in Scottish History at Edinburgh University.



MEET A LOCAL GROUP - INVERARAY AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY



A good turnout for the History Society's 40th Anniversary celebrations

The Inveraray and District History Society celebrated its Ruby Anniversary in 2022. This fact was uncovered when going through the papers deposited at the Inveraray Castle Archives, Cherry Park, after the death of local historian Mrs Rae MacGregor. Rae had worked with Alastair Campbell of Airds after the 12th Duke of Argyll appointed him Chief Executive of Clan Campbell of Argyll. One of the tasks set for Rae and Alastair was to sort through 700 years' worth of records hastily removed from the Inveraray Castle Muniments Room during the disastrous fire in the 1970s.

After the castle records were moved from the Jacob More Room at the top of the castle to the purpose-built archive at Cherry Park, Rae continued to be involved. She was instrumental in forming a Local History Workshop, examining the records and forming projects focusing on people, rentals, communal farms/townships and other subjects. This output formed the bulk of papers collected from Rae's brother after her passing. On opening the folders one of the first notes read:

'At a public meeting suggesting the formation of a history society on Wednesday 13th October 1982 introduced by Mr [Donald] Mackechnie, the Inveraray and District Local History Society was born. Dr Fergus McKenna was in the chair, but the first meeting wasn't until a month or so later.'

The paragraph includes the names of the two driving forces in the foundation of the Inveraray and District History Society, and they were supported by a coterie of interested locals. Donald Mackechnie MA OBE was headmaster at Inveraray Grammar School and a local resident for more than forty years. The home he shared with wife Gladys at Douglas Bridge was the go-to place for people seeking the history of the district, and their ancestors. In the days before computers and the internet (the Mackechnies had no electricity in the house) all Donald's correspondence and notes were contained in a huge ledger, and after his death it was passed into the care of Rae MacGregor. Dr Fergus Severine

McKenna was retired and lived at Dunalastair, Tarbert, where he maintained his collection of rhododendrons. He was also involved with the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll, founded in 1955 by local author, archaeologist and historian the redoubtable Miss Marion Campbell of Kilberry. His fine artwork adorned the front cover of early issues of their journal, *Kist*.

Also mentioned when the suggestion was introduced by Mr Mackechnie were Sue Martin, the only surviving name still in the area, and Laura Martin (then Laura Clark), who still lives in the west of Scotland. Rae McGregor was also there at the start, with the only other person named being Annabel Macmillan. Annabel came from the west end of Glasgow to teach at Cairndow and Inveraray and was also involved in the founding of the Neil Munro Society in the 1990s. She married locally to become Annabel Morrison, but died tragically young.

Others involved in the early days included Mrs Val MacGlashan in Kenmore, whose work on the early history and inhabitants of Kenmore, Loch Fyne, is among the



Sue Martin and Camayo Stewart, two of the original Society members, cutting the celebration cake.

records passed to Cherry Park. Mrs Sheila Macintyre in Creggans transcribed burgh records and other rentals, also now at Cherry Park where her handwriting is instantly recognisable.

The Craigs, Dr Leslie and his wife Ann, must also get a mention. Spinning off from the Society were the regular workshops run by Rae after the archive moved to Cherry Park, where Ann Craig and Rae were joined by Camayo Stewart and occasionally others, transcribing items of interest such as the diaries of Duke Niall, 10th Duke of Argyll, and his sister Lady Elspeth.

The Inveraray and District History Society continues to this day with its aims 'to study and disseminate information on the history (in the widest sense) of Mid Argyll'. A series of seven monthly meetings, and an AGM in another location of interest, is held during the winter months each year.

HISTORY NEWS

■ **New editor at *Local History News*:** After two decades at the helm of the **British Association of Local History's** quarterly news journal, Dr Jane Howells has retired from the role. The new editor is Andrew Chapman, who has been a magazine editor and writer in the family history field for the last 18 years, and also works in history book publishing. He welcomes news items and proposals for articles via editor.lhn@balh.org.uk

■ **[The photographer using a Victorian process to picture Scotland](#).** Alex Boyd is using a photographic process developed by the Victorians more than 170 years ago to create images of Scotland and Ireland. The artist, who was born in Germany and raised in Ayrshire, came across collodion glass plate photography while working at museums in Dumfries and the Hebrides.

■ **[Sir Walter Scott's Rob Roy manuscript to go on show](#).** Sir Walter Scott's manuscript of his novel Rob Roy is set to go on show to the public for the first time in at least 100 years. The original draft of the historical classic, published in 1817, was hidden from all but a few scholars and saved from being sold off at auction. But from March it will be on display at the Treasures of the National Library of Scotland exhibition in Edinburgh. It was among many literary gems held in the Honresfield Library.

■ **A Scottish historic site has scored a top-five spot in a list of a major US publication's top places to visit in 2023.** The New York Times has released its rankings and featured among the catalogue of culturally rich and scenic locations is **Kilmartin Glen**. Situated in Argyll, the historic landmark has been listed at number four thanks to its archaeological monuments and strong history. <https://tinyurl.com/fkbytvph>

■ **[Seven museum objects](#)** are currently being returned to New Delhi as part of an agreement which sees **Glasgow Life Museums** become the first UK museums service to repatriate items to India.

The plans, first revealed in August 2022, include the return of a ceremonial Indo-Persian tulwar (sword), believed to date back to the 14th century. The items were packed into crates at Glasgow Museums Resource Centre on, Tuesday 10 January, before being transferred to the Archaeological Survey of India, where the artefacts will go on display.

■ **A Quirk of History from The Knowledge** The term 'red tape' as shorthand for 'bureaucratic entanglements' comes from the physical red fabric used by the American government to tie together documents, says *The Washington Post*. The bright cotton strips were used from the 1780s to the 1980s, with miles of the stuff purchased every year. The National Archives in Washington now sells the tape, incorporated into earrings, paperweights and more, through its gift shop. Browse the collection [here](#).

■ **Historic Environment Scotland (HES)** has launched a survey of **stonemasonry** in Scotland to better understand the current status of the sector. More details are available on this [link](#).

■ **Scottish football legend [Jock Stein's birth certificate](#) is among a new set of records that have been made publicly available online.** Celtic won the European Cup in 1967 and 10 league titles - nine of them in a row - with Stein as manager. Writer Compton Mackenzie's death certificate is another of the new documents added to National Records of Scotland's People website. <https://tinyurl.com/7rr7mtpk>

■ **The Land O' the Leal, one of the most poignant Scottish folk songs, is often mistaken as the work of the great bard, Robert Burns.** But the lament, sung for well over a century at Ulster Scots gatherings, is in fact the work of Lady Carolina Nairne. <https://tinyurl.com/ye24jmm6>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland and Stobs Camp** The surviving accommodation hut at Stobs Camp near Hawick looks isolated today but during the First World War, when Stobs was Scotland's most prominent prisoner of war camp, it would have been surrounded by people and activity. Along with nearby training trenches and firing ranges, HES are proposing making this piece of wartime history a scheduled monument. You can let them know what you think in their ongoing consultation: <http://ow.ly/pzRA50MRXsy>

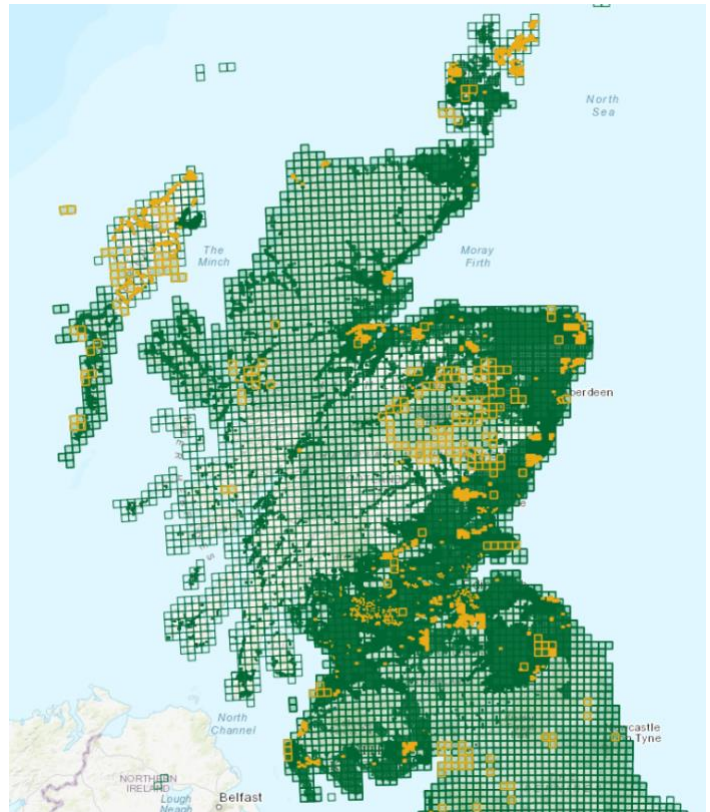
MAPS NEWS - our thanks to Chris Fleet for this information

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS PUBLISHED IN 1972

In January we added 2,094 maps online at scales of 1:1,250 to 1:63,360 which were published in 1972, and therefore just came out-of-copyright from 1 January 2023. These include 1,468 detailed maps at scales of 1:1,250 and 1:2,500 covering areas in Scotland, and 577 less detailed maps at scales of 1:10,000/1:10,560 covering areas in England, Scotland and Wales. The new maps covering parts of the Highlands, Western and Northern Isles, are often the first post-War National Grid map available for these areas. We have also added 49 sheets from the One Inch Seventh Series (1952-72), which have come out of copyright this year too.

- Ordnance Survey maps published in 1972: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/#136>

Our graphic index showing Ordnance Survey National Grid maps highlights the new maps published in 1972 in orange.

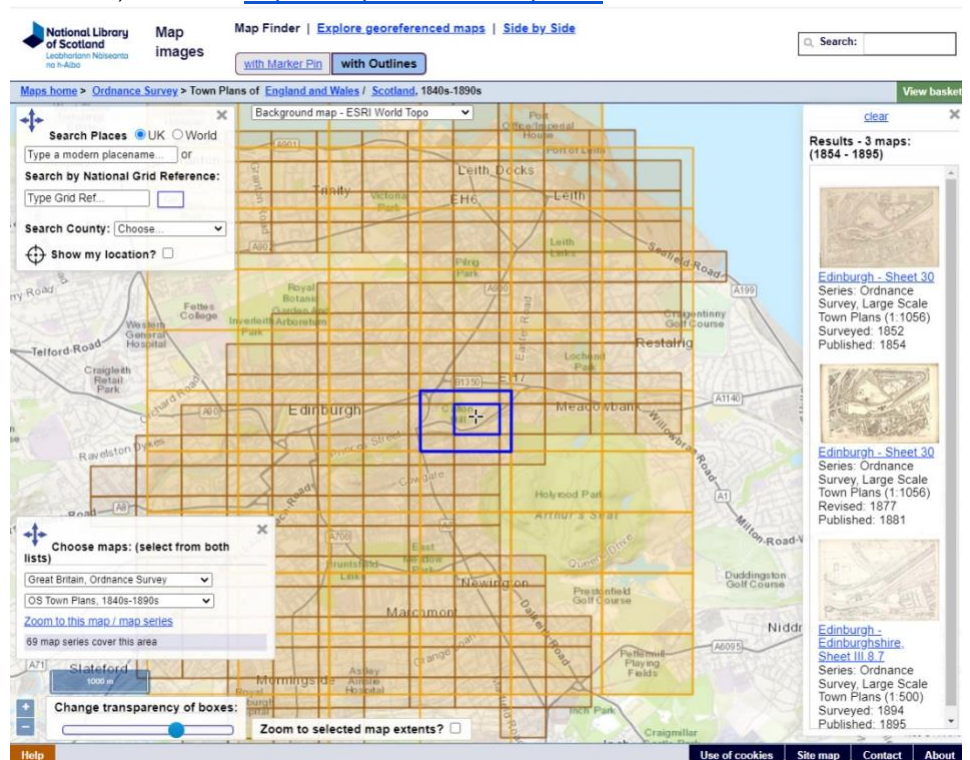


ORDNANCE SURVEY TOWN PLANS OF SCOTLAND - NEW OUTLINES

Our 1,872 Ordnance Survey maps covering 62 towns at the large scales of 1:500 - 1:1,056 (1847-1895) have been online for over 20 years, but we have only recently had an opportunity to create proper sheet outlines for them, so that they can be searched for more easily in our *Map Finder* viewer. The new outlines also mean when viewing the georeferenced layer of town plans in our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer, it's also possible view details of the specific map under your mouse cursor.

- Ordnance Survey town plans of Scotland, 1847-95: <https://maps.nls.uk/townplans/>

The new outlines for Edinburgh OS Town Plans in the NLS *Map Finder* viewer.



CAN YOU HELP?

A CALL TO ACTION: HELP SAVE AN A-LISTED MILL—from Lily Mulvey • Outreach and Promotion Officer.

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust is a charity with a wide remit encompassing historic building conservation, archaeology, access to the historic environment and interpretation. We provide a range of projects and services, such as grants, training in traditional skills and organising Perth & Kinross' Doors Open Days festival, as well as educational resources and publications on archaeology and history.

We are currently working on the ambitious Lower City Mills Project. Lower City Mills, an old water-powered oatmeal and barley mill, is a link back to Perth's past as major



industrial Scottish city and has been home to the Trust offices since 2019. You may have seen and read about Lower City Mills in Anthony Cooke's article, "Famed for its Mills" The Regulation of Perth Burgh Mills and the Challenge to Monopoly Privileges, 1745-1845', in the latest edition of *Scottish Local History*. The building is A-listed with rare working machinery, including what we believe to be the largest working waterwheel in Scotland! Lower City Mills is part of Perth Common Good, meaning that it is owned by the people of Perth.

Sadly, despite functioning as a working mill visitor attraction through the 1990s, the building has been closed to the public for 20 years and has been on the Buildings At Risk Register since 2012. But now Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust are planning to conserve and re-open it.

The Trust's vision for the mill is:

- Conservation of the building and its machinery
- A sustainable future as a hub for conservation and milling
- Providing opportunities for training local people in disappearing skill
- The restoration of public access to the working waterwheel and machinery as well as new exhibition space

We began development in early 2022 and have since been working on designs, activity plans and lighting schemes as well as holding interpretation workshops, tours and even a conference! We've arranged important surveys such as ecology and accessibility along with an audit of the working machinery.

We now need the voices of members of the public in order to secure £1.2 million of grant funding towards the £2.7 million project. Without your input we won't be able to save this important building. We're asking you to please take 5 minutes to fill in our online questionnaire. It's really important that we get your input - the mill is publicly owned and its restoration would be hugely beneficial to Perth.



Go to www.pkht.org.uk/projects/lower-city-mills/ to read more about the project and complete the survey. Thank you.

