

# CLISH-CLASH



**The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum**

Scottish Charity SC015850

ISSUE 59

July 2023

ISSN 2055-6411

## SLHF NEWS

Welcome to Issue 59 of *Clish-Clash*. We hope you have been enjoying the Summer weather.

Due to various holiday commitments this edition of *Clish-Clash* was put together before our trustees met on 26 June, but we can still bring you some news.

■ Issue 116 of **Scottish Local History** should be with members by the middle of August. Articles will include 'Distilleries at Balerno' by A & L. Brown, 'Charles Ferme of Fraserburgh' by A. Drummond, 'Major Thomas Hunt of the East India Company' by M. Kennedy, 'Local Coronation & Jubilee Commemoration' by D. Lockhart, 'Lost Churches of Stirling' by K. Scott and 'The Duke of Sutherland's Pioneering Use of Concrete' by D. Scott Cowan.

Work is also progressing on Issue 117 for publication in Spring 2024. Probable articles will include Catherine Rice on George Young of Strelitz (Perthshire); one by long-standing SLH contributor Stuart Nisbet on Giffnock sandstone; Margaret Kennedy with background information relating to Dumfries Museum's famous 'Siller Gun', G. Manzor on the early days of Fairfield Shipbuilding Company and A. Drummond on 'Menageries & Circuses in East Scotland'.

■ On 27 April 2023 SLHF held its annual conference at the Black Watch Museum in Perth on the theme of **Science, Engineering and Technology**. After our Honorary President, Professor Chris Whatley ably set the scene with a short overview of the importance of these elements in the rise of modern Scotland we heard from a variety of speakers on different aspects of the theme. Ian Shearer of the Friends of Kinneil spoke about the collaborations that took place between Dr John Roebuck and James Watt at Kinneil House, Dr Denis Smith took us through the rise of electricity as a treatment in the 18th century and introduced us to some of the Scottish practitioners and Andrew Eadie ended the morning by introducing us to John Ritchie a pioneer of hydro-electric schemes in 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotland. After lunch we had a short presentation from Patrick Hart of the National Library of Scotland on the varied resources for local history held by that institution. The conference resumed with Steve Connelly examining the claim made by David Gorrie & Son, engineers, Perth to be the world's largest manufacturers of laundry equipment, Dr Graham Clark charted the rise and fall of Scotland's corrugated-iron buildings and Roderick Stewart ended the day with the story of his family's hacklemaking business in Dundee and its various attempts at diversification. A more detailed report on the day's proceedings will appear in **Scottish Local History** issue 116.

■ Bookings are open for our **Walk and Talk event in Dundee on Wednesday, 30 August 2023**. Further details of the visit to both of **Dundee Heritage Trust's** museums are available on the website: [Dundee Walk & Talk: Discovery Point & Verdant Works | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](https://www.dundeeheritagetrust.org.uk/verdantheworks)



## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■The National Library of Scotland provides a wide range of talks and workshops, many with a strong local history theme. Most are online so that they are open to as wide an audience as possible, but onsite workshops and tours also take place in our Library Buildings in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Upcoming workshops include:

- 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.



© National Library of Scotland

■ William Horneck. An Exact Plan of the Town and adjacent parts of Perth as it was fortified and possess'd by the Rebels in Scotland till they were driven thence by the Victorious Arm of King George, Anno 1715/6. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

■ In a previous edition of *Clish-Clash* we drew attention to the NLS fundraising appeal for conservation of Scotland's newspaper heritage. We are pleased to report that over £110,000 has been raised so far. You can learn more about the work being done here: [Saving local newspapers for the nation - YouTube](#)

■On 12 July there is an opportunity to learn about the National Library of Scotland's touring displays. The event is being held at George IV Bridge. Details:

[Touring Displays Breakfast Event Tickets, Wed 12 Jul 2023 at 09:15 | Eventbrite](#)



■Discover the magical Gaelic folktales collected by John Francis Campbell of Islay (1821-1885). This exhibition is on at the George IV Bridge Building, Edinburgh until 20 April, 2024

[Sgeul | Story | National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#)

■The NLS has produced [a series of short films](#) highlighting some of the hidden LGBT+ stories represented in the Library's collections. These include a profile of pioneering gay author Edward Carpenter, gender non-conforming characters in 18th-century broadsides, and the story of an accusation of a lesbian affair in a 19th-century Edinburgh girls' school. The videos provide a glimpse of the breadth of NLS collections as well as the many other LGBT+ stories waiting to be discovered.

■**Historic Environment Scotland** has unveiled plans for new storage for its records. Archive House, an existing building in the Sherwood Industrial Estate in Bonnyrigg, will be converted to a world-class facility to house the organisation's extensive records and archives, which give a unique insight in to over 5,000 years of Scotland's history. See more details here: [Plans unveiled for new Archive House | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

■**The Art Fund's Museum of the Year** award has two Scottish museums among its five finalists - **Burrell Collection**, Glasgow and **Scapa Flow Museum**, Orkney. The winner will be announced on 12 July at the British Museum and will receive £120,000. The other finalists will each receive £15,000.

[Two Scottish museums shortlisted for Museum of the Year Award - History Scotland](#)

■In further exciting news for the **Scapa Flow Museum**, Orkney Islands Council and the National Museum of the Royal Navy have also signed a memorandum of understanding to share experience and expertise in developing the awareness and understanding of naval heritage

■The charity **Museums and Heritage Highland** has collaborated with fifteen local museums to create the new **Museum of the Highlands** website 'a digital learning hub where you can discover over 350 fascinating objects from 3 billion BC to the present day. High-quality photographs and detailed descriptions allow an up-close analysis of each object, while 200 free resources, from fun games to in-depth learning aids, invite a deeper dig into the past.'

[Museum of the Highlands | Play, Learn & Explore Collections from across the Highlands](#)

■**Museums Galleries Scotland** has published its 2022 survey of Scotland's museums and galleries and the full report is available here: [National Survey for Scotland's Museums & Galleries - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

■**MGS** has also provided a short film and report relating to the **Year of Stories 2022**:

[Year of Stories 2022 Community Stories Fund - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

■The **Declaration of Arbroath** was recently on display at the **National Museum of Scotland** for a short period. Unfortunately, by the time you read this you will have missed it as it will be safely back in the **National Records of Scotland**. Seven hundred year-old documents need to be cosseted. Learn about its significance in this article on the **National Records of Scotland** website: [Declaration of Arbroath on display | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](#)

You can also view this short BBC film featuring the archivists and conservators involved in making the document available to view. [Declaration of Arbroath: Scotland's most famous letter goes on display - BBC News](#)

■The **Scottish Records Association** invites paper proposals for a one-day conference: *The Body as Evidence*. It is to be held at the Soutar Theatre, A K Bell Library in Perth on Thursday 23 November 2023. Prospective themes can be seen at this link to the SRA website: [original \(cimpress.io\)](#)

**TownsWeb Archiving Digitisation Grant is back for 2023!**

This year marks the TWA Digitisation Grant's SIXTH successful year! In that time it has supported over 110 organisations, offering a total of £108,000 in funding. Last year 31 separate projects were funded with over £30,000 awarded! And, as the Match Funding Pot proved very popular last year, it's back!

**Applicants will find:**

- THREE grants x £3,000 each
- £500 added to a Match Funding Pot per eligible application
- Claims of up to £1,000 against the funding pot (on a first come, first served basis)
- Six weeks to make a match funding claim from date of winners announcement

● **Key dates:**

- Opens: **19th June 2023**
- Closes: **28th July 2023**
- Winners to be announced at the [ARA Annual Conference](#) in August (dates TBC)

**Available to the following UK institutions:**

- Public, private & charity archives
- Business/corporate archives
- Public & private libraries
- Museums
- Galleries
- Institutions and organisations that have applied before (even for the same project).

**The grant can be used for:** The digitisation of Bound Volume Collections, Archive Collections, and Photograph Collections. See website for full terms and conditions.

**To apply:** Check eligibility and download an application form via the TWA designated grant page: <https://blog.townswearchiving.com/tag/twa-digitisation-grant>

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

■ **The Scottish Labour History Society** has established the **Ian MacDougall Essay Prize** with a threefold purpose: to honour the memory of Dr Ian MacDougall (1933-2020), founding secretary of the Scottish Labour History Society and the Scottish Working People's History Trust; to encourage the finest standards of scholarship amongst undergraduate students in the field of labour history in Scotland and to promote the study and recording of labour and popular history in Scotland. The essay prize will be awarded annually, the winner to receive: a cash prize of £400; publication of the winning essay in *Scottish Labour History* and one year's free subscription to the Scottish Labour History Society, including subscription to *Scottish Labour History*. For further information contact [admin@scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot](mailto:admin@scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot)

■ **Banffshire Field Club Day Conference: "Banffshire Fowk"**. Those with family links to historic Banffshire can look forward to a treat later this year! On Saturday 7 October, Banffshire Field Club is hosting a one-day conference on the theme of "Banffshire Fowk". The Banffshire diaspora is the topic to be discussed by keynote speaker Professor Marjory Harper, an acknowledged authority on Scots emigration. Mary Evans, also well known to ANESFHS members, will focus on Banffshire family history, while contributors to the programme will include speakers from Keith Local Heritage Group and other organisations representing different areas of Banffshire and its history. The venue for this event will be the recently refurbished Seaford Arms Hotel in the charming Banffshire coastal town of Cullen. The detailed programme has now been published at <http://www.banffshirefieldclub.com/conference.html> and online bookings are being taken via a link on the same page.

■ **The Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (DGNHAS)** is launching an interesting initiative: *The Young Researcher Competition*. It is aimed at years S4, S5, S6 or recent school leavers who have not yet begun higher education, with the aim of fostering a long-lasting interest in their local heritage. Students should produce an original research paper between 1,500-2,500 words on any topic relating to the human history or natural environment within D&G. Two prizes are offered - £150 at S4 level, or £250 at the more senior level. The latter prize includes publication of the winning paper on the Society's website and Facebook pages.

The competition runs from the end of the summer term, and the deadline for entries is 31 December. Full details of the competition including registration forms, entry forms and terms & conditions are available on the Society's website: <https://dgnhas.org.uk>.

■ 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

■ **Scottish Mining** may be of interest to some readers of Clish-Clash. You might want to try the National Mining Museums Scotland's website <https://www.nationalminingmuseum.com/>

■ Even if you've not got an Irish connection you may find this of interest. **The Irish Duchas Project** is digitising the **National Folklore Collection**. It contains 780,000 pages of the Schools' Collection which contains essays about local folklore, saints and traditional medicines recorded by 13- and 14-year-old pupils in 5,000 state schools during 1937 and 1938. <https://www.duchas.ie/en/>

■ More locally, **National Library of Scotland** opened on 9 June an exhibition in Gaelic and English on **Folktales from the Scottish Highlands collected by John Francis Campbell of Islay (1821 to 1885)**. The exhibition runs until **April 2024**. <https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/sqeul-story/>

■ Very few modern organisations can trace their heritage to 1784. Even less can say they have remained true to their founders' values and beliefs. Yet this is the case for **The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland**. Their website is an interesting and accessible site. <https://archive.rhass.org.uk/>

## UNIVERSITIES

■ On 9 May 2023 the Centre for Lifelong Learning formally launched **Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies**. They welcomed several hundred individuals from across the world to hear from the panel of speakers. The Institute also launched an exciting new website <https://tinyurl.com/3f3rrp56>

## PUBLICATIONS

■ **Who Do You Think You Are? Issue 204, June 2023** has 2 articles that may be of interest to you. **Scottish Valuation Rolls** are described by Chris Paton. There is also an article on **Irish Surnames** which may be useful read across for anyone looking at Irish and Scots connections <https://tinyurl.com/2c7e32ht>

■ **The British Newspaper Archive** has an excellent blog which can be searched by a wide range of terms. Try 'Scotland' and you will find some gems....<https://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

■ **The Geographer Summer 2023** from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society includes an article by Chris Fleet 'Ralph Richardson's Earthquake Map of Scotland ' which was published in 1892.

■ **The Dundee & Arbroath Railway** by Niall Ferguson, published jointly by [Lightmoor Press](#) and the [Caledonian Railway Association](#), hardback, 224 pp £35, ISBN: 9781915069177. See *Courier* article for more information: [Dundee and Arbroath Railway book takes us to rail's glorious past \(thecourier.co.uk\)](#)

■ **History Scotland Vol. 23 No. 4 July/August 2023.** Contents include: the sinking of the Clyde steamer Daphne, the dazzling splendour of the royal court of James IV, the bitter controversy over how Scotland's rocks were formed, holy wells and witches fountains: an Edinburgh history hike and the archaeology of an early car dealership.

■ **Northern Scotland Vol.14, No. 1, May, 2023.** Contents include: The Structure and Exercise of Power in Moray under Thomas Randolph, First Earl of Moray, 1312–32 by Yuki Nakagawa; 'As he came, so, mysteriously, did he vanish': John George Glass, teacher in Lerwick, 1842–54 by Brian Smith; The Management of the Public Execution of Joseph Bell in Mid-Victorian Scotland by Robert S. Shiels; Bog, Bothy, Zen: Introducing Sydney Scroggie's Environmental and Metaphysical Thought by Sarah Leith.

■ **The Edinburgh History of Scottish Newspapers, 1850-1950** by W. Hamish Fraser, Edinburgh University Press, £150, 528 pages, April 2023 (Hardback) ISBN Hardback: 9781399511537 Ebook (ePub): 9781399511568 Ebook (PDF): 9781399511551.

[The Edinburgh History of Scottish Newspapers, 1850-1950 \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)

■ **The Tramways of Aberdeen 1956** by Henry Conn, Silver Link Books, £27, hardback, 128 pp, July 2023 ISBN: 9781857945966 [5966 - The Tramways of Aberdeen 1956 | Mortons Books](#)

■ **The Battle of Pinkie, 1547 – the last battle between the independent kingdoms of Scotland and England** by David H. Caldwell, Victoria Oleksy, Bess Rhodes. Oxbow Books, June 2023, £35, 224 pp, ISBN: 9781789259735

[The Battle of Pinkie, 1547 \(oxbowbooks.com\)](https://oxbowbooks.com)

■ **Scottish Archives Vol. 28 2022**, Journal of the Scottish Records Association. Contents include: Aberdeen Harbour Board: Audience Engagement in the Time of Covid by Mollie Horne; 'It happened at the berry-time when Travellers came to Blair': Traveller Voices in *Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches* by Robert Fell; Reformation and Record-keeping: Dundee's Sixteenth-Century Burgh Books by Amy Blakeway; Sports in Scottish Burgh and Notarial Records, 1500-1700, Part 2 by Thomas Brochard; Learning from the Past: The Life and Adventures of Mr George Robertson Nicoll by Vivienne E. Cree and Undetected Medical Histories: William Macewan as Police Surgeon by Ross McGregor and Cheryl McGeachan.

■ **The Local Historian Vol. 53 No. 2**, Journal of the British Association for Local History, £5 (free to members)

[www.balh.org.uk](http://www.balh.org.uk)

## Blogs

■ Is this the world's greatest gate? Read more about **The Gate Appreciation Society** <https://tinyurl.com/3fw4ksz3>

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:

■ **Peter Hennessey** is an English historian and academic specialising in the history of government. His written work is very informative and as a former journalist his style of presentation is very easy on the eye and the ear. There are several radio programmes which can tell you more including his recent interview on [Desert Island Discs](#). His radio programme **Reflections** asks senior politicians to reflect on their lives and times and covers an extensive cross section of politicians over 27 episodes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04fd8md/episodes/player>

■ **The Stone of Destiny** has recently featured on BBC Radio 4 as a result of its role in the coronation of King Charles III. You can catch the programme [here](#)

■ **Cotton Capital** is a 6-part podcast series that explores how transatlantic slavery shaped the Guardian, Manchester, Britain and the world. Stemming from an investigation into the Guardian founder's own links to slavery, this ongoing series explores that history and its enduring legacies today. Search for it wherever you get your podcasts.

■ **Radio Moments: Clips** is a library of momentous moments from 100 years of radio. This has been developed by David Lloyd who on the same site has 2 associated podcasts **This Week in History** and **Conversations**. <https://www.davidlloydradio.com/radiomoments>

■ **Dan Snow's History Hit** is a very successful daily podcast giving historical background to current affairs or just choosing a subject on a whim. His **YouTube** makes the information especially accessible. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZwU2G-KVI-P-O-B35chZOQ>

The much-loved TV Programme '**Who Do You Think You Are?**' returned to our screens on 1 June 2023. As ever it is also available on iPlayer. Amongst the 9 episodes in Series 20 that are worth a watch is one which features Bear Grylls who traces his roots to Scotland. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007t575/episodes/guide>

■ **Pathogenesis: How Germs Made History** by **Jonathan Kennedy** explores how pathogens have been the protagonists in many of the most important social, political and economic transformations in history - the demise of the great empires of Antiquity, the transformations of Christianity and Islam from small sects in Palestine and the Hijaz to world religions, the devastation wrought by European colonialism in the Americas and Africa, and the creation of the modern welfare state. This is available on BBC iPlayer with an interesting reference to Scotland in Part 4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001mc70>

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

■ **Dundee Walk & Talk: Discovery Point & Verdant Works on Wednesday 30 August**—this all-day event organised by the Scottish Local History Forum is now open for bookings. For further information use this [link](#)

■ **Hidden Histories: Exploring equality, diversity and Inclusion.** How can museums better represent the diversity of the human experience? This is at the heart of the display available to view throughout 2023 and curated by The McManus in Dundee <https://www.mcmanus.co.uk/exhibitions/hidden-histories>

■ **Cairngorms museum exhibits rarely-seen Landseer art:** A new exhibition explores Victorian artist **Sir Edwin Landseer's** romanticised imagery of the Scottish Highlands. **Grantown-on-Spey's** museum has secured support to exhibit some of Landseer's rarely seen art, painted while he was in the Cairngorms. The exhibition runs until 30 September. <https://tinyurl.com/2p9b8u9v>

■ **Day Conference: "Banffshire Fowk"** Those with family links to historic Banffshire can look forward to a treat later this year! On Saturday 7 October, Banffshire Field Club is hosting a one-day conference on the theme of "Banffshire Fowk". The Banffshire diaspora is the topic to be discussed by keynote speaker Professor Marjory Harper, an acknowledged authority on Scots emigration. Mary Evans, also well known to ANESFHS members, will focus on Banffshire family history, while contributors to the programme will include speakers from Keith Local Heritage Group and other organisations representing different areas of Banffshire and its history. The venue for this event will be the recently refurbished Seaford Arms Hotel in the charming Banffshire coastal town of Cullen. Detailed arrangements, once confirmed, will be publicised via the Banffshire Field Club Facebook page. The detailed programme has now been published at <http://www.banffshirefieldclub.com/conference.html> and online bookings are being taken via a link on the same page. It will also be available on request by contacting Banffshire Field Club by email: [bfc.1880@gmail.com](mailto:bfc.1880@gmail.com)

■ **Highland Archaeology Festival Celebrating Highland Archaeology, History and Heritage**

The festival is provided by the Highland Council and runs over 3 weeks each late September/October to celebrate the heritage of the Highlands from earliest settlers to modern times, below ground and above. Whether you are a seasoned archaeologist or a complete beginner, the festival will let you explore an amazing range of places and collections. There's something to suit everyone and many of the events are free! HAF 2023 - Dates for your Diary: 23 September to 13 October, with the conference on 7 & 8 October.

<https://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org/>

■ **A History of Care or Control - 100 years of Learning Disability Nursing**—this is an in-person exhibition at the Royal College of Nursing in Edinburgh (14 June-31 October) but can also be viewed on line using this [link](#).

■ Thursdays starting 6 July until 10 August **Heritage in Action Days at Highland Folk Museum.** Different activities each Thursday 11-1 and 2-4. Entry by donation, car parking charges apply. See their [website](#) for further information.

National Library of Scotland opened on 9 June an exhibition in Gaelic and English on **Folktales from the Scottish Highlands collected by John Francis Campbell of Islay (1821 to 1885).** The exhibition runs until April 2024.

<https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/sgeul-story/>

■ **Joint Conference organised by the Society for Landscape Studies and the Dumfriesshire & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society.** 30 September is lecture format and 1 October is a field day. Venue Burns Centre, Mill Road, Dumfries DG2 7BE. The conference will run over 2 days commencing with tea/coffee at 9.30 am on Saturday, 30 September, with the programme itself commencing at 10.00 am. The morning session of the first day will be in a lecture format consisting of a variety of speakers on topics covering the landscapes of the County with emphasis on historic and monastic landscapes. The landscapes of conflict will be further subjects featured, covering fortified/tower houses, the 2 World Wars and the Cold War; together with a case study in respect of the archaeology of the Kirkcudbright range. Art in the landscape will be featured in the afternoon session, covering Charles Jencks' Crawick Multiverse together with speakers from the Galloway Glens Partnership Landscape Assessment giving an update of the work they are currently undertaking. The second day gives participants the opportunity to visit two tower houses: Drumcoltran and Hills Tower. This will be followed by lunch at Threave Gardens with and an opportunity to see the Threave Landscape Restoration Project. The cost is £30.00 (for both days) which includes a buffet lunch on the first day only. For full details and to book your place(s) please visit the Society for Landscape Studies website, the link to which is given [here](#).

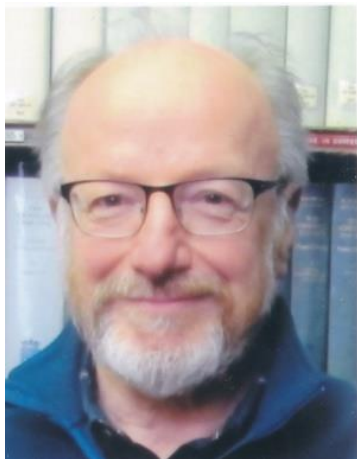
■ **In Safe Hands: The Battle For Midwifery.**

Surgeons' Hall Museums, Edinburgh. Until Easter 2024. This exhibition explores the story of midwifery and obstetrics through the centuries. It explores how the perception of childbirth changed from being simply a life event into something requiring medical oversight. Traditionally women naturally took on the role of safely delivering a baby, the new 'medicalised' model saw the rise of the male midwife from around the 18th century. The exhibition highlights Edinburgh's contribution to the development of the profession and how this has evolved into modern practices. <https://museum.rcsed.ac.uk/the-collection/temporary-exhibition>



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## SPOTLIGHT ON SLHF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



### Derrick Johnstone, Old Edinburgh Club

Derrick joined the Council of the Old Edinburgh Club (OEC) as Secretary in February 2021, delighted to play a part in promoting the history of Edinburgh on returning to his home city. His inspiration came from his father's love of geography and history and a primary school book, W F Arbuckle's 'Scotland's Capital'.

Derrick's time with the OEC has seen some significant changes in how the Club operates. Trustees have been raising the Club's profile and attracting new members while also making more resources available digitally to complement our annual lecture and visit programme and the publication of the annual Book of the Old Edinburgh Club. The OEC has been very fortunate to receive two legacies which are enabling the Club to work on collaborative projects with the City Council and launch a small grants scheme to promote research and bring Edinburgh's history to life.

Derrick is pleased to have joined the SLHF Advisory Committee and welcomes the opportunity to support the work of the Forum and promote the interests of individual

member societies. He feels strongly that, given the learning curve that the Old Edinburgh Club has been on, it would be great if more knowledge was shared amongst societies on topics of common interest, such as access to discounted software, website good practice, use of social media, and attracting younger members and trustees.

Derrick's undergraduate degree was in Economics and Economic History at the University of Edinburgh, followed by Town and Regional Planning at Glasgow where he specialised in urban economics and public policy. Early experience as a Research Assistant included work on the history of tenements in Partick, the oral history of residents, and shopping patterns in the East End.

Derrick spent his career in England and Scotland, including a spell at the Planning Exchange in Glasgow, promoting good practice and skills in local and regional economic development. He worked with and for a range of public, private and voluntary organisations, helping them work better together and improve their impact.

A postgraduate student again, Derrick is pursuing research with the University of Glasgow on the motivations and outcomes of Scots emigrants to New Jersey in the 1680s, a little known but successful venture predating the debacle of Darien. His project includes a genealogical database of emigrant families and is striving to join up local histories in Scotland and Colonial America.

## MEET A LOCAL GROUP

### Broughton History Society, Edinburgh

Richard Love  
Chair BHS



The old village of Broughton ('farm beside the brook' in old Anglian) was a separate barony north east of the old town of Edinburgh. The earliest record is in a charter granted to canons of Holyrood Abbey by David 1 in 1128, which included 'Broctun and its right marches'. These church lands reverted to the Crown after the Reformation, when James VI gave Broughton to Sir Lewis Bellenden, his Justice-Clerk, who became Baron of Broughton, with his own court and prison at Broughton Tollbooth. Although this building was demolished in 1829, it was adopted as Broughton History Society's logo on the formation of the society in 1996.

With the development of the New Town in the late 18<sup>th</sup> C, new buildings gradually encroached onto the village, whose original remains eventually became surrounded by Broughton, Dublin, Barony and London Streets before finally disappearing in the 1930s. We consider the modern area of Broughton to extend roughly north of the top of Leith Walk down to Macdonald Road, south of Broughton Road and west as far as Dublin Street, although this does not have any official status.

The society itself grew out of a series of classes on local history given by John Dickie in the 1990s in Drummond Community High School (DCHS). Our inaugural meeting was held in 1996 with John Dickie as its first Chair and I was also on the original committee. Our initial aims were to provide a forum for the exploration of local history by its members and a regular series of speakers from inside or, more usually, outside the society on topics linked to the history of the local area, wider Edinburgh and Scotland as a whole.

In parallel with this a local community effort created a large portable mural of scenes from the distant and recent history of Broughton which is now displayed on the wall of Macdonald Road Library. (See image) Our monthly meetings (September to June) are currently held in the Nelson Room of the library whereas pre-covid we had always met within DCHS. During the spring and summer months we arranged visits to a local and a more distant site of historical interest to our members, which we are now trying to re-instate post-covid.



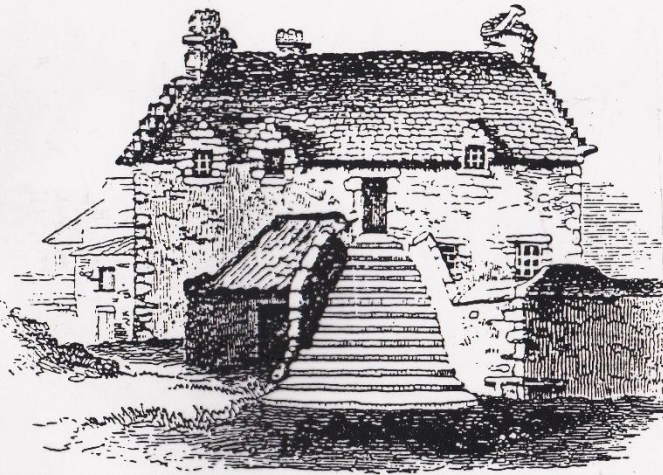
One of the main methods of communication with our members has been an occasional printed newsletter, featuring items from members who have found or researched some stories of local interest. These tended to be produced by a small group of active members, as most others are simply content to come to talks, which now feature a much wider range of speakers and subjects. Nowadays a regular electronic newsletter features reports on previous talks, quizzes and other items submitted by members. We also used to run guided walks around the area, pointing out buildings and sites of historical interest. For logistical reasons these transferred into illustrated indoor talks to other societies and groups.

In 1997, in our first full programme, subjects covered the City of Edinburgh archives, the Romans in East Scotland, Scotland's postal services and recent research into Edinburgh's archaeological past. By contrast, in 2023, with a more extensive programme, we not only covered Boswell and Johnson, the Botanic Cottage, Bridges in Scotland and Beastly Edinburgh but also the national archives and, once more, recent archaeological discoveries (unearthed during Edinburgh's long-running tram project). Sometimes what goes around comes around.

One of these topics, which is dear to our hearts, has been addressed by a number of speakers: the resurrected Botanic Cottage. This building, originally on Leith Walk, was all that remained of the previous Botanic Gardens, which moved from here to Inverleith in 1822. In 1998 we had raised the listing of this building with Historic Scotland, as the whole area was threatened with redevelopment. Although this was unsuccessful, a separate community group pursued this case, which resulted in the careful dismantling of the two-storey building and its eventual reconstruction in the current Botanical Gardens in 2017.



Tolbooth



In the early days of the society a series of exhibitions was held in local buildings, displaying pictures, photographs, maps and quotes from local residents some of whose memories went back to before WWI. Although no exhibitions have been held recently, as they require a good deal of preparatory work, in 2014 a small group created an online record of all those local combatants who had died in action during WWI. Over 600 names were located through exploration of local churches, war memorials, library and newspaper archives, with the aim of creating a more complete story of the individuals concerned. Unfortunately, owing to personal reasons, the principal member involved left the area and the project was left uncompleted.

As members of the Scottish Local History Forum, we can sometimes approach other local history societies and share information about interesting topics and speakers, always useful before committing ourselves to a firm booking. We have been fortunate over the 27 years of our existence to have had a fascinating set of subjects on Scottish and local history and have attracted audiences of 50 or more. We were able to continue the society's programme of talks during lockdown via Zoom and now we are back into face-to-face meetings, we are trying to build up to these heights once again. We value our links with the local community, Spurtle (the local free newsheet), DCMS and Macdonald Road Library and copies of our newsletters are now either available online or in the Edinburgh Central Library. We are always pleased to see new members and attract a handful of visitors to most talks. You'd be most welcome to join us.

## HISTORY NEWS

- **The Scottish Labour History Society** has established the **Ian MacDougall Essay Prize** with a threefold purpose: to honour the memory of Dr Ian MacDougall (1933-2020), founding secretary of the Scottish Labour History Society and the Scottish Working People's History Trust; to encourage the finest standards of scholarship amongst undergraduate students in the field of labour history in Scotland and to promote the study and recording of labour and popular history in Scotland. The essay prize will be awarded annually, the winner to receive: a cash prize of £400; publication of the winning essay in *Scottish Labour History* and one year's free subscription to the Scottish Labour History Society, including subscription to *Scottish Labour History*. For further information contact [admin@scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot](mailto:admin@scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot)
- Culture Secretary Angus Robertson announced on 17 May that eight communities across Scotland are set to benefit from **£863,050** funding, awarded by **Historic Environment Scotland (HES)** and the **National Lottery Heritage Fund** (Heritage Fund). <https://tinyurl.com/ytnhb3vz>
- [Archaeologists examine possible hilltop powerbase](#) A fort on a hill overlooking Stirling may have been a powerbase for a group of people who battled the Romans about 2,000 years ago. Archaeologists are making the first significant examination of the site on Dumyat, the most westerly of the Ochil hills. The hilltop was the location of an impressive complex with a central citadel featuring a roundhouse protected by ramparts and other defences. Archaeologists believe it may have been a political centre of the Maiatai.
- Updates were provided recently of how the designs of the **Inverness Castle Experience** are developing. The newly transformed Inverness Castle is due to open to the public in 2025. The new details show how the castle will be transformed from its past uses as a prison and courtroom to a visitor attraction, encouraging visitors from local, UK and international shores. <https://tinyurl.com/ywxftztr>
- [The Campbelltown Courier](#) is described as a robust local newspaper which first appeared in 1873 and is still published to-day. **The British Newspaper Archive** offers editions 1873-1879 and 1894-1904.
- A 2-day event was recently held in Fife as part of the efforts to better remember those killed after being accused of witchcraft. The event was organised by the charity **Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland (Raws)** <https://tinyurl.com/26xnj6bz>
- A total of 20 museums in Scotland have been awarded a [share of £573,985](#) by the national development body **Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS)**, via support from the Scottish Government. The museums have been funded through the second round of the Resilience Fund, in support of new approaches to energy efficiency and income generation. Projects supported include the installation of a solar array at Almond Valley, a museum and working watermill in West Lothian, to reduce energy costs and consumption and save an estimated 11,517kg of carbon each year. At Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds in Argyll, a recycled shipping container is being transformed into a café, to support the cost of running the museum.
- **Winners at the Museums and Heritage Awards** have recently been announced and well done to **The Scottish Crannog Centre**. For further information here the link <https://tinyurl.com/2p8rw2m9>

- [Tracing Scotland's unique place in the Roman world](#). It is a commonly-held view that the Romans did not spend a long time in Scotland or have much interest in it - but new research is highlighting the extraordinary extent of what they built and their persistence in trying to subdue the Caledonian tribes. Find out more of this fascinating research.
- **A Scottish World War One soldier has been buried with full military honours more than 100 years after he died.** Sgt Richard Musgrave, from Blackrigg, near Langholm, was killed during the Battle of Hill 70 in August 1917. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-65810004>
- **Three important Iron Age sites in [Shetland](#) remain on the tentative list of seven sites to be put forward in an application process to become UNESCO World Heritage Sites.** Jarlshof, Old Scatness and Mousa Broch are a collection of ancient settlements known as the Zenith of Iron Age Shetland.
- **Norwegian celebration in Dumfries ready after three-year delay.** Events to mark the 80th anniversary of a Scots town's wartime links to Norway are to be held. It was originally hoped that Dumfries' role in hosting the Norwegian army during World War II could be recognised in September 2020. However, the Covid pandemic put the plans - including unveiling a memorial stone in the town centre - on hold. It is now intended that the celebration will go ahead in September this year with a programme of events. Further information can be found using this [link](#).
- The five finalists for **Art Fund's Museum of the Year 2023** award have been announced. The awards' organiser, Art Fund, annually shortlists five museums for the prize. The winner will receive £120,000, specially increased for 2023 and beyond to mark 120 years of Art Fund supporting museums. A further £15,000 will be given to each of the four other finalists – bringing the total prize money to £180,000. The five shortlisted museums are: The Burrell Collection in Glasgow, Leighton House and the Natural History Museum in London, The MAC in Belfast, and Scapa Flow Museum in Orkney. The 2023 prize celebrates 10 years of Art Fund Museum of the Year. The winning museum will be announced at a ceremony at the British Museum in London on **12 July**.
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has announced that **Linlithgow Palace** reopened on 10 June, with visitors once again being able to explore the birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots. <https://tinyurl.com/msrvsdzf>
- HES has also announced that all internal areas of **Dryburgh Abbey** reopened on 14 June, with visitors once again being able to explore the Gothic church and 13th century chapter house.
- In other news from HES, **Archive House**, an existing building in the Sherwood Industrial Estate in Bonnyrigg, will be converted to a world-class facility to house the organisation's extensive records and archives, which give a unique insight in to over 5,000 years of Scotland's history.
- We are delighted to report that the future of **Trove** has been secured following a recently announced funding agreement with the Australian Government. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>
- **A Quirk of History** On 18 April, 1930, the announcer on the BBC's 8.45pm news bulletin simply said: "There is no news." The rest of the 15-minute broadcast was filled with piano music.
- **Carving out Connections: Scotland's Rock Art** Selected dates until Sunday 24 September 2023 at multiple venues. Pre-historic Rock Art is one of Scotland's greatest mysteries, this exhibition drawn from Historic Environment Scotland's archives, looks to trace its connections through time and place. [Carving out Connections: Scotland's Rock Art | Hist Env Scotland \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#)

## CAN YOU HELP?

- **Scottish Archaeology Month 2023** is approaching! Archaeology, history, and heritage event organisers can showcase their work and events during Scotland's prestigious national festival in September. All archaeology and heritage-related activities are welcome, from engaging talks to immersive tours, online resources, workshops, fairs, re-enactments, excavations and more. Don't miss this incredible opportunity! Share your passion, and contribute to Scotland's grandest celebration of archaeology and heritage in September. Submit proposals by **31 July 2023**. For enquiries or event submissions, contact: [sam@archaeologyscotland.org.uk](mailto:sam@archaeologyscotland.org.uk).
- **The Clan Mackay Society** (one of the oldest clan societies in Scotland) will be bringing together clan members from across the world to celebrate the inauguration of the 15th Lord Reay as Chief of the Clan Mackay. This clan gathering will take place in traditional Clan Mackay territory in the north of the Scottish Highlands. The new Clan Mackay Chief will be Aeneas Simon Mackay, the Lord Reay, who inherited the title of Chief of Mackay following the death of his father in 2013. The inauguration ceremony which will preserve ancient Gaelic teachings and Highland custom will be followed by a range of traditional events including music, poetry, dance and a ceilidh in the evening. Details of the various events that will be held as part of the inauguration on Saturday 19 August are as follows  
11.00am: Inauguration of the new Chief of Mackay (Strathnaver Museum, Clachan, Bettyhill, Sutherland)  
12.30pm to 3.00pm: Afternoon events including music, poetry, dance, food and drink stalls (Strathnaver Museum, Clachan, Bettyhill, Sutherland)  
7.30pm: Ceilidh in the Village Hall, Strathy. Please feel free to advertise this event on your website or circulate to members or other interested parties. A formal press release will be issued to you closer to the actual date of the event. In the meantime, if you have any questions or require further details, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Further details on the event are also contained on our website at [www.clanmackaysociety.co.uk](http://www.clanmackaysociety.co.uk)
- I'm currently working on a 5 volume set of reference books on the Sussex butterflies and moths, entitled "A Revised History of the Butterflies and Moths of Sussex", of which three have already been published. A part of the work lays out the entomological background. My query is about a firm named "**Pratt and Thompson of Kinross**", which was a manufacturer of shaped clear glass plates about four inches square in which dead butterflies were inserted and sold in about 1900. The business couldn't have survived just on selling that item alone. Is anything else known about firm? Please email me at: [colin.pratt@talk21.com](mailto:colin.pratt@talk21.com)

## QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

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'An archaeologist is the best husband any woman can have: the older she gets, the more interested he is in her'.  
Agatha Christie.

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**Find out about what's happening in local history around Scotland on the SLHF website:**

<https://www.slhf.org/events>

<https://www.slhf.org/calendar>

Submit your events at: <https://www.slhf.org/submit-event>

## CONTACT DETAILS

Email <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

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Scottish Local History Forum, Box 103, 12 South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1DD

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ISSN 2055-6411