

Winter Lectures – Session 2025-26 (these are usually illustrated)

These will be held in-person in the University of the West of Scotland, Craigie Campus and also on Zoom (Links sent out on email). They are on Thursdays at 7.15pm.

- 9 October 2025 TBC
TBC
- 23 October 'Old Lady Somerset'. History of Ayr United Football Ground
Duncan Carmichael (Speaker in Person)
- 13 November The Prehistory of Kilmartin Glen and the New Kilmartin Museum
Dr Sharon Webb, Kilmartin Museum (Speaker on Zoom)
- 27 November Hidden Prehistoric Ayrshire
Lauren Welsh, University of Glasgow (Speaker in Person)
- 8 January 2026 The Missing Lynx Project: Exploring the Return of Lynx
Faith Whiley, Species Recovery Officer (Speaker on Zoom)
- 22 January Textiles of the Galloway Hoard
Dr Susanna Harris, University of Glasgow (Speaker on Zoom)
- 12 February The Railway Revolution
June Wiggins (AANHS Member) (Speaker in Person)

Ayrshire

Archaeological and Natural

History Society

Founded 1947

Scottish Charity No

SC044758

Lectures

Publications

Outings

Web Site: <https://aanhs.org/>

Email: info@aanhs.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theaanhs/>

- 26 February 'We Wined them and Dined them, they ate o'er meat'. The Archaeology of the MacDonald's of Glencoe in the 17th and 18th Centuries.
Dr Eddie Stewart, Archaeology Scotland (Speaker in Person)
- 12 MARCH Scotland in 100 Buildings
Roger Emmerson (Speaker in Person)



St John's Tower, Ayr



The Society

The specialist fields of interest are the archaeology, antiquities, local history & people and natural history of Ayrshire. Membership includes institutions, universities and libraries throughout Britain and the world.



Dovecot, Eglington Park, Kilwinning

Please pass this on to anyone whom you think may be interested in the work of the Society.

Message from the President

This syllabus gives details of our programme for 2025-2026, and I hope that you will all find something of interest within it. As always, Billy Young has worked tirelessly to come up with a varied and attractive programme. This year, for the first time for a few years, more of the speakers will be present in the room, though, of course, the opportunity remains for members to follow the talk on Zoom. The big change, though, is that we will be meeting in the University of the West of Scotland, University Avenue, Ayr KA8 0SX. The new venue is closer to the centre of Ayr, has parking and more comfortable seating. Meetings will begin at **7.15 p.m. (prompt)** to suit the University's janitorial. Those who were at the recent social have commented favourably on the new venue, and we look for a good attendance.

You will notice that I have become your President again. I have to thank James Brown for his sterling work in the role over the past two years, and

acknowledge the skill with which he has navigated some of the unforeseen issues that we have had to deal with. James has stepped down because of personal and other commitments, and we thank him, wish him well and hope to see him at Society events.

Besides the winter meetings, the Society remains committed to a publishing programme, and to organised visits to places of interest. At the moment a number of publications are moving forward, though I recognise that we are probably a little behind in our programme. We will always be pleased to hear of proposals for books. This summer we have had visits to Killochan, Kirkmichael and to Portencross, as well as the recent Social at UWS. We will continue to look for further opportunities for visits.

To look further ahead, 2027 (which is nearer than you think) will be the 80th anniversary of the foundation of AANHS by Annie Dunlop and John Strawhorn. I think we should celebrate this in some way, and any suggestions will be gratefully received by any member of the committee. I couldn't do this without the committee, and this is an opportunity to publicly express my thanks to them for keeping the society afloat. Especial thanks must go to Ian Holland, who seems to have boundless energy and to be able to react cheerfully to whatever we have to do.

This is your Society. Let us know what you want. I look forward to seeing you at the first talk at UWS, on Thursday 9th October 2025, at 7.15.

Rob Close