



Detail from Pont Map 33 showing Renfrew & the Clyde in 1590s

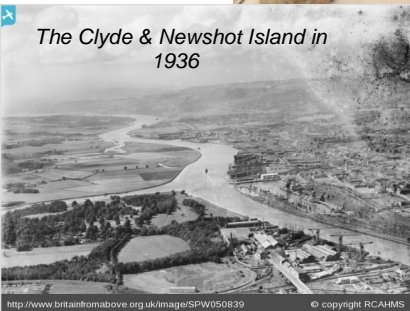
<http://maps.nls.uk/pont/view?id=pont33>



Detail above the tomb of Alexander MacLeod at Rodel Church on the Isle of Harris

© Denis Rixson

The Lewis Chessmen at the British Museum



The Clyde & Newshot Island in 1936

<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/SPW050839> © copyright RCAHMS



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Directions to Renfrew Town Hall, Renfrew Cross

PA4 8PF

- there are frequent buses from Smithhills Street, Paisley (2 min walk from Paisley Gilmour Street rail station) to Renfrew Cross
- McGill Buses operate a bus service from Glasgow to Erskine via Renfrew Cross
- buses also run from Braehead Shopping Centre to Renfrew
- there are clear signs for Renfrew on the M8 (Junctions 26 & 27)
- free on-street parking in Fulbar Street and free off-street parking off the High Street



©www.openstreetmap.org

Any queries please contact
Renfrewshire Local History Forum

01505 347162

or

helen.calcluth@ntlworld.com

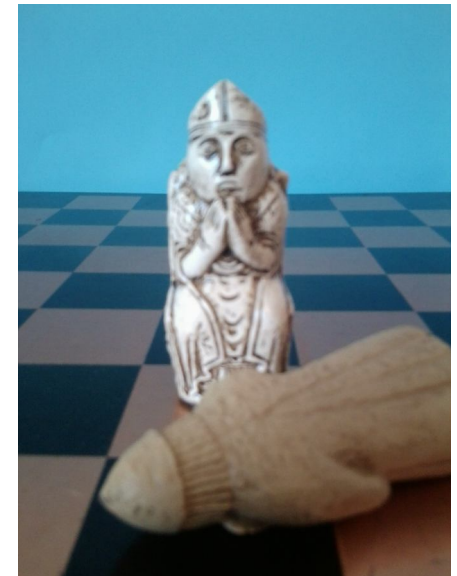
or

www.rlhf.info

Somerled & the Battle of Renfrew

Conference Saturday

4 October 2014



Renfrew Town Hall

RENFREWSHIRE
LOCAL HISTORY FORUM
RLHF

With the support of



The Renfrewshire Local History Forum is hosting a conference in Renfrew Town Hall on Saturday, 4 October 2014 to mark the 850th anniversary of the Battle of Renfrew which took place in 1164 when Somerled, King of the Isles, with a fleet of 150 ships from the Western Isles and Dublin, sailed up the Clyde and landed near Renfrew. In the ensuing battle, Somerled and many of his supporters met their death.

Some key dates

- c.1140: Somerled, a Norse-Gaelic noble linked with the royal house of Scotland, marries a daughter of the King of the Isles.
- 1153: Somerled supports the insurrection of his Scots kin against Malcolm IV.
- 1157: After a fierce battle in a wintry sea Somerled and his brother-in-law Godred agree to share the kingship of the Isles.
- 1158: Somerled drives Godred from the Isles.
- 1160: After some years of intermittent fighting Somerled and Malcolm IV make peace.
- 1164: Somerled attempts to restore the abbey of Iona as the centre of the Columban church. He enters the Clyde at the head of 150 ships from Ireland, Argyll, and The Isles. Landing at Renfrew, he and his eldest son are killed by a small force led by Bishop Herbert of Glasgow.
- 1170-1190: Somerled's sons are reconciled with the Anglo-Norman barons of the Clyde coast

PROGRAMME

09.30 - 10.00 COFFEE & REGISTRATION

Chairman

Derek Alexander (National Trust for Scotland)

10.00 Welcome & Introduction

Prof. Ted Cowan (University of Glasgow)
Conflict and Culture on the Clyde Frontier in the Late Norse Period

Denis Rixson (Historian & author)
Somerled's ships : a review of the west highland galley

10 minute BREAK

Dr. Alex Woolf (University of St. Andrews)
The Song of the Death of Somerled and the Sacking of Glasgow in 1153

13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 Introduction

Dr. David Caldwell (past Keeper at the National Museums of Scotland)
Somerled and the Isles

Derek Alexander (NTS)
12th century Renfrewshire: the topography and archaeology of the Battle of Renfrew

10 minute BREAK

Alan Steel (Local Historian)
Hunting the Tyro: the Battle of Renfrew

Summary and conclusion

16.15 CLOSE

BOOKING FORM

Sumerled and the Battle of Renfrew Conference

I wish to book the following places for the conference on Saturday 4 October 2014.

.....place(s) at £14 per place = £.....

(This includes a finger buffet lunch)

I enclose a cheque payable to

Renfrewshire Local History Forum

for £.....

Name (s).....

Organisation.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Please send (to arrive by 26 September 2014)

BOOKING FORM

CHEQUE

STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE or email address (if you require confirmation of booking)

to:

Battle of Renfrew Conference

‰ Hazelbank
Marypark Road
Langbank
Renfrewshire
PA14 6UT