



SLHF NEWS

We are sad to report that Professor Niall Logan of Balmore and Baldernock Parish, has very recently passed away after a period of illness. Niall along with his good friend the late Professor Paul Bishop ran the Baldernock Heritage and History Group for many successful years. Until last year Niall also served on our Advisory Committee and was a great supporter of SLHF. The Trustees extend their sympathy to his family and friends. An obituary will appear in the next edition of *Scottish Local History*.

Scottish Local History Forum AGM 2024

The Forum's 2024 AGM was held on Monday 28 October by Zoom video conference. The meeting heard details of the Forum's activities over the year (previously recorded in *Clish-Clash*) and that the accounts showed an increased deficit compared to last year – £3,981 compared to £1,743 – that can be largely attributed to the absence of any conference receipts and the one-off costs for the Forum Review session. In addition, no Gift Aid reclaim has been made since 2021-22, one will be made in this financial year, which should result in a surplus being recorded for the year. Notwithstanding these recent deficits, it was reiterated that the Forum's finances remain healthy. The Trustees felt that no change in membership subscription rates was required, and the meeting endorsed their recommendation to maintain the current subscription rates for the membership year 2025-26.

Jamie Sutherland did not stand for re-election as a trustee and was thanked for his work with social media on the Forum's behalf and his great help during the Forum Review, analysing the members' survey results, was acknowledged. With no new nominations, the remaining eight were re-elected with the existing officers remaining in post.

Nine existing AC members had accepted nomination for re-election: Murray Cook, Ian Shearer, Ian Copland, Sandra Purves, Iain Duffus, Patrick Hart, Derrick Johnstone, Scott Broadfoot and Lucy Dean and, there being no additional nominations, were duly elected to represent their respective organisations to the Trustees and help direct the Forum's activities.

Full Minutes of the meeting, along with the finalised Report and Accounts, will be available on the website in due course.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ 'A proper repository': General Register House

1774-2024 The display celebrating the 250th anniversary of General Register House has been extended. The display will now be on show until 28 November:



[Exhibitions | National Records of Scotland \(nrscotland.gov.uk\)](http://Exhibitions | National Records of Scotland (nrscotland.gov.uk))

■ There are also a number of public tours of **HM General Register House** taking place to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the building. The next is on 20 November 2024, but further dates into 2025 will soon be released: [Public tour: 250th anniversary of General Register House Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Two talks relevant to the anniversary are also available: Dr Anthony Lewis [The foundation of General Register House in Edinburgh's first New Town – 250th anniversary - YouTube](#) and Dr Tristram Clarke [Before Adam: the origins of Register House - YouTube](#)

■ **Mills of Britain** website This new website allows you to explore the locations and details of over 15,000 mill sites mapped in 18th-19th century Britain. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, this project has been undertaken collaboratively by researchers in the University of Glasgow and University of Wollongong, initiated by the late Professor Paul Bishop. You can browse and filter the mill records by survey date, map symbology, mill type, as well as their distances from rivers. The mill locations have been carefully compiled from a wide range of sources, including county maps and the Roy Military Survey of Scotland. There is also detailed information on the background to the project, the survey methodology, as well as sections on accuracy and georeferencing. The new *Mills of Britain* website complements the *Scottish Water Mills* website (<https://maps.nls.uk/projects/mills/>), launched in 2021, but gathers information from earlier map sources, and covers England and Wales, as well as Scotland. Mills of Britain website: <https://maps.nls.uk/projects/mills-of-britain/>



mills-of-britain-website.jpg

■ **Scottish Council on Archives Annual Conference: BUILDING EVIDENCE**, Tuesday, 10 December, 9.30-16.00 at The Engine Shed, Stirling will explore how archives and records support engagement with, conservation of, and research into Scotland's historic environment. The event will be structured around the three priority areas of [Our Past, Our Future – The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment](#):

1. Delivering the transition to net zero
2. Empowering resilient and inclusive communities and places
3. Building a wellbeing economy

In addition to these key themes, Building Evidence will shine a spotlight on the urgent need for a national strategy for archives and records in Scotland, ensuring their preservation and relevance for future generations. View the full programme of speakers here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sca-annual-conference-2024-building-evidence-tickets-1041888987007>

■ **Scottish Council on Archives Annual Lecture: Professor Robert Bartlett - History in Flames** at The National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh on Tuesday 3 December 2024, 17.00-18.00. To what extent does our knowledge of the past rely upon written sources? And what happens when these sources are destroyed? Focusing on the manuscripts of the Middle Ages, Professor Robert Bartlett's new book, *History in Flames* explores cases in which large volumes of written material were destroyed during a single day. This destruction

didn't occur by accident of fire or flood but by human forces such as arson, shelling and bombing. In this lecture, Professor Bartlett will talk about his new book that examines the political and military events that preceded the moment of destruction, from the Franco-Prussian War and the Irish Civil War to the complexities of World War II; it analyses the material lost and how it came to be where it was. At the same time, it discusses the heroic efforts made by scholars and archivists to preserve these manuscripts, even partially. *History in Flames* reminds us that historical knowledge rests on material remains, and that these remains are vulnerable. Book your space via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sca-annual-lecture-professor-robert-bartlett-history-in-flames-tickets-1043930884377>

■ **Connecting Communities Webinars** This series of webinars aims to give communities the skills and knowledge they need to create sustainable digital archives that will be preserved for future generations. You may attend as many sessions as you prefer, there are four sessions:

- Digital Archiving 101- the what, the why and how to get started – Tuesday, 12 November 2024
- Policy and process as a gateway to a sustainable digital archive – Tuesday, 19 November 2024
- Adapting Digital Standards: Empowering small, volunteer & community groups – Tuesday, 26 November 2024
- Pay Me My Money Down: Membership, Grants, and Other Funding Streams – Tuesday, 3 December 2024

Book sessions via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/connecting-communities-webinars-3643899>

■ **Scottish Archives and Records Year in Review 2023-24** SCA present the latest edition of the Archives Review, celebrating the work and projects being undertaken in collections across the country. Submitted articles include: the work of Scotland's Business Archives Surveying Officer; an amazing collaborative project between DC Thomson and the Moving Image Archive, National Library of Scotland; two collections linked by their unique and internationally significant importance to the history of Scotland's water resources – the McClean Hydrometric archive and the papers of ecologist John Berry; Scotland's first archive dedicated to LGBTQ+ young people; a wonderful artistic project commissioned by the School of Scottish Studies Archives called A Carrying Stream | Sruth an Èolais; and a cataloguing project revealing the records of one of Scotland's New Towns. This is just a snapshot of what the Review contains. View the Year in Review here: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/scottish-archives-and-records-year-in-review-23-24/>

■ Congratulations to **Highland Archive Service** for winning the 2024 Record Keeping Service of the Year Award, one of the four 2024 excellence awards by the **Archives and Records Association (UK and Ireland)**. Further Scottish winners were Rachael Muir, surveying officer of the **Business Archives Council of Scotland**, who was named as Record Keeper of the Year, and Tom Bennett, historic archives and collections officer at **George Watson's College, Edinburgh**, who shared the award as New Professional of the Year.

■ **Cold War Scotland** This exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF continues until Sunday, 26 January 2025. [Cold War Scotland | National Museums Scotland](#)

■ The October issue of **Connect** from **Museums and Galleries Scotland** brought news of institutions across Scotland that have been receiving well-deserved recognition for their work at various award ceremonies recently. Congratulations to all award winners, including:

- **Bowhill House and The King's Gallery** received [Sandford Awards](#) this year in recognition of their school learning programmes.
- **Cromarty Courthouse** [received a Marsh Award](#) for their audio tour '[Built on slavery](#)'.
- **Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO** won the Celebrating Thriving Communities award at the [West of Scotland Thistle Awards](#).
- **Trimontium Museum** won the Inclusive Tourism award at the [South Scotland Thistle Awards](#) and **Thania Meneses Flores**, Heritage Environment Resources Officer at the **Trimontium Museum** took home the Rising Star award.
- **Gordon Highlanders Museum** won Best Visitor Attraction at the [Aberdeen City and Shire Thistle Awards](#).

PUBLICATIONS

■ **History Scotland** Vol 24 No 4 Autumn 2024 £7.99. Includes articles on the Dutch attack on the Forth in 1667, William Wallace and the Canadian Forestry Corps. [History Scotland](#)

■ **Heritage Trust Network** is a UK-wide body with committees in each of the four home nations. It aims to empower people to rescue and reuse historic buildings and spaces for their communities. It has a regular newsletter with contributions from its members. The latest issue contains an article on the Glasgow children sent to Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries. See [News - Heritage Trust Network](#) for further articles.

- **Hampden Park (1908-1950) The largest football ground in the world** by Douglas Gorman. July 2024, 112 pp, £12.00. Printed on demand: [Hampden Park \(1908-1950\) The largest football ground in the world \(lulu.com\)](#)
- **The Viking Age in Scotland - Studies in Scottish Scandinavian Archaeology** Edited by Tom Horne, Elizabeth Pierce, Rachel Barrowman. Edinburgh University Press, January 2023 (Hardback), August 2024 (Paperback) 292 pages, 83 black and white illustrations, 8 black and white tables, ISBN: Paperback: 81474485838 £24.99, Hardback: 9781474485821 £90.00, Ebook (ePub): 9781474485852 £24.99, Ebook (PDF): 781474485845 £24.99. [The Viking Age in Scotland](#)
- **Politics and the People - Scotland, 1945-1979** by Malcolm Petrie. Edinburgh University Press, October 2022 (Hardback), August 2024 (Paperback), 218 pages, ISBN Paperback: 9781474456999 £19.99, Hardback: 9781474456982 £85.00, Ebook (ePub): 9781474457019 £19.99, Ebook (PDF): 9781474457002 £19.99.
- **From Hampden Park to Workington - Glasgow speedway 1969 to 1987** By Jim Henry and Doug Nicolson. London League Publications Ltd, July 2024, 332pp paperback, illustrated with over 40 photos, ISBN: 978-1-909885-36-3. £16.95. <https://www.llpshop.co.uk/>

WHAT'S ON

■ **Ayrshire Archeological and Natural History Society (AANHS)** programme of lectures over winter 2024-25 will be streamed from Robertson Room, Burns Centre, Ayr KA7 4PQ.

For details see SLHF 'events' page <https://www.slhf.org/events> and for more information and to obtain the Zoom link please contact ianwholland@btinternet.com.

■ **The Magdalen Chapel: Past, Present & Future** Scottish Historic Buildings Trust in collaboration with the Scottish Reformation Society and the Incorporation of the Hammermen host an academic conference to stimulate discussion on the Magdalen Chapel in the Cowgate, its past present and future. Riddle's Court, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh on Friday, 8 November 2024, 10am - 4pm. [The Magdalen Chapel: Past, Present & Future Tickets, Fri, Nov 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

■ **The genetic signature of Dougall of Argyll & Lorne and his present-day, male-line descendants** Online seminar via Zoom led by Ed Sweeney for the Friends of the Argyll Papers, Cherry Park, Inveraray, PA32 8XE on Friday, 8 November 2024, 3.00pm to 4.00pm. Free to Friends of the Argyll Papers; £10 donation requested from non-members. Book via friendsoftheargyllpapers@gmail.com

■ **Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Edinburgh & East Roadshow** Talks, stalls, discussions, networking and signposting resources organised by **Scottish Community Heritage Organisation (SCHA)** at the Corn Exchange, 13 Court Street, Haddington, EH41 3DS on Saturday, 9 November 2024 - 10:00am to 4:00pm. Free. [Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Edinburgh & East Roadshow](#)

■ **Line, Lamp and Snowdrops Crimean War 1853-56** Talk by Jim Waugh to Dalkeith History Society on Monday, 11 November 2024, 7:30pm to 8:45pm at Dalkeith Baptist Church Hall, 8 North Wynd, Dalkeith, EH22 1JE. Members free, visitors £2.00 donation. [Line, Lamp and Snowdrops Crimean War 1853-56](#)

■ **Mapping duns and place names in Sleat** Talk by Charles Culbertson organised by [Comunn Eachdraidh Shlèite / Sleat Local History Society](#). Monday, 11 November, 7:30pm at An Crubh, Skye.

Hunting a Red Wolf: Peter Imandt, Dundee and the Paris Commune Talk by James Barrowman to Abertay Historical Society on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN. Free. [Hunting a Red Wolf: Peter Imandt, Dundee and the Paris Commune Tickets, Wed 13 Nov 2024 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **An illustrated talk on St Kilda** to Gullane & Dirleton History Society given by Alex Crawford on the Island of St Kilda with reference to photographs and the lives of those who lived there on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Gullane Village Hall, Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA. Members free, non-members £3.00. [An illustrated talk on St Kilda](#)

■ **Two Houses: Cumstoun and 45 Millburn St. - the tale of two very different houses** Talk by Donald Tait and Nick Jackson to Kirkcudbright History Society: on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Parish Church Hall, St Marys St, Kirkcudbright DG6 4AQ and Online. Members free, Visitors £3.00. [Two Houses: Cumstoun and 45 Millburn St.](#)

■ **Unearthing Ancient Tweeddale** Talk by Thomas Muir, GUARD to Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society on excavations at Tinnis Castle and Thirlstane Barrows, Thursday, 14 November 2024, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Robertson Room, Burns Heritage Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4PQ and online. No cost to members, donations welcome from non-members. [Unearthing Ancient Tweeddale](#)

■ **Norse, Scots or both? The Medieval Boat Graffiti on Kilchattan Old Parish Church, Isle of Luing**

Online talk by Mary Braithwaite organised by Scottish Society of Highland & Island Historical Research on Thursday, 14 November, 7:30pm. Non-members other than students are requested to donate £5. [Online lectures – Society of Highland & Island Historical Research \(highlandhistoricalresearch.com\)](http://highlandhistoricalresearch.com)

■ **Committing sexual violence in 1920s Scotland** Lecture by Dr Louise Heren to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish History Society on Thursday, 14 November 2024, 6.00pm to 8.00pm at Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL and online via Zoom. Free to all, but not suitable for children. [Event Details](#) · [Subscribe 360 \(socantscot.org\)](#)

■ **The Painting Picti? Colour and Early Medieval Sculpture in Britain** Talk by Jordyn Patrick at Perth Art Gallery, 78 George Street, Perth PH1 5LB on Thursday, 14 November 2024, 7.30pm. £8.25/£5.50. [The Painting Picti? Colour And Early Medieval Sculpture In Britain - Dig It!](#)

■ **Estate, Household and Family Collections and their Use in Research Part 2** The Scottish Records Association and the Scottish Association of Country House Archivists are holding a two-part conference on estate, household and family papers in private and public ownership and their use in historical and other types of research. This second event will look at wider country house collections, including correspondence and household papers and libraries and will be held on Friday, 15 November 2024, 10:00am to 4:30pm at the Soutar Theatre, A K Bell Library, York Place, Perth, PH2 8EP. £13 SRA/SACHA members; £17.50 non-members. [Estate, Household and Family Collections and their Use in Research Part 2](#)

■ **Strathblane from the Air** Talk to Strathblane Heritage Society in which Neil Fraser introduces archive images, film and sound held by Historic Environment Scotland, including remarkable aerial photographs of Strathblane from 1952 on Monday, 18 November 2024, 7:30pm at The Village Club, 20 Glasgow Road, Blanefield, STRATHBLANE, G63 9BP. Members free. Guests £3.00. [Strathblane from the Air | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](#)

■ **The Servants in Traquair House - What the archives tell us about their life** Talk by Margaret Fox to the Scottish Genealogy Society on Monday, 18 November 2024, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Augustine United Church Centre, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL Free for members; small donation from non-members. [The Servants in Traquair House - What the archives tell us about their life](#)

■ **A History of Whisky at Glengoyne** Talk by Bill Gallacher to Clydebank Local History Society on Monday, 18 November 2024, 7:30pm at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, G81 4JH. Free to paid-up members: £3.00 for visitors. [A History of Whisky at Glengoyne | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](#)

■ **Waterloo Uncovered** Talk by Professor Tony Pollard to Edinburgh Field Archaeology Society on Wednesday, 20 November 2024, 7:00pm to 9:00pm at University of Edinburgh's Paterson's Land annex, Room LG34, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ. Free for EAFS members. Suggested donation £3 for non-members. [Waterloo Uncovered](#)

■ **Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations 2024: Connect & Create Capacity** In-person & Online, The Engine Shed, Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ on Thursday, 21 November 2024, 9:15am - 4:15pm. Free. [Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations 2024: Connect & Create Capacity Tickets, Thu 21 Nov 2024 at 09:15 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Pictish and Medieval Sculpture in Highland Perthshire** Talk by John Borland to the Friends of Perth and Kinross Archive at A K Bell Library, 2-8 York Place, Perth PH2 8EP on Thursday, 21 November 2024, 2.00pm. Members free, visitors £5.50. [The Friends Of Perth & Kinross Archive: Pictish And Medieval Sculpture In Highland Perthshire - Dig It!](#)

■ **Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Clyde Valley & East Ayrshire Roadshow** Talks, stalls, discussions, networking and signposting resources organised by **Scottish Community Heritage Organisation (SCHA)** on Saturday, 23 November 2024, 10.00am to 4.00pm at The Fountain Community Centre, 11 Abbeygreen, Lesmahagow, ML11 0HD. Free. [Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Clyde Valley & East Ayrshire Roadshow](#)

■ **Angus Folk Tales** Talk by Dr Erin Farley to Meigle & District History Society on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, 7.30pm at Kinloch Arms Hotel, The Square, Meigle. Membership £5.00 pa, visitors welcome.

<https://www.meigleardler.smartvillage.scot>

■ **Imperial monarchy: James V's voyage to the Isles** Talk by Alison Cathcart to Drymen & District Local History Society on James V's voyage to the Isles in the 16th century on Thursday, 28 November 2024, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Drymen Village Hall, 3 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow, G63 0BP. Free to members, visitors £3.00. [Imperial monarchy: James V's voyage to the Isles](#)

■ **Scotland's earliest Human Arrivals** Talk by Professor Karen Hardy to Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History ■ Society on Thursday, 28 November 2024, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Robertson Room, Burns Heritage Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4PQ and online. No cost to members, donations welcome from non-members. [Scotland's earliest Human Arrivals](#)

■ **200 Years of Football in Edinburgh** Sports historian Andy Mitchell explores the world's first known organisation dedicated to football at HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY, 1.30pm to 2.30pm and online on Wednesday, 4 December 2024. [200 years of football in Edinburgh: Hybrid event Tickets, Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 1:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

■ **A Short History of Bridge of Chon House and its natural history** Talk by Nigel Bonnett to Loch Ard Local History Group on Wednesday, 4 December 2024, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Kinlochard Village Hall, Kinlochard, Stirling, FK8 3TL. £15.00 per year members, £4.00 per meeting guests. [A Short History of Bridge of Chon House and its natural history](#)

■ **Ballancrieff Castle - A Restoration** Talk by Peter Gillies to Gullane & Dirleton History Society on Thursday, 5 December 2024, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Dirleton Kirk Hall, Manse Road, Dirleton, EH39 5EL. Free to members, £3.00 to non-members. [Ballancrieff Castle - A Restoration](#)

■ **The Bute Witchcraft Confessions – A Closer Look** Online seminar via Zoom presented by Caroline Anderson for the Friends of the Argyll Papers on Friday, 6 December 2024, 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Free to Friends of the Argyll Papers; £10 donation requested from non-members. [Online seminar: The Bute Witchcraft Confessions – A Closer Look](#)

■ **Beamish a living Museum - A photographic day** Talk by Anthony Smithers to Dalkeith History Society on Monday, 9 December 2024, 5:30pm to 8:45pm at Dalkeith Baptist Church Hall, 8 North Wynd, Dalkeith, EH22 1JE. Members free; Visitors £2.00 donation. [Beamish a living Museum - A photographic day](#)

■ **Members Evening** Quiz, short talk and refreshments organised by Clydebank Local History Society on Monday, 9 December 2024, 7:30pm at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, G81 4JH. Free to paid-up members; £3.00 for visitors. [Members Evening: quiz, short talk, refreshments](#)

■ **140 years of Ye Amphibious Ancients Bathing Association** Talk by Joyce McIntosh to Abertay Historical Society on Wednesday, 11 December 2024, 6:30pm to 7:30pm at Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN. Free. [140 years of Ye Amphibious Ancients Bathing Association](#)

■ **Archerfield House** Illustrated talk by Lesley Forrest to Gullane and Dirleton History Society on Wednesday, 8 January 2025, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Gullane Village Hall, Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA. Free to members, £3.00 for non-members. [Archerfield House](#)

■ **The New Scottish Crannog Centre** Talk by Mike Benson to the Loch Ard Local History Group on Wednesday, 8 January 2025, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Kinlochard Village Hall, Kinlochard, Stirling, FK8 3TL. £15.00 per year members, £4.00 per meeting guests. [The New Scottish Crannog Centre](#)

■ **Rewilding Scotland** Talk by Peter Cairns to Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society on Thursday, 9 January 2025, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Robertson Room, Burns Heritage Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway, Ayr, KA7 4PQ and online. No cost to members, donations welcome from non-members. [Rewilding Scotland](#)

■ **Land, family and economic life in two nineteenth-century Tiree townships** Online talk on Zoom by Professor Paul Warde, organised by Friends of the Argyll Papers, Friday, 17 January 2025, 2:30pm to 4:00pm. Free to Friends of the Argyll Papers; £10.00 donation requested from non-members. [Land, family and economic life in two nineteenth-century Tiree townships](#)

■ **War and diplomacy on Rome's Northern frontier** Talk by Dr Fraser Hunter to Drymen & District Local History Society on Thursday, 23 January 2025, 7:30pm to 9:00pm at Drymen Village Hall, 3 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow, G63 0BP. Free to members, visitors £3.00. [War and diplomacy on Rome's Northern frontier](#)

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>

HISTORY NEWS

■ **VisitScotland iCentres** Some time ago VisitScotland announced that they would be closing their 25 Information Centres (iCentres) across Scotland over a two-year period. The process began in September 2024, with the first five closures (Bowmore, Dumfries, Pitlochry, Stirling and Ullapool) on 28 September and another four (Aberdeen, Balloch, Jedburgh and Perth) two days later. With four more during October-November (Aberfoyle, Lerwick, Oban and Stornoway) the process will be more than half-complete by the end

of 2024. It is intended to take one further year to round off the process, with closure of the last Centre, at Glasgow, in January 2026.

VisitScotland clearly wishes to concentrate on promoting Scotland to the wider world (mainly via the internet) without any consideration of Scotland-based people who like to visit other places within the country. There must be many members of SLHF who are interested in 'comparative local history' and therefore like to spend time visiting localities across Scotland. Especially when visiting a locality for the first time, it seems likely that some will have found its iCentre a useful source of local information, including local history. As well as verbal guidance from Centre staff and the usual wide range of free leaflets, very often they will have been able to select items for purchase from a similarly wide range of inexpensive booklets for sale.

From this viewpoint, we are losing a significant source of local history information at local level. It is true that some places have visitor centres that are locally run, without over-dependence on VisitScotland, but loss of 25 visitor centres across the country, within a short period of time, will undoubtedly impact unfavourably on the quality of visitor experience within Scotland.

■ **Dig It!** Read about some of the archaeological finds of the summer: [Scotland's International Connections Unearthed this Summer - Dig It!](#)

■ **Edinburgh Fire Brigade** Interested in the history of the fire service? Then read Morag Kinniburgh's article on [How Edinburgh created the world's first fire brigade - BBC News](#)

■ **Witch Hunt 1649** An unusual educational tool has been brought to our attention: <https://witchhunt1649.com> gives access to a pair of engaging and educational card games about Scottish witch-hunting, developed by a team at the University of Warwick. The games are set in the Lothians. They aim to explore the topic in a sensitive and non-sensationalised way, promoting understanding of the historical backdrop and empathy for the victims of witch-hunting. They are suitable for use in university or school classrooms, at public events/workshops or at home. The games are available for free download or for purchase, with all proceeds going to charity.

■ **Perth Charterhouse Project** Back in September your editor was lucky enough to be invited along to witness some of the investigations being undertaken to locate the site of the Perth Charterhouse. Access to the grounds of King James VI Hospital and the gardens of some of the surrounding properties had been given to archaeologists to use ground penetrating radar to try and pick up evidence of the layout of Scotland's only medieval Carthusian monastery. Read more about the project from two of the partner organisations: [Perth Charterhouse Project | Ecclesiastical Heritage - In Search of Scotland's Lost Medieval Royal Mausoleum at Dunfermline Abbey, c.1250-c.1560, and other projects...](#)

[Research and Public Engagement Projects - Perth Charterhouse Project](#)

■ The monument in Hospital Street, Perth commemorating the burial of King James I of Scotland at the Charterhouse after his assassination in 1437.



James I Monument Hospital St Perth

WATCH & LISTEN

- **Heart and Soul** may be of relevance to those who are interested in institutions under pressure. Rome based journalist Colm Flynn talks to the man who says he was forced out of highly sensitive work which was looking into the Vatican's finances. Libero Milone is currently in the middle of a £9.3 million lawsuit against the Vatican claiming unfair dismissal. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct5fh>
- **The Grand House: Boom or Blight?** On BBC Radio 4, fifty years after a V & A exhibition helped stem the destruction of country houses, Tristam Hunt asks whether their new commercialism is appropriate and if they need to tell a new story. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0022c3h>
- In our last issue we mentioned the return of **The Reunion**. A recent episode reunited survivors and first responders of the Clutha Helicopter Crash which happened in November 2013. Some very painful and powerful memories. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0022kh2>
- **Dig Where We Stand** is a five-part series from BBC Radio 3's **The Essay**, a range of presenters revisit traditional British folk songs from the archives and return to places where they were first recorded to discuss what folk music tells us about our history. The journeys include Arbroath and the Yarrow Valley. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00209gh>
- A regular listen for both urban and rural folk on BBC Radio 4 is **On Your Farm**. It has recently celebrated its launch 60 years ago. Well worth your time! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0022c06>
- **Archive on 4: Reweaving the Threads**, 40 years on is an atmospheric documentary that mixes voices from the past with new interviews. Its focus is on one of the eeriest dramas even shown on British television. The transmission was on 23 September 1984 and offered an account of the effects of nuclear war and a subsequent nuclear winter on Sheffield. Be warned this is horrifying. The title of original the drama was **Threads**. So realistic that one contributor said 'I remember going into town a few days afterwards, surprised that Sheffield was still standing'. The [original drama](#) recently appeared on BBC4 on 9 October 2024.
- The fake heiress who was obsessed with Scotland features in the latest series of **Lady Killers** presented by Lucy Worsley <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m0023jkn>
- **This Cultural Life** is an excellent series hosted by John Wilson. It features long interviews with a host of people from the arts with over 100 episodes. Authors, filmmakers and many others. A recent interview with Margaret Drabble was fascinating. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0010fl4>
- Along the theme of extended interviews, the programme **Political Thinking** has Nick Robinson interviewing leading politicians of our day. A recent episode was focussed on John Swinney. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0023pbv>
- Elsewhere on BBC iPlayer is a documentary **Lena Zavaroni: The Forgotten Child Star**. Further details are on the following [link](#).
- Historian David Olusoga traces parallel lives of residents of two apartment blocks - one in Berlin and one in London during the Second World War. [A House through Time: Two Cities](#) offers four fascinating episodes starting just after the end of the First World War.
- [The Town That Thread Built](#) offers a documentary charting the social history of Paisley. It focusses on local millowners J&P Coats who became one of the biggest companies in the world in the 1950s.
- The recent death of former First Minister Alex Salmond is likely to lead to some tribute and profile programmes. First off is the ever-reliable Radio 4 [Last Word](#). Elsewhere on BBC iPlayer you can catch up on some [early tributes](#) paid to Mr. Salmond. Recently broadcast and available on BBC iPlayer is: [Alex Salmond: The Man Who Changed Scotland - BBC iPlayer](#)
- Surviving Politics with Michael Gove includes an [episode](#) with former First Minister Humza Yousaf. The 40th Anniversary of the Brighton Bomb has generated a series of programmes in different formats:
- **Brighton: the Bomb That Changed Politics** can be listened to on BBC Sounds. This was first broadcast in 2009. Presenter Michael Dobbs who was at the Grand Hotel when the bomb detonated talks of the legacy of event. <https://tinyurl.com/4sdbafht>
- **The Brighton Bomb** is a series of 10 episodes launched on BBC Sounds on 7 October 2024. Each episode offers an excellent chronology of the sequence of events. <https://tinyurl.com/scmz8k62>
Meanwhile on BBC iPlayer the following are available:
 - **Brighton Bomb** is a documentary first shown in 2004 by award-winning journalist Peter Taylor which offers a first-hand account of the bombing <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0023sww/brighton-bomb>
 - [Bombing Brighton: the Plot to](#)...takes a fresh look at the 1985 bombing featuring new testimony from many of those affected and a revealing interview with the man who planted the bomb, Patrick Magee. Developed by an award-winning documentary team of **Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland**.
 - Finally, a gem from BBC Radio Scotland. [The Last Lumberjack](#) is the story of Sam Martinez who travelled from Belize to help Britain in the war effort. During the Second World War almost 900 forestry workers came

to Scotland from British Honduras, now known as Belize. Until recently, their story was largely forgotten. In 2016, aged 106, Sam Martinez shared his memories before he died.

MEET A TRUSTEE – DR ALISON ROSIE

I am a native of Caithness, a much-overlooked area of Scotland which is full of ancient remains. I have always been fascinated by history and archaeology and, while at school, was a volunteer on the dig at Camster Cairns, directed by Lionel Masters from the University of Glasgow, as well as at the Clow Chapel near Watten. After studying medieval history at the University of Edinburgh, I undertook a year at Aberystwyth for my archive diploma before returning to Edinburgh for a PhD in French court spectacle in the 15th century. In more recent years my interests have moved to early modern Scotland.

In 1986 I joined the staff of the Scottish Record Office (now the National Records of Scotland), retiring last year. I spent most of my career in the National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS), the body which supports owners of all types (landowners, businesses, societies, sports clubs, community archives and private individuals) with advice on the care and preservation of their archives and makes information about them available to researchers. During that time, I served on the councils of the Business Archives for Scotland, the Community Archives Heritage Group (CAHG Scotland) and Sports Heritage Scotland.

I am delighted to become a Trustee of the Scottish Local History Forum and look forward to taking part in the Forum's activities.



Visit the Scottish Local History Directory and let us know if you would like to add details of your organisation: [Scottish Local History Directory | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](https://www.slhf.org)

The editor of Clish-Clash is Steve Connelly, with vital assistance from Linda Clark, James Kennedy and Andrew Jones. Thanks are due to Don Martin, Chris Fleet, Jocelyn Grant, Nora Solesbury and Marissa Trimble for their contributions.

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