



SLHF NEWS

■ The Scottish local History Forum is hosting an all-day conference on the theme of **Popular Protest in a Scottish Local History Context** on Saturday, 25 October 2025 at The Wynd Centre, 6 School Wynd, Paisley PA1 2DB. Topics and speakers are:

The Trials of the Paisley Radicals in 1820 Tom Dowds

The Radical War of 1820: Police Spies, Government Spies and Willing Informers Dr David Smale

Landscapes of Protest: Rural Resistance in the Highlands and Islands, 1750-1820 Dr Juliette Desportes

Harvie's Dyke, Glasgow: People, Protest and Place Prof Christopher Whatley

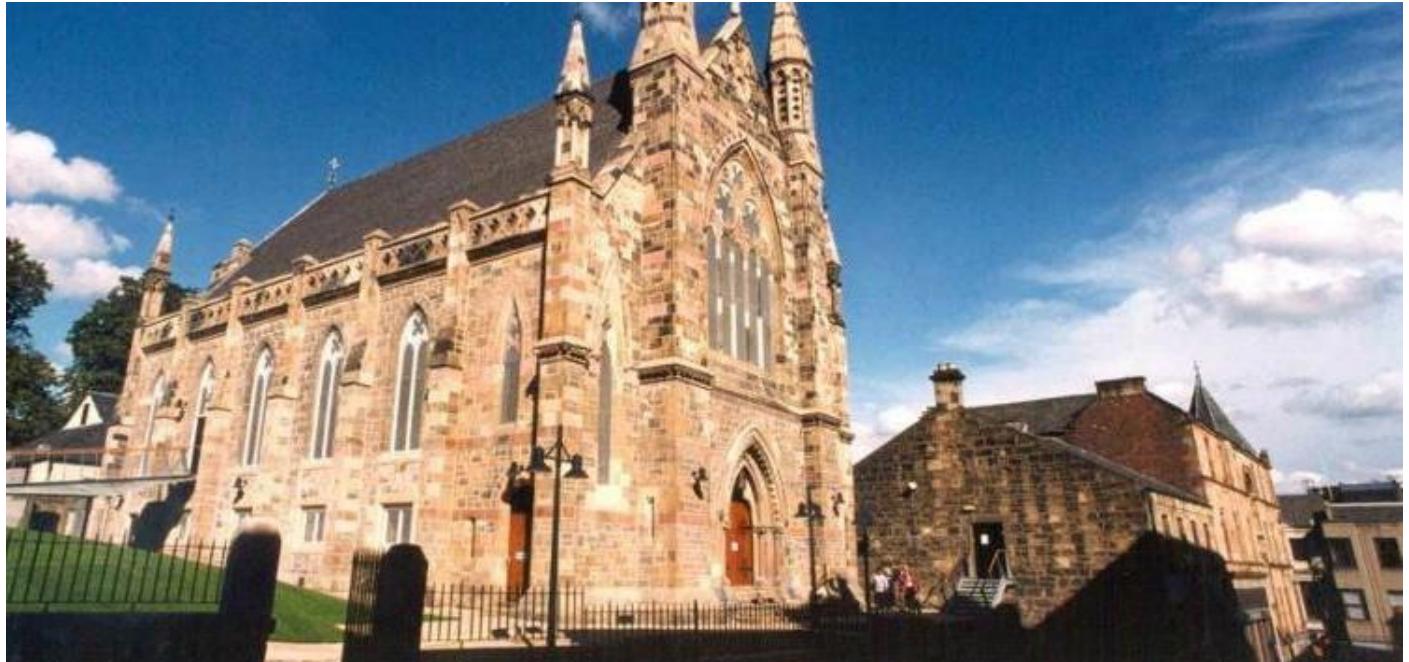
The Later Highland Land Wars and the Micro-geographies of Protest Prof Iain Robertson

"There's going to be an outrage and we're going to start it!" Protesting the M77 at Pollok in the 1990s.

Dr Phil Back

Apologies to Tom Dowds for getting the date of the trials of the Paisley Radicals wrong in the last edition of *Clish-Clash*. The correct date of 1820 is shown above. We had hoped to mark the bicentenary of the Radical War with a talk by Tom, but the small matter of the pandemic got in the way. So, better late than never, we are glad that Tom can now add to his several articles featured in *Scottish Local History* and be joined by other distinguished speakers on the wider subject of protest. We hope you can join us for what promises to be an excellent conference.

To book your place visit our website: [SLHF Annual Conference: Popular Protest | Scottish Local History Forum](https://www.slhf.org.uk/conference)



Wynd Centre Paisley



Wynd Centre Auditorium

■ **The Late George Dixon's Legacy** Our former trustee generously left the Forum the choice of his books on Scottish and railway history in his will. We are indebted to Dr Phil Back for collecting a selection of these which we now offer to readers of *Clish-Clash*. Visit [Books & CDs | Scottish Local History Forum](#) for further details and to bag yourself a bargain. An obituary of George, who will be known to many people as the Stirling archivist and the champion of the local history of Grantown-on-Spey, will appear in the next issue of *Scottish Local History* out later this month. Here is a list of the available titles:

An Economic History of Modern Scotland Bruce Lenman

An Economic History of Scotland in the 18th Century Henry Hamilton

The Turra Coo Alexander Fenton

Saints and Seakings Ewan Campbell

Scottish Country Houses Ian Gow, Alistair Rowan

Perth and Kinross – The Big County Jeremy Duncan

The High Road John Glendenning

Third Statistical Account: Caithness

Third Statistical Account: Dunbarton

Third Statistical Account: Glasgow

Third Statistical Account: Banff

Third Statistical Account: Kincardine

Third Statistical Account: Aberdeen

Edinburgh Companion to Scottish Romanticism Murray Pittock

The Hidden Ways Alistair Moffat

Why Scottish History Matters Rosalind Mitchison

History of Johnstone Scott

History of Clydebank John Hood

George Washington Wilson Roger Taylor

Scottish Farming in the Eighteenth Century James Handley

Farming Sources Henry Edwards

The Highland Railway O.S. Nock

Studies in British Transport History Derek Aldcroft

The Highland Railway: People and Places Neil Sinclair

100 Years of the Forth Bridge Roland Paxton
The Callander and Oban Railway John Thomas
Highlands and Islands Transport Timetable 1982
Express Trains E. Foxwell, T.C. Farrer
The Railway Builders Anthony Burton
The Origins of the Scottish Railway System C.J.A. Robertson
Atlas of British Railway History Michael Freeman, Derek Aldcroft
Beeching's Legacy
The Reshaping of British Railways Dr Beeching
Scotland's Motoring Century Robert Grieves

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ **Inspiring the Nation: 300 years of Libraries in Scotland** On the 100th anniversary of the National Library of Scotland Act, **Historic Environment Scotland** explores the history of libraries in Scotland and how they have developed from private book collections to vital spaces at the heart of our communities. Charting their innovation and growth from the 17th century through their continued evolution in response to the changing needs of society to become the varied public services they are today. The exhibition runs at **Edinburgh Central Library** on selected dates until Saturday 20 September 2025. Meanwhile across the road on George IV Bridge the **National Library of Scotland** in its 100th year is holding the exhibition **Dear Library** which champions the vital role that libraries play in Scotland. [History of Scotland's Libraries Explored in Edinburgh Exhibition | Historic Scotland](#)

■ The **National Library of Scotland** has made some changes relating to accessing material in its reading rooms. Up until now, material published before 1850 was consulted in the Special Collections Reading Room on level 15, and material published after that date was consulted in the General Reading Room on level 13. From Monday 4 August, if you wish to consult material published before 1925, you will have to view it in the Special Collections Reading Room. By re-categorising these items as 'special collections', this means NLS staff can better advise you on handling and supports. This also helps staff to ensure the collections' longevity, long into the future. On 7 August 1925, the National Library of Scotland was created by an Act of Parliament. This makes its new rule easy to remember – if what you seek is older than NLS you will have to consult it in the Special Collections Reading Room. Catalogue records for all affected material (i.e. anything published between 1850 and 1925) have been updated in the NLS system. So, when you reserve your material on its website before your visit, everything will be handled for you as usual.

■ A recent search of the **NLS** catalogue surprisingly indicated that there was an incomplete run of *Scottish Local History* held there. Further enquiries have confirmed that issues 1-121 are in the NLS and the misleading catalogue record will be fixed in due course. In the meantime, the easiest way to see and order the earlier issues is to click on pressmark HP.la.120 SER (the first of the three listed for the journal), and then click on the 'Description all' dropdown menu. You will then see a list of all the issues (1-121), although even this is a little confusing, as the list starts from 49 - 121, and then 1-48 appear below.

■ A new guide to finding placenames has been produced by **NLS Map Library**. This resource gathers together some of the main lists of placenames or gazetteers on its maps website. These allow you to search and locate names or written text on maps. [Placenames - Map images - National Library of Scotland](#)

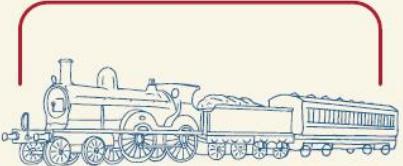
■ Issue 47 of **Cairt: the newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum** was published in July. This issue carried a brief article on a recent NLS acquisition of a pincushion map of Scotland. The issue also featured an article by Nevis Hulme on Timothy Pont's map of Wester Ross. The author's detailed local knowledge of this area has allowed further suggestions on the identification of mountains and their presentation, as well as suggesting Pont's possible route through them. A second article, by Diana Webster and Douglas Lockhart, charted the bumpy career of Andrew Henderson (c.1791-c.1862) – farmer, stock breeder, cattle dealer, land-surveyor, valuator, author of 'Practical hints on the principles of surveying and valuing estates' – and serial bankrupt. The issue also included the usual updates on new website resources and maps online. View *Cairt* newsletter at:

<https://maps.nls.uk/cairt/cairt47.pdf>



Pincushion Map

- **Scots on the Move: Railways and Tourism in Victorian Scotland** Free exhibition in the Adam Dome, General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY, 4 August – 26 September, Monday-Friday, 09:00-16:00 with special late opening until 18.30 on Thursday, 7 and Thursday, 21 August 2025. [Exhibition: Scots on the Move: Railways and Tourism in Victorian Scotland | Scottish Local History Forum](#)



Scots on the Move:
Railways and Tourism in Victorian Scotland

Free exhibition

4 August – 26 September 2025

Open Mon-Fri, 09:00-16:00

The Adam Dome, General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY

Special opening times:

Open late on 7 and 21 August, 09:00-18:30

Doors Open Day on 27 September, 10:00-16:00



- **Historic Environment Scotland** is making changes to its web services with many of its familiar sites like **Canmore**, **SCRAN** and **Scotland's Places** being replaced by **trove.scot**. See details: [Retiral of HES web services | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

- **Salver Saved** The special exhibition this year at **Cupar Museum** is a celebration of the 250th anniversary of **Cupar Curling Club**. The club provided much of the display material, but Cupar Heritage also sourced artefacts from the Scottish Curling Trust including an engraved copy of the painting by Cupar-born artist Charles Lees of the 'Grand Match' played on Linlithgow Loch in 1847. Selections of photographs, trophies, map of curling places, stories of matches and displays of badges make up the bulk of the display. Notable club members are also highlighted including one-time Scottish and British Ladies Champion Jenny Graham and her husband Met Graham, who also played internationally. They presented trophies to the club including a handsome silver salver as an inter-club trophy, but there was a problem: when the exhibition was being set up the club revealed that the salver had been missing for many years. Cupar Heritage saw that as part of the history so put the facts on display, while optimistically appealing for help to find the lost trophy. About two months after the start of the museum season a visitor arrived holding a large black bin bag from which, like a magician pulling a rabbit from a hat, he produced the missing salver – word had got around, the appeal had worked! In common with some other trophies the salver was originally awarded for something else, in this case 'for the best five acres of swedes in Fife and Stirling' by Webb & Sons (Stourbridge) Ltd. Mr Alex Graham won the trophy in 1916, so when the Graham family handed it over to Cupar Curling Club in 1981 they were actually re-presenting it as the Met Graham Challenge Salver. Its re-emergence thus adds to the local history of both the farming industry and the sport of curling. After a bit of rearranging of exhibits and some judicious re-captioning the salver has gone on display. Its highly reflective surface makes it difficult to photograph – best just to come and see it at Cupar Museum.

■ **Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives** have re-opened after being closed for nearly a year to allow for a major collection move from Old Aberdeen House to the Town House on Broad Street. Read about the move: [Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives re-open to public | Aberdeen City Council](https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/aberdeenshire-archives-re-open-public) and find out about booking an appointment: [Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives \(Town House\) | Aberdeen City Council](https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/aberdeenshire-archives-town-house).

■ **Community Stories – Community Archives: In-person Event Inverness Join Scottish Council on Archives** for an event designed for community groups who have or are looking to create an archive collection. This half-day event will provide an opportunity to discuss best practice for describing, caring for and making available archive collections. It will explore the essential tools, resources and strategies to help you manage your collections. You will gain insights from professional archivists as well as having the opportunity to discuss your experiences with attendees from other community groups. You will learn more about inclusive engagement and considering your audiences. Book via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-stories-community-archives-inverness-tickets-1509120623409?aff=odddtcreator>

■ **Community Archives and Heritage Group Scotland (CAHGS)** recently marked 5 years of championing communities and supporting local groups to preserve and share Scotland's rich and diverse histories. CAHGS has built a vital network of community archivists, offering events, training, and advocacy to strengthen grassroots heritage work across the country. As the group looks ahead, it remains committed to amplifying community voices and ensuring that Scotland's diverse cultural narratives are recorded, remembered, and celebrated. Find out more: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/community-archives-and-heritage-group-scotland-marks-5-years-of-championing-communities/>

■ **Call for Participation: Digital Exhibition Celebrating Scotland's Intangible Cultural Heritage** CAHGS invites communities and heritage groups across Scotland to contribute to an upcoming digital exhibition celebrating Scotland's intangible cultural heritage. They want to highlight collections helping to preserve storytelling, crafts, music, festivals, local languages, food traditions, and more – anything that reflects living heritage as recognised by the communities who practice it. Find out more and take part:

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/call-for-participation-digital-exhibition-celebrating-scotlands-intangible-cultural-heritage/>

■ **Find new volunteers through Make Your Mark** SCA are encouraging groups to post their archive volunteering roles on the [Make Your Mark portal](https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/make-your-mark), Scotland's online hub for heritage volunteering. Whether you are looking for help with cataloguing, digitisation, outreach, research or front-of-house support, this is a fantastic way to connect with people passionate about history, archives and heritage. There is a strong appetite for archive volunteering. 25% of all searches on the Make Your Mark portal are for archive-related opportunities. That means there's a keen and enthusiastic audience actively looking for ways to get involved. Don't miss the chance to connect with them! Find out more: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/find-new-volunteers-through-make-your-mark/>

■ **Made in Scotland: Bridging Business and Community – Survey still open** Made in Scotland recognises that collaboration between business archives and communities creates lasting benefits for both parties. When businesses share their archival resources collaboratively with groups and organisations, the results can enhance cultural preservation, provide valuable educational opportunities, and help build economic resilience in communities across Scotland. SCA need community-groups to complete a survey to better understand the landscape and identify opportunities for connection. Find out more and complete the survey: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/community-archives/made-in-scotland-bridging-business-and-community-to-create-new-stories/>

■ **Spaces, Places and Belonging: Community Hub Launch Webinar (online)** 17 September (2-3.30pm) The 'Spaces, Places and Belonging' Community Hub is a new national programme led by The National Archives in partnership with Leeds Museums & Galleries, the National Library of Wales, and the Community Archives & Heritage Group. Funded by the AHRC (UKRI), the Hub will support inclusive, community-led research across the UK's galleries, libraries, archives, museums, and heritage sectors. The Hub will offer three grant schemes totalling £550,000, alongside a programme of training, digital skills development, and network-building. The Hub will also create a permanent digital platform to share resources, learning, and best practice. With applications opening for two grant schemes on 15 September 2025, this launch webinar will discuss each grant scheme in detail, including eligibility, assessment criteria, and budgets. There will also be a Q&A. [Spaces, Places and Belonging: Community Hub Launch Webinar Tickets, Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spaces-places-and-belonging-community-hub-launch-webinar-tickets-wed-sep-17-2025-at-200pm-eventbrite)

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Place-Names of Berwickshire. Volume One. The Border Parishes** Simon Taylor and Eila Williamson with Carole Hough, (Vol. IX of The Survey of Scottish Place-Names). Shaun Tyas, Donington, 2025. 472 pages. ISBN 9781915774279. £35.
- **The Dummy Drome – Stories from a WW2 Decoy Aerodrome in the North of Scotland** by Rob More. Whittles Publishing, Dunbeath, August 2025, 128 pages, illustrated with 4 maps, c.60 colour and b&w photographs, ISBN 9781849956000, £12.99. [The Dummy Drome: Rob More: 978-184995-600-0 - Whittles Publishing](#)
- **The Perth 'Steamies' – The Story of the Fair City's Public Washhouses (1846-1976)** by Denis Munro. Tippermuir Books Ltd, Perth ISBN 9781913836481 £9.99. [The Perth 'Steamies' – Tippermuir Books Ltd.](#)
- **Losing Sight of the Shore: Scotland's Medical Explorers 1815-1915** by Wendell McConnahe. Whittles Publishing, Dunbeath, August 2025, 208pp illustrated with photos, paintings drawings and maps (some in colour) softback, ISBN 9781849955942, £18.99. [Losing Sight of the Shore, Scotland's Medical Explorers 1815-1915: Wendell McConnahe: 978-184995-594-2 - Whittles Publishing](#)
- **The Complete Scottish Sketches of R. B. Cunningham Graham: A Careless Enchantment** edited by Lachlan Munro, W.R.B. Cunningham Graham. Edinburgh University Press, August 2025, 352 pages, 24 black and white illustrations. ISBN Paperback: 9781399533096, £24.99; Hardback: 9781399533089, £125.00; Ebook (app): 9781399533119, £24.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399533102, £24.99. [The Complete Scottish Sketches of R.B. Cunningham Graham](#)
- **To See Ourselves: A Personal History of Scotland Since 1950** by Alistair Moffat. Birlinn Ltd, June 2025, 272pp, ISBN 9781780279473, Hardback, £18.99. [To See Ourselves | Birlinn Ltd - Independent Scottish Publisher - buy books online](#)
- **Greek Secrets Revealed: Hidden Scottish History uncovered, Book 1 – Edinburgh** by Ian McHaffie. 3rd edition, Third edition, June 2025 ISBN 9781068673627, Free PDF or £12.50 (inc p&p) for printed copy. [Greek Secrets Revealed Bk1 Edinburgh 3rd Edition 2025.pdf](#)
- **Greek Secrets Revealed: Hidden Scottish History uncovered, Book 2 – Fife and the North** by Ian McHaffie. 2024, ISBN 9780952502685, Free PDF or £12.50 (inc p&p) for printed copy. [Greek Secrets Revealed Bk2 Fife and North 2024.pdf](#)
- **Place-names of East Lothian: A journey through time** by Liz Curtis. Published online by the Scottish Place-name Society, July 2025. [Place-names of East Lothian: A journey through time – Scottish Place-Name Society](#)
- **Connecting Scotland's History: Linked into 2,000 Years of World History** by Anna Groundwater. Luath Press, Edinburgh, 2025, ISBN 9781913025601, £9.99. [Connecting Scotland's History: A Scottish History Timeline Linked into 2,000 Years of World History – Luath Press](#)

WHAT'S ON

Links to the Scottish Local History Forum's events page will contain further details provided by the organisers. For events where information has not been provided by the organisers a link has been found by the editor when possible.

- **Scots on the Move: Railways and Tourism in Victorian Scotland** Free exhibition in the Adam Dome, General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY, 4 August – 26 September, Monday-Friday, 09:00-16:00 with special late opening until 18.30 on Thursday, 7 and Thursday, 21 August 2025. [Exhibition: Scots on the Move: Railways and Tourism in Victorian Scotland | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Ninewells Hospital: Care, Community and Innovation** An exhibition in the Michelin Design Gallery, V&A Dundee, 1 Riverside Esplanade, Dundee DD1 4EZ until 14 September 2025, 10.00am to 5.00pm. [Ninewells Hospital: Care, Community and Innovation](#)
- **250th Anniversary of Cupar Curling Club** Exhibition at Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre, Cupar Railway Station, Station Road, Cupar, KY15 5HX, 2.00pm - 4:30pm, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays until 31 October 2025. [Exhibition: 250th Anniversary of Cupar Curling Club | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Kirkcudbright Kirkyard Trail** Various dates and times, August – September 2025, St Cuthberts Kirkyard, St. Cuthberts Road, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4XY. [Scottish Local History Forum | People, Places, Pasts](#)
- **Kirkcudbright Town Walk** Various dates and times, August – September 2025, Information Centre, Harbour Square, Kirkcudbright , DG6 4HY. [Scottish Local History Forum | People, Places, Pasts](#)
- **Tourism in Scotland: a history of holidays** Talk by Professor Rab Houston, Professor Emeritus in History, University of St Andrews at National Records of Scotland, HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH13YY on Thursday, 7 August 2025 - 1:30pm to 2:30pm. [National Records of Scotland Events - 3 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

- **Celebration of the Centuries** Re-enactment event at Fort George, Saturday 9 August 2025 to Sunday 10 August 2025. [Celebration of the Centuries | Historic Environment Scotland](#)
- **Burns, Byron and Bridgerton: buried stories of Dunblane Cathedral's graveyard** Sunday, 17 August 2025, 2.00pm and 3.00pm, Dunblane Cathedral, The Cross, Dunblane FK15 0AQ. [Free Guided tours: Burns, Byron and Bridgerton - the buried stories of Dunblane Cathedral Graveyard](#)
- **The story of Scotland's first railway: the journals of William Dickson** Talk by Ed Bethune and Dr Aaron Allen at National Records of Scotland, HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3YY on Tuesday, 19 August 2025, 4:30 - 5:30pm. [National Records of Scotland Events - 3 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)
- **Stirling's City Walls: Rediscovering Scotland's Only Renaissance Wall** Talk by Dr Murray Cook, Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Road, Stirling FK8 2RQ, Tuesday, 19 August 2025, 1.00pm. [The Diary - upcoming news and events from 21st July onwards](#).
- **The 5th Duke of Buccleuch and railways** Talk by Dr Craig Thomas at National Records of Scotland, HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH13YY on Thursday, 21 August 2025, 5.00 – 6.00pm. [National Records of Scotland Events - 3 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)
- **Grassroots Gatherings** Online events organised by Scottish Community Heritage Alliance via Zoom at 7.00pm - 8.00pm on the following dates: 26 August - General Discussion, 18 September – Volunteering, 30 September – Fundraising, 9 October - Social Media & Marketing, 28 October - Signposting Resources, 6 November - General Discussion. [Grassroots Gatherings - General Discussion | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The Mirror of Great Britain: A Life of James VI & I** Live webinar and Q&A from Professor Clare Jackson for **History Scotland** on Tuesday, 2 September 2025, 6.30pm. [The Mirror of Great Britain: A Life of James VI & I Tickets, Tue, Sep 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Western Isles Roadshow** Online and in person event organised by Scottish Community Heritage Alliance, Saturday, 6 September 2025, 10:00am to 4:00pm, Stornoway Town Hall, 20 South Beach, Stornoway, HS1 2BJ. [Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Western Isles Roadshow | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Doors Open Days** are running throughout Scotland from 6 – 28 September 2025. Find details here: [Doors Open Days | 2025 Weekends](#)
- **Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Northern Isles Roadshow** Online and in person event organised by Scottish Community Heritage Alliance, Saturday, 13 September 2025, 10:00am to 4:00pm, St Magnus Centre, Palace Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1PA. [Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Northern Isles Roadshow | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The Porteous Riots** A talk by Eric Melvin to the Scottish Genealogy Society, Monday, 15 September 2025, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and ONLINE. [The Porteous Riots | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Second Scotland Western Front Association Conference** 20 September 2025, 10.00am – 4.30pm, Discovery Point, Discovery Quay, Dundee DD1 4XA. Featured speakers: Professor Sir Hew Strachan - The Scottish Soldier in the Great War; Professor Peter Doyle - 'Repaying the Germans in their own coin': The British use of gas at Loos, 1915; Nick Hewitt - Weary Waiting is Hard Indeed: The Grand Fleet in Scapa Flow 1916-18; Richard van Emden - Boy Soldiers of the Great War: the new evidence; Phyllida Shaw - Creating the Scottish National War Memorial. [SECOND SCOTLAND WFA CONFERENCE | The Western Front Association](#)
- **Votes for Women – Everywhere: 1866-1928** Online talk by Elizabeth Crawford, Wednesday, 8 October 2025, 7:00pm - 8:00pm. [Votes for Women – Everywhere: 1866-1928 | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)
- **Drax of Drax Hall, researching the landed gentry in Britain and Caribbean** Online talk by Paul Lashmar, Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. [Drax of Drax Hall, researching the landed gentry in Britain and Caribbean | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)
- **10 Scotland Street - An Opinionated History of One House Over Two Centuries** A talk by Leslie Hills to the Scottish Genealogy Society, Monday, 20 October 2025, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and ONLINE. [10 Scotland Street - An Opinionated History of One House Over Two Centuries | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Building Bridges: Connecting Scotland's Archaeological Community** Scottish Archaeological Forum conference, 25-26 October 2025 at Nicolson Square Venues, Edinburgh and online. [Conference 2025 | SAF](#)
- **Scottish Place Name Society Autumn Conference** Saturday, 8 November 2025 online, via Zoom (Visit website for call for papers). [SPNS Autumn Conference 2025 – 8 November 2025 – Online, via Zoom – Scottish Place-Name Society](#)

■ **Bigamy, Adultery and Murder** A talk by Stewart Stevenson to the Scottish Genealogy Society on Monday, 17 November 2025 – 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and online. [Bigamy, Adultery and Murder | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Church Going: A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of the British Isles** Online talk by Andrew Ziminski, Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. [Church Going: A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of the British Isles | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)

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 <https://www.slhf.org/submit-listing>

WATCH AND LISTEN

■ One of the neglected stories of Britain during the Second World War is the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands. This is rectified in the excellent 2-part documentary **Britain under the Nazis: the Forgotten Occupation** available on Channel 4. Narrated diary entries from a variety of islanders bring a distressing and challenging five years to life. <https://tinyurl.com/2v64trhu>

■ **A History of the World in 100 Objects** remains available as a podcast some 15 years after it was first aired on Radio 4. <https://tinyurl.com/yrd628un>

■ **Postwar** has a focus on the 1945 general election and its long-term impact. Well researched and presented by historian David Runciman in a 20-part series on BBC Radio 4.

■ Whilst you have to pay for most of Sky's channels, a really good freebie is Sky Arts on Freeview 36 and Freesat 143. Cold War and Cinema explores the relationship between history and the arts in the latter part of the 20th Century. <https://tinyurl.com/3t3wkvhz>

■ **Antiques Roadshow** recently visited the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Fiona Bruce shares many treasures including a Highland outfit that belonged to a clan chieftain and medals won by a pioneering diver.

■ **Last Word** remains an excellent programme reflecting on the lives of the great and the good and sometimes the not so good! Its edition on 6 June 2025 featured Nancy Blaik a driving force behind the campaign for Scotland's first children's hospice. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qpmv>

■ PBS America continues to serve up some good fair. Recent programmes have focused on reflections on the Troubles—**Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland** and **Shipwrecks which changed history**. You will also find **The Flu that Killed 50 Million** with expert and eyewitness testimonies and narrated by Christopher Eccleston. <https://www.pbsamerica.co.uk/>

■ **How It All Played Out** is a sports podcast hosted by broadcaster Mark Pougatch and journalist Paul Hayward, exploring the stories behind defining moments in sports history. The podcast delves into the drama, controversies, and unexpected twists that have shaped the games we love. It's a weekly show that aims to go beyond the headlines and offer a fresh perspective on iconic moments, featuring expert insights and untold details. The podcast covers a wide range of sports, including football, rugby, cricket, boxing, and more. Episodes explore era-defining matches, fierce rivalries, and surprising incidents, providing a deeper understanding of the events and their impact on sports culture. Some examples of topics covered include the 1966 World Cup, the rivalry between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, and the mystery of the kidnapped racehorse Shergar. <https://www.globalplayer.com/podcasts/42L3Fi/>

■ **Archive on 4: We were the Mods** was certainly a trip down memory lane for many listeners. Pete Townshend, Phil Daniels and film director Franc Roddam look back to the 1973 concert and the cult 1979 film adaption **Quadrophenia**.

■ Another episode in the same series features the reflections and memories of John Simpson and his encounters with dictators over a 60-year career. The programme is called [John Simpson's Dictators](#).

■ And as if that isn't enough for you a welcome repeat of the excellent **The Shipping Forecast at 100: Ship Shaped**. The historian Jerry Brotton explores the sea shapes left in the land. He asks, where are the traces of this lost world and how have we been defined by our maritime past, now that the sailing ships are gone? How are we ship shaped? Using archive to find resonances in the modern world and including many contributions and featuring music from the London Sea Shanty Collective.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0026rpg>

■ **The Man Who Made Wembley** is the story of Arthur Elvin a young entrepreneur from Norwich who saw a future in this unlikely area of north London. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0l8zgdq>

- An interesting podcast called [**The Wargame**](#) might be worth a listen. It simulates a national emergency in which Russia attacks the UK – based on the exercises that take place in Whitehall.
- [**Rewinder**](#) is a BBC radio 4 programme where Greg James digs into the BBC archive of audio, video, vinyl, photographs and documents using current stories to examine past ones. With over 40 episodes there's plenty to choose from!
- [**History's Heroes**](#) is a new podcast presented by historian Alex von Tunzelmann where she looks at people who have achieved 'something amazing' starting with Sir Harold Gillies who was 'the father of plastic surgery'. A series well worth subscribing with new episodes every week.
- [**The Old Closes of Edinburgh's Royal Mile**](#) is a recent addition to Edward Burns's YouTube Channel: [**Ed Explores Scotland**](#). [**The Old Closes of Edinburgh's Royal Mile - YouTube**](#)
- [**The Thesaurer of Dundee Burgh**](#) Talk by Dr Iain Flett to the Tay Valley Family History Society on the post that nobody wanted to hold. [**Fourth annual Presidential Video-talk - The Thesaurer of Dundee Burgh - with Q&A Registration link - Tay Family History Society**](#)

BLOGS

- **Using science to understand an archaeological object: the Dumbarton Cross Pendant** A small cross, found during utility works at Dumbarton Castle, is now on display in a new exhibition in the Governor's House. The cross was thought to be from the early medieval period, but very little was known about it. What is it made of? How was it made? How old is it? Using heritage science helped discover that perhaps this cross is not as old as first thought...find out more in this Engine Shed blog: [**Using science to understand an archaeological object: the Dumbarton Cross Pendant - Engine Shed**](#)
- To mark **Pride Month**, Indigo Dunphy-Smith, Visitor Services Assistant at the Georgian House and co-chair of the National Trust for Scotland's staff and volunteer Pride Network, delved into the life of Jane Pirie, an early 19th-century woman in Edinburgh. [**Jane Pirie: a complex woman connecting... | National Trust for Scotland**](#)
- **The Vikings in Scotland: Dumbarton and beyond** 795 A.D. marked the first recorded Viking raid in modern-day Scotland. Explore who the Vikings were, why they came to Scotland and the great siege of Dumbarton. [**The Vikings in Scotland: Dumbarton and beyond - Historic Environment Scotland Blog**](#)
- **Lochaber Archive Centre** has produced a blog on **The Highland Potato Famine** featuring documents in its collection which shed light on this often-overlooked crisis in Highland history. [**The Highland Potato Famine - Lochaber Archive Centre**](#)
- **A Year in the Life of a Community Archive** Comunn Eachdraidh Nis's latest blog explores a recent event in collaboration with National Museums Scotland as part of their Tha Sgeul ri Innse (There's a Story for the Telling) series of events. The event explored the hidden Gaelic history of collections. Read the full article: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/community-archives/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-community-archive-comunn-eachdraidh-nis-ness-historical-society/>

HISTORY NEWS

- **World War One ship's bell recovered after 108 years** A bell from a World War One battleship - which sank with the loss of hundreds of lives in Scapa Flow in Orkney over a century ago - has been recovered by divers. [**HMS Vanguard: World War One ship's bell recovered after 108 years - BBC News**](#)
- **The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** and **Scotland's Churches Trust** have announced a £229,015 grant from **The National Lottery Heritage Fund** to help ensure a sustainable future for Scotland's churches and their contents. [**Urgent Challenge for the Heritage Sector to be Addressed Thanks to National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant - Society of Antiquaries of Scotland**](#)

Visit the Scottish Local History Directory and let us know if you would like to add details of your organisation <https://slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory>

CAN YOU HELP?

Chris Cotton has been in touch wondering whether any of our readers could help identify the artist who produced this etching of Dumbarton Rock / Castle from the South, at West Ferry. It is quite small with the total paper size being only 20cm x 14cm. He can be contacted at cjc88@hotmail.com.



Dumbarton Rock

MEET A TRUSTEE

Dr Phil Back



Originally from Brighton, Phil graduated in modern history at Stirling University in 1974 and spent ten years working in commerce in Scotland and in Puerto Rico before discovering in 1985 that research was his real métier. Since then he has worked in research in the voluntary and not-for-profit sector, moving into local authority work in 1999, and ultimately running his own successful research business from 2006 to 2016, working on projects for councils across the UK, and won two national awards. He has also spoken at major regional and national conferences and worked in a voluntary capacity for the BBC and other bodies.

Alongside his work, Phil returned to learning with adult education courses that led on to a Diploma in Transport Studies from the University of York in 2001, and an Advanced Diploma in Historic Environment from the University of Cambridge in 2003. He retired in 2016 to complete a doctorate at Sheffield University with a thesis exploring the origins of Scotland's country parks, but was then tempted back to work with Imperial College London for a three-year EU-funded research project working with municipal authorities in the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands and France on greening the city. He is at last now fully retired.

He has published several academic papers, including work on a neglected landscape architect named Elisabeth Beazley, a study of Culzean Country Park, and a paper examining the role of the National Trust for Scotland in country park creation. He has written for *Scottish Local History*, with articles on Chatelherault Country Park, near Hamilton, and Pollok Country Park in Glasgow, and his doctoral thesis has been published in book form. His most recent article, on the rise and decline of a Scottish tourist destination, is expected to be published later this year. Phil has also contributed several book reviews on Scottish and international subjects to a variety of publications.

His current research focusses on the history of the small community of Rumbling Bridge, which is more interesting than might be supposed, but he remains interested in country parks and has been invited to speak at the SLHF conference on the protests at Pollok connected with the M77 extension, and to present his Chatelherault research in Hamilton later in the year. He has been a Trustee of SLHF since August 2024 and has worked primarily on a strategy for promoting the Forum's work and increasing our membership.

Although he now lives in York, Phil maintains close links with Scotland, and visits regularly for research, for holidays, and to follow the variable fortunes of Ayr United FC. He enjoys reading, music and sport, and is proud to have visited every current Scottish league football ground. He is married (to a Scot) and they have three adult children and three grandchildren.

And Finally...

We have been contacted by the producer of a musical on at the Edinburgh Fringe who thinks we might make a suitable audience for **The Queen is Mad**. Not exactly Scottish local history, but something a bit different. Joanna is fiery, headstrong, and outspoken – everything a 16th century princess is not supposed to be. When she unexpectedly becomes Queen of Castile, her father and husband are determined to silence her. She went down in history as Joanna the Mad – what if she wasn't insane, but furious? The show features an ambitious score with 'a classic theatrical sound' and 'melodies which melt into dissonant, menacing lullabies' (TheatreAndTonic.co.uk). 1-24 August (not 6, 13, 20) at 16:15 at Zoo Southside, The Studio. The production features West End stars Maria Coyne (The King & I, Phantom of the Opera) and Robert Finlayson (Road Show, Evita), alongside newcomer Brian Raftery. The show's lead single 'Locked Away' recently featured on BBC Radio 2 (Elaine Paige on Sunday). The show is written by 2024 Stiles & Drewe Best New Song Prize finalists, Amy Clare Tasker and Tom James McGrath. [The Queen is Mad | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Clish-Clash is edited by Steve Connelly, assisted by Linda Clark, James Kennedy and Andrew Jones. Special thanks to Chris Fleet, NLS; Marissa Trimble, SCA; Jocelyn Grant, NRS and Guthrie Hutton for contributions.

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

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