

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity SCO15850

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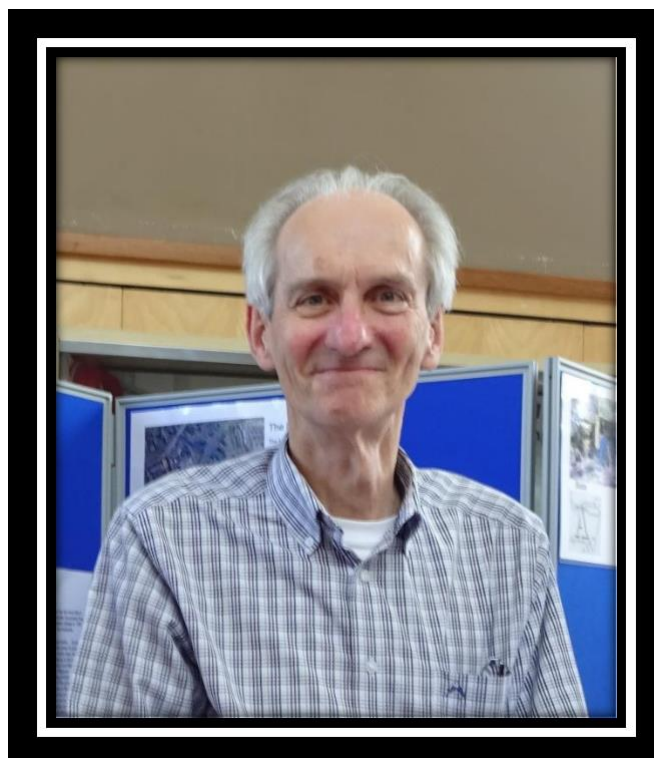
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Welcome to the latest *Clish-Clash* and following on from our celebratory issue 50, this edition is offered with a sense of great loss and sadness as we inform you of the recent death of Professor Paul Bishop, Chair of SLHF. What follows is a tribute to Paul from Don Martin MBE:

PROFESSOR PAUL BISHOP

Paul Bishop, Chair of the Scottish Local History Forum, sadly passed away on 25 January, after a fairly short illness. A detailed tribute will appear in *Scottish Local History* 112, but meanwhile it is appropriate to recognise the truly massive contribution that he made to the running of the Forum, in many different ways. When he became Chair after the 2018 AGM, he immediately introduced some much-needed discipline into Forum affairs and this was reflected in his firm control of Trustees' committee meetings. He carried out an examination of the duties invested in different Trustees and made many suggestions for improvement. He also took a keen interest in our serial publications, *Scottish Local History* and *Clish-Clash*, and assumed a significant role in the editing of both, including provision of editorial text, news reports and book reviews, and he prepared a number of referenced articles for *SLH*.

His presence was immediately felt in the wider world of local history and this dynamic was maintained until the last few weeks of his life. On a visit last July to see Paul's work in the excavation of Drumshanty Lint Mill, the writer of this tribute was truly impressed to note his enormous enthusiasm for the project; and it was obvious how much he appreciated the value of feeding information obtained by archaeological means into local history. In late November the writer went with Paul to a local history group at Knightswood, Glasgow, where he had organised a programme of speakers to enable this group to continue to operate. He was also involved at local level as joint organiser of Baldernock Local History Group and was an active member of Kirkintilloch & District Society of Antiquaries. He also contributed to the activities of Milngavie Heritage Centre, where he single-handedly prepared an exhibition on mills. He provided talks on a wide range of subjects for those and many other local history groups. His loss has been felt in an immediate and profound way. Members of many organisations (and not just in local history) are now sharing a very deep sadness.



SLHF NEWS

■ **A Trustees Meeting** was held on 14 February 2022. Steve Connelly, Trustee since October 2017 and President of the Abertay Historical Society was elected as Chair of the SLHF until the AGM later this year. More about Steve will follow in a forthcoming Meet a Trustee feature. At the meeting we took stock of the individual responsibilities of Trustees as a consequence of Paul's death and Steve's election. As usual a range of issues were discussed including ongoing collaborations especially with *History Scotland*. We also noted the continued levels of SLHF membership and reviewed progress with *Scottish Local History* and *Clish-Clash*. Our Facebook page continues to attract large numbers of people with over 4,000 visits in a one-month period.

■ **Scotland Against Slavery – the Local View.**

Following our previous Zoom conference 'Scotland's Involvement in Slavery - the Local View', in April 2021, the Scottish Local History Forum is now planning a Zoom-based conference focusing on the other side of the coin – 'Scotland Against Slavery - the Local View'. This event will be held over two evenings on 26 and 27 April 2022 from 5pm to 7pm. Speakers and topics include:

Eric J Graham - *Ayrshire's Contributions*; Richard Anderson *Abolitionism and Aberdeen's Universities*; Alastair Minnis - *Two abolitionist poets from the Scottish Borders: John Younger (d. 1860) and John Marjoribanks (d. 1796)*; Katie Hunter - *Black Lives Mattered in 19th century Edinburgh: Quaker Women and the anti-slavery campaign*; Iain Whyte *Destroying the Upas tree Andrew Thomson of Edinburgh and the urgent call for immediate abolition*.

Full details can be found on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/event/scotland-against-slavery-local-view-zoom-conference>

As far as other events go, the Trustees agreed to continue to explore the feasibility of a **Walk and Talk** and our **Annual Conference** later in the year. All of this will need to be considered and planned in the context of the evolving situation with Covid.

■ **Scottish Local History No.112 (Summer 2022)** is intended for publication in April. We continue to receive a steady stream of articles for publication in our journal. In fact, we now have almost sufficient for three issues to hand. These are all of satisfactory standard, by authors enthusiastic about their subjects who have consulted a wide range of sources, indicating those by means of superscript figures through the text that link to a key to sources at the end of each article. Nowadays, when articles are selected for each issue of the journal it is always from a much longer list than is needed for publication – and this enables us to prepare a balanced selection for each issue. After Issue 111 had been circulated at the beginning of February the following list was selected for Issue 112 (from a much wider choice):

A Brown, 'The Cupar War Memorial Project'. This article was originally selected for Issue 111, but we ran short of space and it was carried over.

A Drummond, 'The Napier Commission of 1884'. Relates to crofters.

M Kennedy, 'The Bard of Tinwald'. Describes the work of a local poet who provided some vivid local history in his poems.

D Lockhart, 'The Rev Robert Barclay (1868-1918) of St Mark's Church, Perth'. The epic story of a minister who made extensive use of bazaars to fund a church for a large group of people who had separated from a Church of Scotland congregation.

C Whatley, 'Where is Scotland's History?' A view of Scottish local history by Professor Chris Whatley, the Honorary President of SLHF.

There might also be room for one further article in Issue 112; and there will also be several Notes & Queries – perhaps as many as half-a-dozen.

■ **Don Martin MBE –**



SLHF Trustees were delighted to learn that Don Martin had been made an MBE in the recent New Year's Honours List for services to libraries and heritage. Don had a lengthy and distinguished career and found his dream post when appointed as local studies librarian in the newly formed Strathkelvin District Council in 1975. Born and bred in the area, he set about collecting and preserving its historical materials, while not neglecting to record the present-day. He took a pro-active approach by ensuring the capture of images of industry and places which have since vanished. He also made lasting connections with local history groups, often serving as an office-bearer. In addition, he has contributed much to the area's local history literature as an author of *Local History* for over a decade and our flagship periodical owes its splendid appearance and high standard of contributions and content to his guidance. This latest recognition of his services to libraries and heritage is well-deserved.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **National Museum of Scotland** 12 February to 8 May 2022 'Audubon's Birds of America'. Published between 1827-1838, *Birds of America* contains 435 life-size watercolours, all reproduced from hand-engraved plates. Due to its enormous size (standing at almost one metre tall), very few complete versions remain today. The exhibition showcases a beautiful bound copy of *Birds of America*, 46 original unbound prints, rare books, letters, ephemera and taxidermy specimens that demonstrate the accuracy of the drawings. Coveted for its accurate life-size drawings of North American birds as well as its depiction of many now-extinct species, its scientific value makes *Birds of America* one of the most celebrated books of natural history. <https://tinyurl.com/3wbkzjn9>

■ **National Library of Scotland** The 'Sir Walter Scott and the Historical Novel' display marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). From 12 November to 14 May. <https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/the-historical-novel/>

■ **Glasgow's Burrell Collection** will reopen on 29 March after being closed for more than five years as it underwent a £68.25m refurbishment. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-60302571>

■ **1921 Census** whilst the 1921 census for England & Wales is now available, we must wait until the latter part of 2022 for the 1921 census for Scotland <https://tinyurl.com/2p9he376> If you want to look at what's available for England & Wales check this link <https://tinyurl.com/bdfndde3>

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

■ **British Association for Local History (BALH)** in their Winter 2021 e-newsletter share with us a lot of news.



Stephen Miller is the new **Outreach Coordinator**, who started in January. Stephen would love to hear from any members with ideas for outreach projects, ways they can reach new audiences or what existing members would like to see. BALH are planning a 2022 series of exciting **digital webinars** and kick off with some digital skills sessions from the BALH Digital Team. These events are free for BALH

members, or £5 for non-members (£3 for members of member societies). BALH **Ten-Minute Talks** are available to access on the BALH website, and they cover a broad range of local history themes.

COMPETITION TIME

Could you be the BALH Local History Photographer of the Year?

Your chance to take part in an initiative to find some great local history images from around Britain. You do not need to be a member of BALH to take part. BALH welcome submissions from anyone interested in local history from across Britain. Local history societies, schools, universities, voluntary organisations, youth groups, please share the competition details with your groups. You may submit **up to three recent photographs** to the competition. Each will be treated as an individual entry. The definition of 'recent' are photographs taken since the start of 2020, so it covers the transformative period of the pandemic. **You have until 31 March 2022 to submit your entry.** <https://www.balh.org.uk/photo>

■ **Old Edinburgh Club** The OEC online Bibliography of Edinburgh History brings together a remarkable collection of more than 2,000 items – books, chapters, journal articles, and dissertations – covering the rich heritage of the city. You may well be amazed by what you can find amongst publications dating from Maitland's 1753 'History of Edinburgh and Leith'. The content ranges in time from prehistory to modern times and across themes: social, cultural, economic, architectural, etc. The villages and communities of Edinburgh feature too. It has been made freely available, given their desire to make it easier for anyone to pursue their interest in the city's history.

The bibliography is one of many resources listed in the SLHF Directory. Go to <https://www.slhf.org/directory-organisation/old-edinburgh-club> One of the services we offer member societies such as the OEC is the ability to sell its publications online via the SLHF website. Go to <https://www.slhf.org/books> and scroll down. If your society would like SLHF to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

UNIVERSITIES

■ **The University of Edinburgh's** Virtual Reading Room is a new free service that may be of interest The University recognises that people may still be uncomfortable with on site, in person consultations and that for the majority they are simply too far away to visit in person. You can book online appointments in their Virtual Reading

Room to view items from the University of Edinburgh's archive and collections. They hold the University of Edinburgh student records of matriculation and graduation (dating back to 1587) and also those of Edinburgh College of Art, Moray House and The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. Also housed are some of the world's most important archives and manuscript collections, and the holdings cover both personal and institutional records. They come in a great variety of formats, including working papers, correspondence, legal documents, photographs, notebooks, diaries, films, and digital media. Particular strengths include science, medicine, Scottish literature, Gaelic and Celtic studies, Middle Eastern Studies, theology, music, architecture, and town-planning. The Lothian Health Services Archive is also hosted, which holds the historically important local records of NHS hospitals and other health-related material. Find more information on collections here:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/cultural-heritage-collections>

Find more information about the Virtual Reading Room appointments here:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/cultural-heritage-collections/crc/visitor-information>

1-hour appointments are available on Mondays 10.00-16.00 (GMT). You can book a virtual appointment by emailing is-crc@ed.ac.uk (or lhasa@ed.ac.uk for Lothian Health Services Archive).

WEBSITES

■ **Scottish Highlander Photo Archive** (SHPA) is home to a searchable online database of photographs of people from Britain and around the world who had their portraits taken by the Andrew Paterson Studio of Inverness between 1897-1980. Andrew Paterson was an internationally-acclaimed and award-winning photographer who was sought out by the great and good to have their photograph taken. So, images of the likes of literary luminaries such as George Bernard Shaw and Compton Mackenzie feature side by side with Mrs Campbell's pet terriers in 1923 and the five Ritchie sisters in 1946. <http://www.scottishhighlanderphotoarchive.co.uk/>

Battlefield Sites in the UK is an interactive map where you can browse the major battle sites of Britain

<https://tinyurl.com/49fwk8fr>

■ The **BBC** has launched three collections to mark its **100th birthday** and tell the story of a 'century of broadcasting'. BBC History has unveiled the trio of online exhibitions looking at the most iconic objects, people and contributors. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/100>

■ **Refugee map** is an interactive map revealing the stories of refugees who fled Nazi anti-Semitism and persecution during the twentieth century has been launched by the London-based **Wiener Holocaust Library**. The online resource uses identity papers, diaries and other documents to visually trace the routes taken by people as they moved across Europe. <https://www.refugeemap.org>

PODCASTS

■ **Unearthed** is a Scottish history podcast which asks the question 'What lessons can we find from the ghosts of the past?' Join journalist and tour guide Ryan Latto as he unearths the truth about Scottish history, folklore, and myths by speaking to people whose lives are still connected to them. With at least 20 episodes there's plenty to choose from <https://play.acast.com/s/unearthed-podcast>

■ **Meet me at the Museum is the Art Fund** podcast which features well-known faces taking someone they love to a favourite museum or gallery, to explore what's on offer, have a chat about what they find, and generally muse on life. **Jack Lowden at the National Museum of Scotland** might be worth a listen. Actor Jack Lowden takes his friend and fellow actor Andrew Rothney to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, where they indulge their passion for Scottish history and explore the stories of key people and events, including Mary, Queen of Scots and the Jacobite uprisings. Together they discuss how meeting at drama school led to a shared love of castles and adventures, how they've taken on the roles of historical figures as actors, and their own personal connections to the artefacts they discover. <https://tinyurl.com/w6tmhh8b>

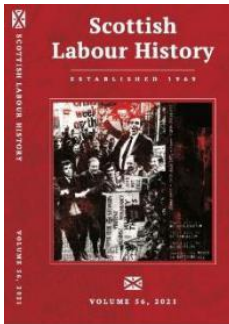
■ **The British Broadcasting Century** is presented by Paul Kerensa and aims to inform, educate and entertain with the true story of Britain's forgotten radio pioneers <https://bbcentury.podbean.com/>

■ BBC Radio 3 has a programme called '**The Essay**' which includes a programme called **Unearthing Britannia's Tribes** Unearthing the peoples of Iron Age Britain, from warrior queens to Lindow Man, archaeologists, historians and writers reveal the tribes, rulers and those who encountered them <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0013j07>

PUBLICATIONS and BLOGS

■ **Cottage Gardens and Gardeners in the East of Scotland 1750-1914** by Catherine Rice explores the lives of farm servants, labourers and other rural workers, to discover what and how they gardened, and how poverty, insecurity and long, arduous working days shaped their gardens. Workers' cottage gardens also had to comply with the needs of landowners, farmers and employers – and their expectations of the industrious cottager. More details at <https://tinyurl.com/3kw7rvnw>

■ **HIGHWAYS TO THE HIGHLANDS - from Old Ways to New Ways** by Eric Simpson
<https://tinyurl.com/35n6vvub> You can read elsewhere in Clish-Clash what influenced Eric to write this book.



■ **Scottish Labour History Society** The 2021 edition of **Scottish Labour History** has recently been published and has been sent to all of its members with a complimentary copy of **Diverse Voices, Challenging Injustice**.

■ **Banner Tales from Glasgow**, a joint publication by the Society, Glasgow Museums and Glasgow University School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, telling the stories of Glasgow's peace, anti-apartheid and anti-racist movements through their participants' voices. <https://www.scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot/>

■ **History Scotland** Volume 22. No 2 includes Scottish Women and the Spanish Civil War; Building burghs: the conquest of civilisation of Moray, c.1150-c.1250 and Legacies of transatlantic slavery in Stirlingshire and Perthshire. You will also read the first report from SLHF reflecting a new partnership between *History Scotland* and SLH. <https://www.historyscotland.com/>

■ **History Revealed** Issue 104 February 2022 includes a short feature on James Watt as one of the top 11 inventors of the Industrial Revolution <https://www.historyrevealed.com/>

Who Do You Think You Are Issue 186 January 2022 includes an item on archives in Ayrshire. **Who Do You Think You Are** Issue 188 March 2022 has a feature on Scottish Migration by Chris Paton, details of the Glasgow Women's Library and an item from the Highland Archive Service on an unpublished piece of writing from the Second World War. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/>

■ **Investigations into Watermill Locations and types on 34 River Catchments** by A. Robertson & T. Robertson. **Synopsis:** The document pulls together information gathered in the course of a project which described historical journeys along 34 British rivers. Watermills featured strongly in the accounts, and for each journey an appendix was produced, which located all the post-1750 water mills in the catchment and identified their types, e.g., cornmills, textile mills, etc. The tabulated results in the pamphlet amount to information about 3414 commercial and farm watermills, and are presented in such a way as to allow comparisons between areas and river catchments. An overview highlights similarities and differences, but as a project is still work in progress, any conclusions should be regarded as interim. The further work which is envisaged will increase the depth of coverage of English and Welsh watermills to replicate the Scottish template, as regards farm mills, and complete further river journeys, principally in England to achieve broader coverage. A limited number of pamphlets are still available and can be obtained by contacting Tom Robertson at dr.trobertson1945@gmail.com

■ **Engine Shed Newsletter** January 2022 includes a blog on bricks and a whole range of other interesting information. <https://www.engineshed.scot/>

■ **The Geographer** from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society Winter 2021 issue has a special feature called 'Maptastic – the Beauty, Value, Variety and Future of Maps'. <https://www.rsgs.org/the-geographer>

■ **CAIRT** Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum Issue 40 January 2022.
<https://www.nls.uk/media/ruoc4x1q/cairt40.pdf>

■ **The Local Historian January 2022 Vol.51 No.1** Highlights from this edition include key articles on medieval wills, women's history, railways and leisure. In 2022, the 70th anniversary of *The Local Historian* will be celebrated and is a real testament to its impact as a place for local history to be discussed <https://tinyurl.com/mrxukvph>

■ **Local History News Volume 141 Winter 2022** In addition to the regular articles covered in the publication, there are profiles of three more of the 2021 Personal Achievement Award recipients and fascinating articles from across the length and breadth of the British Isles; from Orkney to Somerset, and from Yorkshire to Wales. <https://tinyurl.com/sz7er8vz>

■ **BBC History Magazine** January 2022 has a feature 'Enemies of the State' which includes the trial of William Wallace <https://www.historyextra.com/>

■ **Women's History Today** Winter 2021 Special Edition Early Modern Women is available for purchase or download <https://tinyurl.com/5b5uny5u>

BLOGS

■ **BALH** 'The Human Costs of the British Civil Wars' a lecture by Professor Andrew Hopper. <https://tinyurl.com/2p979swm>

■ **Glasgow Live** now produce a regular newsletter showcasing the best Glasgow nostalgia stories and you can subscribe for free. You then receive a weekly e-mail <https://tinyurl.com/h6ce88e6>

■ **Royal Scottish Geographical Society** Ernest Shackleton and the RSGS by Jo Woolf. <https://tinyurl.com/yc59n588>

■ **Museum Crush** Burns House, Dumfries: A place of pilgrimage since 1796 <https://tinyurl.com/y8groy5l>

■ **550 Years Ago: how Shetland became part of Scotland**-this is an excellent blog from Shetland Museums and Archives <https://tinyurl.com/yd5crbyh>

■ **Womens' History Network** 'See her when she is free...' Celebrating Joan Eardley for LGBT History Month by Kirsten MacQuarrie <https://tinyurl.com/2p8658dh>

■ **The Lothians** <https://the-lothians.blogspot.com/> is described as an eclectic appreciation of Things Old, Stately, Quirky or Simply of Historical Interest—see what you make of it!

USING ONLINE SOURCES 'HEALTH MATTERS'

Some Personal Views



James Brown, a Trustee of SLHF provides some insight into a useful historical source called **The Cullen Project**. While historians have covered the big

health issues such as smallpox, typhoid, cholera and, in the future, will pay considerable attention to COVID-19, the less noticed are the personal ailments that have beset individuals. There are practical reasons why this is so. Health is a very private matter therefore is less likely to be recorded in personal correspondence beyond general terms such as, 'suffering a malady' or simply, 'unwell'. Some health matters can be revealed in the detail of apparently unrelated processes. For example, an objection to a female witness in a late-17th century Court of Session case involving Jean Seaton, Lady Aberlady, wife of Hugh Kennedy of Baltersan, was rebutted on the basis that a key element of the case was Kennedy being accused of concealing his wife's breast cancer in order to make a fraudulent bargain. Another Ayrshire example shows how the laird of Culzean, Sir Alexander Kennedy, avoided having to stand on the 'cuttie-stool' for his confessed fornication due to his sciatica. For the local historian, finding such elusive information can be frustrating, but there is a substantial resource available online that allows people to delve into the most intimate aspects of past lives.

That resource is **The Cullen Project** - a collaboration of The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow which digitised and transcribed the consultation letters of Dr William Cullen (1710-1790). The history of Dr Cullen and 18th century medical practices are covered along with patients' stories, illness narratives and medical language. An insight to social relations and family histories across Scotland is available as well as information on food, drink, exercise and travel. <http://www.cullenproject.ac.uk/> Accessed 12 January 2022.

ONLINE EVENTS AND GENERAL EVENTS

■ Scotland Against Slavery – the Local View.

Following our previous Zoom conference 'Scotland's Involvement in Slavery - the Local View', in April 2021, the Scottish Local History Forum is now planning a Zoom-based conference focusing on the other side of the coin – 'Scotland Against Slavery - the Local View'. This event will be held over two evenings on 26 and 27 April 2022 from 5pm to 7pm. Speakers and topics include:

Eric J Graham *Ayrshire's Contributions*; **Richard Anderson** *Abolitionism and Aberdeen's Universities*; **Alastair Minnis** *Two abolitionist poets from the Scottish Borders: John Younger (d. 1860) and John Marjoribanks (d. 1796)*; **Katie Hunter** *Black Lives Mattered in 19th century Edinburgh: Quaker Women and the anti-slavery campaign*; **Iain Whyte** *Destroying the Upas tree Andrew Thomson of Edinburgh and the urgent call for immediate abolition*.

Full details can be found on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/event/scotland-against-slavery-local-view-zoom-conference>

■ The **Japanese Garden at Cowden** near Dollar might be a way of greeting spring 2022. A worthwhile morning or afternoon beckons to a garden whose history is fascinating. There's also a decent tea room!
<https://cowden-garden.myshopify.com/>

■ **History Scotland** continue with its series of online events including 'no more charming picture than that of family life: 18th-Century Scottish Family Group Portraits' on 29 March and 'The Templars in Scotland: myth and reality' on 6 April. <https://www.historyscotland.com/events>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** have announced an exhibition of untold stories as part of Scotland's themed year. The exhibition, which opens in April at Blackness Castle, celebrates stories of people from marginalised communities whose lives shaped or were shaped by Scotland and showcases their contribution to Scotland's history. For this and further information on **Scotland's Year of Stories** visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdf6zm9sScottishLabourHistorySociety>

■ **Inaugural Ian MacDougall Lecture** Full details of the first lecture in memory of Scottish labour historian Ian MacDougall are not yet finalised but the date is set – Thursday 7 April – and, like the successful joint anniversary of SLHS and the Scottish Working People's History Trust, it will be hosted by the National Library of Scotland.

■ **Women's History Network Annual Conference:** 'Addressing the Nation' 2 & 3 September 2022 with a focus on the BBC and the role of women <https://tinyurl.com/msnups9h>

■ The **BBC** has launched three collections to mark its **100th birthday** and tell the story of a 'century of broadcasting'. BBC History has unveiled the trio of online exhibitions looking at the most iconic objects, people and contributors. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/100>

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>

BOOKS

■ **Thomson, Jim, *Cumaradh Mhòr (Great Cumbrae) – the Millport Song Suite a musical history of the Island* (former SLHF Vice-Chair)**

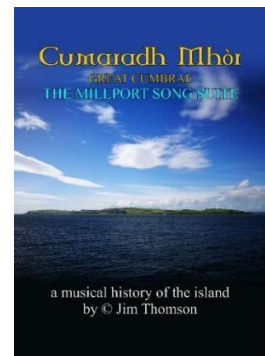
From 1956 to 1967, my family spent its summer holiday fortnight on the idyllic Isle of Cumbrae. Like all childhood memories, it was just a time of fun and sunny days. It is easy to gloss over the torchlit trips in the dark to the outside toilet from our rented flat in Millport's Kames Bay.

My love affair with the island has continued over the years but when even day visits were interrupted by the pandemic lockdown, I decided to look at its local history in an unusual way and so came about *Cumaradh Mhòr (Great Cumbrae) – a Millport musical*.

In a mixture of narration, poetry, traditional tunes and new compositions, it traces Cumbrae's history from its prehistoric Goukian Standing Stone to the traditional cycle 'round the island'.

From Cumbrae's saints to its smuggling 'industry', it shows the growth of the town from the revenue men's headquarters at Garrison House and its Victorian and Edwardian 'boom' as a Doon-the-Watter holiday resort in a one-act play of songs.

I am having the booklet printed in limited numbers and sent to potentially interested parties. The song suite will have no copyright or performing rights issues as a gift to the island that has given me so much through all these years.



■ Simpson, Eric **HIGHWAYS TO THE HIGHLANDS FROM OLD WAYS TO NEW WAYS** Amberley, 2021, pp96, £15.99; ISBN-978-1445699240

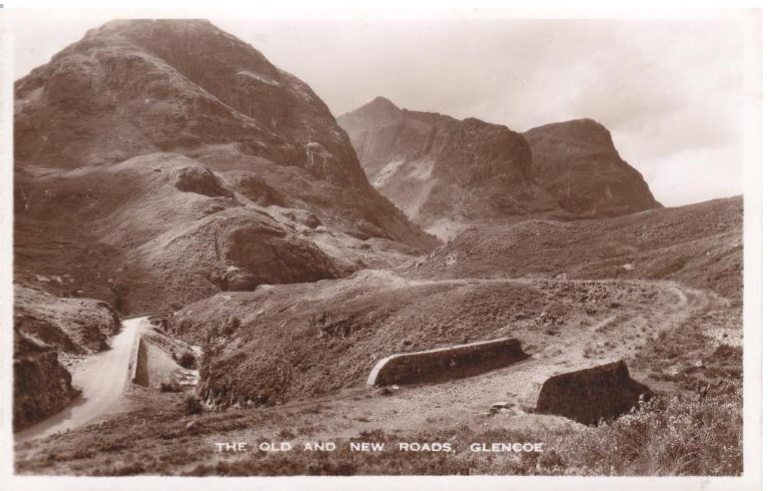


Killiecrankie toll-house

I was inspired to write **Highways to the Highlands from Old Ways to New Ways** as a follow-up to my previous book **Hail Caledonia - the Lure of the Highlands & Islands**. I wanted to expand on the subject of roads, including those leading to the Highlands with special attention to two aspects of transport that had long fascinated me. The first was the era of turnpike roads and stage-coaches. This goes back to my childhood days, when out in the family car, my father would point out 'There's an old toll-house.' The second came much later when, as a collector of old postcards, I came across sepia 1930s-era postcards depicting 'The new Glencoe Road'. It dawned on me that when driving to the hills I was still using these 'new' roads. The 'new' Glencoe road is the cover image of my book, complete with one of the few remaining milestones dating back to the stage-coach era. Using contemporary and vintage images, I started by following, the Great North Road from Edinburgh to Inverness. The route then continues up the east coast to John O'Groats, before going round the North of Scotland from east to west.

Here we link with the North Coast 500 tourist route and continue with it down the stunning west coast. I then expanded the route by returning south via Invergarry, Fort William, Glencoe, and Loch Lomond to Glasgow. On a large part of the way we are basically still following the interwar 'new' roads. There are, of course, alternative roads to the north. From my chosen routes off-shoot roads can be explored leading to historic beauty spots like the Trossachs, Skye and the other magical islands of the West. These with Orkney and Shetland as well are well covered in my other book **Hail Caledonia - the Lure of the Highlands & Islands**.

Two of my images from **Highways to the Highlands** - one contemporary, the other vintage.



Glencoe, Old & New Roads 1930s

MEET A LOCAL GROUP

Inverness Local History Forum



The Inverness Local History Forum was founded in 1992 by the late Mrs Sheila Mackay OBE. With a few like-minded volunteers she set about researching, recording, preserving and promoting the history of Inverness. It wasn't until the mid-1990s that the group received charitable status and set up a formal constitution. The organisation continued to grow in leaps and bounds and the membership has steadily increased throughout its 30-year history. The long-term objective of the project was to record all aspects of social life in what was then the Burgh of Inverness. The Forum has to date archived over 200 hours of oral history recordings by local people, and collected books, photographs, maps and other artefacts of interest relating to Inverness history.

The Forum has also published several popular booklets, calendars, and books, the most recent being 'The Northern Barrage', and the eight-page quarterly newsletter for members, 'Inverness Remembered', recently

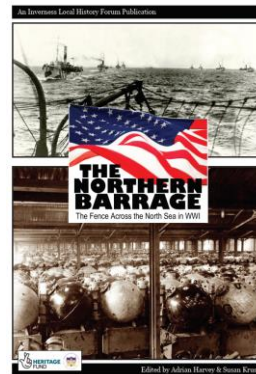
surpassed 100 issues since it was first published in 1997. Collected digital copies of the first 90 issues of the newsletter are available to read for free on the Forum website.

The Forum presents regular talks and presentations from guest speakers throughout the year on a variety of topics, held on the first Wednesday of every month. These talks, of just under one hour duration, are held in the theatre of the Spectrum Centre, Inverness. Forum exhibitions over the years have been well attended and have brought many happy memories back to the people who attended them. Events and Inverness local history have been brought back to life through photographs, artefacts and small sets portraying scenes now long gone.

The Forum also maintains a presence on Facebook with an ever-growing series of illustrated historical articles about people and places (plus links to websites of interest and current events).

The organisation is a registered charity and all profits from the sale of its publications are used to continue the Forum's work in unearthing the hidden nuggets of information and memorabilia that get lost or forgotten as time goes on.

Website: <https://www.invernesshistory.co.uk>
Email: invernesslocalhistoryforum@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/InvernessLocalHistory



CAN YOU HELP?

■ **STORYTELLERS WANTED:** Dawn Hamilton, a Community Connections Coordinator for the RNIB, a charity for the visually impaired, has as part of her role, the creation of new peer or activity groups. They run groups through a telephone conferencing system or through Microsoft Teams software. People have expressed interest in talks on Scottish history including great feats of Scottish engineering, shipbuilding and just history / historical places in Scotland generally. Although the RNIB are unable to offer payment, it is an excellent opportunity for members and supporters of the SLHF to bring our rich heritage to a wider audience.

The plan is to have speakers give 45-minute talks in daytime from Mondays to Fridays. There is no need to provide graphics or visuals, simply to talk in an engaging way. The wider the range of speakers and topics from a broad geographical spread, the better. The group will have a facilitator on hand.

Contact: Dawn Hamilton dawn.hamilton@mib.org.uk

■ **COMANN RANNSACHAIDH EACHDRAIDH NA GÀIDHEALTACHD** Marking its 50th anniversary this year, the Society of Highland & Island Historical Research has risen from its roots in the isle of Coll and now enjoys a steadily-growing membership. Over the years SHIHR has amassed, through its thrice-yearly journal *West Highland Notes and Queries* (now in its fifth series), a priceless archive of miscellaneous research relating to the history of the Highlands and Islands, their clans and their people. SHIHR has also published a variety of books and booklets (many of which are still available), and in the past year it has launched a successful series of on-line talks by leading Highland historians, including David Caldwell, Alison Cathcart, Allan Macinnes, Jo Currie, Alan Macquarrie, Katherine Forsyth, Kevin James, Alison Rosie and Matthew Dziennik. Their new website has a 'Links' page which will gradually be developed by adding links to other entities engaged in research into the history of the Highlands and Islands, be they local historical societies, clan societies, universities or national or international organisations. They would be delighted to receive information about such bodies to add to the page – just the name and website address will be sufficient <https://www.highlandhistoricalresearch.com/>

■ **CALL FOR INTERVIEWEES: Petitioning and Campaigning in Twentieth-Century Britain** Are you someone who signed or organised a petition before the year 2000? If the answer is yes, then would you be interested in talking about your experiences as part of a research project on the history of petitioning and campaigning? The project, based at the universities of Durham, Leeds, and Liverpool, is undertaking oral history interviews with a range of people with different experiences of petitioning and campaigning to offer new insights into the **history of democracy** in Britain. Please get in touch with the project team by emailing Dr. Henry Miller, at henry.j.miller@durham.ac.uk. Interviews are conducted over the phone and be arranged to be at a convenient time.

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QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

We learn from history that we don't learn from history—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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STOP PRESS

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Do you own or help look after a mill? Do you have an interest in the history of mills, milling, textiles, grain production, hydro power or industrial architecture? The Scottish branch of the [Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings](#) (SPAB), is a charity which campaigns for old buildings and offers advice, training and support. We're increasingly concerned about the [decline of traditional craft skills](#), especially millwrighting, and would like to showcase projects that sympathetically revive former industrial buildings. Traditional mills are particularly important now as they also present an opportunity to harness renewable energy.

For [Mills Weekend](#) this year we are joining forces with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust for a series of events celebrating Scottish mills. [Scottish Mills Weekend](#) will be held in **Perth Lower City Mills on 7 & 8 May 2022**. There will be a variety of talks on mill related subjects, a tour of the mill, pop-up cafe with real flour products, exhibition of mills, and plenty of time for discussions about the future of milling in Scotland. Early bird ticket sales end on 15 March. Book your place here: <https://www.spab.org.uk/whats-on/events/milling-matters-scottish-mills-weekend>

You can also join us for three online talks in the lead up to the weekend:

[Life Cycles of Textile Mills](#) with Mark Watson of Historic Environment Scotland - 8th March, 12 noon

[Dusty Mill, Dusty Miller](#) with millwright Karl Grevatt of Charlecote Mill - 5th April 12 noon

[Saving Rosefield Mills](#) with Luke Moloney of Dumfries Historic Buildings Trust - 3rd May 12 noon

CONTACT DETAILS

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

*'Clish-clash' means repeated gossip, so do email your local history news & information (Word attachment or link to your website) to **Contribute**.*

Anyone can download copies of **Clish-Clash** from our website. Members who have provided a valid email address are automatically sent a copy on publication (unless they have requested otherwise).

To be removed from the email mailing list, go to the above email address and choose category **Newsletter**.

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

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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>