

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

Welcome to our latest issue of *Clish-Clash* the bimonthly newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum. As the days get longer and the weather warmer, we hope that you enjoy what we have to offer from the world of local history here in Scotland.

■ **A Trustees Meeting** was held on Zoom on Monday, 11 April 2022. Some of the main agenda items were consideration of reports on a number of governance issues including finance, publications and website and social media activities. Consideration was also given to what events the forum could host. A kind offer by Advisory Committee member, Ian Shearer, to visit Kinneil House, Bo'ness for a **Walk & Talk** event was heartily welcomed, and it is hoped that we can arrange this for later this year. Look out for details in the next edition of *Clish-Clash*.

■ **Annual Conference** - Consideration was also given to the subject matter for our next conference and when and how it would be best held. Over the course of the pandemic the forum has attempted to keep engaged with the membership by holding its annual general meetings via Zoom and also by organising speakers to present via this medium. Hopefully we can get back to in-person events before too long. At the same time some people will still wish to be cautious, so the trustees are looking at a blended conference which will work for everyone. The trustees agreed that **Science, Engineering and Technology** should be the theme for the next conference. It was felt that this could cover a wide range of topics with good local history connections, including civil engineering, individual engineer's work locally, engineering plants and workshops. The aim is to hold this conference in Spring 2023. If our readers have any suggestions for suitable subject matter and speakers do feel free to contact the forum: <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf> [Contact SLHF | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Paul Bishop Prize** - the trustees were pleased to learn that Professor Bishop's widow was delighted that the forum wished to rename the prize for the best paper published in *Scottish Local History* after our late chair in recognition of his contribution to so many aspects of the forum's work.

■ Before the trustee's meeting our **Advisory Committee** also met on Zoom. This bi-annual meeting allows the forum to report on its activities and plans and receive helpful advice and assistance. Drawn from local groups, national institutions and various specialisms, the forum derives great benefit from the committee's input.

■ **Scotland Against Slavery - the Local View** - this event has just been held as *Clish-Clash* goes to press so watch out for an update in our next issue.

■ **AGM** The 2022 Annual General Meeting for the **Scottish Local History Forum** will take place on Monday, 24 October at 6pm online via Zoom. Anyone can attend, but only individual members and those representing organisational members can vote. Further details are available through this link: <https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-annual-general-meeting>

■ **Scottish Local History** 112 – The latest issue has now hit the streets and, in addition to the regular notes and queries, news features and reviews of recent books, contains articles on **Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands: the Napier Commission Report of 1884** by Andy Drummond, **The 'Bard of Tinwald'** by Margaret Kennedy, **'An Affair of the Cloth' The Rev Robert Barclay (1868-1918)** and **St Mark's Church, Perth** by Douglas G Lockhart, **The Cupar War Memorial Project: concept to implementation 1918-1922** by Allan W Brown and from our Honorary President, Christopher A Whatley **Where is Scotland's History? Local history and local people: the nation's building blocks**. There are also pictorial and written appreciations of our late chair, Paul Bishop.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

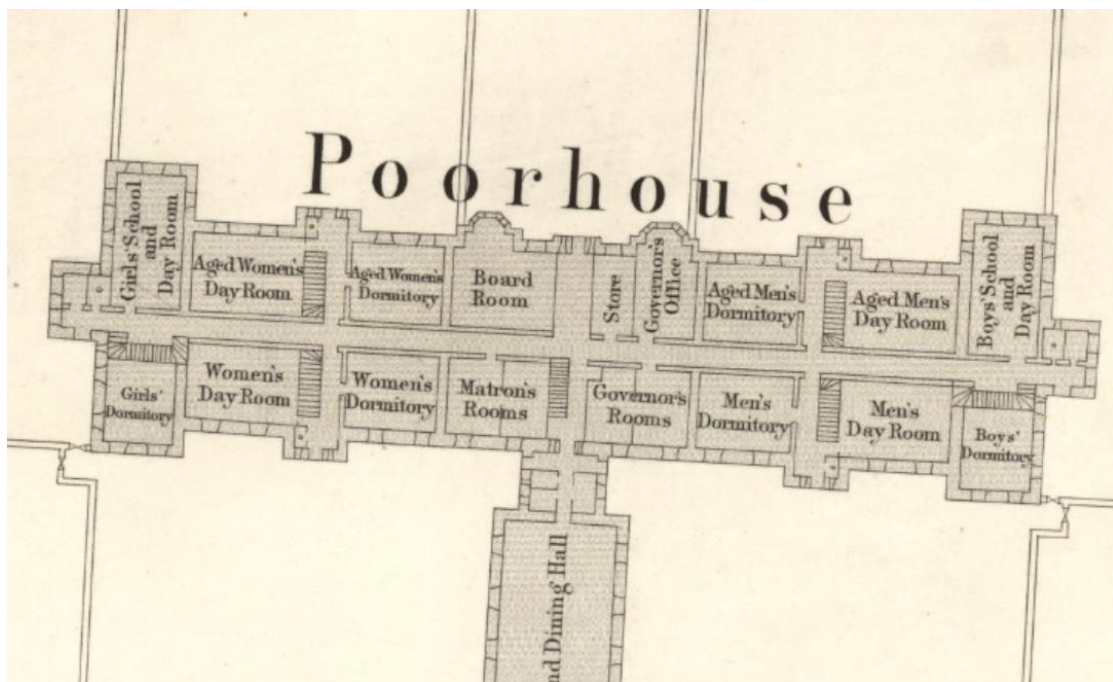
It is with grateful thanks but some trepidation that we receive news from our indefatigable membership secretary Doris Williamson that she is planning to retire shortly after many many many years' service. The Trustees are looking for a responsible and reliable volunteer to take on the critical role of Membership Secretary – liaising with organisations and individuals and encouraging them to renew their membership each year. Please spread the word and contact us via the website for more information <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>, selecting 'general enquiry'.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **The National Library of Scotland** provides a wide range of talks and workshops, many with a strong local history theme. Before Covid-19 these were run in the Library, but were made available online at the beginning of the pandemic. Audiences are bigger, and researchers from around the world can now attend. The main local history events are: Family History From Home: An Introduction; Maps for Family and Local History; Navigating the Maps Website; History of the House; Women's Lives and Writing; Exploring the Climate Crisis at NLS.

The current programme is listed on the NLS website – <https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours> – and each event appears between three and one weeks before it happens (this varies depending on the workshop). A link leads to Eventbrite where the talk or workshop can be booked. Please be aware that these events fill up very quickly, so it is advisable to ask Eventbrite to send an automatic reminder when an event becomes bookable.

Treasures of the National Library of Scotland is a new permanent exhibition at NLS on George IV Bridge, Edinburgh-It provides a unique insight into Scotland's history, culture and people and its place in the world. <https://www.nls.uk/treasures/explore/>



Perth Poorhouse

Editor's comment—following my first visit in over 2 years to the NLS Reading Rooms it all had a great buzz and yet a safe feeling about it. The café is also up and running!

■ **National Records of Scotland** has a special section which has as its focus **Queen Elizabeth II and Scotland**. If you are looking for good quality information, it's well worth a look. <https://tinyurl.com/smkhcc6fk>

Scottish prison registers held by National Records of Scotland (NRS) have been added to **ScotlandsPeople** for the first time. The admission entries of thousands of prisoners have been indexed and can be searched using the prison registers search_page. People from a broad range of backgrounds can be found in the prison registers and

there is a wealth of information in these volumes for the genealogist and social historian alike. <https://tinyurl.com/t7m73r5v>

■ **Dundee Repertory Theatre granted A-listed status** A rare and exceptional example of post-war theatre design in Scotland has been recognised with listing status. The theatre, built in 1982 to the designs of Dundee-based architects Andrew Nicoll and Ric Russell (initially of Robbie and Wellwood, later Nicoll Russell Studios), has been listed in recognition of its exceptional design quality, as well as its contribution to civic life, society and culture in Scotland in the late 20th century. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8tux9w>

■ Change has happened at **Dumfries Museum**. Its ground floor Main Hall display has got a new look with changed displays thanks to funding secured through Museums Galleries Scotland.

■ **Lower City Mills Funding** An important landmark has been reached in securing a future for Perth's A-listed Lower City Mills, which will be partially hosting the Milling Matters conference in May. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust have announced an award of funding of £204,036 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, towards £286,912 of work to develop a full bid for a £2.7 million project to fully restore the building and its rare working machinery, allow public access once again, and establish a heritage skills and conservation hub, and centre for Scottish mills and milling.

■ **Verdant Works Dundee Meet the Last Tay Spinners 16 July to 9 October 2022**. This new exhibition will document one of the last days of jute spinning at Tay Spinners in Dundee before closure in 1998. Using colour and black and white photographs, 26 people are shown at work in the mill. These pictures take an 'Inside the Factory' approach to record the processing of raw jute into finished yarn. <https://tinyurl.com/ycyrz9f3>

■ **Paisley Radicals: Catalysts for Change walking tour app** highlights the town's role in the Scottish Radical War of 1820. Part audio play, part walking tour – history will be brought to life as participants immerse themselves in the stories and places in the town that led an inspiring movement for change. <https://tinyurl.com/ycytkbaf>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland (HES) announces 'New Bridge connects Doune's heritage assets with the natural environment'**. A new pedestrian bridge, built to link Doune's heritage assets with its natural environment and improve links with the local village, was officially unveiled by heritage and tourism chiefs, accompanied by local community groups. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8pwja5>

Also, from **HES Rosslyn Chapel** papers are available to the public for the first time. <https://tinyurl.com/3r9ntan7>

HES has recently published *Heritage for All*, its new **Corporate Plan** for 2022–2025.

The plan updates the previous *Heritage for All* to reflect the changes that have occurred over the last three years, while retaining an emphasis on delivering positive impacts for the people of Scotland. *Heritage for All* was first launched in 2019 and provided a new framework for HES's work by focusing on five key outcomes.

■ **Highland Archive Centre Update** is always an excellent read. A recent issue reminds us that the series of short films about the collections, **Learn with Lorna** continues to go from strength to strength. The films have now been viewed over 245k times and the recent 100th episode led to an interview for STV news. If you've missed any of the series all episodes to date can be found on the High Life Highland YouTube channel. <https://tinyurl.com/mt5h265z>

■ **High Life Highland** has recently begun working with Inverness Caledonian Thistle Community Trust and Clachnacuddin FC on a project to record the history of football in Inverness and that **Am Baile** is going to play a central role in the partnership. ICT Community Trust already runs monthly Football Memory meetings, and the project aims to build on the success of these. <https://www.ambaile.org.uk/>
<https://mailchi.mp/highlifehighland/highland-archive-service-1096009?e=0272b39d2a>

■ Beautiful, intriguing objects from East Asia will be on display in this new exhibition at **Dumfries Museum from 1 April to 1 September 2022**. Paintings, silks, books, shoes, vases and more will all feature as will a film created by a local resident using Japanese calligraphy. The focus of the exhibition is on the objects and who collected them, how they came to be in our museum collection and what they tell us about the people of the time and the connections Dumfries and Galloway has with China and Japan. <https://www.dgculture.co.uk/>

■ **The Old Bridge House** is the oldest house in Dumfries and is located on Devorgilla Bridge on the River Nith. After being closed for two years due to the pandemic it reopened on 1 April 2022. Visitors can explore the amazing history of the bridge, the house and the local people connected with it. The Old Bridge House's unusual displays include an old dentist's surgery, a toy room and period rooms set out as a bedroom, a kitchen and a parlour.

■ **From Ancient Egypt to Annan: the journey of objects into our collection** This new exhibition in Annan showcases some incredible objects, many from the museum store. Created in partnership with the National Museum of Scotland's Egyptologist, this exhibition builds on that research to share information about these impressive, historically significant objects and also examines how they came to be in Annan. With mummified baby crocodiles, shabtis and other grave goods, archaeological finds and 'fakes' this exhibition offers an interesting look at the amazing culture and history of the Ancient Egyptian world. Interactive opportunities are available in the exhibition with a film to watch and costumes to try on. Open Tuesday to Saturday until 1 September 2022 with free entry.

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

■ The **Old Edinburgh Club** (OEC) can claim to be one of the longest established history societies in Scotland, founded in 1908. Like others, the OEC runs a regular programme of lectures in person and on Zoom. Recent topics have included 'India in Edinburgh in the 19th Century', 'Science, Technology and the Royal Scottish Museum' and 'Widows, Dowers and Debts in Early Modern Scotland'. Another considered 'Edinburgh and the Census' and asked how access to historic Census data could be improved to facilitate research. This is so constrained outside the tight confines of UK data archives accessible to only a small number of academic researchers. This year's summer programme features walks on Edinburgh's printing heritage, the Union Canal Basin and George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822 along with a visit to Blackie House to view Dr William Zachs's collection of rare books. The Club has recently published the latest volume of its long-running journal, the **Book of the Old Edinburgh Club**. This features articles amongst others on the British Linen Company and its connection with slavery, on Jews in Edinburgh 1841-1911, on 350 years of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and on forgotten philanthropist, Catherine Sinclair. Back copies of the Book up to 1985 are available online on the Club's website www.odedinburghclub.org.uk and further volumes up to 2008 are being digitised. These constitute a substantial body of work on the city's history with many authoritative articles relevant beyond the city boundaries. More recent back copies are available for sale on the Scottish Local History Forum website.

The last issue of *Clish-Clash* reported on the **Bibliography of Edinburgh History** <https://odedinburghclub.org.uk/bibliography-of-edinburgh-history/> which the OEC designed as a launchpad for seeking what has been written about the city's rich heritage. This has recently been updated, and advice added on tracking down literature of interest. Increasingly the older references can be found online.

In recent years, the Club has supported a variety of projects including a catalogue of Architectural Plans (1700-1824) held by the Edinburgh Dean of Guild Court. This is a remarkable collection of drawings, reports and correspondence tracing the development of the city site by site, not least that of the New Town. Another is the Edinburgh Southside Graveyard Project which has been restoring headstones laid flat for safety reasons. Since 2016 the work of the Project has not only allowed inscriptions to be read once more, but also improved the environment and provided constructive opportunities to participants on Edinburgh Council's Community Payback Programme for offenders. The Club also sponsors an annual prize at the University of Edinburgh for the best postgraduate dissertation relating to the history of Edinburgh.

Derrick Johnstone secretary@odedinburghclub.org.uk

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UNIVERSITIES

■ The **University of Strathclyde** offer a world leading online Genealogical Studies Programme designed to help you with your family history journey. The 8-week beginner to intermediate classes cover a range of topics including

Family History Research and Genetic Genealogy. For those with experience in genealogy, the Postgraduate degree in Genealogical Studies provides a thorough grounding in the theory and practice of genealogical research, records, archives and heraldry. <https://tinyurl.com/4bdhxebt>

WEBSITES

- **Our Migration Story** 'The Making of Britain'. This website presents the often untold stories of the generations of migrants who came to and shaped the British Isles. <https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/?s=03>
- **Legacies of Slavery in Glasgow Museums and Collections** <https://glasgowmuseumsslavery.co.uk/about/>
- **Slaves & Highlanders** This site shares David Alston's research on Highland Scots, enslaved Africans, and the plantations of Guyana. <https://www.spanglefish.com/SlavesandHighlanders/>
- **TuckDB Postcards** is a free database of antique postcards published by Raphael Tuck & Sons. <https://tuckdbpostcards.org/>



The Black Linn, Aberfoyle website.

PUBLICATIONS and BLOGS

- **Scottish Archaeological Journal** Vol. 44, No. 1, March 2022 is now available online <https://www.euppublishing.com/toc/sai/44/1>
- **History Revealed Issue 106 April 2022** has a major focus on the history of witchcraft including an article about Scotland's witch hunts and includes an extensive article about The Declaration of Arbroath <https://www.historyrevealed.com/>
- **BBC History Magazine** April 2022 includes items on immigration to Orkney and a short item on the capture of Berwick upon Tweed on 8 April 1318. <https://www.historyextra.com/>
- **BBC History Magazine** May 2022 has under the title 'A Home for Heritage' a feature about the art collections at Pollok House. <https://tinyurl.com/mrx8zv5b>
- **The Geographer** from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society Spring 2022 includes an article from Chris Fleet 'A trip inside Glasgow Royal Infirmary with Joseph Lister. <https://issuu.com/rsgspubs>
- **Folk Tales of Ayrshire** by Tony Bonning <https://www.carnpublishing.com/folktales>

- **Sweet F.A.** Inspired by true events. Tells the vibrant story of one women's factory football team from Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, their friendships, loves, losses, and battles with their fierce rivals from Leith. <https://tippermuirbooks.co.uk/product/sweet-f-a/>
- The latest issue of the **Museum Crush** digest includes a feature about the world's oldest example of a working Camera Obscura at the Dumfries Museum <https://tinyurl.com/79p57h92>
- **Tracing Nurses: A new guide to British nursing sources for researching family and local history** is available to download as a pdf using this link <https://tinyurl.com/228yus5z>

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BLOGS

- **Womens History Network** 'Women accessing justice in early modern Scotland – Rebecca Mason' by Lyndsey Jenkins 14 March 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/y6v7a8ss>
- **Scottish Genes** is a Blogspot from Chris Paton full of news stories and features concerning ancestral research in Scotland, Ireland and the rest of the UK from genealogist and family historian Chris Paton. <http://scottishgenes.blogspot.com/?m=1>

■ **National Trust for Scotland** 'The Blackie Women' The team at the Hill House have created this blog to celebrate the notable influence of women associated with the Hill House, often overlooked or in the shadow of the more prominent Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Walter Blackie. <https://tinyurl.com/ydyg5cwv>

USING ONLINE SOURCES

Some Personal Views

Dr Nicky Small, Forum Trustee adds to our knowledge with a very interesting source!



House history is as popular as family history these days with many people searching through town directories, census information, or through the valuation rolls to find out who once lived in the properties, streets and homes in their local neighbourhood. Historic newspapers are another useful way to find out more about your locality as plans and permissions for houses and developments can be found along with other information such as an artist's impression or letters regarding the plans. Some archives can offer information on houses, planning and even architectural drawings of properties. Once you know who lived in your house though you then start thinking about who built it. The **Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660- 1980**

<http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/> is an online source which can provide valuable information and make you an expert on your local properties and architects.

You can search for an architect by name but, in many cases, you would not know who to search for. Some grand public buildings might have an architects name attached to them, possibly by a plaque or etched into the doorway perhaps, but the Directory offers you the option to put in locations so you can find your building first and then the architect. So, the resource is searchable by name or location of architect, practice, or building, as well as by client.

Searching locally on the small village of Methven – where I grew up – 11 properties are listed. One is the Lynedoch mausoleum in Methven church yard, built by James Playfair in 1793 for Lord Lynedoch's wife, the beautiful Mrs Graham who died in France in 1792. He was Thomas Graham of Balgowan at that time, a local gentleman and wanted a fitting resting place for his adored wife. You can find a full page of biographical information on Playfair, a list of all the buildings he was involved in and architects who he worked with, or was associated with, on projects.

Three double villas [163-173] Glasgow Road for
G Sievwright, 1903 (Perth& Kinross Archive, PE/DGP/1903/43)

I knew that Playfair had been employed by Lynedoch at Methven and at his home at Dalcrue, but I then found out the names of the other architects too and the specific jobs they had done for Lynedoch.

The site offers bibliographic references, books, and periodicals, so it's possible to follow up on the architects you find and discover more. Playfair is obviously a famous name, known to many but others are more obscure or local and having this biographical information is fascinating.

An architect called James Smith is associated with Methven Castle. Born in 1644 he worked on a range of castles and building all over Scotland and was even a sculptor. The second and third architects who did work on Methven Castle are also listed with their work history and achievements also given. Who they trained with, their workplaces and offices are all included. In some cases, images of the architects are given. There is a tab which explains the work of the Dictionary and I would recommend reading this to grasp the full extent of the work which has been done and ultimately created this resource. I sometimes believe I must be the biggest fan of the Oxford Dictionary of

National Biography as I always extol the glories of finding people and to know you can totally rely on the biographical information, read more through brilliant referencing and follow links to related people. The Dictionary of Scottish Architects fills me with as much joy! Even if you are just nosy about local properties or come across a house name and search randomly, I can guarantee you will find some serendipitous connection.

Editor's Comment:

This series of articles which started in Issue 40 of Clish-Clash are now coming to a conclusion. We intend to continue the theme in the SLHF Directory which is a treasure trove of information and don't forget that you can also add to it at <https://www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory>

WHAT'S ON

■ **Treasures of the National Library of Scotland** is a new permanent exhibition at NLS on George IV Bridge, Edinburgh-It provides a unique insight into Scotland's history, culture and people and its place in the world. <https://www.nls.uk/treasures/explore/>

■ **The Union Canal** or to give it its full name the Edinburgh and Glasgow Union Canal is 200 years old this year. It opened to traffic in May 1822. To mark the occasion there will be a flotilla of boats travelling along the canal on Friday 20 & Saturday 21 May from Falkirk meeting up at Manse Road Basin, Linlithgow on Saturday afternoon. There will be several muster points along the canal where people can watch the flotilla and meet up with canal societies and other various organisation to learn more about the canal. Full details of Flotilla 200 can be found at www.flotilla200.live together with an on-line booklet giving approximate timings and the best places to capture views as the boats pass by.

■ **Recipe or Remedy Exhibition** A new exhibition at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh explores the relationship between food, diet and public health over the past 600 years – and includes artwork from people who have lived experience of eating disorders. The illustrations, books and objects displayed in this exhibition give an insight into the use of food as a preventative, a palliative and a cure for illness by the doctors who pioneered the development of new and innovative food-based medical treatments. The exhibition will run from 28 April until 27 January 2023. The exhibition is free to attend and will be open Monday– Friday, 10am – 4.30pm but with some evening and weekend openings (see website for more information). <https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/events>

■ **Verdant Works Dundee - Meet the Last Tay Spinners 16 July to 9 October 2022.** This new exhibition will document one of the last days of jute spinning at Tay Spinners in Dundee before closure in 1998. Using colour and black and white photographs, 26 people are shown at work in the mill. These pictures take an 'Inside the Factory' approach to record the processing of raw jute into finished yarn. <https://tinyurl.com/ycyrz9f3>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland (HES)** is encouraging young people across Scotland to explore the magnificent **Linlithgow Palace** from wherever they may be, with the launch of an online learning resource including a new film today starring the Junior Tour Guides from Linlithgow Primary School. <https://tinyurl.com/yajrx8x2>

■ Visit the Peebles Library, Museum and Gallery, Chambers Institution, Peebles EH45 8AG to see the free exhibition inspired by Quines by the talented Edge Textile Artists Scotland. It's on until 15 May. <https://tinyurl.com/yck5q78z>

■ **The world of Stonehenge at the British Museum** In this special exhibition, the British Museum will reveal the secrets of Stonehenge, shining a light on its purpose, cultural power and the people that created it. Following the story of Britain and Europe from 4000 to 1000 BC, you'll learn about the restless and highly connected age of Stonehenge – a period of immense transformation and radical ideas that changed society The exhibition includes many Scottish objects, with a special focus on Orkney. Start Date: 17 February 2022 and ends on 17 July 2022 Location: Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3DG <https://tinyurl.com/ybyyuiqu>

■ This year's **Scottish Records Association** conference, ***Spoken Record: communities and their sound archives***, will take place on **Wednesday 18 May 2022**. It will be hybrid, held at the AK Bell Library, Perth, and online via Zoom. Further details <https://tinyurl.com/4rmz29jh> The **Association's** annual visits for members and their guests, which had been suspended due to the pandemic, will resume this summer. Visits have been arranged to two repositories: the **Edinburgh Academy Archives on Tuesday 14 June**, and the **Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum and Archives, Stirling, on Wednesday 31 August**. Further details contact the Secretary by email: anne.m.cameron@strath.ac.uk

■ **Friday 17 June 2022** 'On the Edge of Everywhere' - an illustrated talk by author Stuart McCulloch about his second edition of the history of **Thornhill** published in 2018. Stuart's engaging and lively talk brings the history of the area to life in a very enjoyable way. Thornhill Community Hall, Thornhill Stirling, FK8 3QB, 7.00 pm. Ticket price £6.00 includes first drink. Local history groups will also be present showcasing their current activities. For more details and to reserve a ticket please contact: thornhilleditorialteam@hotmail.co.uk

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>

MEET AN SLHF TRUSTEE

Don Martin MBE



I have been interested in the history of my native Kirkintilloch for all of my life. This interest extends to the neighbouring locality of Lenzie, which is now regarded as a separate place but was formerly the Fourth Ward of the Burgh of Kirkintilloch. Indeed, I was born and brought up in the Fourth Ward. Now that Lenzie is separate, I regard myself as a native of *both* Lenzie and Kirkintilloch. I have published histories of both. I inherited an interest in local history from my family and eventually fell heir to our collection of local books, some of which bear person-to-person family gift inscriptions. During my schooldays at Lenzie Academy, I was encouraged to study local history by an excellent history teacher who told me about the value of archives and how I could and should access archival resources. He provided support for my study of the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, a significant early line, and encouraged me to enter a narrative on this railway for a Dunbartonshire schools essay competition. He also encouraged me to study history at the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

This was the background to my decision in 1959 to apply for a job on the staff of the Mitchell, where I made use of the collections to support my interest in local and railway history. At the Mitchell I also became interested in the study of Scottish folk song, using the resources of the Music Library to provide songs for the burgeoning Scottish folk revival of the period. With three Mitchell Library colleagues I founded the Clutha Folk Group that eventually became quite well known, issuing several albums. By the time the albums were made I had left the group, but I researched many songs for them and compiled the sleeve-notes.

The local government reorganisation of 1975 provided me with an opportunity to specialise in local history once again. I left Glasgow Libraries and 'returned home' as Principal Assistant (Reference, Local History & Information) with the new Strathkelvin District. In this post I was also expected to look after museums and archives. I very soon became a closet expert on why professional librarians should *not* be expected to take responsibility for museums and archives, which are of course the domain of quite separate professions; but for a while there was no escape. I attended a controversial course on archives that had been organised for librarians in the same position with other local authorities. After a few years Strathkelvin identified resources to appoint a professional museum curator, so I was able to wriggle out of museum work, but the archives anomaly continued for some time, and it took another local government reorganisation to fix it.

Meanwhile, I determined to improve my library qualifications in a way that would help my local history remit. I studied bibliography under the tutelage of George Ottley, compiler of the standard *Bibliography of British Railway History* and eventually produced a bibliographical commentary on early Scottish public railways (1808-1850) for which I was awarded the Fellowship (FLA) of the Library Association (as it was then known). I also joined with Norma

Armstrong of Edinburgh, Joe Fisher of Glasgow and others to establish LOCSCOT, the Scottish Branch of the Library Association Local Studies Group (LSG), eventually becoming Secretary of LOCSCOT and later Chair of LSG. Wearing my LSG hat I edited the second edition of *Local Studies Libraries* (2002), the Library Association guidelines for local studies provision in public libraries.

Back in Strathkelvin I prepared and published a long series of local studies publications, most of which I edited and some of which I researched and compiled. At the local government reorganisation of 1996, I was appointed to a similar post (to the one I held in Strathkelvin) with the new East Dunbartonshire Council, and life for me continued much as before, although I also became involved in a project to develop taxonomies for local authority websites. It was in Strathkelvin days that I first became aware of the valuable work that is carried out by volunteer groups, including a support group for the Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch. During the 1970s I joined Kirkintilloch & District Society of Antiquaries, becoming secretary in 1980 – a post I retained until 2021. Over the years I joined other volunteer local history groups, especially in Milngavie. After I retired from the East Dunbartonshire Council staff in 2009, I maintained my interest in such groups. As it happened, my retirement coincided with the start of three major local history projects: one to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Kirkintilloch as a Burgh of Barony; one to develop a heritage centre in Milngavie; and one to commemorate the life of the 'Father of Scottish Democracy', Thomas Muir of Huntershill, Bishopbriggs. I soon became part of all of these, but was also involved in setting up an East Dunbartonshire Heritage & History Forum to co-ordinate the work of such projects and of local history groups more generally. Around the same time, I became a Trustee of the Scottish Local History Forum and was appointed to the Forum's journal editorial team, subsequently as Editor, a post I still retain. I'm not sure what I should be saying in conclusion, except that I have enjoyed every stage in my journey through the world of local history and will be forever grateful to my wife and family for allowing me time to develop my various enthusiasms.

Editor's comment: Rather than offer a photograph of himself Don Martin has asked – 'can you please publish the attached view of me standing beside a very unusual (and very old) sculptured stone. And could you ask your readers to suggest where and what it is? Regardless of response I could provide the story of the stone in the next issue....'

MEET A LOCAL GROUP

The Life and Times of Balfon Heritage Group



Balfon Heritage Group was founded in 1989 when research for a local history book identified the upcoming bicentenary of the opening of Ballindalloch cotton mill in the village in 1790. A month-long exhibition was undertaken in the soon-to-be-demolished Co-op Drapery building in Balfon and the history of the village was published. Our group logo was also created at this time.

In 2003 we celebrated the 700th anniversary of the Charter of Inchaffray Abbey given to establish the village and had a wonderful day jousting, birds of prey, displays by various local history groups and a visit, of course, from the wolf which is the village mascot. Since then, we have undertaken several exhibitions in Balfon Library where we work closely with the local school and other groups to promote the history of the village.



Mediaeval Day

Prior to the Pandemic, Balfron Heritage ran seven monthly meetings each year where various speakers made presentations and also twice-monthly Family History workshops in the library. We hope to get these underway again later in the year.

The Balfron Heritage website, including its children section, has turned out to be both informative and enjoyable and, having recorded the details from all the stones in the old kirkyard and uncovered over sixty previously unseen stones, we produced a booklet and are now able to help families from all over the world with their family information. The monthly guided walk of Balfron's Lost History and also the Kirkyard Trail have also proved popular.

Our array of postcards and souvenirs is a good source of revenue and also gives us a chance to share our history in a fun way. We have a members' twice-yearly newsletter – **ReMember** – and use the information board in the library precinct to display aspects of the village history. We work closely with other local history groups to share ideas and information.

The group sought funding for the erection of plaques commemorating Alexander Greek Thomson, who was born in Balfron, and the Barnwell brothers who, from their home in Balfron, developed their ideas for the first powered flight. These are now sited on the library wall. This year we received funding to refurbish and reinstate the bronze plaque, that had fallen into disrepair, which identifies the levies for the old toll road.



The Heritage Group had planned a concert by Dougie McLean to launch their 2020 exhibition remembering the 1820 Radical Insurrection in which many Balfron men took part and for which some were tried for treason. These events were due to start on 29 March and, of course, 'Lockdown' came upon us on the 23 March causing its cancellation! We would still like to mount this exhibition when the opportunity arises.

Looking to the future, we hope that we can continue to celebrate in an educational and entertaining way any anniversaries that have marked the development of our ever-growing village. Many things have changed but the warm welcome for the many 'incomers' over the years is something that remains to this day.

ONLINE MAPS

NEWS ON MAPS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

From Chris Fleet Senior Maps Curator

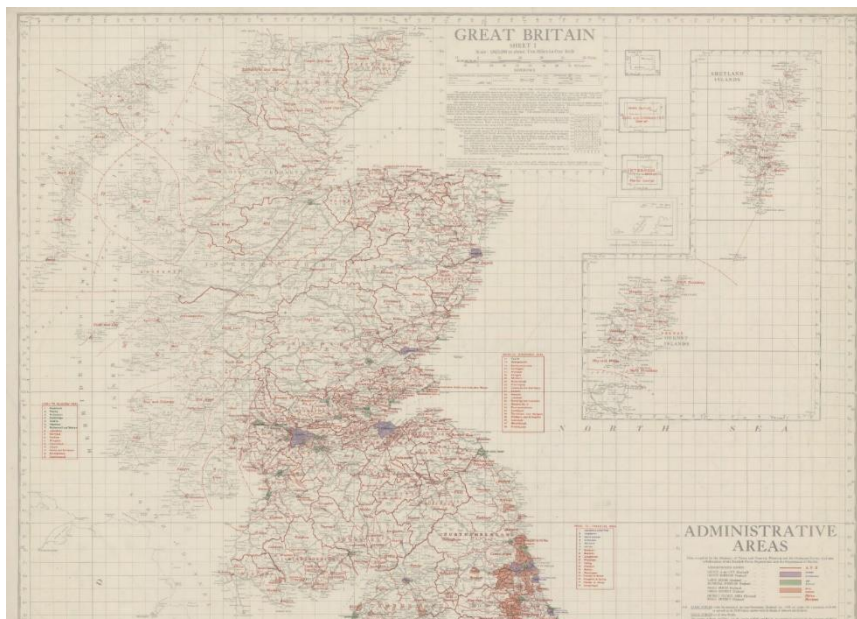
■ New online maps of Great Britain, 19th-20th centuries

We have just added online over 200 maps of Great Britain in the 19th and 20th centuries. These maps present an excellent overview of England, Scotland and Wales, and sometimes including Ireland, showing specific subjects such as roads, railways, air travel, population, power generation, rainfall and housing, as well as things like changing administrative divisions. Some of these expand our coverage of the Ordnance Survey's Ten-mile to the Inch (1:625,000) Planning maps series, initiated in the 1940s, and intended to form a survey of national life and resources. Others include military maps showing barracks and military districts, as well as maps to illustrate specific historical time periods, such as Ancient Britain, Britain in the Dark Ages, Roman Britain, and Monastic Britain.

We have divided these maps into the Ordnance Survey 'ten mile' Planning maps, other Ordnance Survey small-scale maps, and maps by other publishers:

- Ordnance Survey, 'Ten Mile' Planning Maps of the United Kingdom, 1940s-1970s - 183 sheets:
<https://maps.nls.uk/os/ten-mile/>
- Ordnance Survey, small-scale maps of Great Britain, 19th to 20th centuries - 35 sheets:
<https://maps.nls.uk/os/great-britain/>
- General maps of Great Britain and Ireland, 16th to 20th centuries - 41 maps
<https://maps.nls.uk/britain/>

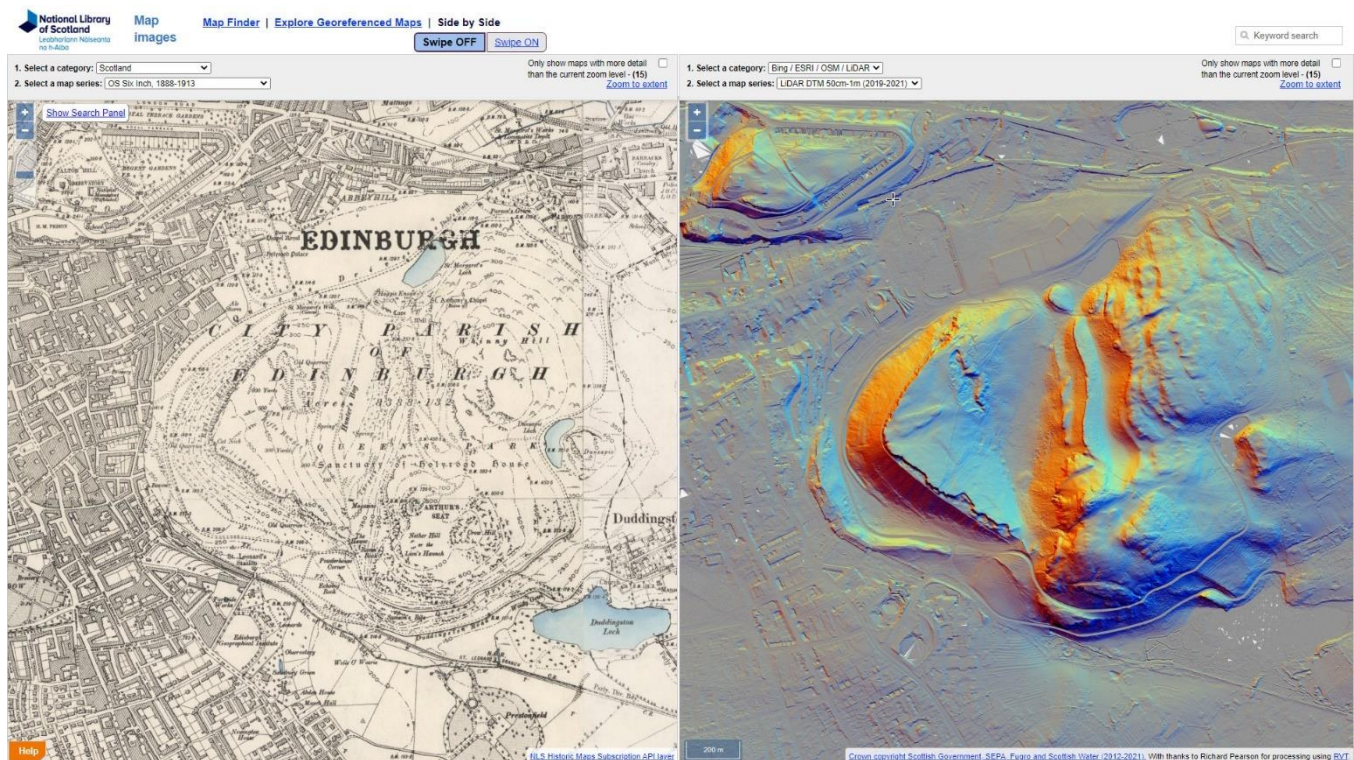
Ordnance Survey Ten-mile to the Inch Planning Map: Great Britain - Administrative Areas, North Sheet (1944)



■ New LiDAR coverage of Scottish Central Belt and Fife

We are pleased to add new LiDAR coverage of the Central Belt of Scotland and Fife to our website. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is an airborne mapping technique, which uses a scanning laser to allow highly detailed representations of relief or terrain models to be generated. The new Scottish data is from the latest Phase V of the Scottish Government's LiDAR datasets, flown in 2021, and includes new coverage of Glasgow and Edinburgh with a 50 cm resolution Digital Terrain Model (DTM). The whole Phase V coverage doubles the resolution of LiDAR in this area, compared to what was available before, and allows minor variations in local topography and relief to be scrutinized in greater detail. LiDAR is often very useful to view in conjunction with georeferenced historical maps.

- View Glasgow LiDAR in the NLS Side by side viewer:
https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=13&lat=55.86215&lon=-4.24605&layers=ESRIWorld&right=LIDAR_DTM_1m
- View Edinburgh LiDAR in the NLS Side by side viewer:
https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=14&lat=55.95290&lon=-3.18749&layers=ESRIWorld&right=LIDAR_DTM_1m
- Updated guide - *Using LiDAR layers for landscape research*: <https://maps.nls.uk/guides/lidar/>



Comparing OS six-inch to the mile 1900s mapping (left) with the new LiDAR layer from 2021 (right).

STREAMING

■ **The Great British Dig** is a series on series available on **Channel 4** for catch up. Hugh Dennis and a team of expert archaeologists excavate back gardens around *Britain*, in an attempt to uncover the lost history buried beneath our lawns and flower beds The latest series includes an episode based in Falkirk which was first transmitted in late 2021 <https://tinyurl.com/2p8735xd>

■ An hour-long film looks back at the transformation brought to a small Ross-shire Bay by the oil industry in the 1970s. **Rigs Of Nigg** is available on **BBC iPlayer** and tells the story of how the need for oil rigs brought thousands of workers to an unlikely location in the North of Scotland to build the platforms.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000yybp/rigs-of-nigg>

■ The much-loved TV show **Secrets of the Museum** returned to our screens and **iPlayer** recently – and for the very first time took viewers behind the scenes at V&A Dundee. V&A Dundee made its first appearance in episode 2 on Wednesday 13 April, along with one of the world's favourite Scottish designs, **Beano**.
<https://tinyurl.com/yvf9zauv>

■ Inside Museums is a short series on BBC 4 which showcases some of the country's less celebrated museums. It includes a visit by Lachlan Goudie to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

ERRATUM

Issue 51 included a tribute to Don Martin MBE. Unfortunately, some key sentences were missing and our apologies for this. The following is the correct version.

Don Martin MBE

SLHF Trustees were delighted to learn that Don Martin had been made 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 and editor. Don continued his career in Strathkelvin's successor authority, East Dunbartonshire Council, in 1996, retiring in 2009. He has been the editor of *Scottish 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.

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QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

'The plague of 1918 was supposed to be the flu to end all flus, except that, like the war to end all wars it wasn't.'
Ben Macintyre *The Times* 11 March 2020

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STOP PRESS:

Jacobite Perth - A Healthy Walk Through History. Perth, 18 May – 25 May

Dear friends, colleagues and fellow lovers of Scottish history,

This is let you know that I am doing a walking tour Jacobite Perth as part of this year's Perth Arts Festival in May, in the week between Wednesday 18 May and Wednesday 25 May (excluding Sunday). There will be one tour in the morning, commencing outside the Salutation Inn at 10:30 AM and finishing there around midday, and another in the afternoon, also starting and finishing at the Salutation, commencing at 2 PM and finishing around 3:30 PM. The maximum number of any single tour is limited to 12, so we may enjoy a conversation as we go round. The tour commentary itself will cover not only the military aspects of the Jacobite occupation of Perth between 3 and 10 September 1745, but also the daily work of people in Perth, the food and drink they enjoyed (with a diet more limited but generally healthier than today), and other aspects of life at that time.

Tickets for the morning walk can be secured at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jacobite-perth-crucible-of-a-revolution-the-morning-walk-tickets-260137196357>

While tickets for the afternoon walk are at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/jacobite-perth-crucible-of-a-revolution-the-afternoon-walk-tickets-260175129817>

Durachdan agus Slainte Mhath! (Best wishes and good health!)

Michael Nevin (Author, *Reminiscences of a Jacobite*)

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>

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).

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