

# CLISH-CLASH



**The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum**

Scottish Charity SC015850

ISSUE 58

May 2023

ISSN 2055-6411

## SLHF NEWS

Welcome to Issue 58 of *Clish-Clash*. We hope you are looking forward to a bright and enjoyable summer.

■ Meetings of the Advisory Committee and Trustees took place on 3 and 10 April respectively. Helpful discussions took place on a variety of issues, including how SLHF could better network with other heritage organisations and the increasing importance of using social media as a marketing tool. It had been intended to hold a review of the Forum's activities before the pandemic, but this had been put on hold. The feeling of the Trustees was that it was time to take a look at where we are and where we should like to be in the future. It is hoped that we can hold the review with an external facilitator before the end of the year. The Trustees would be delighted to hear from members with their thoughts on what the Forum currently does and any suggestions as to activities they would like to see developed.

■ Another suggestion to come out of our recent meetings is to introduce a Scottish Local History Society of the Year Award. The idea needs a bit of work, including deciding who could nominate societies and the criteria for judging the winner. Watch this space.

■ The Advisory Committee also drew attention to next year's 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coronation of King David I and the various events to take place in Stirling and Edinburgh connected therewith. This has given us food for thought on how the Forum might engage with the subject.

■ By the time you read this the Forum will have held its annual conference at the Black Watch Museum in Perth. The subject this year was Engineering, Science and Technology. A report will appear in the Journal in due course.

■ Arrangements for a Walk and Talk in Dundee on 30 August are well-advanced and will include visits to Captain Scott's *RRS Discovery* and the Verdant Works, the Museum of the jute Industry. SLHF Chair, Steve Connelly, will lead a guided walk between the two museums after lunch at Discovery Point. See: [Dundee Walk & Talk: Discovery Point & Verdant Works | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](#) for further details.

■ Members should have received issue 115 of *Scottish Local History* by the time they see this edition of *Clish-Clash*. Our editor, Don Martin, has the following articles lined up for issue 116: L.Brown – *Distilleries at Balerno*; A.Drummond – *Charles Ferme of Fraserburgh*; M.Kennedy – *Major Thomas Hunt of the East India Company*; D.Lockhart – *Local Coronation & Jubilee Commemoration*; K.Scott – *Lost Churches of Stirling* and D.Scott Cowan – *Duke of Sutherland's Pioneering Use of Concrete*.

## 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. However, they are easing back into offering workshops in-person, so keep an eye on the website for details, and for other events:

- Introduction to Family History
- Maps for Family and Local History
- Navigating the Maps Website
- House History
- Women's Lives and Writing
- Exploring the Climate Crisis at NLS



Trench map Sheet: 57C.SW.1 (Gueudecourt). 1:10,000. Edition 2B. Published: December 1916. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

■ 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.

■ **Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre** was established in 2012. Read about its story in this case study. [Running a Volunteer-Led Museum - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

■ **The Dunkeld Community Archive** features on the Scottish Council on Archives website for the next twelve months and began with an online exhibition relating to Niel Gow, the father of Scottish fiddle music. Follow the monthly themes: [A Year in the Life of a Community Archive - Scottish Council on Archives \(scottisharchives.org.uk\)](#)

■ **Scottish Community Archives Toolkit** is managed by SCA as part of the Outreach to Ownership project co-ordinated by Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland, and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). SCA is also developing a peer support network which will be accessible to all groups in Scotland and beyond from August 2023. The project demonstrates SCA's ongoing commitment to support the community heritage sector. Outcomes will include: community groups will have skills to manage and promote their archives; their archives will be more accessible and professionally maintained; and community archives will be less vulnerable to loss. [Scottish Community Archives Toolkit Project - Scottish Council on Archives \(scottisharchives.org.uk\)](#)

■ **Why Archives & Records Matter Conference** – The Scottish Council on Archives is holding a day conference at Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh on 11 May 2023 and a few free tickets are available. Check this URL for details: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/events/why-archives-records-matter-conference/>

■ **Scottish Indexes** have added further entries relating to Scottish prison inmates, 1791-1936, for Glasgow Duke Street, Aberdeen, Paisley, Dundee, Ayr, Edinburgh and Fort William. There is also an index of the Pardon or Ticket to Leave Criminals on New Charges – Repeat Offenders, 1855-1895. A volunteer working on indexing a Register of Deeds (RD1/576) in the National Records of Scotland also found an interesting deed between William Knox and James Gordane dated 12 May 1637 and recorded in the register on 4 January 1653 relating to the binding together of metrical psalms and a service book. This is the modified version of the English Book of Common Prayer which caused so much controversy in 17<sup>th</sup> century Scotland. See [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) for more information.

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

- [Society for One-Place Studies](#): What is a One-Place Study? In brief, this form of micro-study combines local history with family history, and can include many different aspects. Read more about the society and the associated process here.
- **The Old Edinburgh Club** Thanks to a generous legacy from Jean Guild, the club are able to offer small grants for projects which address the aims of the Club: *'The study and support of all aspects of the history of Edinburgh, and the promotion and encouragement of interest in Edinburgh by means of lectures, visits, publications and appropriate activities for public benefit.'* Further details are available here <https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/grants/>
- **Banffshire Field Club Day Conference: 'Banffshire Fowk'**. Those with family links to historic Banffshire can look forward to a treat later this year! On Saturday 7 October, Banffshire Field Club is hosting a one-day conference on the theme of 'Banffshire Fowk'. The Banffshire diaspora is the topic to be discussed by keynote speaker Professor Marjory Harper, an acknowledged authority on Scots emigration. Mary Evans, also well known to ANESFHS members, will focus on Banffshire family history, while contributors to the programme will include speakers from Keith Local Heritage Group and other organisations representing different areas of Banffshire and its history. The venue for this event will be the recently refurbished Seafield Arms Hotel in the charming Banffshire coastal town of Cullen. Detailed arrangements, once confirmed, will be publicised via the Banffshire Field Club Facebook page. Once the programme has been finalised, it will also be available on request by contacting Banffshire Field Club by email: [bfc.1880@gmail.com](mailto:bfc.1880@gmail.com)
- A reminder to Member Societies please take a few minutes to make sure that you put your latest programme on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/events>

If your society would like **SLHF** to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

## WEBSITES

- **Scottish Women's Railway History** RMT Learning Scotland has worked with the Open University (OU) in Scotland on a Women & Scottish Railways project, supporting female RMT members in addressing the relative absence of women from Scottish railway history. The course focussed on celebrating the achievements of women NUR and RMT members, and has developed educational resources for the Open Learn website: [www.open.edu/openlearn/scotland-women-railways](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/scotland-women-railways) The research ranged from the impact on the railways of the employment of women during World War I to how COVID-19 impacted railway employees. It includes an interview with Janet Cassidy, one of the first women Scottish train drivers. Through learning the struggles of previous women rail workers, it is hoped to encourage other women members to engage with future courses, and RMT Lowlands & Uplands is planning another course for Scottish women working on the railways, and offshore, beginning later this year. For more details, contact Dennis Fallen, RMT Learning Organiser, at [D.Fallen@rmt.org.uk](mailto:D.Fallen@rmt.org.uk) <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/scotland-women-railways>
- **Scottish Sport History** is a website dedicated to gathering a wide range of articles, images and comment if you are researching Scottish sporting history. The site is compiled by sports historian Andy Mitchell. It also has an impressive range of links <https://www.scottishsporthistory.com/links.html>
- **Canmore in Context** On this part of the site you can explore in-depth features and stories. Inspiring, insightful and interesting, a series of illustrated articles are a perfect way to learn a little more about Scotland's places. <https://canmore.org.uk/content/canmore-in-context>
- The **Museum of Communication** is based in Burntisland and might be worth a summertime visit. You can also explore previous publications using the following link. <https://museumofcommunication.org.uk/transmitting/>

## UNIVERSITIES

- University based archives should never be underestimated in their relevance and value. A very recent example is from The University of Stirling Archive Service. In Issue 203 May 2023 of 'Who Do You Think You Are', archivist Karl Magee shared a fundraising brochure for Aberlour Orphanage in Moray from 1925. <https://tinyurl.com/4s7m38uh>

## PUBLICATIONS

- Macpherson the Historian - **History Writing, Empire and Enlightenment in the Works of James Macpherson** by Mairi MacPherson and Jim MacPherson. Pub: Feb 2023, 296pp, £90, ISBN Hardback 781474411165, Ebook (ePub): 9781474411189 and Ebook (PDF): 9781474411172. [Macpherson the Historian \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](http://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **The Scottish Enlightenment – Human Nature, Social Theory and Moral Philosophy: Essays in honour of Christopher J. Berry** edited by R.J.W. Mills and Craig Smith. Pub: Feb 2023 (paperback), 264 pp, £24.99, ISBN 9781474467322 [The Scottish Enlightenment \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](http://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **Dissent After Disruption – Church and State in Scotland, 1843-63** by Ryan Mallon. Pub: Feb 2023 (paperback), 320pp, £24.99 ISBN 9781474482806 [Dissent After Disruption \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](http://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **Scottish Liturgical Traditions and Religious Politics – From Reformers to Jacobites, 1560-1764** edited by Allan J. Macinnes, Patricia Barton, Kieran German. Pub: Feb 2023 (paperback), 240pp, £19.99, ISBN 9781474483063 [Scottish Liturgical Traditions and Religious Politics \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](http://edinburghuniversitypress.com)

- **The Cultural Memory of Georgian Glasgow** by Craig Lamont. Pub: Jan 2023 (paperback), 256pp, £19.99, ISBN 9781474443289 [The Cultural Memory of Georgian Glasgow \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **Scottish Colonial Literature – Writing the Atlantic, 1603-1707** by Kirsten Sandrock. Pub: Jan 2023 (paperback), 240pp, £19.99, ISBN 9781474464017 [Scottish Colonial Literature \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **Walter Scott at 250 – Looking Forward** edited by Caroline McCracken-Flesher and Matthew Wickman. .Pub: Feb 2023 (paperback), 240pp, £19.99, ISBN 9781474429870 [Walter Scott at 250 \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **Walter Scott and Short Fiction** by Daniel Cook. Pub: Jan 2023 (paperback), 208pp, ISBN 9781474487146 [Walter Scott and Short Fiction \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)
- **The Covenanters of Scotland 1638–1690** by David Dobson, Feb 2023, 264pp, \$43, ISBN 9780806359564 [The Covenanters of Scotland, 1638-1690 - Genealogical.com](https://Genealogical.com)
- **Journal of Scottish Historical Studies Vol 43, No 1 May 2023** is available online and contains:  
The Post Office and the Making of North Britain, c.1750–c.1840 by Bob Harris; 'Hardly a kent name absent': Raising Capital in Scotland via Tontine, 1775–1850 by Andrew McDiarmid; A Very Scottish Mercantile Grand Tour? The Significance of Diversity in Early Nineteenth-Century Continental Travel by Jane Coutts; Except the Western Islands, and they are David MacBrayne's by Ewen A. Cameron. [Journal of Scottish Historical Studies: Vol 43, No 1 \(eupublishing.com\)](https://eupublishing.com)
- **Retour – the Newsletter of the Scottish Records Association Issue No 39, Spring 2023** contains articles on the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Conservation of Cordiners' Minute Book at East Lothian Council Archives and 'Designed to Delight': a new exhibition for 2023 in Inveraray Castle.
- **Scottish Archaeological Journal Vol 45, Issue 1.** Free article: [Excavation of a Pit Alignment at Land Adjacent to Orchardfield, East Linton, East Lothian | Scottish Archaeological Journal \(eupublishing.com\)](https://eupublishing.com)
- **Scottish Handwriting 1500-1700** The recently updated Scottish Handwriting 1500-1700: a self-help pack is now available to purchase from the [ScotlandsPeople online store.](https://ScotlandsPeople.com)
- **The Geographer Spring 2023** edition includes an article by Chris Fleet on Alexander Bucan's meteorological maps of Scotland. <https://www.rsgs.org/the-geog>
- **BBC History Revealed Issue 119 April 2023** includes a feature about 8 things you probably didn't know about Scotland and its history. <https://www.historyrevealed.com/>
- **History Scotland Vol.23 No.3 May/June 2023** Dr Michelle Moffat explores wartime's vacationing spirit – from coastal breaks and countryside camping, to all the fun of the 'holidays at home' scheme. This issue also contains: the role of women in early modern baking; Highland War, 1689: the Battle of Killiecrankie reassessed; Churchill and his visits to Balmoral Castle; the story of Robert Cunninghame Graham and 2023 archaeology digs and open days round up. <https://www.historyscotland.com/>
- **Scottish Historical Review Vol 102, No 1 April, 2023** is now available online and contains: Married Women, Testaments and Property in Sixteenth-Century Scotland by Cordelia Beattie and Cathryn Spence; Feudal Law and the Unionist Writings of Thomas Craig by Leslie Dodd; Crofts and Crofters: Definitions, Derivations and Consequences by Alistair Mutch; The 1862 Fair Isle Clearance to New Brunswick by Iain Hutchison; 'Liberal disaffection such as has not been seen in Scotland': Home Rule, Political Organisation and the Liberal Party in 1886 by Naomi Lloyd-Jones and Plans for the Company of Scotland's Pivot to Madagascar, 1699–1707 by Harry M. Lewis. <https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/shr/102/1?ai=t4&ui=e153&af=TYour>

#### Blogs:

- **The British Newspaper Archive: Ten inspiring women from history** who you may not have heard of, but most definitely should know about. <https://tinyurl.com/2vwzsdkb>
- **Canmore in Context:** Explore our in-depth features and stories. Inspiring, insightful and interesting, these illustrated articles are a perfect way to learn a little more about Scotland's places. [Canmore in Context \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)  
[The British Association for Local History has produced the following: Creating Engaging YouTube Videos For Local and Family History | Local History News | British Association For Local History \(balh.org.uk\)](https://balh.org.uk) by Catherine Warr

If your society would like SLHF to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

## WATCH, RADIO AND PODCASTS

### Watch and Listen:

- **The Women Who Changed Modern Scotland** is a 3-part series presented by Kirsty Walk and is available on BBC iPlayer. The series starts with pioneering women from the 1960s and 70s and brings up all the way up to date in exploring progress (or otherwise) in the post devolution era. This offers a very interesting range of perspectives on how life in Scotland has changed. It is available to view for several months. <https://tinyurl.com/3c9v328x>
- The BBC is celebrating **100 years in Scotland**, with the anniversary of the first broadcast from Glasgow on 6 March 1923. Here they look at some the events from the past 100 years in 10 photos. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64835319>

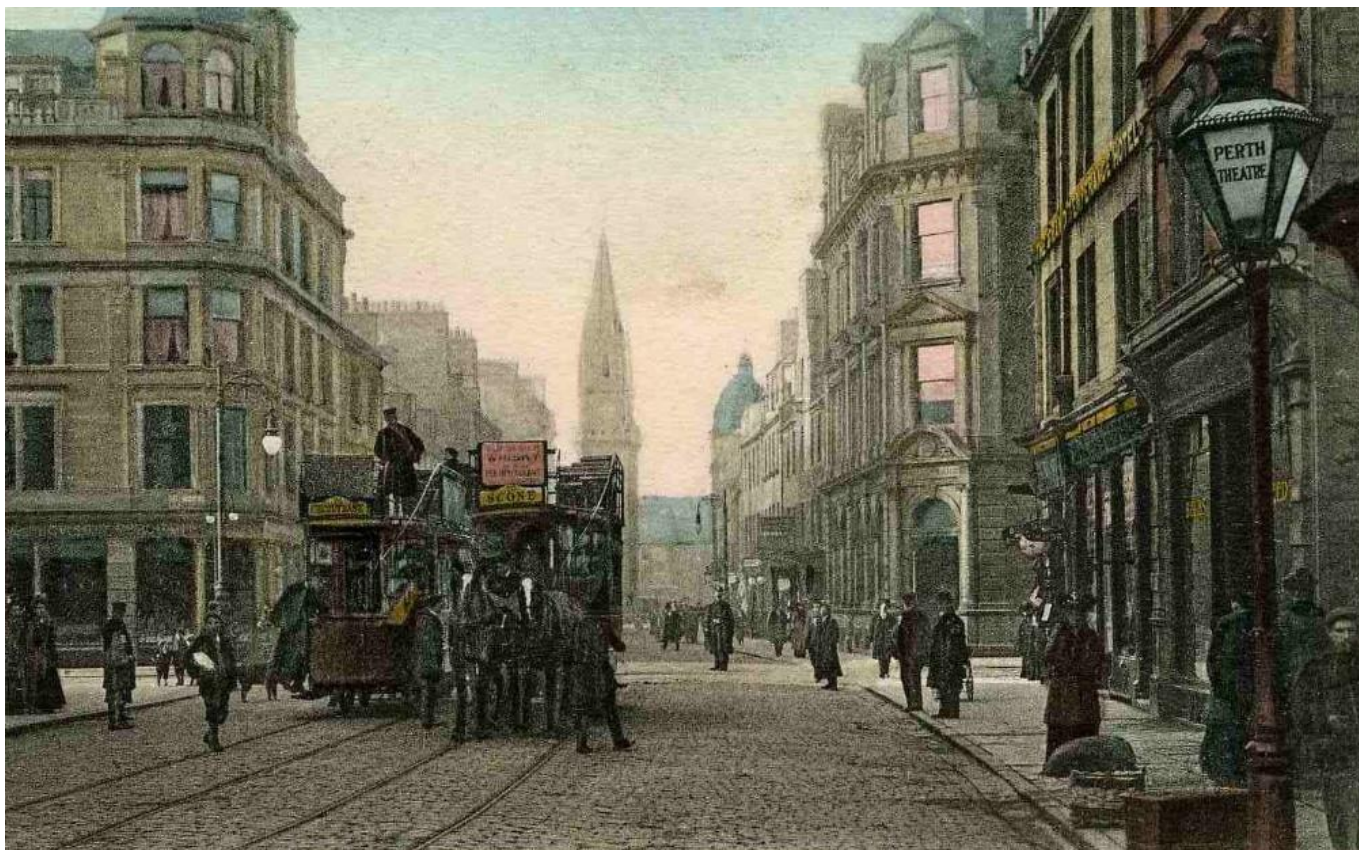
- **Antiques Roadshow** on Easter Sunday is well worth a watch. Fiona Bruce and her team made a visit to Brodie Castle in Moray. <https://tinyurl.com/3n2p97vd>
- **BBC Sounds** has continued with the wonderful and multi award winning Edi Stark series called **Stark Talk**. This series is about to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> edition so treat yourself with some brilliant gems. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0079g8x>
- The award-winning podcast, **Love Scotland**, is back for its fifth season. Hosted by former BBC *Reporting Scotland* anchor and National Trust for Scotland President Jackie Bird, each episode tells some of the thrilling stories behind the Trust's people and places. Listen now to the first episode and discover the related places; catch up on past seasons of the podcast with tailored playlists to suit any tastes; and be the first to enjoy an exclusive sneak preview of forthcoming episodes. <https://tinyurl.com/mrhr9tyb>
- **An Eye for a King** is a new radio series about the crimes of William Burke and William Hare The series began its broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 28 April 2023 and will be available as a podcast from BBC Sounds. <https://tinyurl.com/2p92ynh4>
- **The British Association for Local History** continues to offer some excellent 10-minute talks. One of the most recent from Neil Robson was about **George IV's 1822 visit to Edinburgh**. You can watch the video or access a transcript of the talk using this link [www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks](http://www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks)

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>

## WHAT'S ON

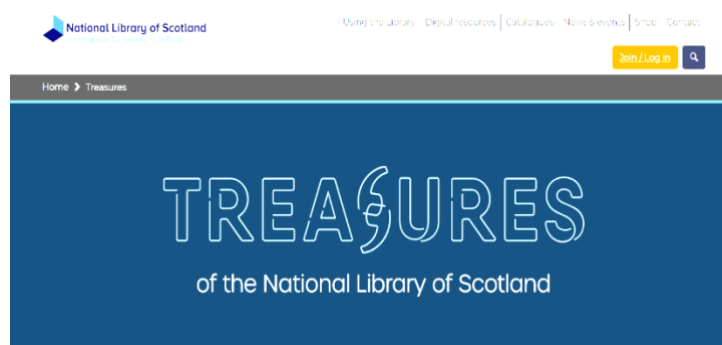
- **'Skin: A Layered History'** explores the changing meaning of skin from the 1500s to the present day. Bringing together artefacts spanning scientific illustrations, early modern rare books, medicines, wax models, prostheses and sculptures, this exhibition uncovers the social, cultural and medical history of skin. The exhibition runs until 13 October 2023 and is open Monday-Friday 10am-4.30pm with free entry at **11 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JQ**. The exhibition is split into four themes. It starts by exploring the role of the skin as a boundary – one which might need to be breached to let out the disease trapped within. It then moves on to uncover the history of skin diagnosis and treatment, including the role which scientific illustrations and wax models played in the development of dermatology. The exhibition then considers the history of skin markings – from scars to tattoos. Finally, the exhibition explores skin-related prejudice past and present, in the context of racism, sexism and classism <https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/heritage/skin-layered-history>
- **The Right Sort of Women** is an online exhibition detailing the history of the Royal College of Nursing. <https://www.rcn.org.uk/library-exhibitions/The-Right-Sort-of-Women>
- **Archaeology Scotland Summer School**, Montrose, Angus. Friday 19 May to Monday 22 May. Further details are available here <https://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk/summer-school/>
- **Day Conference: 'Banffshire Fowk'** Those with family links to historic Banffshire can look forward to a treat later this year! On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Banffshire Field Club is hosting a one-day conference on the theme of 'Banffshire Fowk'. The Banffshire diaspora is the topic to be discussed by keynote speaker Professor Marjory Harper, an acknowledged authority on Scots emigration. Mary Evans, also well known to ANESFHS members, will focus on Banffshire family history, while contributors to the programme will include speakers from Keith Local Heritage Group and other organisations representing different areas of Banffshire and its history. The venue for this event will be the recently refurbished Seafield Arms Hotel in the charming Banffshire coastal town of Cullen. Detailed arrangements, once confirmed, will be publicised via the Banffshire Field Club Facebook page. Once the programme has been finalised, it will also be available on request by contacting Banffshire Field Club by email: [bfc.1880@gmail.com](mailto:bfc.1880@gmail.com)
- **Local History Month at Perth & Kinross Archive, Local & Family History Service**. May is Local History Month and this year they are delighted to offer a variety of exciting talks and workshops. Using documents written before the 1800s but struggling to read the tricky handwriting? Join the palaeography workshop. Dying to find out how the work on our Sound and Newspaper Collections has been going? Come along to one of the Collections talks to find out. Want to research the history of your house but not sure where to begin? Maybe you're ready to start tracing your ancestors on Ancestry.com but not sure how it works? Or perhaps you'd like to know more about websites like SCRAN and Canmore? They have talks and workshops for those too! Come along and celebrate all things Local History with them. Find information and booking details for all the events at [www.culturepk.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.culturepk.org.uk/whats-on/)
- **Read All About It! Preserving the Perth & Kinross Newspaper Collection for Future Generations [talk]** Tuesday 16 May, 6pm-7pm, Sandeman Room, AK Bell Library, Perth or Online (Zoom)
- **Researching Your House History [talk]** Wednesday 17 May, 2pm-3pm, Sandeman Room, AK Bell Library, Perth or Online (Zoom)
- **The Power of Archives [talk]** Thursday 18 May, 6.30pm-7.30pm, Soutar Theatre, AK Bell Library, Perth or Online (Zoom)
- **Palaeography Pointers – Introductory Workshops in Early-Modern Handwriting [workshop]** Saturday 20 May, 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm, Sandeman Room, AK Bell Library, Perth
- **Saving the Nation's Newspapers and Serving the Community: a partnership project at the National Library of Scotland [talk]** Tuesday 23 May, 6pm-7pm, Soutar Theatre, AK Bell Library, Perth or Online (Zoom)
- **Patrick Geddes: A Vigorous Institution [talk]** Wednesday 24 May, 2pm-3pm, Soutar Theatre, AK Bell Library, Perth or Online (Zoom)

- **Perth & Kinross from the Archives of Historic Environment Scotland [talk]** Thursday 25 May, 12pm-1pm, Soutar Theatre, AK Bell Library, Perth or Online (Zoom)
- **Ancestry Taster Session [workshop]** Saturday 27 May, 10am-12.45pm, Strathearn Campus Library, Crieff



An early 19<sup>th</sup> century postcard depicting Perth. Courtesy of Perth and Kinross Archive.

- **What Scots Hae: Intangible Cultural Heritage in Scotland** A conference to take stock of where we are with Intangible Cultural Heritage in Scotland and to look ahead to where we might be. For further details follow this link [http://ow.ly/YIPS50NHfOY?trk=public\\_post-text](http://ow.ly/YIPS50NHfOY?trk=public_post-text)



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## BOOK REVIEWS

(Our thanks to Don Martin for these reviews)

**Old Findhorn and Kinloss (Bernard Byrom)**

**Old Balmedie and Belhelvie Parish (Rosie Nicol)**

**Old Fyvie (Helen Taylor)**

**Stenlake Publishing, Catrine, pp.48, £11.95 (all three titles)**

■ Three further titles in Stenlake's landscape series have recently been published, all dealing with communities in north-east Scotland (*Old Findhorn and Kinloss* in 2022, the other two in 2023). Rosie Nicol undoubtedly speaks for other local contributors to the series when she reveals that her book 'has been several years in the making'.

*Old Findhorn and Kinloss* deals with two neighbouring but quite different communities. Findhorn was a salmon fishing community, as evidenced by photographs of white-painted fishermen's bothies and one of salmon fishermen cleaning and drying their nets. A photograph of two schooners at the north pier reminds us of Findhorn's one-time ambition to become a coastal port. Very unusually, Findhorn's Victorian railway was even shorter lived, lasting only until the 1870s. It is represented by the remains of the track-bed only. Two views of the railway's solitary locomotive, built by Neilson & Co of Glasgow, are shown at different stages of its career and are therefore useful for purposes of comparison. Also useful for such purposes are some photographs of the evidence for Findhorn's public water supply in the period just after running water was made available in the village during the early twentieth century, when a number of standpipes were available for people who had no supply of water piped into their houses. In contrast to Findhorn, Kinloss was a tiny hamlet until a Royal Air Force station was opened in 1939. After World War II it became the base for the impressive Nimrod MR2 marine patrol aircraft, a group of which is shown at the airbase. After planes of this type were withdrawn from service in 2011 the Kinloss base was closed to aircraft – although there was a brief reopening in 2020-21, when the RAF's Poseidon MRA1 aircraft were accommodated there. The colour that Stenlake sometimes uses on endpapers for recent books in this series has been used to good effect for a picture of one of the Poseidon planes. In this particular book '*Old Kinloss*' sometimes refers to a very recent past, although a past that is certainly no longer with us.

Like Findhorn, Balmedie was a sea-salmon fishing community, so some of the photos in *Old Balmedie and Belhelvie Parish* match very well with the salmon-fishing pictures in *Old Findhorn and Kinloss*. The Balmedie photos include a group of salmon fishermen on the title page and another such group on page 48 (with some very useful supporting information), while on the outside back cover fishermen can be seen using a pair of enormous 'jigger' wheels to move their boat across the beach and into the water. The boat seems very similar to one on the front cover of the *Old Findhorn* book. A feature of the *Old Balmedie* album is a sample of the range of photographs by the outstanding local photographer James Morrison (1865-1952) now in the possession of Buchan Heritage Society. The selection includes groups of farm horses (including the winning team in a ploughing match of 1908), but there is also an excellent image of a local wheelwright's workshop. Another outstanding feature of this book is a pair of graphic watercolours of the 1880s from the scrapbook of William Fiddes Smith. One of these shows Balmedie Village during a thunderstorm, while the other shows an organised picnic at Balmedie Beach. These are shown to good effect by means of Stenlake's colour endpaper facility, mentioned above – one on the inside front cover and the other on the inside back cover. *Old Balmedie* attempts to show how Belhelvie Parish developed from a group of estates with no real settlements of more than a few houses into one containing at least five populous villages.

■ As well as coverage of the village, *Old Fyvie* has annotated photographs of dwelling houses and other buildings in country settings round about. It also has a range of images of Fyvie Castle and its environs, including a staff group in the kitchen and a posed view of gardeners outside the greenhouses in the gardens. The Fyvie area is renowned for the quality of its bothy songs and ballads. The eponymous 'Bonnie Lass' is not mentioned in the book, but the story of another well-known local folk song 'The Mill o' Tifty's Annie' (also known as 'Andrew Lammie') is represented by two images: one of the unfortunate heroine Annie Smith's grave in Fyvie Kirkyard; and one of the attractive Mill of Tifty (a grain mill), with its typical water wheel.



## MEET A LOCAL GROUP



### COLINTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

<https://colintonhistory.org.uk/>

Our History Society has now been going for almost 40 years and during that time we have gone from strength to strength both from the point of view of membership and the building up of our archives. Thanks to many donations from members of the public and some of our more 'eagle eyed' members finding articles and old press cuttings, we have been able to do a considerable amount of research over the years. The real driver of this research was the late Alistair Davidson whose efforts were recognised by the BALH by the presentation of an award, but who sadly passed away a few years ago.

Members researched many aspects of the 1841, 1861 and 1891 Census Returns, all of which resulted in the publication of papers covering so much of life in the parish at these times, giving us all a greater understanding ... and appreciation of what life was like in the 1800s. In addition to this individual Members were encouraged to research subjects which interested them and this resulted in some excellent papers covering such things as:

Industry in the Parish  
The Mills in the Parish  
Farming in the Parish  
The shops in Colinton  
The Military in Colinton  
The Quarries in the Parish  
Schooling in the Parish  
... and many other subjects !

Pre-covid some Members researched some of our 'Colinton Characters' which resulted in our publishing a 300 plus page book of the same name, which we have sold through local outlets, resulting in our third reprint!

As a result of all of these activities our archives have now grown considerably. We have been fortunate to be able to store them in an outbuilding at Colinton Library, however the storage conditions were very poor and with no heating it was very difficult to work in situ. We were anxious both to store them in a better environment and make them more available to the general public. With these objectives in mind we started by digitizing all of our photographic records (approx. 2,000). Our next move was to ensure correct storage conditions and to achieve this we sought advice from both the City of Edinburgh Archives and the National Archives, both of whom were most helpful.

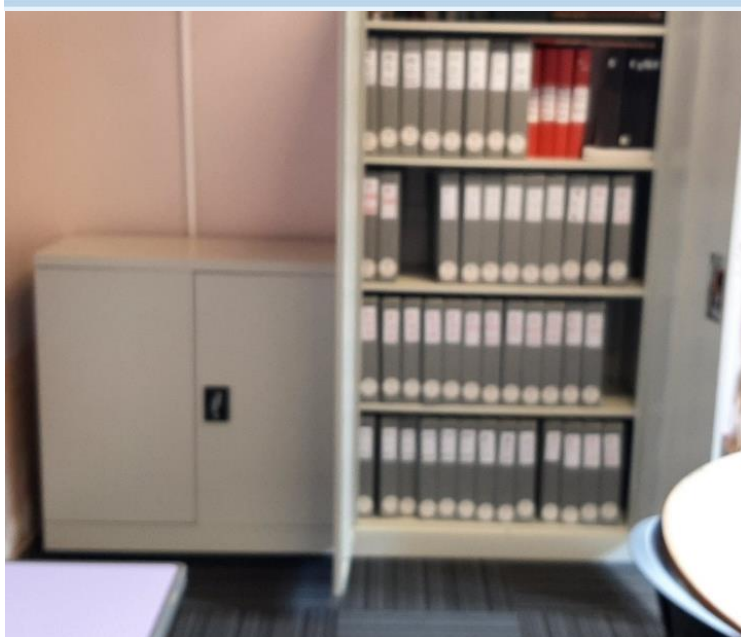
Armed with their advice we were able to cost out all of the acid free materials which we required. We then applied for a grant from C of E C which we were fortunate to receive. Over the last 4 months we have been busy re-housing all of our materials from the 6 filing cabinets in the outhouse at the Library into one large and one small stationery cupboard in the computer room in the Library. Although we are not yet quite finished we hope that by late summer our objectives will have been achieved, which will mean.

Correct and longer lasting storage. Easier for our members to access and research. Controlled access by the public. The ability to promote interest in our local history through presentations to Schools and Groups etc. Derek Douglas (Secretary)

#### *Colinton Characters*

A collection of articles researched and written by members of the Society.

Copies of this book are available from the Society at £9 each (excluding postage & packaging, if required). Please contact us if you would like information on how to place an order. We regret that we can't offer a secure online ordering system.





## HISTORY NEWS

■ The [Burrell Collection in Glasgow](#) has welcomed more than 500,000 visits since it reopened at the end of March 2022 following a major refurbishment, its operating charity Glasgow Life has confirmed. Reports for the six months to October suggest the reopening has had an economic benefit of £19.9 million for Glasgow, and £21.1 million for Scotland.

■ **Plans to save a farm where Robert Burns wrote some of his most famous works have been unveiled by a charity.** Ellisland Farm, on the banks of the River Nith in Dumfries and Galloway, was built by the poet in 1788 for his wife Jean Armour and their family. It was there where he wrote pieces such as Auld Lang Syne and Tam O'Shanter. Now the Robert Burns Ellisland Trust wants to develop the site as a visitor attraction. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-64777255>

■ [Ancestry wins contract to digitise Ministry of Defence records](#) The National Archives has announced that records held by the MOD, including Second World War service personnel records will be digitised by Ancestry.

■ **Orkney Neolithic project to carry out final digs** An archaeology project is to make its final excavation of a 5,000-year-old Neolithic site in Orkney next year.

The complex of buildings at Ness of Brodgar was discovered in 2003, and a series of important finds have been made since. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy05zdvv1zjo>

■ [Royal Mail have unveiled a set of special stamps](#) to mark the 100th anniversary of steam locomotive the Flying Scotsman, which will also be the last to feature Elizabeth II's image.

■ The BBC is celebrating **100 years in Scotland**, with the anniversary of the first broadcast from Glasgow on 6 March 1923. Here they look at some of the events from the past 100 years in 10 photos:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64835319>

■ [The Declaration of Arbroath](#), which played a key role in the history of Scottish independence and inspired the rallying cry for 'freedom', will go on display this summer for the first time in almost two decades. The 700-page document will be shown at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh for the public to view from 3 June to 2 July. It is a 6 April 1320 letter from the barons and freeholders of Scotland asking Pope John XXII to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king. The letter also asks the pontiff to persuade King Edward II of England to end hostilities against the Scots. It contains the famous pledge: 'As long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself.'

■ The shortlist for the **2023 Museums + Heritage Awards** has been revealed, marking a step closer to the London ceremony on Wednesday 10 May 2023. A record number of submissions have been received this year, from which the final winners will be selected by an eight-strong independent judging panel. This includes several Scottish entries. A total of 18 winners will be crowned at the ceremony in May. For the first time this year, the Museums + Heritage Awards includes three new categories: 'Team of the Year' 'Innovator of the Year', and the 'Sector Support Award'. <https://tinyurl.com/yckunzj3>

■ **10 Quirky Museums You Must Visit in Scotland** is a blog worth reading if you want to keep yourself busy over the long summer days. Follow this link to discover some gems <https://tinyurl.com/shnrzktb>

■ **Oldest tartan found to date back to 16th Century** A scrap of fabric found in a Highland peat bog 40 years ago is likely to be the oldest tartan ever discovered in Scotland, new tests have established. The fabric is believed to have been created in about the 16th Century, making it more than 400 years old. It was found in a Glen Affric peat bog, in the Highlands, in the early 1980s. The Scottish Tartans Authority (STA) commissioned dye analysis and radiocarbon testing of the textile to prove its age. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-65081312>

■ **How historic homes in the Borders have been changed by Covid-** read more of this news story with this link <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-65052726>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** has been asking for views on its Gaelic Language Plan 2023-2026 as part of a six-week public consultation which was held during March and April 2023.

The plan will set out how HES intends to increase the use, learning and promotion of Gaelic and builds on the success of its 2018-2023 plan which was the first Gaelic Language Plan for the organisation. <https://tinyurl.com/32jwry6t>

■ [Helen Mitchell: The housekeeper who became a 1920s radio star](#) **As the BBC celebrates 100 years in Scotland it has special significance for Leah Stalker.** Her great-grandmother, Helen Mitchell, was something of a sensation in the years shortly after that first broadcast from Glasgow on 6 March 1923. The pioneer of the airwaves, born near Wigtown in Galloway, took an unusual route into the world of radio. Having worked as a housekeeper, she entered a competition run by the BBC in the early 1920s and won it. Read the rest of this fascinating story [here](#)

■ For those who seek information from further afield, the **National Library of Australia** is threatening to pull the plug on **Trove**, its free online service that provides public access to collections from Australian libraries, universities, museums, galleries and archives. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

■ **Your Opportunity To Be Part of The British Coronation Project 2023 - news from the British Association for Local History:** BALH have partnered with the British Coronation Project 2023 to use history as a means of learning about the present. Further details about the project are here <https://www.britishcoronationproject23.org/>

■ **What Scots Hae: Intangible Cultural Heritage in Scotland** A conference to take stock of where we are with Intangible Cultural Heritage in Scotland and to look ahead to where we might be 26 May 2023. For further details follow this link [http://ow.ly/Y1PS50NHfOY?trk=public\\_post-text](http://ow.ly/Y1PS50NHfOY?trk=public_post-text)

■ **National importance of Stobs Camp near Hawick recognised** An old military training camp in the Scottish Borders has been recognised as a site of national importance. Key parts of the Stobs Camp near Hawick have been designated as scheduled monuments by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). HES said it would help safeguard the site - which was used for military training, civilian internment and as a prisoner of war camp. It is hoped the designation can also raise awareness of the camp. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-65262798>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland (HES)** has announced the first recipients of its new **Partnership Fund** grant scheme, awarding a total of £3,566,935 to 11 organisations. <https://tinyurl.com/2hvj4vr4>

## CAN YOU HELP?

■ **Scottish History Network is Relaunching:** Call for Committee Members. After an extended hiatus, the Scottish History Network is planning to relaunch. To help with this they are looking for volunteers to join their committee. Expressions of interest can be sent to [scottishhistorynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:scottishhistorynetwork@gmail.com)

■ **Old Melrose Business:** A century and more ago nearly every town in Scotland would have been well served by family grocers and merchants selling their wares. The latter included not only imported wines and spirits, but also stouts, ales and soft drinks, the latter most often in specially designed stoneware bottles.

Local chemists were also prominent in the trade for flavoured aerated water, notably ginger beer. This pharmacy involvement was understandable given their professional knowledge of liquid volatility, otherwise known as the need to achieve the best 'fizz' without any cork popping or even untimely explosion! The drinks had great appeal for younger citizens and are therefore sometimes viewed as responsible for what might be described as Scotland's dental curse - the 'sweet tooth'. But adults also enjoyed these refreshments, particularly those of a Temperance persuasion at the early period.

Melrose would have been no different in all these respects, but therein lies at least one mystery. Merchants would sometimes compete using an attractive design for their wares in the form of elaborate transfer prints on their eponymous stoneware bottles. Brown of Melrose was one such business, using as its trademark an image of the town's iconic Abbey - as shown in the attached photograph. The examples that survive are amongst some of Scotland's finest made by the Buchan pottery in Portobello, now a part of Edinburgh.

But who was Brown, where was the business based, and what happened to it? Was there a sale to another merchant, a problem caused by a possible lack of family succession, even the result of an untimely family accident? Then again, perhaps a national event such as wartime sugar rationing forced closure, or – sadly – a plain and simple bankruptcy?

It would be great to hear from any members who might have information about Brown or indeed other merchants in the town.

And if this query comes across as somewhat micro-economic, it should never be forgotten that one of the extremely few survivors in Scotland of the early aerated water business of which Brown was a member is the stupendously successful AG Barr of Irn Bru fame. Mike Shaw – [mikecraignair@btinternet.com](mailto:mikecraignair@btinternet.com)



## QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

-----oOo-----

'Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow'  
Mark Twain.

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## Dundee Walk and Talk: Discovery Point & Verdant Works

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - 11am-4.30pm

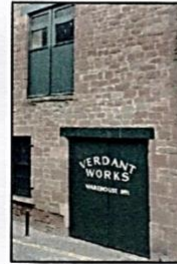
Join us for a visit to Dundee Heritage Trust's two museums.



In the morning we shall visit Discovery Point, home of Captain Scott's Antarctic research ship, built in Dundee in 1901.

After a light lunch we embark on a walk from Riverside through the Nethergate, South Tay Street and West Port and various sites,

both ancient and modern, to the Verdant Works, the museum that tells the story of Dundee's jute industry.



Cost is £30 per person (including light lunch) or £28 for concessions. You can book and pay online at:

<https://slhf.org/event/dundee-walk-talk-discovery-point-verdant-works>

Contact: Email Nicky Small at [scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com](mailto:scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com)

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>

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ISSN 2055-6411