

SLHF NEWS

■ SLHF will be hosting a conference on **Popular Protest in a Scottish Local History Context** on Saturday, 25 October 2025 at The Wynd Centre, School Wynd, Paisley PA1 2DB. Speakers are:

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

The Trials of the Paisley Radicals in 1825 Tom Dowds

Harvie's Dyke: The People's Struggle for the Liberty of the Banks of the Clyde Prof Christopher Whatley

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

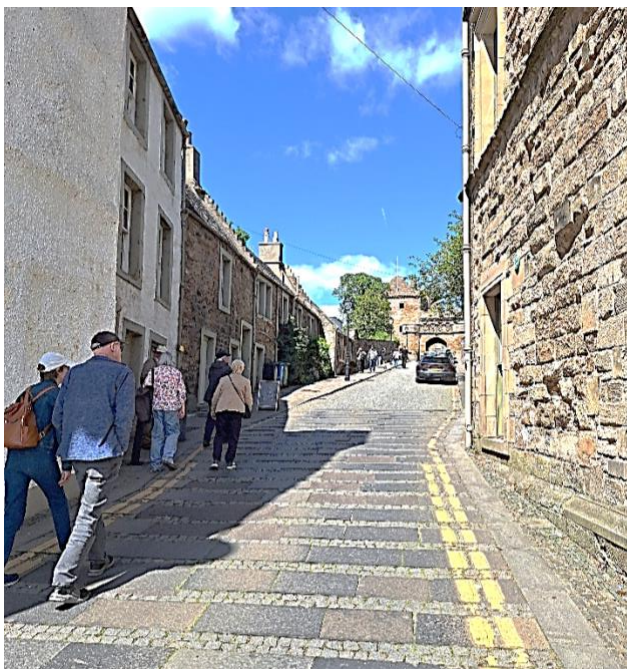
Dr Phil Back

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

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

We hope you can join us. To book your place: [SLHF Annual Conference: Popular Protest | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ Our Secretary, Andrew Jones, led a **Linlithgow Walk and Talk** on 22 May and a fine day and a knowledgeable guide made it a very enjoyable occasion. Thanks to Jan Bateman for her photographs of the event.





LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ Following on nicely from the subject matter of our conference is the news that the trial papers of the Paisley Radicals have been made available through the Scotland's People website. Learn more about this here:

[The Radical Rising of 1820 | Scotland's People](#)

■ **Signet Library maps of Great Britain and the World, 1640s-1930s** In May NLS Map Library put online a set of 137 maps relating to Great Britain and the World, continuing its collaboration with the WS Society, putting their map collection online. In June 2020, they added an initial set of 402 Signet Library maps of Scotland, and this set moves on to include maps of England, Wales, Ireland, and overseas. The set also includes 20 Ordnance Survey One-Inch to the mile Old Series maps of England and Wales. Many of these maps are not within the main NLS map collections, and they include some important editions and unusual maps. View these new Signet Library maps at: <https://maps.nls.uk/collections/signet/#england>

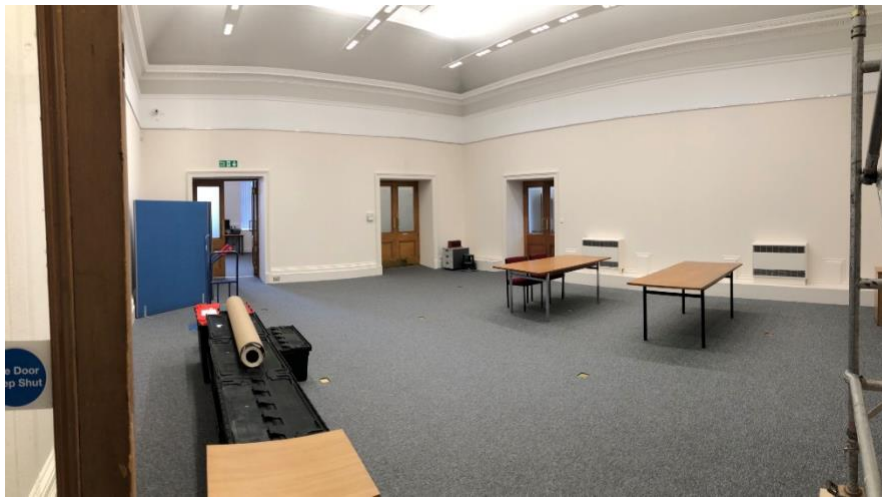
THE FIRST PANORAMA: EDINBURGH 1788



A reproduction of a panorama showing Edinburgh's 18th century skyline will be on show at General Register House by National Records of Scotland. Visitors can step inside the circular panorama for a view of the city as it was in 1788. The painting shows the Old and New Towns, and landmarks including Edinburgh Castle and General Register House itself. Robert Barker was a successful Irish painter of portraits and miniatures. While taking a walk on Calton Hill in Edinburgh he was struck with the idea of capturing the breathtaking view of Scotland's capital in its full splendour. He wondered if it was possible to present the whole view in one picture. With the help of his young son, Henry, Barker created and displayed the first panorama of Edinburgh in the city in 1788. Visit to see Barker's invention and take in the view of 18th century Edinburgh. Learn more: www.nrscotland.gov.uk/panorama. With thanks to the University of Edinburgh and Jenny Bruce.

■ **Scotland's People** has released new records from Perth Prison, Scotland's oldest occupied jail. These records reveal the lives of men and women imprisoned in the Criminal Lunatic Department between 1846-1902. They include hundreds of new admission entries, case notes and photographs. Perth was Scotland's only prison unit for offenders with mental illnesses. The records provide unique historical detail. Physicians collected medical histories on each prisoner and kept detailed case notes. They can include biographical details, photographs, newspaper clippings and criminal charges. These new records add to over 300,000 prison register entries available to search on Scotland's People. You can also view over 2,000 prisoner photographs. [Prison record search tips | Scotland's People](#)

■ **Angus Archives** has moved from the Hunter Library at Restenneth Priory to its new home at Arbroath Library. The plan is to occupy the gallery, former reference room, and the Librarian's office. Due to renovation work in Arbroath Library later this year, it cannot occupy the entire setup, as the library will decant into the first floor with the archive during the works. Angus Archives is presently open, by appointment, Monday, 10am to 4pm; Tuesday, 10am to 4pm; and Wednesday, 10am to 2pm. The Brothock Gallery will become the Angus Archives new search room, but awaits the delivery and installation of the shelving which will house the local history collection and the valuation rolls.



Picture 1: The doors to the left lead to the new 'small search room' (see Picture 2), the middle doors lead to the small onsite store (see Picture 3), and the rightmost doors house the lift from the ground floor of the library.

Picture 2: This is the smaller search room. In this space are the microfilm readers and reels, desks for the public to work away from the main search room, the research files, and scanning computers for volunteers.



Picture 3: This room is the new onsite store. It will house the photographic collection, the poor and school records, and several collections from the manuscript collection, amongst other items. It is currently the store for the local history collection awaiting its new shelving.

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Afterlife of Mary, Queen of Scots** edited by Steven J. Reid. Edinburgh University Press, March 2025 (Paperback), Published April 2024 (Hardback), 400pp, 77 black and white illustrations, 6 black and white tables, ISBN Paperback: 9781399523547, £19.99; Hardback: 9781399523530, £95.00; Ebook (app): 9781399523561, £19.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399523554, £19.99. [The Afterlife of Mary, Queen of Scots](#)
- **Traveller Storytelling in Scotland - Folklore, Ideology, Cultural Identity** by Robert Fell. Edinburgh University Press, March 2025 (Paperback), October 2024 (Hardback), 232pp, ISBN Paperback: 9781399526357, £19.99; Hardback: 9781399526340, £90.00; Ebook (app): 9781399526371, £19.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399526364, £19.99. [Traveller Storytelling in Scotland](#)
- **The Orange Order - A Global History** by Patrick Coleman. Edinburgh University Press, March 2025 (Paperback), January 2025 (Hardback), 280pp, 28 b&w illustrations, ISBN Paperback: 9781399518154, £19.99; Hardback: 9781399518147, £90.00, Ebook (app): 9781399518178, £19.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399518161, £19.99. [The Orange Order](#)
- **New Gaelic Speakers in Nova Scotia and Scotland - Heritage, Motivation and Identity** by Stuart S. Dunmore. Edinburgh University Press, March 2025 (Paperback), December 2024 (Hardback), 192pp, ISBN Paperback: 9781474491631, £19.99; Hardback: 9781474491624, £90.00; Ebook (app): 9781474491655, Free (open access); Ebook (PDF): 9781474491648, Free (open access). [New Gaelic Speakers in Nova Scotia and Scotland](#)
- **Visual Arts and the Auld Alliance - Scotland, France and National Identity c.1420-1550** by Bryony Coombs. Edinburgh University Press, May 2025 (Paperback), September 2024 (Hardback) 336 pp, 100 colour illustrations, ISBN Paperback: 9781399510035, £24.99; Hardback: 9781399510028, £95.00; Ebook (app): 9781399510042, £24.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399510059, £24.99. [Visual Arts and the Auld Alliance](#)
- **Irish and Scottish Art, c. 900-1900 -Survivals and Revivals** Edited by Rachel Moss, Heather Pulliam. Edinburgh University Press, May 2025 (Paperback), November 2024 (Hardback), 360 pp, 166 colour illustrations, 1 black and white table, ISBN Paperback: 9781399517386, £24.99; Hardback: 9781399517379, £95.00; Ebook (app): 9781399517409, £24.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399517393, £24.99. [Irish and Scottish Art, c. 900-1900](#)
- **Scottish Highlands and the Atlantic World - Social Networks and Identities** Edited by S,Karly Kehoe, Chris Dalglish, Annie Tindley. Edinburgh University Press, May 2025, (Paperback), July 2023 (Hardback), 232 pp, 2 black and white illustrations, 1 colour illustration, 1 black and white table, 2 colour maps, ISBN Paperback: 9781474494311, £19.99; Hardback: 9781474494304, £90.00; Ebook (app): 9781474494335, £19.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781474494328, £19.99. [Scottish Highlands and the Atlantic World](#)
- **Town and Country Planning in the Scottish Borders, 1946-1996 -From Planning Backwater to the Centre of the Maelstrom** by Douglas G. Hope. Edinburgh University Press, May 2025 (Paperback), August 2023 (Hardback), 336 pp, 14 black and white illustrations, 4 black and white tables, 1 black and white map, ISBN Paperback: 9781399503341, £24.99; Hardback: 9781399503334, £90.00; Ebook (app): 9781399503365, £24.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399503358, £24.99. [Town and Country Planning in the Scottish Borders, 1946-1996](#)
- **Scotland in 100 Buildings** by Roger Emmerson. Luath Press, May 2025, Paperback, ISBN 9781804251737, £14.99. [Scotland in 100 Buildings – Luath Press](#)
- **John Dewar's Islay, Jura and Colonsay** edited by Ronald Black and Christopher Dracup. John Dewar Publishers July 2024, 568 pp, Paperback ISBN 9781068651601 £27.50. www.johndewarpublishers.com
- **Art Deco Scotland: Design and Architecture in the Jazz Age** by Professor Bruce Peter, Historic Environment Scotland, April 2025, 368pp, 400 illustrations, Hardback, £30.00. [Art Deco Scotland: Design and Architecture in the Jazz Age — Historic Scotland Shop](#)
- **Bygone Dundee** by Bernard Byrom. Stenlake Publishing, April 2024, 144pp, 220 illustrations, ISBN 9781840339710, £21.95. [Stenlake Publishing - Bygone Dundee](#)
- **Celebrating St Andrews** by Gregor Stewart. Amberley Books, April 2025, 96pp, 88 colour illustrations, 4 black and white illustrations, ISBN 9781398108806, £15.99. [Celebrating St Andrews - Amberley Publishing](#)
- **Dundee – The Postcard Collection** by Brian King. Amberley Books, April 2025, 96pp, 180 illustrations, ISBN 9781398121515, £15.99. [Dundee: The Postcard Collection - Amberley Publishing](#)
- **Hidden Stirling** by Murray Cook. Extremis Publishing Ltd, April 2025, 128pp, 50 colour and black and white illustrations, ISBN 9781739484590, £14.00. Order from: m.j.cookstirling35@gmail.com
- **In the Scrape.... The Trial and Execution of William Burke** by Paul S. Marshall. It is available as a FREE download in PDF format from his kingofthepeds website (165MB):
- **The Local Historian** [The Local Historian Volume 55 Number 2 May 2025 | | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)
- **Local History News** [Local History News Number 155 May 2025 | | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)

WHAT'S ON

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

- **Macbeth – An Exhibition** Perth Museum until Sunday, 31 August 2025, £7.70; Disabled/Unwaged/Students/Seniors £5.50 (inc.10% booking fee); Under 16s and Culture Perth & Kinross Supporters go Free. [Macbeth: An Exhibition | Perthshire Box Office](#)
- **Seeds of Time: Scottish Gardens 1600 to present day** Exhibition at Stanley Mills, Perthshire. Selected dates until Monday 20 October 2025. [Seeds of Time: Scottish Gardens 1600 to present day | HES | History](#)
- **250th Anniversary of Cupar Curling Club** Exhibition at Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre, Cupar Railway Station, Station Road, Cupar, KY15 5HX, 2.00pm - 4:30pm, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays until 31 October 2025. [Exhibition: 250th Anniversary of Cupar Curling Club | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Outlander Day**, Saturday, 9 June 2025, 11.00am – 4.00pm, Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie Road, Newtonmore PH20 1AY. [Events - Highland Folk Museum](#)
- **Public tour: 250th anniversary of General Register House** Thursday, 12 June 2025, 11:00am to 12:00pm, HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH13YY. [Public tour: 250th anniversary of General Register House Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- **Navigating the Maps Website** Learn how to find and make the most of the National Library of Scotland's maps. Online talk, Thursday, 12 June 2025, 2:00pm - 3:00pm. [Navigating the Maps Website Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- **Archives Fest** Uncover the treasures of The National Archives with a day of hands-on history, talks, tours and activities for all, Sunday, 15 June 2025, 11.00am - 4.00pm, The National Archives, Bessant Drive, Kew TW9 4DU. [Archives Fest Tickets, Sun 15 Jun 2025 at 11:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Jane Austen's Social Networks and the Wider World - How Austen Experienced the Globalised World on the Pavements of Southampton** Online talk by Dr Cheryl Butler, Wednesday, 18 June 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. [Jane Austen's Social Networks and the Wider World | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)
- **The Rhind Lectures 2025 Scotland's Place-Names** Six lectures by Dr Simon Taylor to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Free and open to all, online or in person Friday, 20 June to Sunday, 22 June 2025 at Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL. Booking required: [Rhind Lectures 2025: Scotland's Place-Names \(Hybrid\) Tickets, Fri 20 Jun 2025 at 17:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Highland Rising** Saturday, 21 June and Sunday, 22 June 2025, 11.00am – 5.00pm, Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie Road, Newtonmore PH20 1AY. [Events - Highland Folk Museum](#)
- **The River That Defined Scotland – The Forth and its Tributaries** Talk by Dr Murray Cook to the Three Rivers Festival, 26 June 2025, 2.00pm at The Stirling Smith Art Gallery, 40 Albert Place, Stirling. [www.threeriversfestival.co.uk](#)
- **Kirkcudbright Kirkyard Trail** Various dates and times, July – September 2025, St Cuthberts Kirkyard, St. Cuthberts Road, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4XY. [Scottish Local History Forum | People, Places, Pasts](#)
- **Kirkcudbright Town Walk** Various dates and times, July – September 2025, Information Centre, Harbour Square, Kirkcudbright, DG6 4HY. [Scottish Local History Forum | People, Places, Pasts](#)
- **Woolly Weekend** Saturday, 5 July and Sunday, 6 July 2025, Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie Road, Newtonmore PH20 1AY. [Events - Highland Folk Museum](#)
- **Understanding King James VI & I: 400 years on** A multi-day conference with accompanying workshops and activities that interrogate James' rich life and legacy, 9 -11 July 2025, Advanced Research Centre (ARC), University of Glasgow, 11 Chapel Lane, Glasgow G11 6EW. [Understanding King James VI & I: 400 years on Tickets, Glasgow | Eventbrite](#)
- **From 'Film Bang' to filming boom - Fifty years of career trajectories in the Scottish film and television production sector.** Panel discussion on Wednesday, 23 July 23, 6:00pm - 7:30pm at National Library of Scotland at Kelvin Hall, 1445 Argyle Street Glasgow G3 8AW, [From 'Film Bang' to filming boom | National Library of Scotland](#)
- **Telling the story: Women's activism in our collections** Poet and peace activist Beth Junor joins curator Hannah Grout to share stories of her activism and donating her archive to the National Library of Scotland, Thursday, 31 July 2025, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW. [Telling the story: Women's activism in our collections Tickets, Thu 31 Jul 2025 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Western Isles Roadshow** Online and in person event organised by Scottish Community Heritage Alliance, Saturday, 6 September 2025, 10:00am to 4:00pm, Stornoway Town Hall, 20 South Beach, Stornoway, HS1 2BJ. [Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Western Isles Roadshow | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

- **Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Northern Isles Roadshow** Online and in person event organised by Scottish Community Heritage Alliance, Saturday, 13 September 2025, 10:00am to 4:00pm, St Magnus Centre, Palace Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1PA. [Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Northern Isles Roadshow | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The Porteous Riots** A talk by Eric Melvin to the Scottish Genealogy Society, Monday, 15 September 2025, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and ONLINE. [The Porteous Riots | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Second Scotland Western Front Association Conference** 20 September 2025, 10.00am, Discovery Point, Riverside Drive, Dundee DD1 4XA [SECOND SCOTLAND WFA CONFERENCE | The Western Front Association](#)
- **Votes for Women – Everywhere: 1866-1928** Online talk by Elizabeth Crawford, Wednesday, 8 October 2025, 7:00pm - 8:00pm. [Votes for Women – Everywhere: 1866-1928 | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)
- **Drax of Drax Hall, researching the landed gentry in Britain and Caribbean** Online talk by Paul Lashmar, Wednesday, 15 October 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. [Drax of Drax Hall, researching the landed gentry in Britain and Caribbean | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)
- **10 Scotland Street - An Opinionated History of One House Over Two Centuries** A talk by Leslie Hills to the Scottish Genealogy Society, Monday, 20 October 2025, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and ONLINE. [10 Scotland Street - An Opinionated History of One House Over Two Centuries | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Church Going: A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of the British Isles** Online talk by Andrew Ziminski, Tuesday, 18 November 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. [Church Going: A Stonemason's Guide to the Churches of the British Isles | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)

Create a listing for your library, archive or museum in the SLHF Directory of local history resources.
It is easy to do and free, just <https://www.slhf.org/submit-listing>

WATCH AND LISTEN

These are just a few of a wide range of programmes with a focus on the VE Anniversary.

- [What They Found](#) is a moving documentary which brings to our attention the horrors that were encountered at Belsen. The story of two members of the Army Film and Photographic Unit who accompanied the British troops that liberated the Nazi concentration camp helps to shape this excellent piece of reportage.
- Also available is [Simon Schama : the Road to Auschwitz](#) where he offers a wide perspective as to how the camp emerged with the words of survivor, Marian Turski: 'Auschwitz did not fall from the sky. Evil comes step by step'.
- **The Documentary: Defeated** takes us to a different perspective on the end of the war in Europe on 8 May 1945. The memoirs of six Germans shed light on this sombre period, among them a female Nazi youth leader, a young mother of two and a Jewish Holocaust survivor, who was nearly shot by Soviet soldiers because the SS had been wearing the yellow star to evade capture. The programme is presented by Lore Wolfson, whose father grew up under Nazi rule. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct7yv1>
- [24 Hours: The fall of Nazi Germany](#) gives a detailed analysis of the negotiations behind the end of the war in Europe. These negotiations shaped not only the future of Europe but the entire world as we know it to-day.
- **Laurence Rees Remembers. The Nazis; a Warning from History.** In 1997, more than 40 years after the end of the Second World war, this six part BBC series explored the events that led Germany to fascism. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002chnk>
- [VE Day 80: We Were There](#) Rachel Burden talks to the last surviving veterans to hear their memories of the end of the War.
- As part of the VE Day's 80th anniversary BBC revisited two documentaries from the 70th anniversary. [Britain's Greatest Generation](#) offers a people's history and [VE Day: Remembering Victory](#) focuses on celebrities from Sir Bruce Forsyth to Dame Esther Rantzen.
- **Millions Like Us: Women's Lives in War and Peace 1939-1949** This book was first published in 2011 and was hailed as a 'triumph of research-but also of sympathy' and has got a welcome repeat on Radio4 Extra. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b010vzsk>
- Technically perhaps not history but for a nice piece of nostalgia **I Am Sixteen Going On Sixty** is a wonderful listen about The Sound of Music. Garry Richardson meets up with some of the actors who offer an enriching perspective some sixty years on. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00298tg>

- **Paranormal Britain's Last Witch** is a programme where Radio 1 presenter Sian Eleri delves into the story of Helen Duncan who was the last person to be convicted and imprisoned under the Witchcraft Act. <https://tinyurl.com/mr6am2r>
- Narrated by Paul McGann, **Titanic: Ship of Dreams** was an immersive and at times with 13 episodes exhaustive retelling of the doomed liner's story. <https://tinyurl.com/386uswp3>
- Meanwhile on Channel 4 was a welcome repeat of **Titanic: Building the World's Largest Ship** which was first shown in 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/2hvcydk7> Cutting edge special effects bring this remarkable engineering feat to life.
- **A Child of Rover** tells the story of Rover. Founded in 1904, the company made the Mini but also the much-lampooned Austin Allegro. Nathalie Olah, most of whose family worked at Rover's Longbridge plant, trawls through the archives for an episode that also features new interviews with ex-employees. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0029hks>
- **Witness History** remains a must listen—excellent and informative in bite size chunks. Put in our your to do list to catch up every few weeks-a gem!
- Another excellent radio programme is **Life Changing** with a recent episode offering first hand testimony of the 1987 Zeebrugge ferry disaster. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v5ng>
- A recent addition to the BBC Radio 4 offering is a weekly 5-minute programme called **This Week in History**. It's an action-packed programme drawing from the extensive BBC archives. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002btxz>
- From BBC Drama comes **Pretender Prince** which is a drama documentary on the rise and fall of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Narrated over 5 episodes by Jack Louden with a cast of historians adding commentary to an excellent script. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002c3kj>
- **Lady Swindlers with Lucy Worsley** features Annie Gordon Baillie who created havoc in Skye and used 40 aliases to amass a fortune. Denise Mina adds great value to the story. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002cdgj>
- **Archive on 4: The Braveheart Effect** is presented by Susan Morris who looks at how the movie has contributed to the shaping of Scottish identity. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002cnlb>
- **The British Association for Local History AGM**, held on 22 May 2025, was followed by a talk '**Writing the Local History of the British Civil Wars**' by BALH President Professor Jackie Eales. [See a recording of the BALH AGM and awards announcements | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)
- **The Origins of Dundee's War Memorial** Talk by Matthew Jarron to the Abertay Historical Society to mark the monument's centenary. [The Origins of Dundee's War Memorial - Talk by Matthew Jarron - YouTube](#)
- The first of a two-episode partnership between the [National Trust for Scotland](#) and the [National Trust](#) reveals the story of a leading general in the Battle of Culloden. **Lieutenant General George Murray**, a nobleman and soldier who was involved in each of the eighteenth-century Jacobite Uprisings, was a compelling figure from the period with shifting allegiances and an interesting relationship with Charles Edward Stuart. Professor Murray Pittock, historian and National Trust for Scotland Trustee, sheds light on his life – stream now! 🎧 Spotify: <https://brnw.ch/21wS4Nx> 🍏 Apple: <https://brnw.ch/21wS4Nw>
- **Time travel on Orkney** Rose Ferraby journeys through the history of the Orkney coastline, exploring the archaeology of the small Island of Rousay. [BBC Radio 4 - Open Country, Time travel on Orkney](#)
- **100 years of Glasgow on film** This year marks the 850th birthday of Glasgow, Scotland's largest city. Explore Glasgow on film in this new YouTube video, which features archival footage covering more than 100 years, all from the National Library of Scotland's Moving Image Archive. [850 years of Glasgow - YouTube](#)
- And finally, if you are looking for some light relief check out [Brian Cox Remembers Bob Servant](#)

BLOGS

- **Granton Waterfront – A(nother) Beacon of Light** Only a stone's throw away from Edinburgh's city centre, Granton was once one of Scotland's key industrial hubs. But what's it like now? Dive into the projects behind the Granton Waterfront Redevelopment Programme. [Granton Waterfront – A\(nother\) Beacon of Light - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)
- Find out about the **Register House plans series (RHP)** at the National Records of Scotland and receive tips on how to search online for items of interest. [Maps and plans | Scotland's People](#)
- **What's in a box? Reusing Police and Phone Boxes in Scotland** A staple of the 20th century British townscape, police and phone boxes can be spotted across Scotland. So how are they being used today? [Reusing Police and Phone boxes in Scotland - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)
- **Querns Galore! : The Ardroe Quern Quarry, Assynt** Gordon Sleight [blog](#) for North of Scotland Archaeological Society on a little known Highland quarry for quernstones. [Querns Galore! : The Ardroe Quern Quarry, Assynt | NOSAS Archaeology Blog](#)

■ **Stirling Archaeology** Regular updates on Stirling and the wider Forth Valley's rich history and archaeology, including local events, archaeological digs and stories from the past. [Stirling Archaeology | Substack](#)

■ The **Architectural Heritage Fund** has updates on the futures of three Scottish buildings, including St Marnock's Church, Fowlis, which featured in Clish Clash 62 back in January 2024. [Sails, Saints and Shops: Fresh Hope for the Future of Three Distinctive Scottish Historic Buildings | The Architectural Heritage Fund](#)

CAN YOU HELP?

■ Professor Vivienne Cree asks: "Later this year, the **Scottish Record Society** is publishing *The Life and Adventures of Mr George Robertson Nicoll*, edited by me. The book is in the final stages - indexing - but I am on the hunt for a photograph of George - someone in Dundee must have one! George was born in Campbell's Close in 1824 and travelled to Australia with his wife Sarah Baird in 1848 and infant son George Wallace Nicoll. He was a blockmaker - made blocks for sailing ships - and was part of a large Dundee Nicoll family, returning many times to visit relatives and, with his sons, launch steamships. Can anyone help? I would be delighted to hear from anyone who might know where to look." Vivienne can be contacted on V.Cree@ed.ac.uk

■ **Make Your Mark, Volunteer Scotland**, and **Our Past, Our Future** have launched a heritage volunteering research project. The research seeks to better understand heritage volunteering in Scotland and how the heritage sector can work together to make it accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable for everyone. Responses to the survey will inform what support Make Your Mark offers to volunteer-involving heritage organisations in Scotland, and will help Make Your Mark advocate for their needs within the sector and beyond. The research is two-part:

- [Survey for heritage volunteer organisers/managers](#)
- [Survey for heritage volunteers](#)

The deadline for responses for both surveys is **Monday, 16 June 2025**.

■ **Mary Stratman** has been in touch with SLHF reaching out to inquire about potentially giving a public talk regarding research done on Gaelic spiritual singing from the Highlands & Islands. Anyone interested in hosting a talk on the subject should email seinnspioradail@gmail.com

MEET A TRUSTEE

I was born William Graham Diack in Aberdeen Maternity Hospital in 1950. Other than time at University in Edinburgh, I have lived in Aberdeen my entire life. After time at Cloverfield Primary School, then Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen, then a few years of doing nothing much, I set off to Edinburgh University in 1973 for a course in Scottish Historical Studies. This turned out to be one of the best things I ever did.

The Scottish History students had been told to be in the Scottish History Library at a specific time to receive an introduction to the course. For about the first time in my life I was actually early, and as I sat waiting for the other students to arrive, a girl with long red hair came in and sat opposite me. All of the students had to introduce themselves, and she said that her name was Lesley Meikleham and she came from East Kilbride. After graduation in 1977, she changed her home to Aberdeen and her surname to Diack. (Professor Gordon Donaldson, Historiographer Royal at the time, claimed to be responsible for this !!!)

In our final year at University I had written two dissertations, one on 'The Farm Worker in North-East Scotland c.1790-c.1890', and the other on 'Poor Relief in Perthshire 1815-1845'.

In those days in Aberdeen Lesley and I both worked in the oil industry as you could almost choose where you wanted to work, rather than employers choosing you. Both of us were still keen Scottish historians and began to research our family histories. This led to me becoming chair of the Aberdeen and North-East Scotland Family History Society, and Lesley becoming editor of the quarterly journal.

Lesley then decided to do a PhD at the University of Aberdeen. Her subject was 'Women, Health and Charity: Women in the Poor Relief Systems in eighteenth century Scotland and France'. She graduated in 1999. I started taking tours around Aberdeen and the north-east and then became a qualified Scottish Tourist Board Guide. From then, we both started to get our names known, and became regular speakers around the north-east on local history, Scottish history, and how to research your family history, which I continue doing today.



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

Clish-Clash is edited by Steve Connelly, assisted by Linda Clark, James Kennedy and Andrew Jones. Thanks to Chris Fleet, NLS, Marissa Trimble, SCA, Jocelyn Grant, NRS and Craig Pearson, Angus Archives for contributions and to Jan Bateman for the Linlithgow Walk and Talk photographs.

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

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