



## SLHF NEWS



■ One of our Trustees, Dr Phil Back, will be giving a talk on **Saturday, 30 May 2026, at 7pm, at the Moubray Hall, Powmill**, on the Rise and Decline of Tourism at Rumbling Bridge. Admission is free but space is limited and reservation is recommended! Powmill is not far from Dollar, and lies on the A977 road from Alloa to Kinross. The Moubray Hall is in the centre of the village and has a small car park. (The famous Milk Bar is about half a mile up the road). The event is kindly sponsored by the Fossoway Community Development Trust. To book, email [moubrayhall@gmail.com](mailto:moubrayhall@gmail.com) with the subject 'Rumbling Bridge talk' and let them know how many seats you'll need.

■ Those of you who attended our Paisley conference on **Popular Protest in a Scottish Local History Context** will remember that the self-same Dr Phil Back gave a fascinating talk on the protests surrounding the proposed M77 road in Glasgow. A more thorough examination of the events has now been peer-reviewed and published in open access available here: [A Betrayal of Trust, or a Failure of Process? Responses to a Motorway Proposal in Glasgow, Scotland, 1965–1996](#)

■ Nora Solesbury of the **Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society**, has been in touch in response to a piece about **Abertay Historical Society's** past talks being available on its YouTube channel. She is disappointed that few local societies kept going with online offerings after Lockdown and feels that she is missing out on interesting but inaccessible events. She knows that many organisations stopped offering live stream talks due to difficulties with technology in local meeting places, but she wonders whether the idea of uploading talks to a YouTube channel might be more widely adopted. Maybe Abertay HS is not the only society doing so already. Let us know if your society is doing something similar.



# SLHF is on Substack!

Don't forget to check out our Substack page at [slhf.substack.com](http://slhf.substack.com). We post regularly to subscribers' inboxes with news, events, and updates – and there are also some short pieces of Scottish local history that we think will be of interest.

Recently we've posted on Vogrie House near Gorebridge, Burghead's New Year, Sawney Bean's Cave at Ballantrae, and the curious Dagon Stone at Darvel – Substack lets you catch up on old posts too, so don't feel you've missed out! Just go to [slhf.substack.com](http://slhf.substack.com) and join our growing number of subscribers – completely free of charge, and no more than two e-mails a week to your inbox

***We're also interested in posting about our member organisations' activities – so if you want some free publicity for your museum, heritage centre or society, just contact [phil@philback.co.uk](mailto:phil@philback.co.uk) and we'll arrange that with you. Sorry, but this opportunity is for members only***

■ **British Association for Local History - Head Office Relocation** The new address is: BALH Head Office, Fountain Precinct, Balm Green, Sheffield S1 2JA. A postal redirection will be in place for six months to ensure continuity during the transition.

## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ **National Records of Scotland** 5 year strategy has been published [National Records of Scotland Strategy 2025/26-2030/31 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

■ **Museums Galleries Scotland** has launched its grants schedule for 2026/27. Details about the upcoming rounds of the **Small Grants Fund**, **Museum Development Fund**, **Repair and Adaptation Fund**, and **Creative Minds Fund** are available on its website: [Grants Programme - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

■ **East Lothian Field Names Recording Project and Viewer** This project, initiated and organised by East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists Society, is recording field names in East Lothian - including present and past names, their history and possible derivations. Many field names can be traced back to the 18th century when they were recorded on estate plans, and some are older still, but many of these field names

are in danger of being lost. In collaboration with the National Library of Scotland, an online map viewer has been set up for data input, as well as allowing others to view work-in-progress, selecting a particular field in blue on the map to display the information known about it. It is possible to keyword search across all the records and view distributions of particular names connected to fields. You can also view other background layers to see how fields have changed over time.

**East Lothian Field Names Recording Project**  
Viewer

Search field names:  
 Search all fields:   
 Farm Name:   
 Parish:   
 Current Field Name:   
 Previous Field Name:   
 Linguistic Analysis:   
   
 Search using placenames, NGR, etc. +

Results - 1 record:  
 ID: 198  
 Parish: Yester  
 Farm Name: Duncanlaw  
 Current Field Name: Townhead  
 Introduction: Originally part of Yester Estate. Has now been farmed by three generations of Weddells  
 Field Number: 14  
 Grid Reference: NT544684  
 Name Derivation: Next to Townhead Farm march (boundary)  
 Sources: Logan Weddell farmer  
 Researcher: MW  
 Report Date: 6-2025

Top layer - Fields - Change transparency:   
 Background Map Layers:  
 Present - OS Maps Leisure (1:50,000/1:25,000)

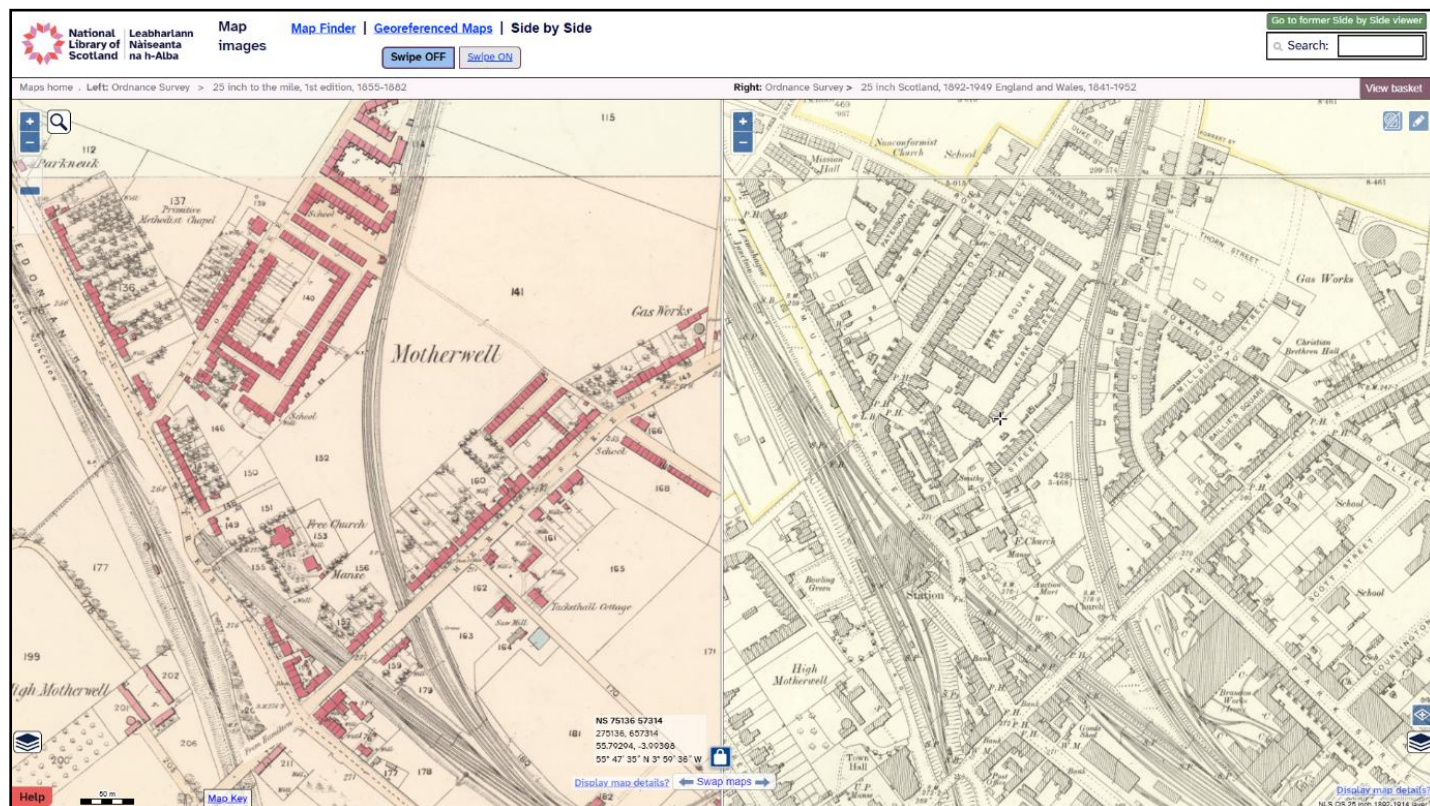
Site map Contact About Use of cookies

East Lothian Field Names map viewer: <https://maps.nls.uk/projects/field-names/>

For further information about the project, please contact [fieldnames@eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk](mailto:fieldnames@eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk)

■ **NLS OS 25 inch 1st edition georeferencing project** NLS has initiated a project to georeference our OS 25 inch to the mile, 1st edition maps of Scotland. These magnificent, feature-rich, hand-coloured maps with high levels of detail, were previously only available as separate sheets. This is a major task for us, with over 14,000 sheets needing to be georeferenced, and so we plan to release these on a county-by-county basis. The first county which is available is Lanarkshire. As the maps were surveyed and published on a parish basis before the 1870s, there is often more than one separate sheet covering the same geographic area, with only part of the sheet, within a particular parish, with map content. Rather than aim to create a "seamless" single layer, we have made the georeferenced layer available as a set of separate parish layers. As symbols and text were written slightly beyond the parish boundaries, we have created a buffer beyond each parish boundary to keep these, and as you browse across a parish boundary, a note appears when parish layers are switched.

Further details: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/#197>



Comparing the new OS 25inch coverage Motherwell on the left (surveyed 1848-9) with the right (revised 1896).

■ **Scottish Records Association Call for Papers** SRA is holding a conference on 6 November 2026: **Archives of Public Benefit Legal Trusts: their value and use, and are they at risk?** It would like to hear from historians, journalists, and other researchers who use (or attempt to use) such records, as well as from solicitors, archivists, librarians, trustees and their employees or volunteers, and others who care for the records of trusts. Further details: [SRA-Conference-2026-Call-for-papers - final.pdf](#)

■ **CAHG Scotland Digital Exhibition: Celebrating Scotland's Intangible Cultural Heritage through Archives** This digital exhibition brings together stories, memories, skills, and traditions that continue to shape life in Scotland today. Intangible cultural heritage is living heritage, whether that's the songs we sing, the languages we speak, the crafts we practise, the customs we observe, and the knowledge that is passed on. Often undocumented or overlooked, these practices are central to how people understand who they are and where they belong.

Curated by community archives and heritage groups from across Scotland, this exhibition showcases a rich diversity of living traditions through archival material such as oral histories, photographs, recordings, and documents. Each contribution reflects how communities record, remember, and sustain their heritage, capturing culture not as something fixed in the past, but as something actively practised and shared.

This exhibition is part of the Community Archives and Heritage Group Scotland's fifth anniversary and comes following the UK's ratification of the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the exhibition highlights the vital role community-led archives play in safeguarding living heritage. Together, these collections demonstrate how archives can support the transmission of knowledge, identity, and cultural expression for present and future generations.

Explore the exhibition to discover how Scotland's intangible cultural heritage is documented, cared for, and kept alive by communities: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/community-archives/community-archives-and-heritage-group-scotland/cahg-scotland-digital-exhibition/>

■ **CAHG Scotland 5th Anniversary Publication** Community Archives & Heritage Group Scotland launched its celebratory 5th anniversary publication at *Expressing Scotland: Holding the Intangible!* The publication includes a range of pieces from people who have been involved with CAHG Scotland over the years and features different projects, achievements and perspectives. It also includes a feature on the CAHG Scotland Digital Exhibition, also launched recently as well as some lovely adverts from sponsors TownsWeb Archiving and CXD and even has a community-archive based crossword on the back! View the publication here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1edt9KeNhoiFC1HqSmxk11USqkJHRuGjN/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1edt9KeNhoiFC1HqSmxk11USqkJHRuGjN/view?usp=drive_link)

■ **The annual UK Archive Sector survey is now open!** National Records of Scotland and the Scottish Council on Archives have partnered with archives from across the UK to deliver the 2026 annual survey of the sector. This survey will gather data required to further develop a rich, consistent picture of UK archives. The results, added to those from last year's survey, will support effective advocacy on behalf of archives, locally and nationally. It's crucial we hear from as many services as possible, particularly from those who completed the survey in previous years. This helps us to conduct trends analysis and it informs our evidence-based decision making. The National Archives will publish a report of its findings, along with the survey dataset. This will help services to benchmark their performance against others.

Find out more: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/annual-uk-archive-sector-survey-now-open/>

■ **New toolkits from Scottish Council on Archives in development** SCA is currently developing two new online toolkits, with support from the ARA Research and Advocacy fund. These will be a Deposited Collections Toolkit and an Accessible Records Management Toolkit. Find out more:

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/new-toolkits/>

■ **Three Asks for the Next Scottish Government** In the run up to the Scottish Parliament elections on 7 May 2026, SCA has issued a series of 'asks' for the next Scottish Government. These are:

1. Commit to a National Strategy for Archives and Records
2. Invest in Scotland's National Digital Preservation Infrastructure
3. Strengthen and Future-Proof the Archives and Records Workforce

Read the full asks and find out more:

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/three-asks-for-the-next-scottish-government/>

■ **Community Stories, Community Archives Update** SCA was delighted to appoint archivist Jenny Duffy as the new project manager for the NLHF-funded Community Stories, Community Archives project for the next six months. *Community Stories – Community Archives* supports groups across Scotland who have amazing archival material but need help with managing, preserving, cataloguing and online accessibility. The project has also provided diversity and inclusivity training to help groups be as representative as possible of their wider communities. A key element of the project is the facility to upload catalogues to a new portal being developed by SCA called Your Scottish Archives.

■ **New featured collection on Your Scottish Archives: Granton Hub** Based in Granton's historic Madelvic House, the Granton Hub archive is a treasure trove of local knowledge and history, with materials dating back to the 18th century. It is a volunteer-run charitable organisation that aims to elevate Granton's profile and provide a focus for the area's diverse and evolving communities. Find out more on YSA:

<https://yourscottisharchives.com/granton-hub>

■ **Poets in the Archives** A small free display of records tracing the lives of two poets, Mary MacPherson (known as Màiri Mhór nan Òran), a Gaelic poet and bard, and Robert Garioch Sutherland (pseudonym Robert Garioch), who primarily wrote in Scots, are now on show in National Records of Scotland's Adam Dome in Edinburgh. Inspired by the passing of the Scottish Languages Act 2025, which granted official status to both Gaelic and Scots for the first time, the display explores the lives of these poets and their work, and features examples of records most commonly used by family historians. For researchers, access to these records is normally limited to digital images made available via the NRS' service [Scotland's People](#). In this instance, visitors have the rare opportunity to see physical examples of census records, as well as a register of births, and a register of deaths. Come along to find out more about Mary MacPherson and Robert Garioch, and how the archives can help you uncover more about your family history. [Mary MacPherson and Robert Garioch: in the archives - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

■ Two spectacular stone altars from a Roman fort near Edinburgh have been acquired for the National Collection ahead of a major exhibition at the **National Museum of Scotland**. The rare carvings are among the finest examples of sculpture from Roman Britain and will go on display for the first time in *Roman Scotland: Life on the Edge of Empire* (14 November 2026 – 28 April 2027). [Rare Roman altars acquired for the nation will go on display in the autumn | National Museums Scotland News](#)

■ **Strategy Symposium 2026: Shared stories and futures** From sector resilience and political discussion to anti-oppression and climate action, our Advocacy Manager David McDonald shares the key takeaways from the panels and workshops held at Scotland's Museums and Galleries Strategy Symposium 2026. [https://www.museumsgalleriesScotland.org.uk/blog-article/shared-stories-and-futures/?utm\\_source=MGS+CRM+Safe+to+Send&utm\\_campaign=69affb8a2b-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2025\\_01\\_16\\_12\\_08\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-2a609c4f19-1433683512](https://www.museumsgalleriesScotland.org.uk/blog-article/shared-stories-and-futures/?utm_source=MGS+CRM+Safe+to+Send&utm_campaign=69affb8a2b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_01_16_12_08_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-2a609c4f19-1433683512)

## 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. Information about upcoming archaeological events and talks can also be found at: [Events and Digs - Dig It!](#)

- **The Legacy of Mary, Queen of Scots** Display at AK Bell Library, 2-8 York Place, Perth PH2 8EP until Saturday, 25 April 2026. [The Legacy of Mary, Queen of Scots - Culture Perth & Kinross](#)
- **The Last Letter of Mary, Queen of Scots** On display at Perth Museum, St John's Place, Perth PH1 5SZ until Sunday, 26 April 2026. [The Last Letter of Mary, Queen of Scots - Perth Museum](#)
- **Mary MacPherson and Robert Garioch: in the archives** Display of records tracing the lives of two poets, Monday-Friday, 9:00pm - 4:00pm until 30 April 2026 in the Adam Dome, General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY. [Mary MacPherson and Robert Garioch: in the archives - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)
- **War, Destruction and Reform: The Early Years of Mary Queen of Scots** Exhibition at the Wardlaw Museum, University of St Andrews, 87 North Street, St Andrews KY16 9AE until 20 September 2026. [About the exhibition – War, Destruction and Reform](#)
- **The ground beneath our feet is not silent** Exhibition at Groam House Museum, High Street, Rosemarkie IV10 8UF until 31 May 2026. [Exhibition: The ground beneath our feet is not silent - Groam House Museum](#)
- **Brickhunting in Scotland** Talk by Ian Suddaby to Abertay Historical Society, 6.30pm – 7.30pm on Wednesday, 8 April 2026 at Lecture Theatre 2, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN. [Brickhunting in Sc EH48otland | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Mapping & Antiquities: Four Centuries of Myths, Mistakes and Misinformation** Talk by Chris Fleet to Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society, 7.00pm – 9.00pm on Wednesday, 8 April 2026 at LG34, Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH48 8AQ. [Mapping & Antiquities: Four Centuries of Myths, Mistakes and Misinformation | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The early years of Mary, Queen of Scots: war in 1540s Scotland** Online talk by Dr Amy Blakeway hosted by the National Records of Scotland, 5.30pm – 6.30pm on Tuesday, 14 April 2026. [The early years of Mary, Queen of Scots: war in 1540s Scotland Tickets, Tuesday, Apr 14 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)
- **PALaEoScot: New Approaches to Scotland's Oldest Archaeology** Hybrid talk by Prof Kate Britton, part of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland public lecture series and the Edinburgh Science Festival. [PALaEoScot: New Approaches to Scotland's Oldest Archaeology Tickets, Thursday, Apr 16 from 6 pm to 8 pm | Eventbrite](#)
- **Scottish History in 15 violent crimes** Live webinar and Q & A with Dr Louise Heren organised by History Scotland. [Scottish History in 15 Violent Crimes Tickets, Thursday, Apr 16 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)
- **The Man who Told the Truth: the Story of the Orcadian Explorer Dr John Rae** Talk by Ian Archibald to Dunfermline Historical Society, 7.30pm on Thursday, 16 April 2026 at Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline KY12 7PD. [Dunfermline Historical Society | Local history for West Fife](#)
- **18<sup>th</sup> Century Herbalism in the Highlands - and Beyond** Talk by Claire Mackay organised by Cromarty History Society at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 at Victoria Hall, Cromarty. [Cromarty History Society | TALKS PROGRAMME](#)
- **Square Pigs in Round Holes: Veteran stories in the aftermath of WW2** Talk by Professor Gill Plain at the Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Hay St, Perth PH1 5HR, 6.30pm – 8.00pm on Tuesday, 21 April 2026. [Lecture | Square Pigs in Round Holes: Veteran stories in the aftermath of WW2](#)
- **Dress and Society in Medieval Scotland** Talk by Dr Lydia Prosser at Perth Museum, St John's Place, Perth PH1 5SZ at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 22 April 2026. [Dress & Society in Medieval Scotland | Perthshire Box Office](#)

■ **The Historic Towns Trust St Andrews map** Online event run by the British Association for Local History in partnership with the Historic Towns Trust at 7.00pm - 8.00pm on Tuesday, 28 April 2026. [The Historic Towns Trust St Andrews map | Margaret Connolly | Forthcoming BALH Events | British Association For Local History](#)

■ **East Jersey Bound: Scots migrants to America in the 1680s** Online talk by Derrick Johnstone hosted by the National Records of Scotland, 5.30pm – 6.30pm on Tuesday, 28 April 2026. [East Jersey Bound: Scots migrants to America in the 1680s Tickets, Tuesday, Apr 28, 2026 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Spotlight: Wax Moulage** Talk to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in the Physicians' Gallery, 11 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 29 April 2026. [Spotlight: Wax Moulage | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Scottish Place-Name Society** AGM and Spring Conference will take place on Saturday, 2 May 2026 at Cultarlann Inbhir Nis, Academy Street, Inverness. The start time will be 10:30am. This is a special conference marking the centenary of W. J. Watson's *The History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland*. Speakers include: Roddy MacLean, Dr Jake King, Nevis Hulme and Robert Black. This year's conference includes an optional place-name walk on Sunday, 3 May 2026, starting at 11am from the Town house, and concluding at Watson's grave at the top of Tomnahurich. [SPNS AGM & SPRING CONFERENCE 2026 – 2 MAY 2026 – INVERNESS – Scottish Place-Name Society](#)

■ **The stories of Edinburgh and Glasgow** Live webinar and Q&A with Alan Taylor, organised by History Scotland, 6.30pm -7.30pm on Wednesday, 6 May 2026. [The stories of Edinburgh and Glasgow Tickets, Wednesday, May 6 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective** Talk by Sara Lodge to Abertay Historical Society, 6.30pm – 7.30pm on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 in Lecture Theatre 2, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN. [The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective | Scottish Local History Forum](#)



■ **200 Years of Scottish Railways Mini-Exhibition** This small exhibition organised by Balfour Heritage Group is being mounted at Balfour Library, Buchanan Street, Balfour G63 0TW to mark the 200th Anniversary of the Monklands-Kirkintilloch Railway and 170th Anniversary of the Forth & Clyde Junction Railway and Balfour Station. It will be held during normal library hours from Monday, 18 May to Saturday, 27 June 2026. [200 Years of Scottish Railways Mini-Exhibition | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Rescue Ships and the Convoys: Saving Lives during the Second World War** Talk by Victoria Schofield at the Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Hay St, Perth PH1 5HR, 6.30pm – 8.00pm on Tuesday, 19 May 2026.

[Lecture | The Rescue Ships and the Convoys: Saving Lives during the Second World War](#)

■ **The Kings and Queens buried in Dunfermline Abbey** Talk by Dr Michael Penman to Dunfermline Historical Society, 7.30pm on Thursday, 21 May 2026 at Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline KY12 7PD. [Dunfermline Historical Society | Local history for West Fife](#)

■ **The Romans Were Here: Castlehillwood Dun, Cambusbarron** Guided tour by Dr Murray Cook of this complex and nationally important broch-like structure. Cost £5 and only 24 places. Booking essential. 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Monday, 25 May 2026. Contact: [m.j.cookstirling35@gmail.com](mailto:m.j.cookstirling35@gmail.com)

■ **Spotlight: Periods** Talk to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh in the Physicians' Gallery, 11 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

[Spotlight: Periods | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Cracks, chips and copies: discovering new lives for the Stone of Destiny** Online talk by Professor Sally Foster hosted by the National Records of Scotland 6.00pm – 7.00pm on Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

[Cracks, chips and copies: discovering new lives for the Stone of Destiny | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Rise and Decline of Tourism at Rumbling Bridge** Talk by Dr Phil Back, 7.00pm on Saturday, 30 May 2026 at Moubray Hall, 2 Gartwhinzean Road, Powmill, Dollar FK14 7LW.

To book, email [moubrayhall@gmail.com](mailto:moubrayhall@gmail.com)

- **William Sancho and the Recovery of a Black Georgian Life in the Archive** Online talk by Oliver Ayers and Liberty Collard hosted by the National Records of Scotland, 4.30 – 5.30pm on Wednesday, 10 June 2026. [William Sancho and the Recovery of a Black Georgian Life in the Archive Tickets, Wednesday, Jun 10 from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm | Eventbrite](#)
- **The Viking Great Army in Northern Britain** Live webinar and Q&A with Tom Horne, organised by History Scotland, 6.30pm – 7.30pm on Wednesday, 24 June 2026. [The Viking Great Army in Northern Britain Tickets, Wednesday, Jun 24 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Picts and Vikings, Northern Scotland AD 800-1000** Live webinar and Q&A with Dr David Griffiths, organised by History Scotland, 6.30pm – 7.30pm on Wednesday, 8 July 2026. [Picts and Vikings, Northern Scotland AD 800-1000 Tickets, Wednesday, Jul 8 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Campaigning for Edinburgh: The Cockburn Association 1875-2049** by Cliff Hague and Richard Rodger with DJ Johnston-Smith and Terry Levinthal. Birlinn Ltd, June 2025, paperback, ISBN 9780859767286, £25.00. [Campaigning for Edinburgh | Birlinn Ltd - Independent Scottish Publisher - buy books online](#)
- **A History of the Scottish Labour Party** by David Torrance. Edinburgh University Press, January 2026, 320pp, paperback: ISBN 9781399544801, £24.99; hardback: ISBN 9781399544795, £95.00; Ebook (app): ISBN 9781399544825, £24.99; Ebook (PDF): ISBN 9781399544818, £24.99. [A History of the Scottish Labour Party](#)
- **Edinburgh: A New History** by Alistair Moffat. Birlinn Ltd, March 2026, 224pp, paperback, £9.99, ISBN: 9781780279756. [Edinburgh: A New History | Birlinn Ltd - Independent Scottish Publisher - buy books online](#)
- **Glasgow – A New History** by Alistair Moffat. Birlinn Ltd, September 2025, 224pp, hardback, ISBN 9781780279589, £14.99. [Glasgow: A New History | Birlinn Ltd - Independent Scottish Publisher - buy books online](#)
- **Bearsden: Sharks, Romans, Coffee shops** by Malcolm Hill, edited by Maura McRobbie. [Gavin's Mill - Now available in our book nook "Bearsden - Sharks,... | Facebook](#)
- **Forfar Photo Omnibus** by Alex Whyte. Forfar and District Historical Society, 2026, 180 b&w photos. [Photos in new book show Forfar buildings and streets lost to history](#)
- **Losing Sight of the Shore: Scotland's Medical Explorers 1815-1915** by Wendell McConnaha. Whittles Publishing, June 2025, 192pp, paperback ISBN 9781849955942, £18.99. [Losing Sight of the Shore – Porto Press](#)
- **Wrighting Wrongs – the story of a Dundee dynasty** by Roger Illsley. 160pp, £37.50. [Wrighting Wrongs – the story of a Dundee dynasty – The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee](#)
- **Northern Isles No More - The story of emigration from Orkney and Shetland since 1700** by Marjory Harper. Luath Press Ltd, 2026, paperback ISBN 9781804252789, £16.99; ebook ISBN 9781804253373, £12.99. [Emigration from the Northern Isles: Stories of Resilience – Luath Press](#)
- **The Local Historian** £5.00. [The Local Historian Volume 56 Number 1 February 2026 || Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)
- **Local History News** £3.00. [Local History News Number 158 February 2026 || Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)

## HISTORY NEWS

- **Charles Fraser-Mackintosh** (1828-1901) was an MP, lawyer, property developer and an enthusiastic collector of historical books, manuscripts and other artifacts. A partnership of public organisations and university researchers are planning to digitise and conserve 100 items from his collection. Workshops and other public events will also be held as part of the **Invernessiana** project to celebrate Fraser-Mackintosh's cultural contribution to the Highlands. [Community archive project to celebrate Inverness antiquarian - BBC News](#)
- More than £7m of National Lottery funding is to be invested in four town centres across Scotland to save at-risk "heritage gems". The Heritage Fund money will be split between Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street, Airdrie in North Lanarkshire, Girvan in South Ayrshire and Tarbert in Argyll and Bute. [Town centre 'heritage gems' to be restored with £7m of lottery funds - BBC News](#)
- Congratulations to SLHF member organisation the **Abertay Historical Society** with the news received from the Local Studies Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) that *A Beacon of Curiosity, Essays on Social and Industrial History in Honour of Enid Gauldie* has been awarded

Winner of the Alan Ball Award for Best Small Publication or Journal 2025. This is a new category for the award introduced this year, so it is especially pleasing that the Abertay Historical Society is the first recipient of this.

- Congratulations also to another Scottish (and Dundee) publication by Roger Illsley: ***Wrighting the Wrongs, the Story of a Dundee Dynasty*** which has won the Hardback category of the awards.
- Sir Billy Connolly has created an audio guide for **Kelvingrove Museum**. Read more about his choice of subjects: [Sir Billy Connolly creates audio guide for Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum - BBC News](#)

## WATCH AND LISTEN

- [U Yesterday](#) is a channel available to watch online or you can get it on Freesat and Freeview. It's a catch up on old ITV material including history-based documentaries.
- [Antiques Roadshow](#) Whilst it's not currently running there is a large number of previous episodes. In a 2024 edition from Thirlestane Castle in the Scottish Borders you get to hear about a logbook from the Dam Busters raid. Among the Scottish items are a dagger from the Glencoe massacre and rare works by artist Richard Wawro.
- [The Tony Blair Story](#) was an extensive 3-part documentary broadcast on Channel 4 from mid-February onwards and offers a perspective on a somewhat controversial political figure.
- **Rewinder on BBC Radio4** is presented by Greg James and looks at what's interesting in the BBC archives. A recent episode had a mix including the possible demise of fish and chip shops, the history of computer dating and the story of a man who built a 25 ft. submarine in his front garden as well as John Lennon dealing with fallout of his comment that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus and that's just in one [episode!](#)
- [Alice Roberts: Our Hospital through Time](#) It does what it says on the tin. A five-part series on Channel 5 and starts in 1123 when a courtier of King Henry 1 returns from the Holy Lands and founded a priory with a hospital attached claiming to have a vision of St. Bartholomew's Hospital 900 years later. We get tales from history and also a perspective on the current work of the hospital.
- [Aftermath: Hunt for the Anthrax Killer](#) The 2001 anthrax crisis in the US has lost some of its sting in the years since, slipping into the footnotes of the post-9/11 "war on terror". Hosted by Jeremiah Crowell, CBC's podcast expertly reopened this disquieting chapter of American history, teleporting us back to the time when poisonous white powder began appearing in the mail, and asking whether the authorities ever truly solved the case. As well as zooming in on the blockbuster parts of the tale (FBI raids, suspicious scientists), it also considered the human casualties of this lethal act of bioterrorism.
- [The Versatile Voice of Kenneth Williams: a Centenary Celebration](#) is an archive feast that reflects not just his comic genius but much more besides. There are two recommendations 'Streets of London'(1980) and 'The Law Game'(1988).
- [Nairn across Britain](#) was a series first transmitted in 1972 and includes an episode when the journey is from Leeds to Edinburgh using the railway system and reflecting on the many changes including visiting places that may have had their live line severed as a result of the Beeching cutbacks.
- [The Dunblane Tapes](#) was aired on Channel 4 in late February as we moved towards 30 years since that dreadful event. Its focus is the families and also the campaign to ban handguns known as the Snowdrop Campaign. A central feature is previously unseen footage filmed by a bereaved parent.
- Likewise the programme on the [BBC Dunblane: How Britain Banned Handguns](#) follows a similar theme with some of the same participants.
- **A History of Britain** presented by Simon Schama is enjoying a re-run of this excellent series on the BBC. You can catch up by watching [it](#) on BBC iPlayer with an archive of some 15 episodes.
- [Open Door](#) was a series broadcast in the 1970s where activists and groups broadcast issues that were close to their hearts including racism, femininity,
- **Strike on Iran: the Nuclear Question** is by a strange coincidence available to view on PBS America—perhaps a bit close for comfort, but just in case you've not seen or heard enough.  
<https://www.pbsamerica.co.uk/schedule>
- A companion piece to this programme could be [Shock and War Iraq 20 years On](#) on BBC Radio4.
- There's a welcome return to a very interesting radio programme called [Prime Minister's Props](#). David Cannadine explores how an object or item can come to define a political leader. Episodes include Margaret Thatcher's handbag and Clement Attlee's family car.
- [The Week in History](#) is an excellent 5-minute programme on BBC Radio 4. It's become a highlight of this listeners evening.

- [The Second Map](#) is an excellent 3-part series on BBC Radio4 which looks in some detail on the Second World War conflict on the Asian front. It's a powerful combination of oral histories, well presented by Kavita Puri. It makes for a riveting listen.
- **A Family History of Wartime Women** is a new podcast hosted by Jen Baldwin from findmypast.co.uk. In this 4-part mini-series she explores the story of Lucy Worsley's grandmother Edna. It's available to watch and listen to on [YouTube](#).
- [Archive on 4](#) keeps delivering top quality programmes—a recent one on the departure of Harold Wilson some 50 years ago is well worth your time. Carolyn Quinn examines the various theories about the reason for his departure. There is also an episode about the origins and development of [Concorde](#).
- **Witness History** continues to be worth a listen including an episode about the time when Elvis visited [Scotland!](#) It was all unplanned but made a fan's day.
- A welcome repeat of **The Singer Story: Made in Clydebank** which is an excellent documentary and also available on iPlayer. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00051z7>
- [The Unseen Alistair Cooke](#) is a profile first broadcast in 2008. It's described as a revealing portrait of one of the most famous broadcasters who penned Letter from America for 58 years.
- [Noiser](#) is an independent British Podcast company which has a substantial range of history podcasts. You can get anything from Alexander the Great to the history of the fridge...many hours of top-quality listening.

## WEBSITES

- **The Forestry Memories Image Library** is a manifestation of the partnership between the University of the Highlands and Islands, Scottish Forestry and the Scottish Forestry Trust, based on a wider research project into the social history of forestry in Scotland in the twentieth century.  
<http://www.forestrymemories.org.uk>

## BLOGS

- Attendees at our 2019 conference in Clydebank marking the centenary of the Forestry Commission will remember a fascinating talk from Dr Coralie Mills concerning her dendrochronological work. In this blog she looks at some of the highlights of her career. [A dendro half-dozen: Six of the most fascinating tree-ring discoveries in Scotland - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)
- Sir Thomas Dick Lauder was an administrator in manufacturing and fisheries during the 1840s, required to travel extensively around Scotland's coasts. In his journeys, he sketched detailed scenes of the coastlines and fishing villages he visited. National Records of Scotland Conservator Jackie Thorburn shares excerpts from one of Sir Thomas's sketchbooks and tells us how she stabilised and preserved this fascinating record of one man's working life. [Conservation of a Sketchbook – Open Book](#)
- **A Jacobite abroad: Queer lives in the archives** An overlooked queer partnership surfaces in the archive of 18th-century Jacobite-turned-art-dealer James Byres. Through coded traces and missing records, Indigo Dunphy-Smith uncovers how queer lives survived scrutiny. [A Jacobite abroad | National Library of Scotland](#)
- Discover the fascinating story behind William Adam's unrealised 18th-century garden design for **Duff House**. [The Garden That Never Grew: William Adam's Lost Vision for Duff House - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)
- A recent post by the **National Records of Scotland** was inspired by the Winter Olympics. The heroic efforts of the GB curling teams came up a little short of gold this time, but we can still take a pride in having brought the sport to the world. [Scotland's ain game of Curling – Open Book](#)
- Also from the **National Records of Scotland** comes a look at the life of the remarkable Scottish suffragist and equality campaigner, Jessie Chrystal Macmillan:  
[Jessie Chrystal Macmillan \(1872-1937\) - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

## QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

'Trust is gained in teaspoons and lost in buckets.' - Old US military saying quoted in *The Knowledge*.

**Clish-Clash** is edited by Steve Connelly, ably assisted by Linda Clark, James Kennedy and Andrew Jones. Thanks also to Marissa Trimble, SCA; Chris Fleet, NLS and Jocelyn Grant, NRS for contributions.

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