SLHF NEWS

■ The next SLHF Conference and AGM will be held in the AK Bell Library, Perth on Friday 7 October. With an interesting range of speakers and periods stretching from pre-history to the 20th century, ‘Safe as Houses’ looks at a variety of defensive buildings in different parts of Scotland. Book and pay online or send your booking form and cheque by post. £20 for members, £25 for non-members without lunch. Soup and sandwich lunch at £10 is also available.

https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-2016-conference-and-agm

■ Trustees and other help wanted! There are vacancies on the Trustees committee. There are four or five Trustees’ meetings each year, currently in Edinburgh. Trustees have to be individual members, because of charity regulations, but many of the current Trustees began as organisational members and joined individually when they became Trustees. Ideally Trustees should come from different parts of Scotland. The principal requirement is enthusiasm for local history, but we’d particularly welcome people with some computer skills.

However you don’t have to be on a committee to help:
- Offer to review books
- Contribute news items
- Write an article or short note for SLH
- Proof check SLH
- Suggest topics and speakers for the conference
- Be a speaker
- Help to organise a Walk and Talk event in your area: suggestions for summer 2017 are welcome
- Share your ideas and activities with other members.

If you would like to help with SLHF activities we’d love to hear from you – choose ‘get involved’ at https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ Amang the rigs o’ barley: a cartographic tour of Nithsdale and Annandale in the 18th and early 19th century.

This temporary map exhibition was compiled by DAMP (Dumfries Archival Mapping Project) and displays a variety of original and facsimile estate plans and other maps. The above photograph shows the exhibition as it was displayed in Dumfries Museum from 12 Mar. - 18 June. From 3 Sept. - 31 Oct. it moves to Annan Museum, with some different maps chosen to reflect the local area.

http://www.damproject.org/
http://www.annan.org.uk/events/index.html

CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

Members only: To receive notification of the newsletter by email or to be removed from the mailing list, choose Sign up for our newsletter on the website contacts page.

Scottish Local History Forum
Box 103, 12 South Bridge © SLHF 2016
Edinburgh EH1 1DD ISSN 2055-6411
Here’s an eye-catching name for a new museum! The **Devil’s Porridge Museum** at Eastriggs, near Gretna, tells the remarkable story of the ‘greatest munitions factory on earth’. Established in 1915, stretching for 9 miles, 30,000 navvies were employed to build the factory which made cordite, a deadly combination of nitroglycerine and guncotton, the ‘devil’s porridge’. To house the workers, Eastriggs and Gretna were designed on garden city principles, and the Museum is run by volunteers from **Eastriggs and Gretna Heritage Group**. The museum originated over 17 years ago with a display in a local church, which expanded into a factory building, then over half a million pounds was raised for a purpose built museum which opened in 2014. There are also WWI and WWII displays, and an exhibit on the 1915 Quintinshill rail disaster. http://www.devilsporridge.org.uk/

**Peterhead Prison Museum** opened in June in the Admiralty Gateway, a new use for part of the 1888 jail. Displays of photographs and memorabilia and tours of cells led by prison warders in costume describe conditions in the jail through time. There is also an exhibit of the RNLI (Lifeboats).

April-Sept. open 10.00-18.00; Oct.-Mar. 10.00-16.00. The Museum will be closed on 27 Aug for the appropriately themed Jailhouse Rock concert! http://www.peterheadprisonmuseum.com/

**Elgin Library** hosts talks for the **Spirit of Moray Book Festival**, 13-17 Sept. There are some talks on historical themes: **Herring Tales** (14 Sept.); **Standing up for Scotland: a century of Scottish nationalism**, (16 Sept.). Most talks are £5.

http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_99655.html Prizewinners of a short story competition about Elgin in the 18th or 19th century will be announced at the Festival. The competition is associated with the heritage project **Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere** which is to be completed at the end of 2016, as a visitor experience describing Elgin’s history through 1000 years. http://ccc-heritage.co.uk/

Elgin Library will be holding workshops on Scottish family history on 7 Sept (2-4.30pm) and 23 Sept. (9.30-12). Book in advance, 01343 562603. £25.

**You are here! A journey through maps** is the National Library of Scotland’s new temporary exhibition which runs in NLS’s George IV Bridge building in Edinburgh until 3 April 2017. Taking inspiration from the addresses we write as children (my bedroom, street, town... the universe) the display starts with plans of the Library building, then expands to street plans of Edinburgh, maps of Scotland, British Isles, Europe and the World, and discusses many aspects of maps. Dating from the oldest map of Scotland (ca.1560) to a smells map of Edinburgh (!) there are unusual, beautiful and quirky maps. Look out for the explanatory booklets which give more information – to avoid cluttering the display, labels are brief. http://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/maps

There is a talk on the exhibition on 28 Sept. http://www.nls.uk/events#sep

**The National Library of Scotland** has issued the following information about reduced hours:

**New Opening Hours for Maps Reading Room**

Over recent years, our online maps collection has become increasingly popular, and many readers are accessing our collections from the comfort of their home or office. As a result, the opening hours of the Maps Reading Room will change from 4th July. The Reading Room will open three days a week, with Maps staff working on digitisation projects and other collection tasks on days the Maps Reading Room is closed. This will greatly enhance discovery and access to this collection for the future.

The new opening hours will be:
- Monday 9.30 - 17.00
- Tuesday 9.30 - 17.00
- Thursday 9.30 - 17.00

Maps staff will continue to respond to e-mail and telephone enquiries 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. On Saturdays a map assistant will be based in the Multimedia Room at George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. They will provide map expertise, and assistance in viewing online mapping. http://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/maps/opening-hours

There are over 150,000 images of maps from our collection now available to view online, as well as the latest Ordnance Survey digital mapping. http://maps.nls.uk/

**The Carnegie Library in Ayr** has also reduced opening hours. Formerly there were three evening openings (until 19.30), but from 1 Aug. there are two, on Tues. and Thurs. 9.00-19.00. Other opening times are 9.00-17.00 Mon., Fri., Sat.; 10.00-17.00 Wed. http://www.south ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/branches/carnegie-library.aspx

**The Moving Image Archive of NLS** (formerly the Scottish Screen Archive) ‘holds a rich variety of representations of Scottish life from the past 120 years’.

**Made on Our Land: exploring Scotland’s rural life through film** is a seven-date tour of archive film screenings from the Outer Hebrides to the Scottish Borders, exploring the rural lives and landscapes of Scotland.

Future screenings are at:


In September the **Moving Image Archive** will move to the newly redesigned Kelving Hall in Glasgow, and NLS will also open an interactive space which offers access to NLS’s digital resources.

http://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/kelving-hall

**National Museums of Scotland** are hosting a conference and panel discussion, **Scotland and Celtic Identities**, on 10 Sept.

http://www.archhighland.org.uk/calendar.asp?intent=details&eventID=3240

It starts on 3 Sept. with a day of talks arranged by East Lothian Antiquarian Field Naturalists’ Society in St Mary’s Church, Haddington. *Union, Rebellion, then Enlightenment* looks at the impact of national events on East Lothian in the 18th century. There are also several guided walks. The programme is at: [http://www.johngraycentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ELC_Archaeology-Fortnight-2016_1-1.pdf](http://www.johngraycentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/ELC_Archaeology-Fortnight-2016_1-1.pdf)


### SOCIETIES’ NEWS

**The Festival of Architecture** was launched earlier in the year by the [Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland](http://www.foa2016.com/) (RIAS) as part of the *2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design*. The programme is available at [http://www.foa2016.com/](http://www.foa2016.com/)

The [Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland](http://www.ahss.org.uk/) (AHSS) is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and is also organising events throughout Scotland. [http://www.ahss.org.uk/events/](http://www.ahss.org.uk/events/)

Aberdeen: 7 Sept. talk *Union Street: college to citadel*

Glasgow: 17 Sept. tour *Tales of the George Square statues*

Perthshire: 23 Sept. 

*North Perthshire study day*

Pittenweem: 8 Oct. tour and talk *Pittenweem Priory study day*


Castle Douglas: 15 Oct. talk *A tale of two E Tongland ruins*

Haddo House: 27 Oct. conference *Castles to Clocktowers* (with [North East Scotland Preservation Trust](http://nestspt.org.uk/))


Fife Family History Society are having a *Family and Local History Fair* in Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline on 8 October 2016. £15. [http://fifefhs.org/family-history-fair](http://fifefhs.org/family-history-fair)

The Society’s *Family Research Archive* moved to Cupar Library on 20 August.

**Doors Open Days** are in September throughout Scotland: [http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/)

Tom Green (one of two Scottish Co-ordinators representing the interests of the parties in Belgium who are responsible for the campaign to extend the [Scottish Memorial Park](http://www.longroadtopasschendaele.be/)) has sent information about the fund-raising project:

> “This monument was unveiled in August 2007 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele and this is a photographic account of what took place: [http://archief.wo1.be/jwe/2007/Augustus/Zonnebeke2508/body1.htm](http://archief.wo1.be/jwe/2007/Augustus/Zonnebeke2508/body1.htm)

The Memorial was the idea of Erwin Ureel, then a Warrant Officer in the Belgian Army, who has a great love of all things Scottish and he was determined to honour the Scots who were killed.

The campaign now is to extend the Memorial Park for the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele to include a series of larger than life size steel silhouettes in the form of Scots soldiers, Highland and Lowland, marching to battle. This pays tribute to the war photographs of the day and given that the land is almost flat where the monument is the intention is to create a striking visual homage to Scotland’s soldiers at the time which corresponds with the monument.”

A website is under development: [http://www.longroadtopasschendaele.be/](http://www.longroadtopasschendaele.be/)

**ARCH** (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands) events:


The British Society of Sports History Conference is at Edinburgh University, John McIntyre Centre, Pollock Halls, 2-3 Sept. The draft programme is at: [http://sportinhistory.org/articles/20160314](http://sportinhistory.org/articles/20160314)

**29th Annual Conference 2017, Scottish Association of Family History Societies (SAFHS), Association of Scottish Genealogists & Researchers in Archives (ASGRA)** will be held in North Queensferry, 22 April 2017. To register your interest in having a stand, email the conference secretary: genealogyscotland@gmail.com.
UNIVERSITIES

■ St Andrews University has worked with local businesses to present a 6-week programme celebrating 175 years of Scottish photography. St Andrews Photography Festival runs from 1 Aug. to 11 Sept. Venues throughout the town (especially cafes and restaurants) are displaying early and modern photographs, and there is also a full programme of talks and workshops, too many to list here. Download a PDF programme and find out more at: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/news/archive/2016/title,555859,en.php

WEBSITES

■ Scotland’s People website will be unavailable from Wed. 7 September 2016 at 23.59 (BST). This is due to essential planned work which is taking place over this time. The work is expected to be completed and service resumed by Monday 12 September 2016. Please check Facebook or Twitter for updates. Customers visiting The Scotland’s People Centre in Edinburgh or using one of the local family history centres will be able to access records as normal on Thursday 8 and Friday 9 September 2016.

■ SAMPHIRE: Scottish Atlantic Maritime Past: Heritage, Investigation, Research, Education. Search the maritime archaeology sites at: http://blogs.wessexarch.co.uk/samphire/2016/05/04/exploring-the-samphire-discoveries/

NEW PUBLICATIONS


■ The birth of the modern Highlands. The Grantown Society, 2016. 67pp. Illus. £12.99 (£15.00 inc p & p). Based on an exhibition by the Society. info@thegrantownssociety.org


Cairt: the newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum, 29 (July 2016). ISSN 1477-4186
Includes information on:
- Progress in digitising old Ordnance Survey maps of England & Wales.; 3D viewer for maps
- Self-service photography is now permitted in NLS Special Collections and Maps Reading Rooms – a trial to allow it in the General Reading Room starts soon
- Call for papers for a workshop/seminar in February 2017 on recent historical research on maps in Scotland
- A Scottish maps calendar for 2017 has been published by Birlinn, with NLS.
- MacDonald plans collection in Aberdeen University (see a fuller article in Scottish Local History, 95).
http://www.nls.uk/media/1247497/cairt29.pdf

- Investigating medieval or later rural settlement in Galloway Forest Park
- Chasing the deer: poaching in the early modern Highlands
- Performing the past: historical pageants in Scotland
- Scandinavian migration routes and identity in Viking Age Scotland
- From Badenoch to Badenoch
- David Mitchell and Mitchell’s Hospital, Old Aberdeen

Scottish Local History, 95, Autumn 2016.
- Alexander Ogg: land surveyor, farmer and gold prospector, Aberdeenshire and New Zealand. Part 2 New Zealand
- Scotland and the Flemish people: an investigation into a significant medieval immigrant group
- Echoes in the garden: the last days of Granton Castle
- The adoption of a Neolithic monument: Carn Glas
- Captain George Scott of Dysart in the Venetian naval service
- Useful local history sources 3: School log books
- Notes & queries
- News
- Book Reviews

WHAT’S ON

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