

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity SCO15850

ISSUE 23

JULY 2017

ISSN 2055-6411

SLHF NEWS



The Walk & Talk outing to Milngavie on 18 May was a great success with about 28 participants. The weather was kind and Paul Bishop, Niall Logan and Donald Shankland (above) gave a splendid introduction to the mills of Milngavie, and the residential developments made by John Woodburn around 1900, as Milngavie became a commuter town. Thanks to Baldernock Local History Group, Milngavie Heritage Centre and Gavin's Mill, recently restored to become a new community centre run by volunteers.

Unfortunately reservations for the Crichton Walk & Talk at Dumfries in June did not meet the minimum target of ten, with only eight bookings initially, and it was therefore cancelled as we could not expect a speaker to travel from Glasgow for such a small audience. Frustratingly, three late enquiries were made on the day before the event, which could have made it viable.

Many thanks to Graham Roberts for making the arrangements.

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
Edinburgh EH1 1DD

© SLHF 2017
ISSN 2055-6411



▲ Niall Logan describes Gavin's Mill.

Field experiment: Paul Bishop tests a lump of waste material with hydrochloric acid! ► And narrowly misses falling in the river. ▼



■ All the fun of the fair!

The **SLHF annual conference and AGM** will be held in the AK Bell Library in Perth on Friday 27 October. With the theme '**Fairs, Fêtes and Festivals**' we shall be entertained by illustrated talks about high days and holidays, such as gala days and excursions for adults and children in Midlothian and Dundee. Community fundraising through historical pageants and bazaars not only benefitted good causes but also provided exciting days of amusement for large numbers of people. The Clavie fire festival is an example of an annual local event with a long history. Staff from the Riverside Museum, Glasgow, will talk about fairgrounds, their recent exhibition. The programme will be circulated with *Scottish Local History* In August. Online booking is now available at: <http://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-conference-agm-2-017>

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ The Albert Institute (now **The McManus, Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum**) was established in 1867 as the first public library, civic museum and art gallery in Dundee. Funds were raised mainly through individual subscriptions. The original 168 subscribers (in 1863) included well-known industrialists, but most were small employers and professional men about whom little is currently known, what today we'd term the middle classes, who were often in the vanguard of civic, cultural and social reform.

The aim of the **McManus 168 Project** (generously funded by a grant of £10,000 from Heritage Lottery) is to commemorate and to understand these original subscribers, by collecting information and examining their backgrounds and motivations.

Guided by two prominent historians, Professors Jim Tomlinson and Chris Whatley, both of whom have worked on Victorian Dundee, with a planning group including local archivists and genealogists, 30 enthusiastic 'lead' researchers with some experience of historical research have been identified through links with local history and heritage groups. These lead researchers will mentor up to 70 'novice' researchers, who are new to investigative work of this kind. A 'toolkit' to assist the researchers in accessing and collating information on the subscribers is in preparation. Training for all those taking part will be provided from August 2017 and the project will run until May 2018.

The main lasting legacy from the project will be a web archive (hosted by the McManus website) with all the information on the original subscribers easily accessible, and free. Project participants will also generate articles for specialist and generalist readers, host a travelling exhibition and give community talks.

The project is open to anyone who wants to connect with Dundee heritage. <http://www.themcmanus-dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mcmanus168.pdf>
<http://www.mcmanus.co.uk/content/news/quest-find-out-more-about-museum-benefactors>

■ **Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries** – the first Carnegie Library - has reopened with a spectacular extension, which incorporates museum and gallery space, cafe, and a local studies reading room. New exhibitions include Dunfermline's industries, transport, domestic life and royal Dunfermline.
<http://www.onfife.com/venues/dunfermline-carnegie-library-galleries>

■ **Aberdeen Central Library** celebrates its 125th anniversary in July with a month long festival of free events. <http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/library125/>

Their website of images of 125 Treasures has been developed over the last couple of years and is currently available at:

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library_Service/Events/lib_Library125_Treasures.asp

There are plans to create a dedicated site soon.

Other images from the collection are at:

<http://www.silvercityvault.org.uk/>

■ **Insch Connection Museum's** 2017 exhibition is '*Our Bobbies: policing in the North East*'. This community museum is open in the former railway station on Wednesdays and Sundays, 2 April-29 October, 13.30-17.00.

<http://www.inschmuseum.org.uk/>

■ The **John Gray Centre** (JGC) in Haddington is home to Haddington branch library, a museum and East Lothian Council Archives and Local History. The exhibition '*Deeds not Word: 100 years of the 'Rural'*' celebrates 100 years of the Scottish Women's [formerly 'Rural'] Institute. Affectionately known by many as 'the Sweerie' or 'the Rural', the movement was started by a farmer's wife and suffragette, Catherine Blair, with the first meeting held at Longniddry Village Hall in July 1917. It can also be viewed online and a travelling version is touring East Lothian.

<http://www.johngraycentre.org/deeds-not-words-100-years-of-the-rural-panels/>

<http://www.johngraycentre.org/deeds-not-words-100-years-of-the-rural-objects/>

The majority of the JGC's 80,000 images are in the catalogue on the website, and around 10,000 images, digitised by volunteers, will shortly be available online. Volunteers have almost completed a project to digitise and transcribe the poor rolls for East Lothian and the minutes of the parochial board are being indexed. This work will create a fantastic resource for family and social historians to search for a particular individual. The digitised versions of the poor rolls will soon be fully available in the centre with sample images available online.

<http://www.johngraycentre.org/the-collection/>

SOCIETIES

■ **Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies** day conference will be held on 16 September, at the Millport Field Centre. The topic is *Millport: habitat, heritage, holidays*. £15 includes morning coffee & lunch. Programme is at:

<https://www.slhf.org/news/ayrshire-federatogramtion-historical-societies-conference-coming-millport>

■ **Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society** is celebrating its 70th anniversary and has announced the 2017-18 programme.

<http://aanhs.markprovan.com/Syllabus/>

■ **Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust** has produced a brochure of events from April-October for *Perth and Kinross Archaeology Year 2017*.

http://www.pkht.org.uk/files/7714/9012/2005/PKAY17_Programme_FINAL.pdf

■ Volunteers from the **Friends of Dundee City Archives** (FDCA) are collaborating with the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust (KSHT), another Scottish-based charity, in checking the datasets created from the original registers for the Scottish Cemetery in Calcutta.

<http://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/record/hes/296998/india-kolkata-karaya-road-scottish-cemetery/rcahms>

www.fdca.org.uk

■ **Inchinnan Historical Interest Group** has attracted funding from various bodies to investigate the history and archaeology of All Hallows Church at Inchinnan. https://www.facebook.com/pg/InchinnanHistoricalInterestGroup/about/?ref=page_internal

■ The **Renfrewshire Tapestry Project** originated with the Renfrewshire Creative Networks Heritage & Tourism Sub-group, and has now developed into a stand-alone project led by the **Renfrewshire Tapestry Group**. The area covered is based on Timothy Pont's late 16th century map of Renfrewshire, so includes Inverclyde and parts of Glasgow. History workshops were held in June.

Phase 1 of the project creates small postcard sized Paisley Patterns to be incorporated into a Panel for 2017 to support the launch of Paisley's bid to be City of Culture in 2021. Once funding has been secured Phase II will be the historical research required to support the design process, and Phase III will be the production of final art work and tapestry panels.

Find out more at:

<http://www.renfrewshiretapestry.org.uk/>

UNIVERSITIES

■ **Edinburgh University Centre for Research Collections** and **Strathclyde University Archives and Special Collections** are collaborating to catalogue their holdings of the papers of Sir Patrick Geddes (1854-1932), a pioneer of city planning and society, and the environmental movement. The two-year project, supported by the Wellcome Trust, began on October 2016 and will conserve materials and bring together catalogue records of these separate holdings. Find out more about **Evergreen: Patrick Geddes and the Environment in Equilibrium** at: <http://libraryblogs.is.ed.ac.uk/patrickgeddes/>

WEBSITES

■ **Scottish History Society** publications have been digitised and are now available on the **National Library of Scotland** website. Since 1886 the Society has aimed to publish contemporary primary sources. With over 180 volumes covering the 12th to 20th centuries, this is an unrivalled source of original documents, and with searchable text this offers opportunities for fresh discoveries. It is intended to digitise future volumes after they have been in print for 3 years.

<http://digital.nls.uk/scottish-history-society-publications/>

■ The **British Newspaper Archive** has added more pages from Scottish newspapers:

-*Glasgow Evening Citizen*, 1879-1892 (total covered 1866-1892)

-*Glasgow Evening Post* 1881-1890 (total covered 1867-1890)

-*Annandale Observer and Advertiser*

-*Fraserburgh Herald and Northern Counties' Advertiser*

-*Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette*

-*John O'Groat Journal*

-*Montrose, Arbroath and Brechin Review; and Forfar and Kincardineshire Advertiser*

-*Motherwell Times*

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

BNA has mounted a free hour-long 'webinar', or seminar in a webcast, which gives advice on how to use the website. Find out more about **Making the most of the British Newspaper Archive** at:

<http://blog.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/2017/05/28/our-first-webinar-a-review/>

PUBLICATIONS

■ **Enlightenment Edinburgh: a guide**, by Sheila Szatkowski. Birlinn, 2017. 128pp.; illus. Pbk. £12.99. (ISBN 9781780273730)

<https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Enlightenment-Edinburgh.html>

■ **Aberdeen city centre history tour**. Amberley, 2017. 96pp; 50 illus. Pbk. £6.99. (ISBN 978-1-4456-6658-7) <https://www.amberley-books.com/aberdeen-city-centre-history-tour.html>

■ **Glasgow: the postcard collection**, by Adam Smith. Amberley, 2017. 96pp.; 160 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-1-4456-6738-6)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/glasgow-the-postcard-collection.html>

■ **Secret Peebles**, by Liz Hanson. Amberley, 2017. 96pp.; 80 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-1-4456-5924-4)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/secret-peeble.html>

■ **Eriskay, where I was born**, by Angus Edward MacInnes. Birlinn, 2017. Pbk. £12.99. (ISBN 9781780273815) <https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Eriskay-Where-I-Was-Born.html>

■ **Edinburgh south side through time**, by Jack Gillon and Fraser Parkinson. Amberley, 2017. 96pp.; 189 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-1-4456-6166-7)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/edinburgh-south-side-through-time.html>

■ **Retour: newsletter of the Scottish Records Association**, 27, Spring 2017. (ISSN 1479-9634)

Articles include news from around the archives; Joan Eardley exhibition; The Campbells of the Ark.

<http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/>

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>