

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity SCO15850

ISSUE 31

NOVEMBER 2018

ISSN 2055-6411

SLHF NEWS

■ The **SLHF Conference** had a good turnout of about 65 participants on October 25 for the theme '**After the War is over: the legacy of WW1**'. With so many local groups researching Great War anniversary projects over the last four or five years, the Forum has avoided the topic of WW1, but the centenary of the Armistice seemed a good opportunity to explore the aftermath.



Talk themes included remembrance: the significance and history of the poppy; the usefulness of rolls of honour for local history; illustrations of war memorial halls; and what happened to the captured German artillery sent as war trophies around the country to mixed receptions. Land reform and change was another sub-theme with talks on rural land settlement schemes and the part played by speculators in the break-up of landed estates. Consequences for returning soldiers, employment, housing, Spanish flu etc. were described in Aberdeenshire, and through a display provided by Gairloch Heritage Museum. A film of local Perth school children researching the War, was a popular lunch-break item. Research sources was another thread running through the talks. In spite of two speakers dropping out at the last minute, one through illness, the other mistaking the date, this was a full programme. Thanks to Graham Clark for organising the event and to our President Chris Whatley for his amiable, if strict, chairing!

Next year's conference will be organised by Steve Connelly, and as it is the centenary of the Forestry Commission, the topic will be on various aspects of wood: forests, wooden artefacts, industries, etc. Do send ideas for talks and suggestions for speakers – see the contact details in the panel.

■ The **Trustees Committee** for 2018-19 was elected at the AGM. Most faces are familiar, but a new recruit is James Kennedy, who is currently Chair of Loch Ard History Group and a member of the Strathard Heritage Network.

Some of the office bearers have changed responsibilities. After many years of service John Irvine has stepped down as Chair, to be replaced by Paul Bishop; John continues to be involved with marketing the Forum. Jan Bateman remains as Treasurer, but has been relieved of her double role as Secretary by Bill Sadler, and also Finlay McKichan as Minutes Secretary, who also keeps an eye on constitutional issues. Don Martin continues as journal editor, assisted by Douglas Lockhart, who also deals with journal distribution and sales, and is now Deputy-Chair. Other Trustees are Steve Connelly (conference), Diana Webster (*Clish-Clash* editor), and Graeme Cruickshank. 11 of the 12 Trustee posts are filled, but another volunteer would be welcome to bring the Committee up to strength.

Sadly we have lost Graham Clark who has been conference and events organiser for the past two years and Tony Cooke. Thanks to both of them for their contributions.

■ The next issue of **Scottish Local History** will appear in the New Year. We are keen to have as wide a range of topics and authors as possible, and to encourage new writers we now have several different categories for submissions. Shorter items or preliminary research may be contributed to the **Notes and Queries** section. Very short items may be based on **an illustration with a brief caption**. At the other end of the scale, **full length well-researched articles** should be fully-referenced. News items are also welcome.

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.*

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ISSN 2055-6411

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ The **National Library of Scotland** is introducing a new search facility **Library Search**, which will bring together records of different materials (such as books, manuscripts, film) from separate catalogues, to be searched together. The transfer will take place at the end of October-early November, and some services, such as advance online reservation may be temporarily affected. Information about these changes is at: <https://www.nls.uk/catalogues/library-search>

■ **Renfrewshire Leisure** and the **National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive** are hosting a symposium on film and memory at **Paisley Art Centre** on 1 November, 10.00-14.00. **I remember it well!** will 'bring together academics, practitioners from community learning and community groups to discuss the role of archive film in remembering, building life-narratives and promoting wellbeing'. The event is free, but book at Renfrewshire Leisure box office: 0300 300 1210. <https://www.renfrewshireleisure.com/i-remember-it-well-film-and-memory-symposium/>

■ The next Scottish brewing heritage exhibition in the series **Raise Your Glass!** will be held in the **John Gray Centre, Haddington**, from January 19 to April 24, 2019. This series of displays which have been mounted throughout Scotland over the last few years is produced by **Brewing Heritage Scotland**, a not-for-profit community interest company. Local exhibits are being sought for the display. <http://www.johngraycentre.org/>
<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/16955224.beer-exhibition-celebrating-haddingtons-history-planned/>

■ **Fife Archives** has moved from Kirkcaldy to the new Collections Centre in Glenrothes, where a combined purpose-built store for **Museum** artefacts and archives has been constructed, bringing together material from seven sites in Fife. The public search room can accommodate five researchers, by appointment. Monday-Friday (9.00-13.00; 14.00-17.00). There is an adjacent café or you can bring your own food. <https://www.onfife.com/libraries-archives/archives>

■ **National Records of Scotland** exhibition: **'For you the War is over': Scottish POWs 1914-1918**, 22 Oct.-23 Nov. 2018. <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/exhibitions>
NRS talks series:
7 Nov. *The Register Houses at War 1914-1918*.
12 Nov. *Buyer beware: clothes shopping in 17th century Edinburgh*.
29 Nov. *Jewellery craft in Scotland c1780-1914*.
5 Dec. *Learning more about ScotlandsPeople*.
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/events-talks-and-visits>

■ **National War Museum, Edinburgh Castle**, exhibition until 27 Jan 2019: **The Poppy: a symbol of remembrance**. <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-war-museum/whats-on/the-poppy/>

■ The **Scottish Fisheries Museum** in Anstruther has launched an appeal to raise £25,000 to complete the repairs to **The Reaper**, the last surviving herring lugger or Fifie. Although the Scottish government contributed £500,000, the refit has identified that more extensive repairs are needed. The Museum hopes to have the vessel seaworthy in time for its 50th anniversary in 2019. Find out about donating and crowdfunding at: <http://www.scotfishmuseum.org/blog/post.php?s=2018-10-22-reaper-restoration-receives-vital-boost>

■ **National Museum of Scotland** loan exhibition: **Embroidered stories: Scottish samplers**, 26 Oct. 2018 - 21 Apr. 2019. <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/embroidered-stories-scottish-samplers/>
Curator's guided tours are fully booked except for 6 Feb. 2019. <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/curator-tour-scottish-samplers/>

HELP WANTED

■ We have received a request from a UHI post graduate student for assistance in tracking down the account notebook of an 18th century Inverness merchant, **Bailie John Steuart**. An edited version was completed in 1915 which is available on numerous websites, however the student is trying to discover the location of the full notebook to use as the basis for his Masters dissertation. The Highland Archive holds a partial transcribed copy and the notebook is believed to have passed to the Hay-Newton family from East Lothian. Any assistance in locating the notebook would be greatly appreciated and we are hoping one of our readers might just come up trumps. Please email Alistair Ross with any information: 11005108@uhi.ac.uk

■ Joe Perry, the Project Coordinator for the **Flow Country World Heritage Site Working Group** has contacted the Forum: *"We hope to see the Flow Country inscribed as a World Heritage Site, as we believe it has outstanding universal value for the local area, Scotland and the World. I am writing to you as we are at the start of our community consultation planning and I have been tasked with identifying the best ways to inform the communities and businesses of the Flow Country about the prospect of a World Heritage Site and to encourage them to share their thoughts on the idea.*

I am very keen to reach out to organisations, businesses and groups which have an established connection with the communities of the Flow Country. I believe that the only way to produce an honest community consultation is to spread the word as widely as possible and to include as many people who want to have their say. We are planning to hold some public consultation events and will be uploading information to websites and social media pages, but I want to make sure that we are covering all bases and are delivering information in a way that works for local communities." Contact Joe if you have any comments or queries, or suggestions for people or organisations he should contact: joe.perry@highland.gov.uk.

SOCIETIES

■ Participants at the SLHF Conference had the opportunity to see the excellent display produced by the **Gairloch U3A Local History Group** on ***A land fit for heroes?*** which was recently exhibited in the **Gairloch Heritage Museum**. The Museum has now closed for the winter, and is also at the end of the lease of the current building, but a major redevelopment is planned and construction is underway. Fundraising from grant-making bodies has reached the £2.4 million required to convert the old Anti-Aircraft Operations Room in the village to become a new museum. The community has raised almost all the 10% it has to provide itself, about £200,000, but there is still a shortfall, so further donations are welcome.

<http://www.gairlochheritagemuseum.org/redevelopment.html>

■ Communities throughout the country are commemorating the Great War Armistice. For example **Cellardyke** has arranged a ***Quiet Citizens' Walk*** on November 11th 2018 at 14.00, which combines commemoration with education. At least 64 people from Cellardyke died in active service during the First World War and they will be remembered by walking through the village from their homes to the Cellardyke and Kilrenny War Memorial. Those who were lost will be represented by volunteers and pupils from Waid Academy who have researched the fallen, and there will be a ceremony of poetry and song and the naming of the dead at the War Memorial at 15.00.

UNIVERSITIES

■ **Strathclyde University** is again running an online 6-week course, called ***Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree***, starting on 5 November. The basic course is free and available for 8 weeks, and is 'suitable for budding genealogists to develop their knowledge and expertise'. Additional benefits cost £72. <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy>

■ **St Andrews University Library Special Collections Division** holds many burgh records for the town. This recent project is now completed:

Following the family: creating a genealogical index to the St Andrews burgh records, c.1550-1700.

The index is downloadable as an Excel spreadsheet.

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/collections/archives/projects/indextothestandrewsburghrecordsc1550-1700/>

WEBSITES

■ **Maybole** history website:

<http://www.maybole.org/history/index.htm>

■ **The Royal Scots Museum at Edinburgh Castle** has released an app offering virtual tours of its museum, available from Google Play and Apple Store.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.openvirtualworlds.royalscots>

<http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk/3d-tour/>

PUBLICATIONS

■ ***The darkest dawn: the story of the Iolair tragedy***, by Malcolm Macdonald and Donald John MacLeod. Stornoway: Acair Books, 2018. £25. (ISBN 9781789070248)

[http://www.acairbooks.com/categories/non-fiction-titles/all-non-fiction/the-darkest-dawn-\(1\).aspx](http://www.acairbooks.com/categories/non-fiction-titles/all-non-fiction/the-darkest-dawn-(1).aspx)

■ ***Lord Seaforth: Highland landowner, Caribbean governor***, by Finlay McKichan. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 320pp. Pbk £14.99; Hbk £80. (ISBN 9781474438483)

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-lord-seaforth.html>

■ ***Linlithgow in the Great War: the home front in a royal burgh***; compiled by members of Linlithgow in the Great War Group; edited by Andrew D. Jones. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018. 116 pp. Pbk £7.90. (ISBN 978-1725892910)

Available from Amazon:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Linlithgow-Great-War-Front-Royal/dp/172589291X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1536639116&sr=8-1&keywords=linlithgow+in+the+great+war

■ ***Transforming the railways of central Scotland: from the pioneering intercity route to EGIP***, by Ann Glen. Ramsay, IoM, Lily Publications, 2018. 112pp. Pbk £18.00. (ISBN 978-1911177371)

<https://www.lilypublications.co.uk/product/transforming-the-railways-of-central-scotland/>

■ ***The story of Scottish design***, by Philip Long and Joanna Norman. London: Thames & Hudson; Victoria & Albert Museum, 2018. 224 pp; 201 illus. Hbk £24.95. (ISBN 9780500480335)

Published for the opening of V & A Dundee.

<https://thamesandhudson.com/the-story-of-scottish-design-9780500480335>

■ ***Greyfriars Graveyard***, by Charlotte Gollidge. Stroud: Amberley, 2018. 96pp; 100 illus. Pbk £14.99. (ISBN 9781445688183)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/greyfriars-graveyard.html>

■ ***The Scottish clearances: a history of the dispossessed, 1600-1900***, by Tom Devine. London: Allen Lane. 496pp. Hbk; ebook £25. (ISBN 9780241304105)

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/305334/the-scottish-clearances/9780241304105.html>

■ ***Scotland: defending the nation: mapping the military landscape***, by Christ Fleet and Carolyn Anderson. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2018. 232 illus. Hbk £30. (ISBN 9781780274935)

<https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scotland-Defending-the-Nation.html>

■ ***History Scotland***, 18(6) Nov/Dec 2018. Items of local history interest include:

-Charcoal burning on the west coast.

-James VI's Great Temple of Solomon at Stirling Castle.

-Ann Milton: a life on the margins.

■ ***Retour: the Newsletter of the Scottish Records Association***, 30, Autumn 2018. (ISSN 1479-9634)

Includes:

-Fife Archives and Museum new storage facility.

-Historic Environment Scotland digital projects in 2018-21, aiming to digitise and catalogue around 125,000 items a year.

-Logan's letter 1792.

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>