

CLISH-CLASH



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SLHF NEWS

Best wishes for the New Year to all our members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2019.

Spring and Summer events have a canal theme.

■ 12 March 2019 at 14.00.

ANNUAL SLHF / NLS TALK in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.

Prof Paul Bishop: Forth & Clyde Canal: Reservoirs, Wrangles and Rorts

The talk is free, but advance booking is required. Online booking opens on 15 January at:

<https://www.nls.uk/events>

The history of the Forth & Clyde Canal is reasonably well known but some of the 'back stories' have received less attention. This talk explores some of these lesser known aspects, including the civic rivalry between Edinburgh and Glasgow when the Canal was being planned and negotiated. Glasgow's involvement in the Canal was driven by the merchants, who might not have been above organising aspects of the Canal for their own interests. A less visible aspect of the Canal is its reservoirs, often at some considerable distance from the Canal, but critical to its successful functioning. This talk will open up these more hidden elements of the Canal's history, enriching our understanding of its history.

NLS will also have a small display during March of items in their collection relating to canals.

■ WALK & TALK programme

Two Walk & Talk excursions are planned, both involving boat trips, and offering an interesting comparison between the Forth & Clyde Canal and the Union Canal. £28 members; £33 non-members, for each event (includes light lunch and the boat trips). Please note places are very limited. Participants should have suitable footwear, and be able to board the boats. A booking form will be in the Summer issue of Scottish Local History and online booking is at: <https://www.slhf.org/events>

■ **16 May 2019:** Paul Bishop will lead a visit at the Glasgow end of the **Forth & Clyde Canal**, starting at the Scottish Canals HQ, 1 Applecross Street, then a boat trip to the top lock at Maryhill, with a soup & sandwich lunch and talk at the White House, a former canal-side pub that is being restored by a cycling charity. This will be followed by a walk around the locks and aqueduct, then the return boat trip. There will also be time to view sculptures beside the Canal.



Brick Barges, Old Edinburgh Canal [ie Union Canal] 1922. Limited edition etching by William Munro (1895-1927). M. Smith collection.

■ **20 June 2019:** Graeme Cruickshank has planned an equally varied programme in Edinburgh, with a talk about the Union Canal (in the Central Methodist Hall, Tollcross) followed by a 1-hour walk tracing the former route from the Port Hopetoun site to Edinburgh Quay, then a 3-hour boat trip on the Canal, which includes a light buffet lunch. The boat sails to the Slateford Aqueduct, where it will be possible to disembark briefly, before it returns to Edinburgh Quay.

■ 31 October 2019

SLHF Conference and AGM will be in Clydebank Town Hall. To commemorate the centenary of the Forestry Commission, the theme will be on many aspects of 'Wood'. Details of the programme will be available in the Summer.

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

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LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** has prepared an exhibition *The Scots who built the White House*, which is on display until 12 April 2019 in the **Engine Shed**, Forthside Way, Stirling, FK8 1QZ.

Open 10-4, Mon-Sat.

In 1794, seven Scottish stonemasons left Edinburgh New Town for Washington DC to help build the official residence of the President of the United States. Last October a commemorative plaque was unveiled at 66 Queen Street in Edinburgh. The building was one worked on by stonemasons John and James Williamson, before they travelled to Washington D.C. The Double Scottish Rose motif appears throughout the White House and a replica has been carved by an HES stonemason for display in Washington DC and in the exhibition.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/plaque-unveiled-honouring-scots-who-built-the-white-house/>
<https://engineshed.scot/visit/>

■ **High Life Highland** and the **Highland Museums Forum** have developed the *Coming Home* travelling exhibition which has been touring the Highlands in 2018. The display highlights individual experiences as well the legacy of the First World War in the Highlands. It is on view in **Nairn Library** in January and **Badenoch Library** in February 2019.

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/cominghome/about/>
<https://www.highlifehighland.com/cominghome/tour/>

SOCIETIES

HELP WANTED

■ Jim Thomson writes that **Balfron Heritage Group** is planning to commemorate the bicentenary of the *Radical Insurrection* which took place in 1820, when 200 armed Radicals paraded in Balfron. Handloom weavers were first to suffer from mechanisation introduced during the industrial revolution, and various groups were established in Stewarton, Camelon, St Ninians, and other "Radical" strongholds. Find out more about Balfron history and the insurrection at:

<http://www.balfronheritage.org.uk/history>

Jim is interested in contacting any other groups which may be organising commemorative events in 2020, so please get in touch: jim@keirhill.globalnet.co.uk

UNIVERSITIES

■ **University of St Andrews Special Collections** team has been awarded a grant to catalogue and to make accessible *Cupar burgh records 1364-1975*. The records are stored in St Andrews University under the superintendence of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland. The £34,289 grant is one of nine allocated across the UK by the *Archives Revealed* scheme, which is supported by The National Archives, The Pilgrim Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and the Foyle Foundation.

<https://news.st-andrews.ac.uk/archive/hidden-burgh-restoring-cupars-place-at-the-heart-of-fife/>

WEBSITES

■ **Glasgow University** has launched a database of over 800 advertisements from English and Scottish newspapers 1700-1780 relating to fugitive slaves, which give remarkable detail about individual people.

Runaway slaves in Britain: bondage, freedom and race in the eighteenth century is at:

<https://www.runaways.gla.ac.uk/>

<https://www.runaways.gla.ac.uk/database/>

■ The *Living Legacies 1914-1918* website based in **Queen's University Belfast**, brought together researchers and communities from different parts of the UK who are researching World War 1. One highlighted project is *Scapa 100*, which is researching and commemorating the scuttling of the German fleet in Scapa Flow in 1919. <http://scapa100.org/> and <http://www.livinglegacies1914-18.ac.uk/CommunityResources/CommunityProjects/TheScapaFlowScuttlingSupportingaCommunityCentennialReviewofitsPastPresentandFuture/>

■ Not specifically related to local history but this website might be useful for anyone with mobility difficulties who wishes to visit historical sites.

Euan's guide: disabled access reviews contains reviews of accessibility of many museums, castles, and stately homes. A recent addition is *Fife Accessible Highlights!*

<https://www.euansguide.com/>

<https://www.euansguide.com/fife-guide/>

PUBLICATIONS

SPECIAL OFFER!

Save 30% on Scottish history books published by Edinburgh University Press**

Edinburgh University Press is delighted to offer 30% off all Scottish history books to SLHF members – from Finlay McKichan's new paperback *Lord Seaforth: Highland Landowner, Caribbean Governor to The New Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women*.

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■ *The new biographical dictionary of Scottish women*. 2nd ed, edited by Elizabeth Ewan, Rose Pipes, Jane Rendall and Siân Reynolds. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 544 pp; 60 illus. Pbk & e-Pub £35. Hbk & PDF £90. (ISBN Pbk 9781474436281; Hbk 978-1-4744-3627-4)

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-the-new-biographical-dictionary-of-scottish-women.html>

■ **Scheming: a social history of Glasgow council housing, 1919-1956**, by Seán Damer. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 184 pp. Hbk. £75.00. (ISBN 978-1-4744-4056-1)
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-scheming.html>

■ **Poor relief and the church in Scotland, 1560-1650**, by John McCallum. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 288 pp. Hbk £75. (ISBN 978-1-4744-2727-2)
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-poor-relief-and-the-church-in-scotland-1560-1650.html>

■ **Building early modern Edinburgh: a social history of craftwork and incorporation**, by Aaron Allen. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 304 pp; 11 b&w, 8 col. Illus. Hbk £80. (ISBN 978-1-4744-4238-1)
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-building-early-modern-edinburgh.html>

■ **Enlightenment in a Smart City: Edinburgh's Civic Development 1660-1750**, by Murray Pittock. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 285 pp. Pbk £19.99. Hbk £80. (ISBN 978 1 4744 1660 3)
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-enlightenment-in-a-smart-city.html>

■ **The Land Agent 1700-1920**; edited by Annie Tindley, Lowri Ann Rees & Ciarán Reilly. Edinburgh University Press, 2018. 272 pp. Hbk £80. (ISBN 978 1 4744 3886 5)
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-the-land-agent.html>

■ **The Chinese in Britain: a history of visitors and settlers**, by Barclay Price. Stroud: Amberley, 2019 (15 Jan.). 296 pp. Hbk £20. (ISBN 978-1-4456-8664-6)
<https://www.amberley-books.com/the-chinese-in-britain.html>

The first Chinese person to marry and settle in Britain was William Macao, who arrived in Scotland in 1775 and in 1793 married Helen Ross, a member of a prominent Scottish family. They had two daughters and a son and he lived in Edinburgh for over 50 years until his death in 1831. He is buried in St Cuthbert's Graveyard alongside his wife. Inspired by Macao's story the author has researched other Chinese visitors and immigrants, and to tie in with the Chinese New Year he is giving a talk at the **National Library of Scotland** on Monday 4 February and will be signing books. <https://www.nls.uk/events> (free, but advance booking required - opens 15 January).

Also there's a book launch at **Blackwells**, Edinburgh, where he will give a talk and signing on Thursday 7th February 2019.

■ **In the forefront: Alloa at War 1914-1919**, by Andrew Hunt. Eastbourne: Tommies Guides; Reveille Press, 2018. 272 pp. Pbk £17.99. (ISBN: 978-1-999890-05-6)
<http://www.reveillepress.com/p/9331184/in-the-forefront---alloy-at-war-1914-1919.html>

■ **Out of the blue: the bombing of Duff House**. Banff: Friends of Duff House, 2018. 72 pp. Pbk. £5 from Duff House shop and via E-bay.

On 22 July 1940 four German bombs were dropped on Duff House, then Prisoner of War Camp No 5, killing 6 German prisoners and 2 British guards.

<http://www.friendsofduffhouse.org.uk/?p=284>
<http://www.friendsofduffhouse.org.uk/?p=281>

■ **The Clyde Valley in panorama 2000 to 2003**; photographed and edited by John J. McKillop. Lanarkshire Legacy, 2018 (first published 2016). 50+ photographs. Pbk £3 (incl. p&p) to author: 22 Clydesdale Avenue, Netherton, Wishaw, ML2 0AX; 01698 357652 (ISBN 1-900975-22-X)

■ **Journal of Scottish Historical Studies**, 38(2), Nov. 2018. (ISSN 1748-538X)

-Assimilation aborted: Henry Clerk and the limits of Anglo-Scottish integration in the Age of Union, by Keith M. Brown and Allan Kennedy.

-An exponent of Scottish common sense philosophy in revolutionary South America: José Joaquín de Mora, by Iona Macintyre.

-Dissection of the destitute: the supply of anatomical subjects to the medical schools of Aberdeen c.1832–1902, by Dee Hoole.

-‘Duties in aid of the civil power’: the deployment of the army to Glasgow, 31 January to 17 February 1919, by Gordon J. Barclay.

<https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/jshs/38/2>

■ **The Scottish Historical Review**, 97(2), Oct. 2018. (ISSN 0036-9241)

Articles:

-Plague, covenants and confession: the strange case of Ayr, 1647-8, by Michelle Brock.

-A protestant purgatory? Visions of an intermediate state in eighteenth century Scotland, by Martha McGill.

-The importance of being a Reservist: the Royal Naval Reserve and the Highlands and Islands, c.1875-1939, by Ben Thomas.

Notes:

-Scots in ‘English Ireland’ in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, by Stephen Hewer.

-John Scot of Scotstarvet (1585-1670) and John Ray (1567-1630), by Jamie Reid-Baxter.

<https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/shr/97/2>

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>