

# CLISH-CLASH



**The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum**

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## SLHF NEWS

■ A memorable **Walk & Talk**, plus a cruise, was held on 16 May, when Paul Bishop led an enthusiastic group to explore a section of the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Glasgow Cut, a branch of the canal at Maryhill. Meeting at Scottish Canals Glasgow Headquarters, Applecross Street, the event began with an hour-long cruise in the *Gypsy Queen* along the canal, restored as part of a Millennium project.



The number of bird species observed along the canal is testament to the success of the clean-up. Herons, coots, moorhens, swans and cygnets provided entertainment, as well as Paul's commentary on the former industrial and social history of this part of Glasgow.



The original plan had been to have lunch in a former canal-side inn, which is being restored by a cycling charity, but as building work had not been completed, Paul arranged for a brief detour to Maryhill Burgh Halls, where well-known local historian Bill Black gave a talk about the area, while we ate the excellent soup and sandwiches provided by the caterers. A bonus was an opportunity to see the splendid stained glass panels which commemorate the trades of Maryhill and Bill gave an impromptu description of the characters portrayed in the panels.

After lunch there was time to walk around the Maryhill locks and aqueduct, before returning on the canal boat. Paul had another treat lined up when artist Minty Donald met us at Canals HQ to describe the art works which have been commissioned for the area. Large stones with shaped hollows in the top draw attention to the many reservoirs which were constructed to feed water into the canal as locks are filled and emptied. The hollows are carved out according to the shape and contours of the reservoirs, and positioned to reflect the approximate direction of the reservoirs from the canal.



The combination of local and social history, nature, and art works gave a fascinating, varied and most enjoyable excursion in a green corridor of Glasgow – enhanced by lovely weather and blue skies. Many thanks to Paul Bishop, Bill Black and Minty Donald and also to the Forth and Clyde Canal Society crew of the *Gypsy Queen* who gave their time to make the day so interesting. *More photographs on page 6*

### 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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## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ The **Scottish Local History Directory** is published in the latest issue of the National Library of Scotland's magazine, *Discover*. See page 6 at: <https://www.nls.uk/media/1722700/discover-41-p1-10.pdf>

**SLHF collaborated with NLS, LocScot and the University of Strathclyde to produce the Scottish Local History Directory – has your organisation submitted details?**

[www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory](http://www.slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory)

■ A new free exhibition has opened at the **National Library of Scotland**, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. **Northern Lights: the Scottish Enlightenment** runs from 21 June 2019 to 18 April 2020. There is a free map highlighting 'Enlightenment' sites around central Edinburgh. Open Monday–Saturday (see opening hours on website).

<https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/scottish-enlightenment>

There are a number of free talks and events in Edinburgh and Glasgow Kelvin Hall.

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

■ A **National Records of Scotland** free exhibition **Prisoners or patients? Criminal insanity in Victorian Scotland** is on display in General Register House, Princes Street, Edinburgh, 1-30 August 2019, 10.00-16.30.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/exhibitions>

■ **Wild and majestic: romantic visions of Scotland** is the title of the exhibition at the **National Museum of Scotland**, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, from 26 June-10 November, 2019. Prices from £7.50 -£10.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/wild-and-majestic/>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** is circulating a travelling exhibition **Past forward: stories of urban Scotland** based on the work of **Scottish Urban Past**, a five year community engagement project involving over 60 groups around Scotland. It has already been in Edinburgh and Inverness; future dates and venues are:

until 27 July: Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh.

2 - 27 August: Southblock, Glasgow.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/whats-on/event/?eventId=290c989d-2971-449a-8d6a-aa3000c45747>

■ **Past lives of Leith** is an exhibition at the **Museum of Edinburgh** until 6 October, which displays the results of excavations for Edinburgh's tram project. This uncovered a previously unknown section of the graveyard of South Leith Parish Church and excavating the remains of almost 400 people buried between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries has cast new light on Leith's history. There is an accompanying publication: **Past lives of Leith: archaeological work**

**for Edinburgh trams**. £35, available from the Museum or City Art Centre shop, or online:

<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/past-lives-leith>

■ **Cupar Library opening hours changed in May**.

The reference room is now open during library hours, 10am-5pm Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday (late night on Thursday, closing at 7pm).

■ **Annet House Museum**, Linlithgow's local history museum has been relocated to West Lothian's Linlithgow Partnership Centre and three galleries opened in April. Now renamed **Linlithgow Museum**, it is open 6 days a week:

<https://www.facebook.com/LinlithgowMuseum/>

<https://www.visitwestlothian.co.uk/things-to-do/history-heritage/linlithgow-museum/>

## SOCIETIES

■ On 18 June **Banffshire Field Club** launched a splendid new addition to its website at a ceremony in the Strathisla Distillery in Keith – the complete **Transactions** from 1889 to 1939 which have been digitised. These are listed by year and the text is also searchable. Subjects covered include archaeology, astronomy, biology, botany, excursions/field trips, geology, geography, nature, science and social history.

<https://banffshirefieldclub.org.uk/archive.html>

Other groups who may wish to emulate this project, may find it useful to know that financial support was provided by the Strathmartine Trust (closing date for future applications is 18 November 2019), and the digitisation and website were developed by Perspectives, based at Ellon.

<http://strathmartinetrust.org/>

<http://perspectivesnet.com/>

■ **The Scottish Records Association**, with the **Centre for Scottish Culture at the University of Dundee**, is inviting proposals for papers for its annual conference, to be held in Dundee University on 15 November 2019

Researchers and archivists are asked to submit proposals relating to the use of Scottish archives to uncover **hidden histories**: stories usually obscured by the records. Speakers from any academic or archival career stage are welcome. Individual 20-minute paper proposals, and panels of three speakers are welcome. The thrust of the conference remains methodological and archival (they want to know how you found it as well as what you discovered!). Deadline for proposals is 31 August 2019. [sraconference2019@gmail.com](mailto:sraconference2019@gmail.com)  
[www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/conference](http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/conference)

■ **Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies Conference** with the theme **Ayrshires castles: from kings to covenanters** is in Irvine Town House on 5 October 2019.

£15 includes tea/coffee & lunch.

To register contact Rob Close at:

[craigbraecottages@gmail.com](mailto:craigbraecottages@gmail.com)

## PODCASTS

■ James Kennedy has suggested that SLHF members may be interested in history podcasts. He offers to make suggestions for this new *Clish-Clash* category in future and has provided this introduction.

### An introduction to Podcasts and History

As technology develops there is an emerging source of local and worldwide history by accessing podcasts. Podcasting is a free service which means you can download an audio or video file from a podcasting web site to listen to or watch on your computer, smart phone or tablet. This will work both on Apple and Android devices. This short contribution introduces the topic and over time will offer some personal recommendations.

Podcasting offers a means of downloading and thus listening or viewing a wide number of topics. By logging onto one of several podcast sites on the internet you can download a very wide range of content. That creates a challenge as it does for any internet based searches, namely the massive variety, range and quality of material. If someone has gone to the trouble of putting together a Podcast they may have (depending on the source) an inherent bias or angle. Many broadcasters such as the BBC offer a range of podcasts as another means of listening again to programmes so they come with a familiar element of editorial rigour.

Podcasts can offer an automatic download of a new episode, but for that you may need to **subscribe**. A significant number of podcasts are free so additional expenditure is not necessary but just check each one before you subscribe.

### From your computer:

Go to a podcasting site or search for BBC podcasts. You can search the BBC by a number of categories including history—this will reveal a wide range including from Radio 4 and the BBC World Service. Registration may be required.

### From your smartphone or tablet:

Go to the iTunes Store or the Google Play Store and find a Podcasting App - you may want to try several until you find one you like - I use **Pocketcasts** as I like its search facility but here are many others. The best thing to do is try several until you find one that you like. Basically this will act as search engine/platform and a means of determining your preferences.

Here is an example from the BBC series *In Our Time*, broadcast on Thursday 8 March 2018, about **The Highland Clearances**, presented by Melvin Bragg and including Sir Tom Devine, Professor Marjory Harper and Professor Murray Pittock.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b09tc4tm>

If you also have suggestions about podcasts, please send them to 'Contribute' at the address on the front cover.

## WEBSITES

■ **Golf's missing links** claims to be the 'internet's most comprehensive guide to golf courses of yesteryear' and certainly provides an impressive source for golfing history in the British Isles and continental Europe. Each course is provided with a short history, and there are many illustrations, including newspaper advertisements, photographs and a location map (Google satellite image). This link is to the Scottish section, for example there are 28 Aberdeenshire defunct courses listed at present:

<https://www.golfsmissinglinks.co.uk/index.php/scotland-63>

■ **Women's History Scotland** have produced a website to commemorate the 1918 *Representation of the People Act: The women's suffrage movement in Scotland, 1867-1928: a learning resource* outlines the main events and personalities involved in women's suffrage in Scotland.

<https://womenssuffragescotland.wordpress.com/>

<http://womenshistoryscotland.org/>

There are also reports of case studies in the Highlands and Paisley, and the organisers hope this will encourage other local groups to research the topic in their own area. Although the website design is hard to read (over-large grey text on a black background!) fortunately PDF downloads of each section are also available, for example:

<https://womenssuffragescotland.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/whs-suffrage-scotland-introduction1.pdf>

<https://womenssuffragescotland.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/whs-suffrage-scotland-early-years2.pdf>

■ To commemorate the centenary of First World War the **National War Museum** organised the **Next of Kin** project. The results are on display at their website:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-international/sharing-collections/touring-and-lending/next-of-kin/>

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-international/sharing-collections/touring-and-lending/next-of-kin/>

Contributions by the public about members of their family are at:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/scottish-history-and-archaeology/first-world-war/first-world-war/next-of-kin/>

■ John Moore, who wrote about contributors to the Statistical Accounts in *Scottish Local History*, 101, Autumn 2018, has added a couple of blogs about contributing ministers to the **Statistical Accounts of Scotland** site (17 April and 22 May). There are also other blogs on aspects of Scottish history:

<http://statacc.blogs.edina.ac.uk/>

■ Jo Woolf, Writer in Residence at the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, also produces a personal blog **The Hazel Tree**. A recent issue (27 June) is about her visit to **St Conan's Kirk**, a chapel of ease, by Loch Awe, between Oban and Crianlarich. She outlines its history as related by the chair of the **Friends of St Conan's Kirk**.

<https://www.thehazeltree.co.uk/2019/06/27/st-conans-kirk/>

## UNIVERSITIES

### HELP WANTED

■ Kristin Hay, a history PhD student at the University of Strathclyde, is looking for volunteers to interview and has asked us to publicise her research on birth control practices in Scotland from 1960-2000.

She writes: *I am using oral history to find out how men and women learned about, chose, accessed and used birth control methods and devices after the 1960s. During the sixties, historians believe a 'Sexual Revolution' occurred which changed Britain's attitudes towards birth control practices. By speaking with those who grew up in this period, I would like to assess the impact of the Sexual Revolution and see the extent that Scotland became more liberal towards sexual matters during this time.*

*As part of this research, I wish to interview 20-40 men and women between the ages of 53 and 73 to learn more about their experiences of birth control during this time. Your experiences are central to my research and will play a huge role in my work. An oral history interview with me would involve spending as little or as much time as you are comfortable with talking about your memories. The interview will be conducted face-to-face with me at a mutually convenient location. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to, and you may stop the interview at any time. You can also change your mind and decide not to take part at any time, if you wish, without giving a reason. I really want to gain a representative insight into Scotland after the 1960s, and would love to properly represent those living in, around and outside the major towns and cities!*

She is also willing to give talks about her project.

Kristin Hay [kristin.hay@strath.ac.uk](mailto:kristin.hay@strath.ac.uk)

History of Health and Medicine  
CSHHH/SOHC, University of Strathclyde

## PUBLICATIONS

■ **Voices of Scotswomen in peace and war: spoken recollections of home life, employment and 1939-45 war service**, by Ian Macdougall. Birlinn, 2019. Pbk £25. (ISBN 9781910900321).

<https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Voices-of-Scotswomen-in-Peace-and-War.html>

■ **The Great War and Scottish nurses' diaries**, by Costel Coroban. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019. 207p. £61.99. (ISBN 978-1-5275-3130-7)

<https://cambridgescholars.com/the-great-war-and-scottish-nurses-diaries>

■ **Women in eighteenth century Scotland: intimate, intellectual and public lives**, by Deborah Simonton. Routledge, 2019. Pbk. £40. (ISBN 978-1-409450467). <https://www.routledge.com/Women-in-Eighteenth-Century-Scotland-Intimate-Intellectual-and-Public/Simonton-Barclay/p/book/9781409450467>

■ **Scottish coalminers in the twentieth century**, by Jim Phillips. Edinburgh University Press, 2019. 336p. Hbk. £85. (ISBN 9781474452311).

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-scottish-coal-miners-in-the-twentieth-century-hb.html>

### 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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[www.edinburghuniversitypress.com](http://www.edinburghuniversitypress.com)

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\*\*Offer valid until 31st August 2019; does not include postage and packaging.

■ **The first foresters**. Inverness: Forestry and Land Scotland, 2019. This booklet about Neolithic woodland has been published as part of their outdoor learning remit. This is available to download as a PDF or by sending £3.50 and an A3 envelope for postage to Forestry and Land Scotland, 1 Highlander Way, Inverness IV2 7GB.

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/learn/heritage/archaeology/learning/the-first-foresters>

■ **Journal of Scottish Historical Studies**, 39(1) May 2019.

- The Reformation in Moray and Mr Robert Pont.

- Parsimony and pauperism: poor relief in England, Scotland and Wales in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

- Manpower, myth and memory: analysing Scotland's military contribution to the Great War.

<https://www.euppublishing.com/toc/jshs/39/1>

■ **Northern Scotland**, 10(1) 2019. From 2019 two issues a year will be published.

- Shetland's German trade: on the verge of colonialism?

- Dorothy Wordsworth: tours of Scotland, 1803 and 1822.

- The township, the pregnant girl and the church: community dynamics, gender and social control in early nineteenth century Scotland.

- 'Tearing itself apart over showpiece projects': planning-led local elections in Aberdeen, 2002-2012.

<https://www.euppublishing.com/toc/nor/10/1>

■ **Scottish Church History** is the journal of the Scottish Church History Society. From 2019 it is published by Edinburgh University Press.

48(1) April 2019 contents include:

- The University of Glasgow's Faculty of Divinity in the First World War.

- Religion and politics in William Steel Dickson DD (1744-1824): Ulster-Scot-Irishman and his modernizing thought world.

<https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/sch/48/1>

■ **History Scotland** 19(4) July/August 2019. Items of local history interest include:

- Uncovering secrets of the past at Upper Gairloch: a community archaeology project.

- An earthquake in the Kirk.

- The politics of population: understanding Scottish emigration in a post-war imperial context.

- Michael Davitt's second Highland tour, April 1887.

- Drama, destiny and determination at Douneside House.

- The Harry Lauder million pound fund.

- 400 Highland estate maps digitised and made available online [Lovat Estate].

- Oldhamstocks Fair [National Gallery of Scotland painting].

- Spotlight on Stranraer and District Local History Trust.

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

## WHAT'S ON

### SLHF CONFERENCE & AGM

31 October 2019

Clydebank Town Hall

The programme will be announced in August.

<https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-annual->

■ **Archaeology Scotland** promotes **Scottish Archaeology Month** in September each year. If you are running a heritage event you can publicise it on their website

<https://archaeologyscotland.org.uk/projects/scottish-archaeology-month/>

■ **Doors Open Days** are also in September, and they also publicise buildings taking part. This year celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme.

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

■ **PBFA, Provincial Booksellers Fairs Association.**

Next Scottish sales:

3 August Glamis

4 August Ballater

7 September Edinburgh

<https://www.pbfa.org/>

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>

# The Forth & Clyde Canal Walk & Talk

Maryhill, Glasgow, 16 May 2019

*continued from page 1*



*Bill Black's  
lunchtime  
talk in  
Maryhill  
Burgh Hall*



*Maryhill  
Locks*



## ART BESIDE THE CANAL

1. **Hillend Reservoir** carved block.
2. **Then and Now**: Mirror writing on opposite banks of the canal, reflects (!) the levels of the canal waters past and present.
3. **15 Children**: Not the number of children drowned, but a metal plate at the verge signifies the distance a boat was pulled by 15 children in 2 minutes in a community event. A similar plate indicates how far 5 adults pulled the boat.
4. A colourful mural highlights the activities on the canal.

Further reading:

'The reservoirs of the Forth and Clyde Canal: eighteenth century engineering and twenty-first century sculptures, by Minty Donald and Paul Bishop. Scottish Local History, 100, 2018.

'The trades of Maryhill: Stephen Adam's stained glass panels at Maryhill Burgh Hall, by William B. Black. Scottish Local History, 84, 2012.



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