

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

■ Walk & Talk Saturday 27 June 2020, 10.30-15.30

This year's summer excursion will explore the historic burgh of Linlithgow and has been organised by the **Scottish Local History Forum** in association with local heritage organisations and the **Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group**.

Meet at 10.30am in the Burgh Halls, Linlithgow for registration and coffee, followed by two talks: **Linlithgow lives** by Bruce Jamieson about local history and personalities; and Laurie Alexander on **Four hundred years of evolution of the Linlithgow High Street**. There will be a short lunch break from 12.40-13.30 (lunch is not included, so do bring your own or find it locally). After lunch **Linlithgow Palace** is the first location, then half the group has a guided walk along the **High Street**, before a visit to **Linlithgow Museum**, while the other half does this in reverse. At 15.30 there is an optional short walk to the **Union Canal** led by Graeme Cruickshank.

Far from the Madding Crowd, the award-winning bookshop in the High Street, will be open during the lunch break and after the tour, and is offering a special discount code for participants.

Cost (includes morning coffee, talks & guided walks):

£12 members of SLHF; £17 non-members

Places are limited. Last date for booking is 20 June.

For the full programme and booking form see: https://www.slhf.org/sites/default/files/documents/linlithgow_wt_slh_handout_final.pdf

Book by post or

Book online at: <https://www.slhf.org/event/walk-talk-linlithgow>

Queries: Tel: 0131 669 8252 or

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

CONTACT DETAILS

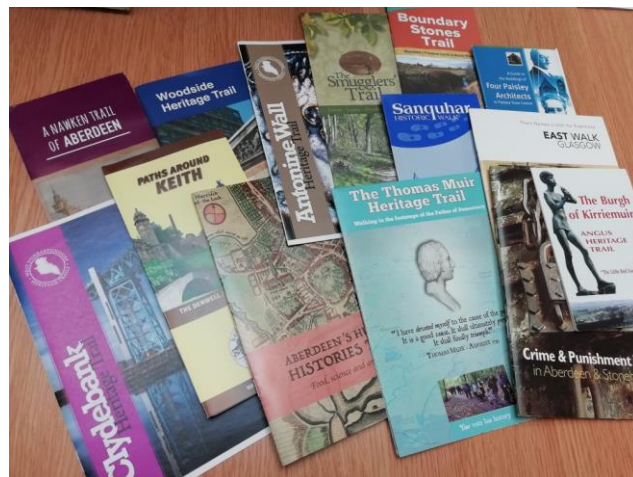
Email <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

'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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■ Local history & heritage trail leaflets

A few years ago the *Clish-Clash* editor noted new local history and heritage trail leaflets in the Publications section, and asked members to supply any leaflets they came across, with the intention of listing these on the SLHF website as useful bite-sized local histories for visitors and residents. With donations from several people (notably Douglas Lockhart) the collection grew so much that listing these became a considerable task.

We have therefore donated over 150 leaflets to the National Library of Scotland, and after checking for duplicates, the Library has gratefully accepted 116 to add to the national collection, where they will be catalogued and available for everyone to use.

Such ephemeral publications are difficult for the Library to collect as publishers often do not realise that these leaflets are also covered by the Legal Deposit arrangements, so this is a reminder to any local history society, library, archive, museum to contact the Library if you have produced any (or if you display them – many are produced by local authority culture or tourist departments which may be unaware of Legal Deposit).

Please continue to send your newsletters and larger publications to the Library too. Large or small, old or new, they all belong in the national published archive and the Library would love to hear from you.

Find legal deposit information at:

<https://www.nls.uk/about-us/legal-deposit>

or contact Jennifer Giles, Curator (Scottish Communities & Organisations): j.giles@nls.uk
0131-623 3910

■ National Library of Scotland consultation: Scottish Local History Forum response

In early December 2019 NLS launched a consultation on their strategy covering the period from 2020 to 2025. The consultation process closed on 27 January 2020 and SLHF was one of more than 40 responses received from a range of organisations and individuals.

The key points of the SLHF submission are:

- *The important role of the NLS in furthering the study of Scotland's history and heritage.*
- *The importance of continued collaboration between the Forum and the Library with good examples of this including the Annual Lecture and the SLH Directory.*
- *The benefit of National Library of Scotland representation on our Advisory Committee.*

Looking to the future, the SLHF's submission emphasises:

- *Maintenance of the NLS Map Library's scanning and georeferencing programme and capabilities, especially when there might be competition for the Library's scarce resource.*
- *Expanding that scanning and georeferencing programme to include estate maps.*
- *Building and preserving local collections with the potential to pilot digitisation of selected content in a number of areas.*
- *Encouraging the NLS to become involved in the preservation of the spoken word and oral histories as an important part of Scottish heritage.*

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **Cupar Library** is celebrating its 150th anniversary with events through 2020, and staff have asked the public to contact them with memories of the library. The Library is preparing an **A-Z of Cupar history**, with the first, on the Adamson Cottage Hospital, at: <https://www.facebook.com/CuparLibrary/posts/481324675912443>.

■ In July 2018 the **National Library of Scotland** increased **Saturday opening hours** to include afternoons. After assessing the use of this service the Library has announced the following changes: **From 4 April 2020, you will need to pre-order items intended for Saturday consultation** at our George IV Bridge Reading Rooms. You can do this any time up until 14:00 on the preceding Friday by visiting [Library Search](#) to pre-order your material. The exception is **Manuscripts which can still be ordered on Saturdays** for consultation (Special Collections Reading Room). Delivery times will change to 10.30-14.30 (last orders 1.45pm). <https://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/reading-rooms/general/opening-hours>

■ In 2020 **Historic Environment Scotland's Buildings At Risk Register** (BARR) celebrates its 30th anniversary. This account of a risk survey of Grangemouth describes their work: <https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2020/01/barr-grangemouth/>

■ Elena Trimarchi of the **David Livingstone Trust** has asked us to publicise their **Birthplace Project** which is redeveloping the Centre at Blantyre, including restoring the Weavers' Cottages and Shuttle Row: *I'm getting in touch from the David Livingstone Birthplace Project. As you may know we're undergoing a significant refurbishment project at the David Livingstone Birthplace in Blantyre and I would welcome the chance to share progress of the project with your groups. There are also lots of volunteering and learning opportunities for individuals to get involved in, and we are keen to let our local communities know about these.*

Elena is available to give talks:

elena.trimarchi@dltrust.uk Tel. 0141 647 1428

<https://www.david-livingstone-trust.org/birthplace-project>

<https://www.david-livingstone-trust.org/blog>

■ The **SLHF / NLS Annual Lecture** on 12 March about **Alexander Bain, the real father of television** is fully booked – but see other NLS events in March and April. <https://www.nls.uk/events>

■ The **Calendar** of **ARCH** (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands) lists local history and archaeology events in the Highlands. Their January **Newsletter** is available at:

<http://archhighland.org.uk/calendar.asp>

<http://archhighland.org.uk/userfiles/file/ARCH%20Newsletters/ARCH%20Newsletter%2046%20-%20January%202020.pdf>

For example a news item states that, as part of a new project under development, ARCH is looking for two communities in the Highlands who would like courses to explore, research and display their multi-period local heritage. If this is of interest, please email describing your community and why it would benefit from a *Community Timelines* type of course:

info@archhighland.org.uk

■ **Museums and Heritage Highland** blog includes recent and future activities, for example information about the **Sutherland Longhouse Project** and the pre-clearance community at Dalnamain. This culminates on Saturday 28th March with a site visit, workshops and talks: **Changing Perceptions: Let's Talk About Dalnamain**.

<https://museumsandheritagehighland.org.uk/category/blog>

Download the blog here.

<https://museumsandheritagehighland.org.uk/events/2020-03/>

<https://museumsandheritagehighland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Poster-1.pdf>

■ A contribution to the **Year of Coasts and Waters 2020**, Falkirk Community Trust's exhibition **The Waters of life: the impact of the Forth and canals in the Falkirk** area runs from 1 February – 17 May in **Callendar House, Falkirk**.

<https://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/whats-on/the-waters-of-life/>

■ The exhibition of photographs from the **MacKinnon Collection** has had its run extended to 13 April in the **Scottish National Portrait Gallery** in Edinburgh.

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/exhibition/scotlands-photograph-album-mackinnon-collection>

Details of the proposed tour of the exhibition around Scotland, in association with the National Library of Scotland, which shares the collection, have not yet been released:

<https://www.nls.uk/collections/photographs/mackinnon>

Other NLS touring displays, available on loan, are listed at: <https://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/touring-displays/book-a-display>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** is displaying a photographic exhibition **Industry + Aesthetics** which celebrates Scotland's industrial history, at **Stirling Castle** until April. The exhibition showcases the collections of the **National Record of the Historic Environment**.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/new-exhibition-showcasing-scotland-as-an-industrial-nation/>

HES has a new audio guide to **Edinburgh Castle**.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/edinburgh-castle-launches-new-star-studded-audio-guide/>

■ **Ayrshire Archives** has acquired **Irvine Burgh Archive Collection**, some 2000 records dating from 1322 to 1975. These are available by appointment on Thursdays in Irvine Townhouse. Contact:

archives@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

■ Scotland's oldest purpose-built cinema the **Boness Hippodrome** has a silent film festival 18-22 March – and you can even participate in a custard pie fight on 21 March!

<https://www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/silent-film-festival/>

<https://www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/about/history/>

A National Library of Scotland touring exhibition **Going to the pictures** is on display, 7 February-27 March.

<https://www.hippodromecinema.co.uk/silent-film-festival/going-to-the-pictures-exhibition/>

SOCIETIES

■ The **Scottish Society for Northern Studies** is organising a conference in collaboration with **NOSAS** (North of Scotland Archaeological Society) and the **Pictish Arts Society** on the recent discovery and conservation of the Conan Stone, a Pictish cross-slab found near Dingwall. **Picts in the North: the Conan Stone in context** is in Inverness on 9 May. There is also a field excursion on 10 May.

<https://www.ssns.org.uk/events/conanstone/>

■ **It's a sair fecht** is the **31st Annual SAHFS Conference** (Scottish Association of Family History Societies), to be held in the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh on Saturday 18 April.

Conference £35; Family History Fair £2.

<http://safhsconf2020.simplesite.com/>

■ The **Scottish Maps Forum** seminars offer much information for local historians and the next seminar will be in the AK Bell Library in Perth on Friday 16 May, with the title **Maps and 'the three Rs': rescue, revelation and research**. The morning talks focus on local and community mapping projects which have made maps available for research, including the Lovat, Gordon and Dingwall-Fordyce estates and the DAMP project in Dumfries and Galloway. Afternoon talks include the restoration of a Stornoway map, using maps for lime kiln research, the Stevenson maps, plans and engineering drawings, and automated extraction from early OS maps. The day is being organised in association with **Perth & Kinross Archive**, and during the lunch break there will be a tour and display of early maps. The full programme and booking information is at:

<https://www.nls.uk/media/1767542/scottish-maps-forum-seminar-2020.pdf>

■ The **Balfron Heritage Group** has organised many activities as part of the **Balfron Radicals Festival 2020**.

• **Balfron Radicals Exhibition** is on display in **Balfron Library**, 28 March-25 April and 29 August-12 September. Opening hours: Mon. & Fri 9.00-13.00; 14.00-17.00; Tues. & Thurs 9.00 13.00;14.00-19.00; Sat. 9.30-12.30. The Library is closed on Wednesdays & Sundays.

• The Festival opens with a **Dougie Maclean concert** 28 March 19.30 £20.

• The finale, **Words and Songs of Revolution**, is on Thursday 10 September at Balfron High School. £3. More details of the programme are at:

<https://balfronheritage.org.uk/updated-balfron-radicals-calendar/>

The group continues its regular free guided walks programme:

• **Balfron's lost history guided walks**. Meet at Library: Sat. 4 April 11.00.; Wed. 13 May 14.00; Sat. 6 June 11am; Sat .29 August:11.00. Other group visits may be made by appointment:

info@balfronheritage.org.uk

• **Guided Kirkyard walks**. Meet at War Memorial at 14.00, parking behind church. Thurs. 23 April; Sat. 23 May; Wed. 17 June; Sat. 22 Aug.

<https://balfronheritage.org.uk/>

■ March is **Women's History Month** and the **Women's History Network** highlights events and activities in the UK. There is a Call for Papers for the next Conference to be held on 3-4 September in Abingdon, with the theme *Homes, Food and Farms*.

<https://womenshistorynetwork.org/homes-food-and-farms/>

Women's History Scotland invites contributions for their blog:

<http://womenshistoryscotland.org/news-and-events/call-for-contributors-to-our-blog/>

■ The annual **Historical Association conference** takes place in Bristol, 15-16 May, <https://www.haconference.com/programme-2020/>

■ The **Borders Family History Society** has produced *Monumental Inscriptions for Duns Preston Road Cemetery*, and are working on indexing some 20,000 Police and Criminal records. Last summer they mounted a small exhibition on **Robert Coltart**, the manufacturer of the famous 'Coulter's Candy', following the erection of his statue close to their premises in Galashiels.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/news/article/3703/a_1asting_tribute_to_coulter_s_candy

This is also part of a new **heritage trail**:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/663/galashiels_town_trail

■ **Renfrewshire Local History Forum** talks are held in the McLean Building, University of the West of Scotland, Stone Street, Paisley on Thursdays at 19.30.

12 March

The Govan Stones.

9 April

Where once were houses.

<https://rlhf.info/archaeology/>

There is also a Calendar of events of other societies in Renfrewshire:

<https://rlhf.info/events/month/>

UNIVERSITIES

■ **Stirling University Archives** have been awarded £9900 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop and archive documents, memorabilia and oral histories about Scottish boxing history. With assistance from the Scottish Ex-Boxers Association, a preliminary exhibition has been created. *Tales from the ring: celebrating Scotland's boxing heritage* is on display until 27 March.

<https://archives.wordpress.stir.ac.uk/2019/10/28/launch-of-theses-from-the-ring-project/>

WEBSITES

■ The *Prison History* website hosts resources created by historians in the **Centre for the History of Crime, Policing and Justice** at the **Open University**. Previously it focussed on England c.1500-1999, but now has a new crowd-sourced project on **Local Lock-ups** which includes Scotland.

<https://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/about-local-lock-up/>

There are a few Scottish records already, but can you contribute more? Search the site at:

<https://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/lockup-search>

An example of a Scottish lock-up is at Melrose: <https://www.prisonhistory.org/lockup/melrose-lock-up-house/>

■ While on a prison theme, **Fife Family History Society's Kalendat of Convicts 1790-1880** is now available on FindMyPast, as well as available to buy, and they have published *Fife shopkeepers and traders 1820-1870*. A list of all their digital publications, available to download, with prices, is available at:

<https://fifefhs.org/product-category/digital-download/>

■ Two recent interesting blogs from **Historic Environment Scotland**:

• *Four extraordinary voyages from Scottish history* celebrates **Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020**:

<https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2020/01/incredible-voyages/>

• *Playing with history* is about Falkland Palace and the Real Tennis court:

<https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2019/09/real-tennis/>

■ *East Dunbartonshire's War* is a resource about the area's experience of WW1.

<https://www.eastdunbartonshireswar.co.uk/>

■ **Scottishindexes.com** is a family business which indexes records for family history research. New indexes are added regularly: in 2020 they aim to add more Scottish court and Poor Law records.

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/aboutus.aspx>

PODCASTS

■ This podcast gives the background and context of David Livingstone's best-selling *Missionary Travels* (1857) which has been launched as a digital edition.

<https://www.david-livingstone-trust.org/podcast-missionary-travels>

See also the digital edition at:

<https://livingstoneonline.org/in-his-own-words/missionary-travels-manuscript/livingstones-missionary-travels-manuscript-1857>

■ **PBS America** has recently featured a series previously shown in the UK fronted by David Hayman called *Clydebuilt*. He explores the story of 4 very significant Clyde built ships including HMS Hood, the Robert E. Lee, The C.S Mackay-Bennett and the Cutty Sark.

<https://www.pbsamerica.co.uk/?s=clydebuilt>

It is also the channel to catch high quality productions from the American filmmaker Ken Burns including The Vietnam War and a series on World War 2 called The War.

PUBLICATIONS

■ *The Argyll Papers funerary monument rubbings collection*; edited by Alison Diamond and Robert Irving. 1919. 54pp. Pbk. (ISBN 978-1-9164701-1-8)

Compiled with assistance from the Friends of the Argyll Papers.

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

<https://www.slhf.org/directory-organisation/argyll-papers-inveraray-castle>

■ *Scotland remembered: a history of Scotland through its monuments and memorials*, by Michael Meighan. Stroud: Amberley, 2019. 96pp.; 100 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-14456-9650-8)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/scotland-remembered.html>

■ ***A History of the Irvine Valley***, by Robert McBride. (Mewmilns: Loudoun Valley Trust, 2019), 151 pp. £15.00 (+ £4.00 p&p to UK addresses). Available from The Loudoun Valley Trust, 53 Main Street, Newmilns, KA16 9DA.

<https://twnews.co.uk/gb-news/new-irvine-valley-book-spans-300-million-years-of-ayrshire-history>

This is an encyclopaedic study in A4 format of Galston, Darvel and Newmilns in Ayrshire. It covers a huge range of topics and is very well illustrated with black and white and colour photographs; excellent aerial photographs of the towns and contains a select bibliography. This book is clearly a labour of love that has taken many years to compile. The author lives locally and spent his working life in the printing and publishing industry.

The Gunns: history, myths and genealogy, by Alastair J. Gunn. The author, 2019. 242pp. Print on demand £35. <http://www.lulu.com/shop/alastair-j-gunn/the-gunns-history-myths-and-genealogy/hardcover/product-24326895.html>

■ ***Going to the berries: voices of Perthshire & Angus seasonal workers***, by Roger Leitch; edited by Caroline Milligan. Edinburgh: National Museums of Scotland, 12 March 2020. 240pp; 37 illus. Pbk. £10.99. A Flashback title co-published with the European Ethnological Research Centre, University of Edinburgh. (ISBN 978-1-910682-39-5)

<https://shop.nms.ac.uk/collections/books-nms-publications>

Info from: k.blackadder@nms.ac.uk.

■ ***Facing the bear: Scotland and the Cold War***, by Trevor Royle. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2019. 368pp. Hbk. £25. (ISBN 978-17802-7526-0)

<https://birlinn.co.uk/product/facing-the-bear/>

WHAT'S ON

■ The 700th anniversary of the ***Declaration of Arbroath 1320*** has many commemorative events. <https://arbroath2020.com/>

• See the **National Records of Scotland** <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2020/declaration-of-arbroath-anniversary-events>
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/events/>

• And don't forget to view the document on display for the first time in 15 years, at the **National Museums of Scotland**, 27 March-26 April.

Display: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/declaration-of-arbroath/>

Events: <https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/?theme=36132>

Panel discussion 27 March 18.30-20.00. £7:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/events/national-museum-of-scotland/declaration-of-arbroath-panel-discussion/>

• A ***History Scotland lecture*** is on 28 April in Dundee University, 18.00-20.00. Dr Fiona Watson will give a talk, ***For glory, riches and honours: the rocky road to the Declaration of Arbroath***. Book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/history-scotland-lectures-the-rocky-road-to-the-declaration-of-arbroath-tickets-81726130055>

■ Events to commemorate the ***1820 Scottish Radicals Uprising*** are taking place around the country but your editor has struggled to find a comprehensive listing. Some information is on the Balfron site: <https://balfronheritage.org.uk/updated-balfron-radicals-calendar/>

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>