

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

■ As reported in the last edition of *Clish-Clash* the **SLHF Annual Conference** has been postponed to a date to be decided next year.

■ The **SLHF AGM** which usually occurs during the lunchbreak of the conference will be held using Zoom (a free video conferencing application) at 2pm on the 29th October, 2020. Members wishing to attend the Zoom meeting are asked to register online <https://www.slhf.org/event/2020-agm>. Further instructions and supporting documentation will then be emailed to all attendees. We trust we will see as large a virtual turnout as we usually do in the flesh.

■ The Forum is looking for several new **Trustees** to take office from the AGM to be held online on 29th October. Normally the trustees meet four times a year, most often in Edinburgh. At the moment the meetings are by Zoom teleconference. If you have ideas on how the Forum should be run and develop its services, this is an opportunity to take part in the policy-making process. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Forum website, www.slhf.org, and it would be helpful if scanned signed nominations could be sent by 20 Sept to scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com. Nominations may also be made from the floor of the AGM. There are also vacancies on the **Advisory Committee**, whose members represent individual associated groups, such as local history societies. The AC advises the trustees on Forum policy and normally meets twice per year. AC members have no management responsibilities. If you are interested please ask the chair or secretary of your association to contact the e-mail address given above.

■ SLHF members have perhaps been surprised to receive the two most recent issues of **Scottish Local History** during lockdown, fully up to schedule. Issue 106 was published in April and Issue 107 in mid-August. The journal editors are grateful to Dave Lennie, Sandra Shedden and other staff at our designer-printers, MDPD of Musselburgh, for their committed efforts to make this possible. Meanwhile it is clear that during the pandemic journal contributors have been making full use of accumulated notes, as well as on-line historical resources highlighted in *Clish-Clash*, to provide copy for the journal editors. Already this extends to sufficient articles, Notes & Queries and

other material for at least one further issue of the journal. Most of it will be published in Issue 108, which is scheduled for publication in January. While there can be few certainties in life during the pandemic, there is every reason for confidence that this issue will be published on time.

■ The editorial teams of *Clish-Clash* and *Scottish Local History* will work together to co-ordinate policy and avoid duplication. News of immediate relevance will be published in *Clish-Clash*, while special features of longer-term interest and ongoing relevance will continue to appear in *Scottish Local History*, especially those with strong illustrative content. Published books meriting only a short review will be reviewed in *Clish-Clash*. Meanwhile. Regardless of the intensity of activity during lockdown, journal submissions of all kinds are still keenly sought. There is every reason to accumulate a strong, varied range of material to enable the selection of content for each issue to achieve an interesting balance. Further information on journal editorial matters is available from Don Martin at: dwmmartindon@live.co.uk.

■ **Diana Webster** has edited *Clish-Clash* for almost seven years and we thank her sincerely for her enormous contribution. James Kennedy has now become the editor, assisted by Paul Bishop.

CONTACT DETAILS

SLHF website: <https://www.slhf.org/>

'Clish-clash' means repeated gossip, so do email your local history news & information (Word attachment or link to your website) to our email address <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

*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.*

Facebook:

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

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LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **The National Library of Scotland** reopened its reading rooms on a pre-booked basis at George IV Bridge and Causewayside buildings from Tuesday 11 August. They anticipate that they will open the Library at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow on Tuesday 15 September. NLS has also launched a new online enquiry service called 'ask a question'. You should make contact before organising your visit as for example you will not be able to access large format items such as newspapers. At NLS as in other archives pre-booked appointments, advanced ordering of documents and limited seating will be the new experience. Further details available on <https://www.nls.uk/reopening>

■ **The National Library of Scotland** has a blog which gives details on one of their latest projects As Scotland's largest library, the National Library of Scotland also has a wealth of local studies material. Over the coming months they will issue a fortnightly blog looking at resources the Library holds for each local authority area. This is not a comprehensive listing of everything they hold about that area but a jumping-off point for further exploration. Staff from across the Library will choose resources they find interesting for each area. They will concentrate on the materials you can get free, online, at home. They will also point you towards your local collections where you will find many unique and fascinating documents and objects <https://blog.nls.uk/zoom-into-scotland/>

■ **The National Railway Museum** in York reopened on 4th August but to visit you need to book a free timed ticket in advance. This helps them to make safe arrangements <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/visit>

■ **The British Museum** has some 280,000 images that are newly available to view in high definition online. These have a global span and the update was brought forward to coincide with the coronavirus lockdown. Visit <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection>

■ **The Museums and Heritage Awards** shortlist has recently been announced and includes several Scottish Museums. The Virtual Awards Ceremony will be on line and held on 22nd September 2020. <https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/shortlist-2020/>

■ This is a link to the papers from the concluding conference of the **Scottish Community Heritage Roadshows** that was held on 8th November 2019 at the University of St Andrews <http://communityheritage.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/conference/>

■ **The Scottish Community Heritage Alliance** web site also features important updates about issues

affecting heritage bodies
<https://scottishcommunityheritage.org/>

■ **The National Archives, Kew** reopened on 21st July but with very different arrangements for booking material and if you are planning a visit then please keep an eye on the web site as you need to book your visit at least 1 week in advance https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=reopening_announcement&utm_content=2020-07-07

■ **West Dunbartonshire Arts and Heritage** have been putting information from their collections on Twitter and Facebook under the theme of Off the Shelf. Further details of their on line catalogue is available https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/leisure-parks-events/museums-and-galleries/collections/collections-and-archive-catalogue/?fbclid=IwAR28nPUOXLwQFyhHKB46TaK_Tl3DgfrxahEv9IHEyZg-nRAZVmv7MfF_1rY

■ **The V and A Museum of Design Dundee** have announced Leonie Bell as their new Director. Ms Bell is described by the Museum as "one of Scotland's most experienced cultural leaders" and is a former head of culture strategy and engagement at the Scottish government. She was born in Dundee and currently leads the Future Paisley Partnership at Renfrewshire Council, in charge of the city's cultural regeneration plans. The Museum reopened on Thursday 27th August so you can finally visit "Mary Quant" the first international retrospective on the iconic British designer. Quant disrupted the fashion establishment, captured the spirit of 1960's London, and started a fashion revolution that a whole generation wanted to take part in, which continues today. The exhibition will be showing for an extended run until 17 January 2021.

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>



■ As access to archives changes to the world of pre-booked appointments and advanced ordering for all of us perhaps take a few minutes to watch a short film from the **Scottish Council on Archives and Records Association**. Produced in 2018 it includes interviews with archivists from across Scotland <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/all-projects/current-project/why-archives-matter/>

■ Some further information from the **Scottish Council on Archives and Records Association** in early August: *“Two archive services have already reopened to the public – the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling – and are working to strictly appointment only access, not least as reading room capacities have been severely limited to accommodate social distancing measures. We suspect that this practice will serve as the model for further openings. Some services are also exploring ‘digitisation on demand’ services, though there could be associated costs to go with this. Advance notice of materials and attendance has always been welcomed by services, but even more so now. There will also be the now familiar practical requests to adequately sanitise hands, or even to wear gloves while handling materials, though suspect face coverings will be at the service’s discretion. Returned records will create their own difficulties for the archivists, as the documents may have to be left to isolate before being given to another user, which in turn may slow requests/availability. We haven’t heard when more services are planning on opening, so again would recommend contacting them in advance. Archivists have been in and out throughout lockdown to check on buildings and climate control, and we think a number are returning more regularly from September, but not yet opening to readers. There may also be a return of talks and other events, albeit online for now, then too. As with so much these days a degree of patience and understanding will be welcomed!”*—Robert Wright Communication and Operations Officer.

■ **Florence Nightingale’s Legacy with Professor Anne Marie Rafferty** is available to view. RCN President Professor Anne Marie Rafferty talks about Florence Nightingale's legacy, two hundred years on from her birth. Listen again to this event, previously hosted online in July 2020, and hear what Nightingale can teach us about the COVID-19 pandemic, and how the history of nursing continues to shape views of the profession. Introduced by Stuart Wildman, RCN History of Nursing Forum Chair. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HU1hHD3LFGc>

■ **Mapping the Centenary** is an Imperial War Museum website for activities between 2014 and 2019 to mark the centenary of WW1. The website includes a searchable database and map of projects to mark the centenary, including those in Scotland:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/partnerships/mapping-the-centenary>

■ **Wellcome Library** have added a short film from the BMA library called **How To Mask** which is a 6 minute feature from 1948. It even includes how to stop you glasses steaming up!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ub3Asud1VMI&fbclid=IwAR0rLIFhdfQi2EnO7GewV6M3FyGYIC-7vKyQSjB6xlsqLxFVanG41Zsh4Ss>

■ As historic sites across Scotland reopen for visitors **Historic Environment Scotland** has produced an article called **Cut down to Scythe** which is about using a traditional skill to maintain a Stirling landmark. Further details available

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/cut-down-to-scythe-using-traditional-skill-to-maintain-stirling-landmark/>

■ The **University of Strathclyde** has now reopened their library which was closed as a result of Covid 19 restrictions. Their address has reverted back to: Serials Section Andersonian Library University of Strathclyde 101 St James Road Glasgow G4 0NS.

SOCIETIES

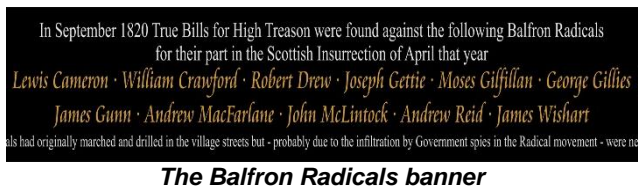
■ **Women’s History Scotland** awards a bi-annual prize of £100 for a new essay in the field of Scottish women’s and/or gender history. The prize was established in 2000 to celebrate the work of Leah Leneman, one of the foremost historians of women in Scotland and Women’s History Scotland wishes to acknowledge her important work and to encourage new women’s and gender historians to publish and to continue researching and writing in the field of Scottish women’s and gender history. Deadline is 21 December 2020. More information is available <http://womenshistoryscotland.org/>

■ The **Scottish Labour History Society** has recently produced its summer 2020 newsletter <http://www.scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot/blog>

■ **The British Association for Local History** has continued with the temporary suspension of their paywall for access to back issues of the Local Historian. The only exception is the current issue. Their web site also gives details of their recent 10 minute talks which cover an interesting range of topics. <https://www.balh.org.uk/news-invitation-for-ten-minute-talks-2020-07-25>

■ With all their other Balfour Radicals Bicentenary Festival plans either cancelled or on hold, **Balfour Heritage Group** <https://balfourheritage.org.uk/> has decided to mark the run-up to the September 1820 trials with a banner naming the locals who had True Bills of High Treason found against them. They were

Lewis Cameron, William Crawford, Robert Drew, Joseph Gettie, Moses Gilfillan, George Gillies, James Gunn, Andrew MacFarlane, John McLintock, Andrew Reid and James Wishart. See *Scottish Local History* 107 for more on the Balfour Radicals (and issues 105 and 106 for articles on the Radicals from other areas).



WEBSITES

■ The University of Stirling has created an app to support the **Landscape Legacies of Coal** project. It features 12 walks revealing the legacy of Scotland's coal mines: <https://www.stir.ac.uk/about/faculties/arts-humanities/our-research/centre-for-environment-heritageand-policy/outreach-and-public-engagement/landscape-legacies-of-coal-mining/#panel78360-2>

■ **Who Do Think You Are Magazine** has recently announced the relaunch of their web site and newsletter: <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/news>

■ In **The Women's History Network's** recent *blog you can read Dr Tanya Cheadle's new monograph: Sexual Progressives: Reimagining Intimacy in Scotland, 1880-1914* <https://womenshistorynetwork.org/sexual-progressives-reimagining-intimacy-in-scotland-1880-1914-by-dr-tanya-cheadle/>

■ The Open University has added a **Red Clydeside** collection to its OpenLearn website: www.open.edu/openlearn/red-clydeside-collection

■ In the context of **Black Lives Matter**, the bulldozia website offers materials for teaching and research in the field of Black Atlantic studies, and engages with issues raised by the movement of people, goods and ideas during the transatlantic slave trade, during the period of abolition and decolonisation, and including a section on Frederick Douglas's visit to Scotland in 1846 <https://www.bulldozia.com/douglass-in-scotland/>

■ The Black Lives Matter movement also reminds us about University College London's project on the legacies of British slave-ownership <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>. Many slave owners were of course Scottish – the opening batsmen in the West Indian cricket team is John Campbell – and the UCL website map can be searched for slave owners who were compensated when slavery was abolished. A less well-known issue is the loans that were raised by

the UK government for the funds to compensate the slave owners. This loan was finally paid off only in 2015 <https://fullfact.org/economy/slavery-abolition-act-loan/#:~:text=When%20was%20the%20money%20aid,government%20restructuring%20of%20its%20deb>

■ The recently-published **Historical Pageants Local History Study Guide** demonstrates the importance of historical pageants and provides practical advice for research; free to download

http://www.historicalpageants.ac.uk/documents/17/Historical_Pageants_Local_History_Study_Guide_web_quality.pdf. The project website www.historicalpageants.ac.uk has many more resources, including an interactive map of localities, with records of 118 Historical Pageants in Scotland.

■ **ArtUK** <https://artuk.org> might not be a site that springs to mind for local history but the ArtUK website holds works, many of them of historical subjects, from more than 3,200 UK collections. This, for example, is a painting of *Denburn with Bleach Green and Union Bridge, Aberdeen* (unknown artist; Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums)



PODCASTS

■ **Catherine Gillies of Ergadia Museums and Heritage** and the Scottish Community Heritage Alliance has very kindly agreed to share some of her thoughts and recommendations.

Many museums and heritage podcasts are 'out there', with great variation in presentation and quality. There are many easy podcast tools, with free software available but also paid versions (not all expensive) which can have more support features such as automatically sorting out volume, background noise and having a simple clipboard. Some of the free ones are trickier to use than paid ones. As ever, you get what you pay for. All of them offer something simple enough to make and edit on your smartphone.

Certainly anyone can make a podcast, but do listen to a few first to see what style you think will work for you. The links below give some variety, from short to long, from simple to more complex.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/history-scotland-hidden-histories-podcast/id1183460605> The **History Scotland** magazine has a lot of interesting episodes, and runs a busy list as an adjunct to their printed magazine which is a really interesting model for our museums or heritage society publications.

<https://www.museumarchipelago.com> is an America-based platform with a great variety of subjects from all round the world. **Number 81** is very interesting on being a costumed interpreter as we come out of lockdown.

<https://thewonderhouse.co.uk/podcasts> will be extremely interesting to follow in the current discourse around Black Lives Matter and decolonising museums.

<https://soundcloud.com/nationalmuseumscotland> the **National Museum of Scotland** has a whole set of podcasts on Soundcloud.

<https://museumsinstrangeplaces.com/> gets to some great places, a lot in the States but also Iceland and further afield.

<https://www.archaeologypodcastnetwork.com/anarchaeologist/mm11broch> This is from **Anarchaeologist** and there are lots to explore. Again, a lot of it is America-based but not all, such as 'Between a broch and a hard place' <https://www.archaeologypodcastnetwork.com/anarchaeologist/mm11broch>

<https://soundcloud.com/museopunks> more edgy than anything here in the subjects they tackle. Very international

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/category/podcasts/> Lots of **British Museum** podcasts.

PUBLICATIONS

■ **Old Foula** by **Donald A Brownrigg**. **Stenlake Publishing, Catrine, 2020 56pp, 62 photographs Pbk £10.95** (ISBN: 9781840338478). http://stenlake.co.uk/book_publishing/?page_id=131&ref=1214§ion=New%20Books

■ **The Fight for Social Democracy-Rebellion and Reform in 1820** by **Murray Armstrong**. **Pluto Press 2020. 288pp. Pbk £14.99** (ISBN: 9780745341330). Also available as hardback and eBook. <https://www.plutobooks.com/9780745341330/the-fight-for-scottish-democracy/>

■ **Radical Scotland: Uncovering Scotland's radical history-from the French Revolutionary era to the 1820 Rising** by **Kenny MacAskill**. **Biteback Publishing 2020 352 pp. Hbk £20.00** (ISBN:9781785905704).

<https://www.bitebackpublishing.com/books/radical-scotland>

■ **Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet: A Guide for Family Historians** by **Chris Paton**. **Pen and Sword 2020 184 pp Pbk £14.99** (ISBN: 9781526768384). <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Tracing-Your-Scottish-Family-History-on-the-Internet-Paperback/p/17717>

■ **Scottish Labour History Society** committee member **Ian Gasse** has produced a booklet, **Uncovering Working Lives**, about the labour history of Dumfries and Maxwelltown, in the form of a 'labour history trail'. More information is here: <https://www.scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot/bl-og-article/labour-history-dumfries>

■ A special edition of **The Geographer** from the **Royal Scottish Geographical Society** includes articles about a Scotswoman **Jane Duncan** in northern Pakistan in September 1904 and also the life of **William Leitch** a railway engineer from Perth who collected images of China that are something special. <https://www.rsgs.org/the-geographer>

■ **RSGS** director **Mike Robinson** tells on **YouTube** the little known story of **James Croll** from Perthshire. He describes how Croll founded the basis of modern day climate change while working as a janitor in Glasgow in the 19th Century. This is one of a series called **Inspiring People at Home** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKF8novHwiU&feature=youtu.be>

■ **History Scotland**, 20(5), September/October 2020. Local history topics include: An opinion contribution from Professor **Christopher Smout** on Scotland's slavery links; **David Cousin** Versatile Victorian architect; and **The real Mr. Ambrose** and his tavern <https://www.historyscotland.com/>

■ **Who Do You Think You Are? Issue 167** features the lockdown activities of the **Outer Hebrides Museum** and **Tasglann nan Eilean** as well as featuring a **Guide to Resources** in the area around Glasgow. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/issue/who-do-you-think-you-are-magazine-summer-2020/>

USING ONLINE SOURCES:

Some Personal Views

SLHF Trustees were asked to highlight up to three websites they have used for their research, possibly including something quirky. The contributors have interpreted the request in different ways.

FINLAY MCKICHAN discusses websites he has used in his research on the Highlands, and on Aberdeen shipping. He highlights a useful Australian source for research on the Scottish diaspora.

■ The *Royal Commission on the Condition of Crofters and Cottars in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland* (known as the *Napier Commission* after its chairman, Lord Napier) toured the Highlands and Islands in 1883 as a government response to unrest in the Highlands and Islands, which in Skye had resulted in a contingent of Glasgow policemen being mauled and a gunboat being sent. At each location witnesses were heard, and each township was encouraged to send a spokesperson. A full transcript in English was made of all the evidence and this has now been made available free online by the University of the Highlands and Islands. Some witnesses majored on the current grievances and were hazy on historical issues, such as when and where clearances took place. But others gave a clear and detailed account of events within their memory, which can sometimes be confirmed from other evidence. I have used this source recently as part of a study of the management of Lewis in the 1820s and 1830s. Lewis is covered in the second of the 5 volumes. The home page of the website gives a link to an index, and the volume number in the URL may have to be altered for researching other areas. <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/t4-media/one-web/university/research/centre-for-history/napier/napier-commission-vol-2.pdf>

■ **Trove** is a search engine for historic Australian newspapers, as well as journals, books, maps, photographs, archives and personal papers. It is hosted by the National Library of Australia, with material supplied also by state and territory libraries and is free to access. It would be useful to genealogists researching ancestors who have emigrated to Australia. I use it as a volunteer on Aberdeen City Council's **Aberdeen Ships Project** (www.aberdeenships.com). Many of the clippers which in the early days brought out emigrants and manufactured goods and returned with agricultural products (notably wool) were built in Aberdeen. Some were also owned there. There was great interest in these ships in nineteenth century Australia and the newspapers carried a lot of material on their movements and doings. Such events as the arrival of

new ships from 'home', stormy passages and wrecks were given extensive coverage.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

STEVE CONNELLY describes several projects in Dundee:

■ I was one of the volunteers involved in researching the subscribers to **The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum**, or the **Albert Institute** as it was originally called on its opening in 1867. Biographical information was entered on a template for the individual and corporate subscribers. Much of the research was carried out in **Dundee's local history library** and the **city and university archives**. Basic genealogical information could be found on: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> and: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

Further information on homes, workplaces and membership of charities and institutions was gleaned from the digitised collections at the **National Library of Scotland**, particularly the local **directories** and **maps**, and in the **British Newspaper Archive**: <https://www.nls.uk/> <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Out-of-print titles of useful works published by the **Abertay Historical Society** are also available on its website: <https://abertay.org.uk/>

The following websites were also particularly useful:

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography:

<https://www.oxforddnb.com> (available at home to members of subscribing libraries).

A number of very prominent subscribers, including David Baxter, George Armitstead and Lord Kinnaird have their careers summarised on this website. As a member of the **A.K. Bell Library, Perth** I was able to access this website at home through the online resources section of its website.

■ **The Friends of Dundee City Archives:**

www.fdca.org.uk

In trying to track down the burial place of the subscribers the indexes prepared by volunteers were very useful, particularly for Dundee's Western Cemetery. I was able to find memorials to many of the families involved. The Friends' website also contains a number of other helpful indexes, including one for the Lockit Book, recording Dundee burgesses, 1513-present.

■ **Photopolis Dundee:**

www.leisureandculturedundee.com/photopolis

The *Photopolis* website contains a tremendous collection of photographs of Dundee and other parts of Scotland and was useful in finding near contemporary illustrations of some of the properties connected with the **Albert Institute** subscribers.

The website explains the origins of the digitised collection:

'The majority of photographs are the work of Alexander Wilson. Wilson was born in Duns, Berwickshire, and moved to Dundee in his twenties to become calender manager in the Baltic Street Calender of Baxter Brothers of Dundee. For over 30 years, he devoted his leisure time to photography. Many subjects were recorded over the years, but it is evident from the collection that his main interest was architecture. Alexander Wilson recorded the changing face of buildings in Dundee from the 1870s to 1905. It was fortunate that he was active at this time, since in the years that followed much redevelopment in Dundee resulted in elements of the City vanishing forever. Before his death in 1922 he bequeathed the majority of his 5,000 glass negatives to the Free Library Committee of the Town Council, with the sum of £50 to assist with conservation.'

Ironically the subject that probably features least in the collection is the local textile industry. Wilson obviously preferred to spend his leisure on something other than a busman's holiday! If you are interested in the background to the opening of the Albert Institute in 1867 and the results of the subscriber research you can visit the website: <https://mcmanus168.org.uk>

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