

# CLISH-CLASH



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

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## SLHF NEWS

### HONORARY PRESIDENT

We are delighted to announce that Professor Chris Whatley, recently retired from Dundee University, has agreed to become SLHF Honorary President. More information will be in the next issue of *Scottish Local History*.

### SUMMER EVENTS

Following the success of last year's day out in Leith, two walk & talk programmes will take place this summer.

■ **WALK & TALK in Ayr** on Thursday 11 June is themed around Edward Bruce 700. A talk in 16<sup>th</sup> century Loudoun Hall in the morning, will be followed by an afternoon walk around old Ayr led by local historian Tom Barclay.

■ **WALK & TALK in Edinburgh** on Friday 12 June is based on Thomas Muir and the radical movement. Please note the change from the date formerly advertised. This is because of non-availability of a room in St Andrews House on the original date. As well as morning talks on Thomas Muir and his influence on Scottish democracy, there will be a short tour of St Andrews House in the morning, with afternoon walking tours round Edinburgh sites linked to Muir's life and the Scottish Martyrs.

Each event costs £10 for members and £15 for non-members. As places are limited, please book early. Do join us for these informative and interesting days out.

**You can book and pay online on the SLHF website or information and booking forms are at the end of this newsletter.**

### CONTACT DETAILS

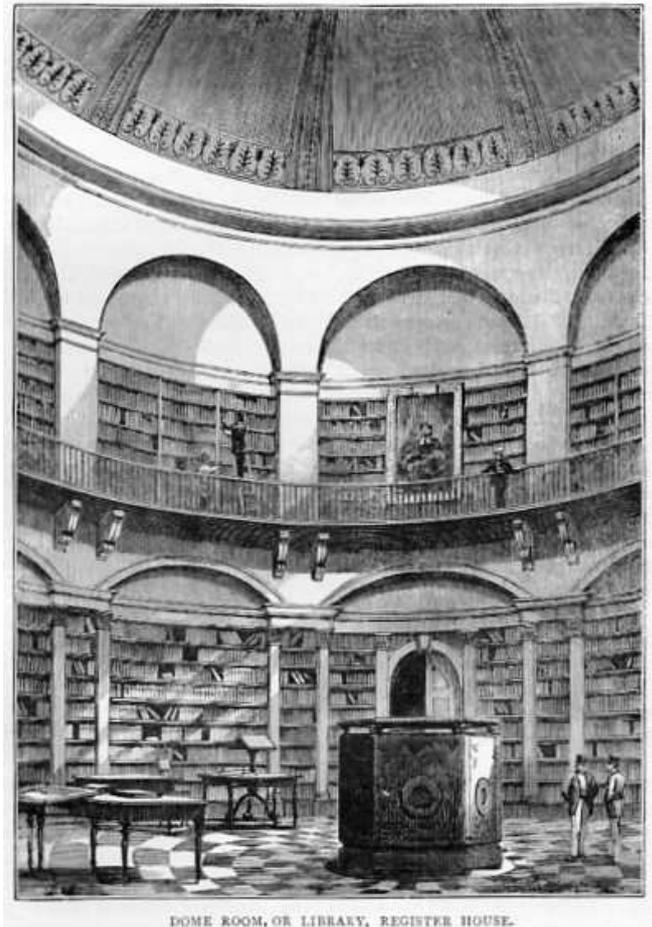
Email <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

*'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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DOME ROOM, OR LIBRARY, REGISTER HOUSE.

## AROUND THE LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

The future of two significant Georgian buildings in Edinburgh is under discussion.

■ A government review has indicated that the *National Records of Scotland* requires new premises to meet modern archival practice, provide storage for future needs, and better facilities for users and staff. It has been recommended that **Register House** (built 1774-88) and **New Register House** (1857-60) would close, and public access and storage facilities would move to Sighthill where Thomas Thomson House is already located. Funding has not yet been allocated for this long-term goal. Meanwhile a public petition has been set up opposing the proposal to close Register House. [https://www.change.org/p/the-scottish-government-keep-general-register-house-edinburgh-open-2?recruiter=234948161&utm\\_campaign=mailto\\_link&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=share\\_petition](https://www.change.org/p/the-scottish-government-keep-general-register-house-edinburgh-open-2?recruiter=234948161&utm_campaign=mailto_link&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition)

■ Another long-discussed project has moved a step nearer. After long negotiations the **Custom House at Leith**, currently storage for the National Museums of Scotland, has been sold to Edinburgh Council. As participants on last year's walking tour of Leith will know, there are hopes to develop a **Leith Museum or Maritime Museum**. The Scottish Historic Buildings Trust is also involved with the project, to help safeguard this notable building for public use.



## LOCAL HISTORY WEEK, 7-14 March 2015

Each year, in the Spring, Scottish libraries feature a local history week, focusing on a particular theme. This year's topic is **Food and Drink**.

■ **East Dunbartonshire** has a varied and interesting programme, which includes:

• **A tale of Strathkelvin's past.** Photograph exhibition. 7 March-4 April, William Patrick Library, Kirkintilloch.

• **Food and drink in Roman times.** A presentation by a member of the Antonine Guard. 7 March 2015, 11am - 1pm & 2-4pm, in the Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch.

• **You are what you eat (and drink).** A display of vintage cookery booklets and cheese labels. 7-14 March, in the Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch.

• **Meals on reels: Scotland's food and drink.** A programme of wonderful archive film delights from Scottish Screen. Monday 9 March, 2pm, in the Barony Chambers, Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch. To book, please phone 0141 777 3142 or email [libraries@eastdunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@eastdunbarton.gov.uk)

• **Rita Cowan: muse, myth and matriarch.** Illustrated talk on the Kirkintilloch woman who became the 'muse' of Japanese whisky, by Peter McCormack of the Auld Kirk Museum and Janice Miller of East Dunbartonshire Archives. Organised by Kirkintilloch & District Society of Antiquaries, in the Barony Chambers, Auld Kirk Museum, Kirkintilloch, 11 March, 2.30- 4pm.

• **Stories behind the recipes.** 10 March, 11am Milngavie Library. Do you have any family recipes that you could share? Are there any stories behind the recipe? Alison Irvine, Reader in Residence, will be at various libraries during the week to collect and display all your family favourites.

See the full EDLC programme at:

<http://www.edlc.co.uk/pdf/Local%20History%20week%202015low%20res.pdf>

■ **Aberdeen City Libraries.** Workshop on how to use online resources to delve into the fascinating history of food and drink in the North-East of Scotland. 12 March 2-4pm, in the Mastrick Library, Aberdeen. To reserve a place phone 01224 788558 or e-mail [MastrickLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:MastrickLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk).

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/xev\\_EventDetail.asp?id=7892](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/xev_EventDetail.asp?id=7892)

■ **South Lanarkshire**

**70 Years of Shopping in East Kilbride:** From wee sweetie shops to supermarkets... what do you remember about "Going the messages"?

10 March, 10am-2pm, East Kilbride Central Library  
Free drop-in session.

[http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/SLLC/news/article/1415/east\\_kilbride\\_library\\_drop\\_in\\_heritage\\_events](http://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/SLLC/news/article/1415/east_kilbride_library_drop_in_heritage_events)

## SOCIETIES' NEWS

■ The **Garden History Society Conservation Trust** has sent the following information about a volunteer project to record historic gardens and landscapes to add to the national database:

**"Are you interested in historic gardens and landscapes? Would you like to get involved in researching and recording them?"**

*If so, we need your interest, enthusiasm and skills and this may be just the volunteering opportunity for you!*

*We're looking for volunteers to join two newly forming groups in Falkirk and South Lanarkshire regions to research and record historic gardens and designed landscapes. The Garden History Society in Scotland Conservation Trust is launching this two-year project to train, equip and support volunteers to record properties which are not already listed in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.*

*You'll receive training in how to:*

*-research historic maps, online databases and estate archives*

*-recognise and record features in the field that make up historic gardens and designed landscapes, including significant planted features*

*- draw together the evidence you uncover into summaries of properties' historical development, for submission to the national online database Canmore.*

*Each volunteer group will be equipped with cameras, tripods and tablets for on-site recording. A dedicated project officer, based at Northlight Heritage, will provide the training and work with you to research and record the properties.*

*We're kicking off the project with **Glorious Gardens**, a training symposium in each area, to be held in March - date and venue to be confirmed very soon. Project funded by Historic Scotland, Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership and Heritage Lottery Fund."*

If you are interested in taking part phone 0845 901 1142 or contact Ingrid Shearer [ishearer@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:ishearer@yorkat.co.uk) at Northlight Heritage.

<http://northlight-heritage.co.uk/conc5/>

■ **The Friends of Thomas Muir** are organising various events for **Thomas Muir 250** in this anniversary year.

• **John Kay print exhibition, 'The Times of Thomas Muir'**. 7 March – 30 May. Free.

• **John Kay print talk**, by Don Martin. 12 March, 7-9pm. Free (includes a glass of wine from a country or two visited by Muir). Booking for the talk is essential: [jimmy@thomasmuir.co.uk](mailto:jimmy@thomasmuir.co.uk), tel. 0141 772 7745.

The exhibition and talk are in the Thomas Muir Coffee Shop, Huntershill Village, 100-102 Crowhill Road, Bishopbriggs.

■ **South Glasgow Heritage & Environment Trust** is holding its annual conference on 21 March at the Lighthouse. **'When Glasgow ruled the Empire'** is about the 1938 Empire Exhibition, held in Glasgow. Free entry. For members of Glasgow-based historical groups only (not open to general public).

<http://www.sghet.com/page3.html>

## UNIVERSITIES' NEWS

■ **Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen**, has been awarded a grant of £50,000 by the Research Councils UK Digital Economy network, for the **CURIOS project** (Cultural Repositories & Information Systems).

*"The CURIOS project is about how digital archives can support local interest in local heritage and, in doing so, can contribute to community regeneration and strengthened community cohesion. It will develop software tools to help remote rural communities to collaboratively maintain and present information about their cultural heritage."*

Project partners are Hebridean Connections Ltd, Portsoy Salmon Bothy, Portsoy Past and Present, Bluemungus, iSchool at Northumbria University.

<http://www.dotrural.ac.uk/dotrural/curios/>

## SHARE YOUR STORY

Two projects are collecting family history information.

■ **Working-class marriage in Scotland, 1855-1976.**

**Glasgow University** has a research project on marriage and the family. They are keen to collect photographs, ephemera, oral and written stories.

<http://workingclassmarriage.gla.ac.uk/>

■ **Read & Remember.**

**Aberdeen City Library** is among several libraries across Scotland which are asking readers to record their thoughts about books and other information on the First World War, and share family memories of events and people who were involved in the conflict. Launched on National Libraries Day, the project lasts from February 7 until the end of April. Look out for it in your local library.

[http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library/digital\\_library/xt\\_lib\\_slireadingpromotion\\_1.asp](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/Library/digital_library/xt_lib_slireadingpromotion_1.asp)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Some recent Stenlake publications:

■ **The country houses, mansions and castles of Selkirkshire**, by Bernard Byrom. Stenlake, 2014. 56pp. Pbk. £9.00. (ISBN 9781840336955).

■ **The country houses, mansions and castles of Peeblesshire**, by Bernard Byrom. Stenlake, 2014. 56pp. Pbk. £9.00. (ISBN 9781840336962 )

■ **The Gorbals and Oatlands: a new history**, by Ronald P. Smith. Vols 1-4. £16.00 (each).

1. **The Gorbals of old.**

2. **Redevelopment and its aftermath.**

3. **An example to be followed.**

4. **Oatlands and general conclusions.**

Stenlake, 2014.

<http://stenlake.co.uk/books/new.php>

■ Over the last few years West Dunbartonshire has created six Heritage Trails, with accompanying booklets (available free from West Dunbartonshire Libraries & Cultural Services, 19 Poplar Road, Dumbarton).

-*Antonine Wall heritage trail.*

-*Clydebank heritage trail.*

-*Dumbarton heritage trail.*

-*Duntocher, Hardgate and Fairley heritage trail.*

-*Old Kirkpatrick, Bowling & Milton heritage trail.*

-*The River Leven heritage trail.*

These may also be downloaded at

<http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/heritagetrails>

■ **The story of Sir David Gill, 1843-1914, Aberdeen's Royal Astronomer**, by John S.Reid. Aberdeen City Council, 1914. 24p. Pbk.

Free booklet to accompany exhibition at Aberdeen Maritime Museum in 2014. Download at

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=54988&SID=23937>

■ **Shadows of the city: Glasgow's lost mansions and houses**, by Dan Sweeney. Windan Press, 2013. 230pp, 141 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-<http://www.glasgowwestend.co.uk/shadows-city-glasgows-lost-mansions-houses-dan-sweeney/>)

The author has indicated he is available to give talks. Contact him at 0141 639 1494 or email [sweeneydan@btinternet.com](mailto:sweeneydan@btinternet.com)

## BOOKS FOR SALE

SLHF is now able to publicise members' publications on the SLHF website, with online ordering and secure payment. Available titles are:

*Burns & the sugar plantocracy of Ayrshire.*

*Towers and castles of East Lothian.*

*Looking back: Gullane and Dirleton in bygone times.*

*The stones of Gullane Kirkyard and their people.*

*The stones of Dirleton Kirkyard and their people.*

*Life and death in Dirleton parish: a social history derived from kirkyard memorials.*

*Gullane: early buildings and people.*

*From golfers to firefighters.*

*Monumental inscriptions in the churchyards of*

*Dirleton and Gullane; the old parish of Dirleton.*

*Having a wonderful time: Gullane and Dirleton.*

*Gullane and St Adrian's: people and places.*

Find out more at <https://www.slhf.org/books>

## WHAT'S ON

■ The **John Gray Centre** in Haddington has regular events relating to local and family history and archaeology of East Lothian. Their 2015 programme is on their website. Talks include:

6 March: *Historic maps at the John Gray Centre.*

26 May: *The Gretna train disaster.*

<http://www.johngraycentre.org/events/>

■ *'There was a soldier...'*

**Scottish Association of Family History Societies.**

Conference, 25 April 2015, in Stirling.

[http://www.csfhs.org.uk/safhs\\_conference\\_2015.htm](http://www.csfhs.org.uk/safhs_conference_2015.htm)

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>

Walk &  
Talk...

...in Ayr

Thursday 11 June 2015



Scottish charity  
SCO 15850

## Edward Bruce 700

**Edward Bruce 700** commemorates Edward Bruce's campaign in Ireland, 1315-18. Fresh from Bannockburn, Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, sailed from Ayr to Larne 700 years ago, with the aim of bringing Ireland under one rule and also to open a second front against the English. With complex family connections in Ulster, this enterprise by the Bruces had initial success, before failing, but left a legacy of strong Scottish-Irish links.

Dr William Roulston of the Ulster Historical Foundation will give the morning talk about the campaign, in the historic **Loudoun Hall**, one of the oldest buildings in Ayr and a rare early example of a Scottish townhouse. Built about 1513 for a wealthy merchant, and restored in the mid-20th century by the Marquess of Bute, it is now home to several societies, including the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, who are providing the guide for our afternoon walk to sites of historic interest in Ayr.

<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/record/rcahms/41819/ayr-new-bridge-street-loudoun-hall/rcahms>

### PROGRAMME 10.30-15.30

10.30 • Meet in the **Loudoun Hall** for tea/coffee (included).  
• Talk by Dr William Roulston.

12.30-14.00 Lunch break (lunch is not provided)

14.00 • Walk around old Ayr led by local historian Tom Barclay.

*Do wear sensible shoes, and be prepared to walk for around one and a half hours.*

Participants will be given a copy of **Edward Bruce 700: Heritage Trail booklet and map**, produced by Eric Graham, William Roulston and Mark Thompson.

**GETTING THERE** Loudoun Hall is in Boat Vennal (KA7 1HX) off either Harbour Street or New Bridge St. near the New Bridge (A719), almost opposite the end of High St.

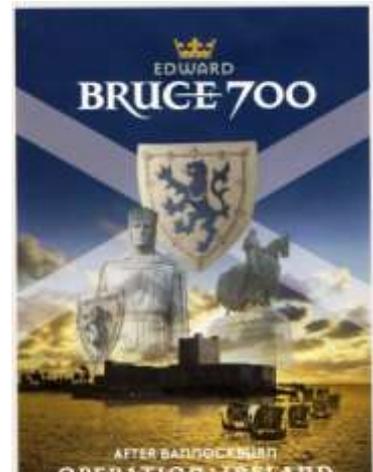
**BY RAIL** - about 10-15 min walk from the station. On leaving the station turn right, follow Burns Statue Square, then the High St. to the end, cross New Bridge St. at lights, turn right and Boat Vennal is the last alley on your left before the New Bridge.

**BY BUS** - The Bus Station is even nearer, about 5 mins walk. Larger buses park in Douglas St. outside the Bus Station. Follow Sandgate / New Bridge St. Turn left into Boat Vennal, just after traffic lights to High St (on right) and before the New Bridge.

**BY CAR** - Parking map

<http://gis.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/map/mapParking.htm>

*This 'Walk & Talk' is organised by the Scottish Local History Forum, in conjunction with the Ulster Historical Foundation, and with the assistance of the Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society and Loudoun Hall Trustees.*



Loudoun Hall

# Walk & ...in Edinburgh Talk...

Friday 12 June 2015



Scottish charity  
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## Thomas Muir 250 'Father of Scottish democracy'

Bookings are now being taken for a "walk & talk" around the theme of Thomas Muir of Huntershill (1765-1799) and the Radicals, to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, organised by SLHF in conjunction with the Friends of Thomas Muir, with the assistance of staff of St Andrews House.

[http://thomasmuir.co.uk/thomas\\_muir\\_biog.html](http://thomasmuir.co.uk/thomas_muir_biog.html)

### PROGRAMME 10.00-15.30

- 10.00 • Meet in **St Andrews House** for coffee/tea (included).
- 10.30-12.30 • Talks about Thomas Muir and the anniversary by Don Martin and Jimmy Watson of the Friends of Thomas Muir.  
• Private tour of St Andrews House – a rare opportunity to see inside this Art Deco government building which is not usually open to the public.
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch break (lunch is not provided)
- 14.00-15.30 • Walking tours of places of relevance to Thomas Muir and the radical movement around the Old Town of Edinburgh led by Eric Graham and David Ritchie.



*Attendees should be reasonably active and wear sensible footwear as the tour of the building and the walking tour will involve steps (and cobbles).*

### GETTING THERE

St Andrews House is in Regent Road, EH1 3DG (continuation of Waterloo Place, at the east end of Princes Street) about 5-10 minutes walk from Waverley Station and the Bus Station. There is (expensive) on-street parking in Regent Road, Waterloo Place or in St James Centre car park in Leith Street.

<http://www.gov.scot/About/Locations/St-Andrews-House-1>

*"I have devoted myself to  
the cause of the people.  
It is a good cause.  
It shall ultimately prevail.  
It shall finally triumph."*

Thomas Muir, August  
1793.

# BOOKING FORM - WALK & TALK - 2015

**BOOK BY POST OR ONLINE** (last date for booking is 8 June)

Book and pay online at <https://www.slhf.org/event/edward-bruce-700-walk-and-talk> (Ayr - 11 June)  
<https://www.slhf.org/event/thomas-muir-250-walk-and-talk> (Edinburgh - 12 June)

**OR** Send this form by post with a cheque made payable to 'Scottish Local History Forum' to

**SLHF Administrator,  
Box 103,  
12 South Bridge,  
Edinburgh EH1 1DD.**

*Places are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis.*

Booking made by .....

Email address .....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Telephone .....

A cheque for £..... is enclosed.

**Ayr, Thursday 11 June 2015**

No of places: ..... Members @ £10 per head

..... Non-Members @ £15 per head

Names:.....

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.....

.....

**Edinburgh, *\*\*Friday 12 June 2015\*\****

**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\***

No of places: ..... Members @ £10 per head

..... Non-Members @ £15 per head

Names:.....

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***To receive confirmation of booking please provide your email address or send a stamped SAE.  
To receive a map of Ayr (if appropriate) please send stamped SAE.***