SLHF NEWS

- **Website** The re-designed website is now live – find it at [www.slhf.org](http://www.slhf.org). The website will continue to be developed as information and funds become available. This will provide a new focus for people wishing to discover their local history, and to help them to find out more about what is happening in their area of interest, and to meet like-minded people.

Members can create profiles for their organisations at [www.slhf.org/submit-your-details/](http://www.slhf.org/submit-your-details/) and publicise their events at [www.slhf.org/submit-event/](http://www.slhf.org/submit-event/). To provide details of projects with which you are involved, suggestions for news items, recommend books for review, or submit articles for publication in the journal and/or the newsletter choose **Contribute** to email at [www.slhf.org/contact-slfh](http://www.slhf.org/contact-slfh). The success of these initiatives depends on you, the members, sharing information, so do get online!

- **Events in 2014**
  We are currently exploring the possibility of a group visit for members to **Trinity House of Leith** in late April-early May. [www.trinityhouseleith.org.uk](http://www.trinityhouseleith.org.uk)
  The origins of Trinity House can be traced to 1380, although the present remarkable building was constructed in 1816. Founded by shipowners and shipmasters of Leith to assist destitute sailors and their families, the incorporation developed to improve safety and training for mariners. With interesting maritime collections, mostly donated by the shipmasters, this is a fascinating place to visit. Eric Graham will also give a talk.

As numbers are limited, it would be useful to have some idea of how many people would like to attend. Please register your interest (name, email address, and number of people) at: [http://slhf.org/contact-slfh](http://slhf.org/contact-slfh) and choose **Events enquiry**.

- **The next SLHF Autumn Conference and AGM** will be held in the A K Bell Library in Perth on **Friday 24 October 2014**. The conference theme will be on crime and punishment. If you have suggestions for speakers on any topic relating to the theme, for example police, law, judges, crimes, prison, punishments etc, please send your ideas to the events enquiry section at [http://slhf.org/contact-slfh](http://slhf.org/contact-slfh)

- **Trustees** for 2013-14 were elected at the Annual General Meeting on 31 October.
  Re-elected were:
  - John Irvine (Hon Chair)  Angus
  - Don Martin (Hon Vice-Chair)  East Dunbartonshire
  - Dr Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)  Edinburgh
  - Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary)  Edinburgh
  - Dr Don Martin (Hon Vice-Chair)  Edinburgh
  - Dr Douglas Lockhart  Ayr
  - Finlay McKichan  Aberdeen
  - Diana Webster  Edinburgh
  - Dr David Ritchie (Hon Secretary & newsletter)
  - Dr John Irvine (Hon Chair)
  - Dr David Ritchie (Hon Secretary)
  - Dr John Irvine (Hon Chair)
  - Dr David Ritchie (Hon Secretary)

New Trustees are:
- Anthony Cooke  Dundee
- Dr David Ritchie  Edinburgh

With nine Trustees we still have vacancies for three more, so do consider being nominated, especially if you come from the regions not covered by the existing Trustees.

- **The Advisory Committee** is made up of volunteers from various member organisations plus the Trustees.

Current volunteers are:
- Linda Clark, Black Isle
- James Coleman, North Lanarkshire
- Helena Koumbouzis, Glasgow
- Alan Provan, Fife
- Graham Roberts, Dumfries & Galloway
AROUND THE LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

- The John Gray Centre in Haddington has launched an audio guide (for people with visual impairment) to their main exhibition ‘The land, the sea and the people’ which features the social history of East Lothian. Illustrations of the exhibits, with the audio commentary of ‘The Talking Museum’ (and also transcriptions) are available from www.johngraycentre.org/learning/exhibitions/the-land-the-sea-the-people-exhibition/the-talking-museum/

- Library closures

Several libraries have temporary closures while undergoing ‘refurbishment’. Although in some cases this is a positive sign of investment, it may also mask a tendency to cost-cut by amalgamating collections in fewer buildings or reducing staff by combining services.

- The Edinburgh and Scottish Collection at Edinburgh Central Library remains closed during refurbishment, while the Library incorporates the Music and Children’s collections in the main building. Latest predicted re-opening is Spring 2014.

- The Mitchell Library, Glasgow is undergoing a period of refurbishment. Currently Floors 4 and 5 [Newspapers; History; General Reference] are closed until March 2014. Stage 2 of the programme involves the closure of Floor 2 [Glasgow collection and Glasgow Archives] and Floor 3 [Family History] in March, with re-opening in June 2014. After re-opening some departments will move to a different location.

- Giffnock Library [East Renfrewshire] is closed with a predicted re-opening date set for February 2014. Staff are currently at Newton Mearns library.

- Barrhead Library [East Renfrewshire] has relocated temporarily to Lowndes Street while the old library is demolished and Barrhead Foundry, part of which will contain the new library, is redeveloped. The Barrhead Heritage Collection, which includes most of the local history material for Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor, is currently available at Neilston Library.

- On a slightly happier note, in Moray three of the seven local libraries proposed for closure have been reprieved. Burghhead, Cullen and Dufftown are the lucky ones, while Hopeman, Findochty, Portknockie and Rothes will close.

- Stranraer Library has re-opened following refurbishing. www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3800

UNIVERSITY & SOCIETIES’ NEWS

A pioneering study of the “ethnology” of Dumfries and Galloway was described at the November meetings of Kirkcudbright History Society and the Wigtownshire Antiquarian and Natural History Society by members of the team from European Ethnological Research Centre (EERC) at the University of Edinburgh. Ethnology deals with the detail of life at different times and in different places. Typically it is done by using documentary sources of different kinds like diaries and letters. It also makes use of “oral” evidence based on interviews and discussions. The current project started in 2011 and 136 in-depth interviews have so far been undertaken in Dumfries and Galloway involving 27 fieldworkers. The interviews have been recorded and are being transcribed. An analysis of the content of the interviews so far has revealed over 300 themes, like farming life and practices, school life, railways. Find out more at their blog and website: www.dangstudy.blogspot.co.uk/ www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/celtic-scottish-studies/research-publications/research/eerc

WEBSITES

- The Scottish Records Association is pleased to announce that their new look website is now live. With a fresh new appearance and an easy to navigate layout, the website is regularly updated with information about the Association. The website address has not changed, and can be found at www.scottishrecordsassociation.org

- Births, marriages and deaths from the Ayr Advertiser 1803-1835.

South Ayrshire Libraries have a new website of transcriptions taken from the Ayr Advertiser, prepared by the Opportunities in Retirement Family History Group. The Group started in 1991 so this is the product of over 20 years of effort. Access charge £2 for 7 days. http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/bmd.aspx

- Aberdeen City Libraries continues to develop their Local Studies website, the Silver City Vault. The website is in four sections: over 1600 Historic Photographs are currently available and a General Index is partially completed; Documents and audio-visual collections (Sight & Sound) are in preparation. www.silvercityvault.org.uk/

- Scotland’s People release the images of the statutory records which have become available with the new year. From 1 Jan 2014 the following are available: births in 1913, marriages in 1938 and deaths in 1963.
NEW PUBLICATIONS


Although numbered as volume 1, this marks the completion of the fourteen volume Scottish Life and Society series. It is available in e-book, hardback £60.00 (ISBN 9781906566067) and paperback £25.00 (ISBN 9781906566708). Chapter 8 (pages 163-74) 'Local History Societies' by Alex Murdoch is a wide ranging review of local history since the 1930s.

Previously published volumes are:
Vol. 2. Farming and the land
Vol. 3. Scotland's buildings
Vol. 4. Boats, fishing and the sea
Vol. 5. The food of the Scots.
Vol. 7. The working life of the Scots.
Vol. 8. Transport and communication.
Vol. 9. The individual and community life.
Vol. 11. Education.
http://www.birlinn.co.uk/John-Donald-Scottish-Life-and-Society/


This is a rich and comprehensive picture of sources relating to schools and school education in early modern Scotland. The volume also includes a list of all identified Scottish schools and schoolmasters in the period.
http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/Scottish-Schools-Schoolmasters%2C1560-1633-John-Durkan/9780906245286

- **A guide to the history, archaeology and natural history of Tullos Hill.** Aberdeen City Council, 2013. 24pp. This guide is one of a series of themed trails being developed around Aberdeen. Available as a pamphlet or download a PDF from www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/LocalHistory/tullos_hill_guide_booklet_2013.pdf

Previously published Heritage Trail Guides are:
Battle of Harlaw
Granite City Trail
Heritage Tree Trail
Jacobite Trail and Collections
March Stones Trail
Maritime Trail
North Sea Trail
Old Aberdeen Trail
People and Places
Sculpture Trail
The Green Trail


At the SLHF Conference in 2012 the author spoke about the Dundee training ship, the Mars. This is the second volume of tales about the boys who served on the vessel, 1869-1929.
http://www.rootsonet.net/sonsofthemars.com/
also available to give talks, free of charge. Adrian has gone unnoticed. The author, Adrian Searle, is Glasgow’s world class architectural detail which often goes unnoticed. The author, Adrian Searle, is available to give talks, free of charge. Adrian has considerable knowledge of art history and many years’ experience working in the design industry, and has drawn on this to put together a talk that maps the evolution of the city, as money flowed in and the city grew westward in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

If you would be interested in Adrian giving a talk to your members please get in touch on 0141 552 5303, or send an email to info@freightbooks.co.uk".


The distributor has sent this information: this “is a new coffee table book of beautiful photography of Glasgow’s world class architectural detail which often goes unnoticed. The author, Adrian Searle, is available to give talks, free of charge. Adrian has considerable knowledge of art history and many years’ experience working in the design industry, and has drawn on this to put together a talk that maps the evolution of the city, as money flowed in and the city grew westward in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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- **Scottish Local History** issue 87 was published in December.

Contents include:
- Snapshots of Kintyre
- Govan poorhouses
- Napoleonic prisoner in Lochmaben
- A Loch Lomond mystery
- President Grant’s visit to Scotland
- Our Lady of Aberdeen
- Barrowfield and Camlachie
- Slavery and the Highlands
**WHAT’S ON: January-February 2014**

Find information provided by member societies about many more talks and events on the SLHF website. ‘Upcoming Events’ lists them in date order. [http://slhf.org/events](http://slhf.org/events). The ‘Calendar’ gives a daily, weekly, monthly or annual indication of events. [http://slhf.org/calendar-node-field-date](http://slhf.org/calendar-node-field-date). Both link to details of the society and a location map.

The inclusion of societies’ programmes in the What’s On section of the newsletter is an interim arrangement as the SLHF website now enables societies and organisations to add their own events to the calendar. Many thanks to those who have already done so. These include:

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<th>Society Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dollar History Society</td>
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<td>Drymen &amp; District Local History Society</td>
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<td>Elie &amp; Earlsferry History Society</td>
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<td>Fala, Soutra &amp; District heritage and History Society</td>
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<td>Kinross-shire Historical Society</td>
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<td>Kirkcudbright History Society</td>
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<td>Milngavie &amp; Bearsden Historical Society</td>
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<td>The Tweeddale Society</td>
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**CONFERENCES & SPECIAL EVENTS**


**SOCIETIES’ MEETINGS**

**ABERTAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  [www.abertay.org.uk](http://www.abertay.org.uk)  [museum@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:museum@dundee.ac.uk)

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 5 Feb</td>
<td>Bess Rhodes: <em>Bishops, bridges, and bust-ups – relations between the city of St Andrews and the surrounding area, c.1400-1560.</em></td>
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**BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY**  [www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/broughton-history-society](http://www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/broughton-history-society)

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Feb</td>
<td>Ian Gardiner: <em>The Falklands War from the Perspective of 45 Commando.</em></td>
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**CLACKMANNANSHIRE FIELD STUDIES SOCIETY**  [www.cfss.org.uk/](http://www.cfss.org.uk/)

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**KIRKINTILLOCH & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES**

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<tr>
<td>Fri 17 Jan</td>
<td>John Gordon: <em>A history of Kilsyth</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 14 Feb</td>
<td>Dr David Graham: <em>Gruinard Island</em></td>
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**MORAY SOCIETY**

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<tr>
<td>Thurs 23 Jan</td>
<td>Sandy Cooper: <em>Robert Burns in Moray.</em></td>
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<td>Thurs 6 Feb</td>
<td>Visit to Moray College Science Dept</td>
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<td>Thurs 27 Feb</td>
<td>Marion Yool, NADFAS, <em>Moray’s church interiors.</em></td>
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**OLD EDINBURGH CLUB**  [www.oldedinburghclub.org.uk](http://www.oldedinburghclub.org.uk)

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**OLD GLASGOW CLUB**  [www.oldglasgowclub.org.uk](http://www.oldglasgowclub.org.uk)

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<tr>
<td>Thurs 9 Jan</td>
<td>Burns Shearar: <em>The Comet, the Clyde, the commerce.</em></td>
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