



Fortrose and Rosemarkie Local History Group

PROGRAMME JANUARY TO MAY 2024

**Monday January 8th: Roland Spencer Jones,
'The Wood in Vernacular Buildings in the Highlands'**

Wood has supported the roofs and sides of buildings in the Highlands for millennia. However, the way that it has been used has varied during that time. In this talk we will explore the structural support that wood gave to the vernacular buildings of the Highlands over the last three centuries, from posts to crucks to rafters.

Monday February 12th: Philip Paris, 'The last Witch of Scotland'

The historical fiction, 'The Last Witch of Scotland', was inspired by the extraordinary story of Janet Horne, the last person in Britain to be executed for witchcraft (Dornoch, 1727).

Monday March 11th: Shona Maclean, 'Fictionalising the Past'

Historical novelist S.G. MacLean (Shona) will talk about the research methods behind her books, and look in particular at her Jacobite Thriller, 'The Bookseller of Inverness'.

**Monday April 15th: Jonathan McColl, 'The Early National Censuses of
Dingwall'**

Monday May 13th: John McGregor, 'The Highland Railway besieged'

Formed by amalgamation of the early Inverness companies, the Highland Railway was unchallenged into the 1880s. Thereafter the Company faced repeated attack but preserved a precarious independence until gathered into the inter-War London, Midland & Scottish Group (1923). Had their regional monopoly been breached, would the Highlands and Islands have benefitted? On that question historians remain divided.

Visitors are welcome to join meetings but must register before the event. For further details email the Treasurer to arrange payment at fortroserosemarkiehistory@gmail.com

For more information about the group visit our website at:
www.spanglefish.com/fortroseandrosemarkiehistorygroup