



Scottish Local History Forum

Scottish Charity Number: SCO 15850

ANNUAL REPORT – 2012

General

The Forum was founded in 1983. The aims of The Forum are to advance the heritage of Scotland and education in Scottish local history, without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, by associating historical societies, local authorities, voluntary organisations, educational institutions and individuals in a common effort to pursue this object by the stimulation of public interest and encouragement of high standards in education through the medium of meetings, publications, exhibitions and conferences.

Management

The Scottish Local History Forum is managed by a committee of Trustees, elected annually. As of 31st July 2012 the Trustees were: John W Irvine (Chairman), Don Martin (Vice-Chairman), Diana Webster (Events Secretary), Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer), Ken Bogle, Douglas Lockhart, Finlay McKichan, Susan Beckley, and Malcolm Bangor-Jones. The Hon Secretary's position became vacant during the year and was shared between others until Jan Bateman was co-opted in July.

The Publications Board as at 31st July 2011 consisted of Don Martin (Hon Chairman), Mary Craig, Douglas Lockhart, Eric Graham, John Irvine, Eric Simpson and Stuart Nisbet.

Chairman's Remarks

I must begin by extending my thanks to the Publications Board for their splendid efforts with the Forum's Journal – its new format and use of colour has been complimented by many of our members. In 2012 we have returned to 3 issues per year. This has been possible due to the stabilisation of finances through increased membership and taking in advertising revenue for the journal.

I must also thank Diana Webster for her skills in arranging the Forum's conferences during 2012 and for her efforts in producing the artwork for the conference leaflets and other items during the year.

Eric Graham & Jan Bateman are doing an excellent job as treasurer and secretary respectively and I will be proposing that Jan steps into the secretary's position officially at this year's AGM.

Douglas Lockhart has been a great asset helping recruit new members and selling back numbers of our journal. We are keen to attend some new venues during 2013 to promote the Forum.

The 2011 Conference was held in Glasgow, in the Renfield Centre. The subject being Travellers, Turnpikes and Tar – 1000 years of Scotland's Roads. This was an outstanding success with in excess of 130 attendees. The Spring workshop and talks held in the Maryhill Burgh Halls was something of an experiment. Feedback was positive, particularly about the contributions from member societies and although only 40 attended (it was cup final day), it gave those who did attend the opportunity to circulate and interact with fellow members. We need to build on this.

As we are well aware the finances for such a small organisation as ourselves are fairly limited but we closed the year in a healthy position, due to a number of initiatives in developing new revenue streams and promoting the Forum in order to stimulate membership.

During 2012 we sold 2 ½ pages of full colour advertising for each journal to organisations which are compatible with our values and objectives. We aim to continue this in 2013. We are also now going out and actively recruiting new members. To do this we have attended fairs of sister associations. Journals have been on sale in previous years at various events and back issues have been sold at our conferences. We have now taken the step of retailing our journal through the National Library of Scotland, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Records of Scotland on a trial basis. This is an excellent way of promoting the Forum to new audiences and gaining new members. Follow-up orders have been received from all three organisations. We are also placing articles which promote the Forum in other publications and websites to make interested parties aware of our existence. These include: The 'Burns Chronicle' (which has a worldwide Scots circulation), the 'Scots in London' website, the FHS, and the Carnegie Trust's journal. We also now have developed a standard power-point presentation which can be used whenever the opportunity arises. In the coming year we wish to resurrect our links with all Scottish Universities and Colleges and develop links with government agencies. We have also applied for a lottery grant for a special project to host a database of suffragists on a re-vamped website (the public face of the Forum) so that local societies can access them to conduct their own further research.

We welcome participation in the management of the Forum from both individual members and members from societies and other affiliated organisations. To this end we are proposing a change in the Constitution to create an Advisory Committee made up of members from affiliated organisations. We also seek volunteers from the membership to help with various projects and ventures.

John W Irvine FSA Scot
SLHF Hon Chairman

Treasurer's Remarks

There was a surplus of £769 for the year (compared to a surplus of £1999 last year), but giftaid has not yet been claimed (this accounted for over £500 of revenue last year). However we have produced 3 journals this year (compared to two last year) and significantly improved the quality of the journals (including colour etc). In general we have significantly expanded our activities - our turnover (and operations) has increased by a third compared to last year: from just over £8000 to over £12000. Particularly pleasing is our increase in revenues, both by increasing membership, by sale of journals, and through appropriate advertising in the journal. Also we have managed two conferences this year - which overall have been profitable. Our reserves have increased, we had over £8000 in the bank at the end of the financial year.

Eric J Graham
SLHF Hon Treasurer

A full set of accounts is available upon request.
Independent Examiner: Mark Gallagher, EQ Accountants, CA.

Income and Expenditure to 31st July, 2012

Expenditure	2011/2012	2010/2011
Conference		
Venue hire	978.00	639.07
Speakers	112.50	
Admin fee	50.00	1,185.50
Stationery	0.00	
Promotional costs	145.00	30.00
Catering	648.72	
Printing	180.05	
Postage	0.00	
Other	20.00	
Total	2,134.27	1,854.57
Journal		
Admin fee	0.00	512.00
Printing	7,055.00	3,155.00
Postage	867.48	428.37
Other	149.06	
Total	8,071.54	4,095.37
Admin(incl AGM & membership)		
Audit fees	0.00	26.67
Insurance	58.00	58.00
AGM Venue hire	0.00	
Admin Fee	244.96	
Postage	57.60	
Printing	0.00	
Website	606.80	47.40
Stationery	0.00	
Other	455.45	
Total	1,422.81	132.07
TOTAL	11,628.62	6,082.01
Income		
Membership (individual)	4,318.50	6,406.00
Membership (organisation)	3,269.20	
Journal Sales	1,303.08	5.76
Advertising Income	598.00	
Flyer insert	0.00	
Conference Fees	2,840.00	733.00
Gift Aid	0.00	533.03
Donations	0.00	
Bank Interest	0.00	371.00
Other	69.64	
TOTAL	12,398.42	8,048.79
DEFICIT/SURPLUS FOR YEAR	769.80	1,966.78

