

## Scottish Local History Forum



Scottish charity  
SCO 15850

## Walk & Talk ... ...in Dumfries

Friday 9 June 2017

### Discovering 'The Crichton'

The Crichton Royal Hospital, described as 'the last, and grandest, of Scotland's royal asylums', was founded in 1838 and extended over the next century. Offering a new way to treat mental illness, the Crichton's beautiful tranquil setting a couple of miles south of Dumfries, was part of the therapy. Splendid A and B listed buildings are spread around a large estate with a 'village green' centred on Crichton Memorial Church.

Psychiatric research combined with innovative treatment using occupational and art therapy made the Crichton a landmark in the treatment of mental illness. The art work produced by the patients was collected and is the subject of one of the talks.

The site is now a business park and academic campus used by various institutions, including Glasgow University which is kindly providing a room for the talks.

#### CRICHTON CAMPUS MAP

[http://www.crichton.ac.uk/web/downloads/crichton\\_site.pdf](http://www.crichton.ac.uk/web/downloads/crichton_site.pdf)

The Rutherford McCowan Building is in the south-east corner of the site. Adjacent parking is often full; Easterbrook Hall car park (between Hall and Church) is most likely to have spaces.



As Dumfries is some distance from the rest of Scotland there is a late start on **Friday 9 June** allowing time for bus travel from Glasgow. Those from further afield may wish to stay for a night, either on site in the Aston Hotel (now a Holiday Inn) or in a local B&B.

Graham Roberts, Dumfries & Galloway Archivist and a member of SLHF Advisory Committee, has arranged this visit, and to add interest to an overnight stay, if there is sufficient demand, he has offered to reveal some of the **highlights of the archive collection in the Ewart Library from 3pm on Thursday 8 June** in an informal display and talk. Please indicate if you would like to attend the Archive on the booking form.

There are several places of interest in the surrounding area, including Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura (which has an excellent local history exhibition), Caerlaverock Castle, Sweetheart Abbey and Drumlanrig.

**PROGRAMME: 9 June, 12.00- 16.00**

**VENUE: Rutherford / McCowan Building, Glasgow University, Crichton Campus, Bankend Road, Dumfries DG1 4ZL.** (Fork left into Bankend Road from B725 south of Dumfries; turn right at roundabout).

12.00-12.45 Registration; tea/coffee (bring your own lunch).

12.45-14.00 TALKS

*A brief introduction to the history of the Asylum* Graham Roberts  
*The art works produced by the patients as therapy* Maureen Parks

14.00-16.00 WALK around the grounds, led by Graham Roberts

***The timing of the programme has been arranged to fit with public transport from central Scotland.***

*Please note that lunch is not provided.*

**Advance booking is essential  
BOOKING FORM - WALK & TALK  
9 June 2017 - Dumfries**

**BOOK BY POST OR ONLINE** (last date for booking is five days before the event)

Book and pay online at <https://www.slhf.org/event/walk-talk-dumfries>

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

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

Tel: 0131 669 8252  
Email: <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

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

..... Non-Members @ £15 per head

Names:.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Please tick here** If you are interested in the **optional visit on Thursday 8 June at 3pm** to Dumfries and Galloway Archive in the Ewart Library.

**A cheque for £..... is enclosed.**

**Booking made by** .....

- Individual member of SLHF
- Society or organisation member: name of organisation: .....
- Non-member

**Email address** .....

Address.....  
.....  
..... Postcode.....

Telephone .....

**To receive confirmation of booking please provide your email address, or send a stamped SAE.**

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

*Do wear sensible shoes, and be prepared to walk for at least two hours. There may be uneven surfaces.*