

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

■ Welcome to *Clish-Clash* the e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum. Launched in November 2013, it is the bi-monthly opportunity to share news and information about local history. Circulated by email to all members and also available on the SLHF web site, *Clish-Clash* provides information about talks and events, details of publications and news from local societies. More recently we have added some content about accessing history on podcasts and platforms such as Spotify and YouTube. As a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic a special issue had its focus on undertaking Local History from Home. This theme has continued in subsequent editions as the situation has evolved and access to events and archives has become every limited.

■ We are coming towards nearly 50 issues and have a new editor, and so SLHF would like to know of your experience of *Clish-Clash*. When it arrives do you hit the read or delete button? If you are a Society, do you forward it your members and if so what are their views of it? Over coming issues we may experiment with different features and even provide offers to SLHF members such as in this edition from Lost Railways. If *Clish-Clash* is to continue we need to know what you would like and just as importantly we need you to contribute news and other information. Please let us know what you think. You can do this by going to <https://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

■ The Forum's 2020 AGM was held by Zoom videoconference on 29 October. When apologies were given and the minute of the 2019 AGM approved, Paul Bishop (Chair) referred members to the **Annual Report**, which is on the Forum's website www.slhf.org. Three colour issues of *Scottish Local History* and six e-newsletters had been produced during the year. The Annual Conference 'Seeing the Wood for the Trees' was held on 31 October 2019 and the annual talk in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland (on the inventor Alexander Bain) on 12 March. The latter was the Library's last public event before the Covid-19 lockdown. The pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the Linlithgow Walk and Talk event on 27 June and the October 2020 Conference. Paul highlighted the efforts made to maintain and in some respects expand the Forum's activities during the pandemic, especially by the editorial team, who have produced three issues

of *Scottish Local History* on time and have a bank of papers in hand, by the social media team (especially with the introduction of the timely Facebook page) and by the *Clish-Clash* team. Diana Webster has retired as its editor and was thanked for launching *Clish-Clash* almost seven years ago and so successfully developing it. She has been succeeded by James Kennedy. Online resources have been specially featured in *Clish-Clash* to keep members researching while archives are closed.

■ Jan Bateman (Honorary Treasurer) gave an analysis of the **Annual Accounts** (available as part of the Annual Report). She proposed that, because of the pandemic, subscriptions for 2021-2 should be retained at the current level (despite the vote of last year's AGM for an increase). This proposal was approved by electronic voting, nem con, and the 2021 AGM will revisit this point.

■ Finlay McKichan explained that proposed **constitutional** amendments (revised version on the Forum's website) were mainly a tidying up exercise. He highlighted a few more material changes, notably the removal of the office of Vice Chair and of the clause setting the maximum term of office of Advisory Committee members. The revised constitution was approved nem con.

■ Paul paid tribute to two Trustees who have not sought re-election. **John Irvine** became chairman in 2010 at a challenging time for the Forum and presided over its affairs during a period when its services were considerably developed. A tribute in *SLH* issue 102 coincided with his stepping down from the Chair and

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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a further tribute will be published in *SLH* 109. **Douglas Lockhart** was over a period of ten years a real stalwart of *SLH*: as an author (twenty eight articles since 2010); as a member of the editorial team and latterly deputy editor; and in journal sales (estimated to have totalled around £14,000). He has also been a member of the *Clish-Clash* editorial team. Both of these Trustees were warmly thanked for their service to the Forum. Paul proposed the **re-election of the Trustees and Office Bearers** shown on the agenda, which was adopted *nem con*. He appealed for members to come forward to join the Trustees.

■ Finlay McKichan proposed the re-election of the **Advisory Committee** members shown on the agenda. One of these was Eve Boyle, Historic Environment Scotland, who had been co-opted during the year. He paid thanks to David Smith, who had been a member since the Committee's inauguration and was not seeking re-election. He also proposed the election of a new member, David Oswald to represent LOCSCOT, and appealed for representatives of member societies and organisations to join the committee. The nominations were approved *nem con*.

■ In concluding the meeting, Paul announced the first two winners of the **Birlinn Prize for the Best Article of the Year in *SLH***, the judging panel having been unable to separate the two which best met the criteria. See below. Jan Bateman appealed for **online events** to be notified in the Events section of the Forum's website.

■ ***SLH* 108** is now complete and with MDPD for design and printing. Up to and including Issue 108 we have been able to identify interesting News reports, but with so many local events cancelled this year, the supply of such reports is beginning to dry up. The editors are keen to publish accounts of ways that local history societies are organising alternative activities. We have already received a few such reports, but we would welcome more. Contact details for the Editor can be found at the back of the journal.

■ It is also important to report on recording the **pandemic** at local level. Journal 107 carried photographs of impacts at local level and Journal 108 will carry others, but more would be very welcome. It also is hoped that the journal will be able to report on local oral history projects in response to the pandemic.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

A number of archive venues are gradually reopening and you should contact individual archives to clarify their plans. We will, however, continue to update the situation with the National Library of Scotland and the National Records Scotland. The latest Scottish Government guidance on travel and opening of public facilities such as libraries can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

■ The **National Library of Scotland** has reopened its services for library card holders on a pre-booked basis. Further details are available at <https://www.nls.uk/reopening>

The **NLS** recently launched its five-year strategy 'Reaching People Library Strategy 2020-2025'. It builds upon the NLS's work over the past five years, and looks towards their centenary in 2025, by which time a growing number of Scottish residents will enjoy an online service tailored towards their needs and interests. <https://www.nls.uk/strategy>

The **NLS** blog gives details on one of its latest projects. As Scotland's largest library, the NLS also has a wealth of local studies material. Library staff are choosing interesting resources for each local area, concentrating on the materials available free, online, at home. And it will also point you towards your local collections of many unique and fascinating documents and objects <https://blog.nls.uk/zoom-into-scotland/>

■ The **National Records of Scotland** on-site services are currently closed, despite some lobbying by SLHF for access during the pandemic. The NRS are currently working towards a phased re-opening and are likely to open initially with reduced opening hours and facilities, with a range of new measures to ensure safety. The latest position can be found here <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/service-status>

■ The **Museums and Heritage Awards** shortlist included several Scottish Museums. The Virtual Awards Ceremony was held 22nd September 2020 and the National Trust for Scotland was a winner in the Shop of the Year category. Further details at <https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/award-winners-2020/>

■ The **Scottish Community Heritage Alliance** web site continues to provide important updates about issues affecting heritage bodies. SCHA has recently become a constituted not-for-profit body with a Board drawn from grassroots community heritage organisations and projects. <https://scottishcommunityheritage.org/>

■ **JSTOR** is a digital library of academic journals, books and primary sources. As well as giving access to an extensive range of material you can also sign up for their weekly digest. In addition during the current pandemic JSTOR has made a much wider range of items available for free until at least 31st December 2020 <https://about.jstor.org/covid19/>

■ The **V & A Museum of Design Dundee** has announced activities to focus on the decolonisation of their galleries. The context is described in some detail by Meredith Moore Curator at the V&A Dundee <https://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/articles/decolonising-our-galleries-an-introduction>

■ **Wellcome Library** continues its focus on face masks by providing an online picture exhibition "How Wartime Propaganda encouraged Brits to wear masks" <https://wellcomecollection.org>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** has published the latest results of a follow up survey scoping the impacts of Covid-19 on the country's historic environment sector. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/hes-unveils-latest-covid-impact-results/>

■ The **National Trust for Scotland** has been awarded £3.8m by the Scottish Government to assist it in coping with the impact of Covid-19. This will help save some 200 jobs but 232 redundancies are still expected. The finance will help NTS open 33 buildings this year which is five more than had been planned. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53793938>

■ Volunteers at **Historylinks Museum** in Dornoch have overhauled the Historylinks Image Library during lockdown. Their new website allows better searching, larger pdf files as well as access to film archives. Historylinks is one of the few museums in the Highlands to have an online catalogue so if you can't get there, browse through their large collection here <https://www.historylinksarchive.org.uk/>

■ **The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses** and **Kinnaird Head Castle and Lighthouse** are featured in a recent VisitScotland day in the life item which celebrates Scotland's year of Coasts and Water <https://www.visitscotland.org/news/2020/day-in-the-life---the-museum-of-scottish-lighthouses>.

SOCIETIES

■ The September 2020 Newsletter of the **Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries** provides an interesting read on local geology, a family history query and note about recent journal publications featuring Kirkintilloch. It is hoped that 'virtual' meetings of KDSA can be held in October, November and December as pre-recorded talks posted on the Society's website.

■ The **Vernacular Architecture Group** (VAG) and the **Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group** (SVBWG) are forging stronger links, and are keen to collaborate with other interested groups. VAG recently held a very successful video conference, with 142 participants from across Britain. The VAG January 2021 conference will be on "Houses and the Hearth Tax", and it is hoped to include a contribution from Scotland. If you have worked in this area and could make a contribution, please contact SVBWG Chair and SLHF Advisory Committee member Niall Logan at loganniall@yahoo.co.uk.

■ The **Women's History Network**: The current Covid-19 crisis has created a number of challenges for the Women's History Network's activities and for historians

of women more generally. The Annual Conference had been delayed and the group will be holding its next conference at the Museum of Rural Life in Reading on 3 and 4 September 2021, an ideal venue for the theme of Homes, Food and Farms. Also please make note of the WHN 2020-2021 online seminar series, in which you can engage with historians world-wide on their latest research on a diverse array of topics within women's and gender history. The seminars will provide the opportunity to question the speaker(s) and to connect with a diverse group in exploring and promoting research and learning across a range of periods and places.

<https://womenshistorynetwork.org/whn-online-seminar-series-2020-2021/>

■ The **Geological Curator's Group's** special journal issue on Hugh Miller of Cromarty has been made freely accessible. As one might expect, it is focussed on Miller's fossil collections and their history in National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh and the Hugh Miller Cottage in Cromarty (the National Trust for Scotland's Hugh Miller Birthplace Cottage and Museum). But there is much which may interest local historians on Miller family history, the Miller Monument and the development of tourism in Cromarty, as well as on Hill and Adamson's calotype photographs. The relevant issue is volume 10 issue 7:

<https://www.geocurator.org/resources/50-geological-curator/the-geological-curator-volume-10>

The Geological Curator's group is for anyone who is interested in geological collections. Membership is open to all and reasonably priced. See www.geocurator.org

■ The most recent e-newsletter of the **British Association for Local History** includes reports on the BALH's recent Virtual AGM, their 10 minute talks and a free online Palaeography Tutorial from Cheshire Archives. The full newsletter is here: <https://www.balh.org.uk/e-newsletters/2020-10-05.html>

■ The website of the **Inverness Local History Forum** promotes its work since it was established in 1992 by the late Mrs Sheila Mackay OBE. With a few like-minded volunteers she set about researching, recording, preserving and promoting the history of Inverness. Previous newsletters can be downloaded. <http://www.invernesshistory.co.uk/>

■ The September newsletter of the **Scottish Labour History Society** (SLHS) is seeking help in obtaining issues 1 to 9 of their journal *Scottish Labour History*, to make a complete set of *SLH*. If you are willing to provide any of issues 1 to 9, please contact SLHS Chair, Stewart MacLennan stewart_maclellan@btinternet.com

■ The **UK Association for the History of Nursing** has confirmed outline details of their 2021 UKAHN

Colloquium at The Friends Meeting House, Chichester, West Sussex on 29 June 2021. Further information and a call for abstracts is at <http://ukahn.org/ukahn-colloquium-2021/>

■ The **Royal Scottish Geographical Society's** blogs are not just about geography and the following may interest readers. Jo Woolf, writer in residence, is author of "Shackleton at the RSGS: A Sketch". This is an attempt to explain why there are no newspaper cuttings in the RSGS archives from early 1904 until late 1905. "Departing the Island on 'The Edge of the World'" written by Kenny Maclean, RSGS Tivy Education Medallist, offers a thoughtful and well researched perspective on this major event on 29th August 1930. <https://www.rsgs.org/Blogs/rsgs-blog>

■ **Dean Village News** Issue 186 August 2020 includes a look back to Dean Village 1989-1992 as well as the history of Drumsheugh Baths, built in 1882. There are several other article of historical interest in this excellent publication. <https://deanvillage.org>

■ **The Family History Federation** is holding the FHF Really Useful Family History Society Show on Saturday 14th November 2020 and will provide expert presentations and speakers including Chris Fleet on the Value of the National Library of Scotland Maps in Family History Research and Chris Paton on British Civilian POWs in WW1. Full details available from <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/event-federation-the-fhf-really-useful-family-history-show-2020-11-14>

UNIVERSITIES

■ The **Open University** offers interesting subjects under History and the Arts at OpenLearn, the Open University free courses <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/free-courses>

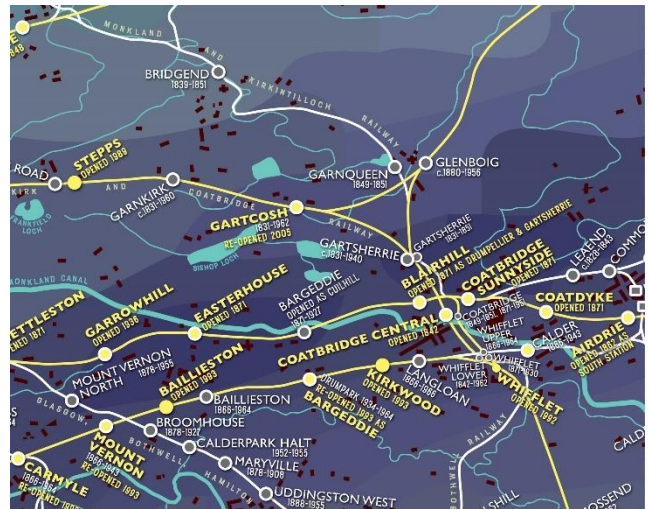
■ The **University of Strathclyde** hosts on behalf of Future Learn a four-week course called Working Lives on Britain's Railways <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/working-lives-on-the-railway>

■ The **Institute of Historical Research** and the **School of Advanced Study University of London** are hosting History Day 2020 on 19th November Further details: <https://historycollections.blogs.sas.ac.uk/programme/>

WEBSITES

■ **Lost Railways** celebrate our lost railways and stations in high quality digital art posters that can be purchased online, helping to immortalise an important part of our heritage. The aim is to include every railway station and line that ever existed in Scotland. The

completed artworks to date celebrate the central belt. <https://lostrailwaysposters.co.uk/> We have been able to get a 15% discount for posters ordered with the following reference **CLISH-CLASH-15**. Time to get a poster as a year-end treat!



The lost railways and stations of N. Lanarkshire

■ **Who Do Think You Are Magazine** Issue 169 featured an article called **Fisher Girls** referencing the following four web sites:

- The **Tobar an Dualchais** project: archival recordings and testimony from workers in fishing including those who travelled with the fleets <https://www.ed.ac.uk/about/gaelic/gaelic-collections/kist-o-riches-tobar-an-dualchais>
- The **Angus Macleod Archive**: information about the history of Scotland's fishing industry <http://www.angusmacleodarchive.org.uk/>.
- The **Scottish Fisheries Museum** in Anstruther, Fife: archive material specific to individuals and businesses in the fishing industry, including the gutting process <https://www.scottishmuseum.org/>
- **Shetland Museum & Archives**: information on the fishing industry and fisher girls from Shetland <https://www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk> (See last page of this *Clish-Clash*)

■ The **Old Glasgow Pubs** web site records local landmarks and a brief history of when a pub was established, along with all the publicans who held the pub's licence and as much information on the pub as possible. Many Glasgow 'locals' have been demolished and their names forgotten, and it is hoped that this website will bring back good memories. <https://oldglasgowpubs.com/>

■ On the same theme **The Scottish Brewing Archive Association** publishes newsletters and journals, and arranges visits to breweries: <https://www.scottishbrewingarchive.co.uk/>

■ **Findmypast** has recently made available to their members more than 300,000 Scottish family history records. The collection consists of parish records from the counties of Banffshire and Moray dating from the 19th century to 2011 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk>

PODCASTS

We continue our regular feature on podcasts with some recommendations based on recent listening.

■ **BBC Sounds** has recently launched a retrospective of the multi award winning Edi Stark series called **Stark Talk**. This series has been running for some 20 years and offers excellent interviews including one from 1993 with the late Norman MacCaig who talks of his life and times and provides readings from his wonderful work. Other interviews will roll out over the next few months including one with Katherine Grainger who describes her hard work and reveals the music that helped her along the way to finally claim a gold medal at the 2012 Olympic Games:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08mtp23>

■ **A Short History of Solitude** is also available from the **BBC Sounds** site. Historian Thomas Dixon decided to examine the history of solitude, from 14th century anchorite men and women who were sealed in tombs as living sacrifices to God, to modern-day artists and entertainers who've made isolation the centre of their work. This short series was influenced by Covid-19-imposed isolation:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000m57l>.

■ **The Long View** also on the **BBC**, with episodes from as far back as 2015, remains a go-to listen as Jonathan Freedland explores current events in relation to similar events from the past (for example, the ongoing issue of the price of milk compared with the wheat crisis in the 1930s). There are also episodes on Pioneering Women and Impeaching a President. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s7d6/episodes/downloads>

■ **On The Ground** is a nine part examination of the Iraq War of 2003, where a British unit was the victim of so-called friendly fire. It is rendered more vivid by the inclusion of recordings made at the time, and brought closer to home by the memories of Scottish journalist Audrey Gillan. She was embedded with the unit as they went across the border and now catches up with them 17 years later:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08n72kc/episodes/downloads>

■ **Meet Me at the Museum** is a terrific series from artfund.org combining laughter and fun with intricate descriptions of exhibits in various celebrities' favourite museums. Amongst the celebrities are Kirsty Walk at the V&A Dundee, Jackie Kay at the Glasgow Women's Library, and Edith Bowan at the Kelvingrove.

<https://www.artfund.org/whats-on/meet-me-at-the-museum>

PUBLICATIONS

■ **Septimus Severus in Scotland: The Northern Campaigns of the First Hammer of the Scots** by Dr Simon Elliott. Greenhill Books 2020. 208pp. 50 b&w illustrations. Pbk £15.99. (ISBN: 9781784385804). <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Septimius-Severus-in-Scotland-Paperback/p/18758>

■ **Orchestrations of Colour the stained glass of Douglas Hamilton** by Jeff Hopewell. The Coplow Press, 2020, 128 pages, 75 colour photos Pbk £19.95. (ISBN 9781838068004).

email: coplowpress@gmail.com website: <https://coplowpress.carrrd.co>

■ **Frederick Douglass and Scotland, 1846: Living an Antislavery Life** by Alasdair Pettinger. Edinburgh University Press 2020. 376pp. Pbk £24.99. (ISBN 97814744444262).

<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-frederick-douglass-and-scotland-1846.html>

■ **The Story of Scottish Art by Lachlan Goudie**. Thames & Hudson 2020. 384pp. 181 Illustrations. Hbk £29.95. (ISBN: 978-0500239612).

■ **One Week in April: The Scottish Radical Rising of 1820** by Maggie Craig. Birlinn 2020. 304pp. Hbk £20.00. (ISBN: 978-1-78027-632-8) <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/one-week-in-april/>

■ **History Scotland**, 20(6), November/December 2020 This is a special edition on the Jacobite period but also includes amongst other stories the results of recent radar survey of Dunfermline Abbey and a very timely article about a church record of 1645, the year the plague stuck Leith.

<https://www.historyscotland.com/>

■ **Who Do You Think You Are?** Issue 168 features an article on the Strathclyde University project using DNA testing to uncover the descendants of the signatories of the Declaration of Arbroath. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/issue/who-do-you-think-you-are-magazine-september-2020/>

■ North Kessock and District History Society have recently published **Killearnan Memories**, a fully illustrated book on the story of Killearnan Parish by Graham Clark. It's on sale locally for £10 or by contacting

<http://www.northkessockhistory.com/index.asp?pageid=704890>

■ **A Look Back at Stirling** by Dane Lowe. Carn Publishing 2020 80pp including photographs. Pbk £9.00. ISBN 978-1911043119

<https://www.carnpublishing.com/lookbackstirling.html>

BOOK REVIEWS

Stenlake Publishing was closed during lockdown but has recently recommenced business, issuing a batch of (mostly 'landscape') albums. These include titles in the 'Country Houses and Castles' series, as follows:

- B Byrom: *The Country Houses, Castles and Mansions of W Lothian*. ISBN 978 1 84033 876 8
- WS Wilson: *The Country Houses and Castles of Royal Deeside, Volume One: Lower Deeside*. ISBN 978 1 84033 884 3
- WS Wilson: *The Country Houses and Castles of Royal Deeside, Volume Two: Upper Deeside*. ISBN 978 1 84033 855 3

All are black & white albums of 48 pages, priced at £10.95 each. They follow the usual style for this series of a sequence of full-page landscape photographs of castles and houses, occasionally relieved by one of a gateway or gate-house, or of members of staff. Most of the images have fairly generous captions. On Deeside some of the castles are better-known than most of the villages. The 'Lower Deeside' book includes the likes of Crathes Castle and Drum Castle. The 'Upper Deeside' publication includes Balmoral Castle (including a period interior of the ballroom) and Braemar Castle, as well as lesser-known piles like Abergeldie Castle and Aboyne Castle.

The batch of 2020-published Stenlake books also includes a reprint of the 2009 publication *Old Doune and Deanston* by Bernard Byrom (pp.48, ISBN 978 1 84033 462 3) which is republished at its original price of £7.99. It is easy to see why it has been re-issued, as it has some remarkable photographs, including a local dispensing chemist at work in his shop/laboratory surrounded by chemical storage jars c.1904, a memorable photo-portrait of Doune poet Dan Kennedy, and two photographs of the giant water-wheels at Deanston Mill.

Other books in this batch of Stenlake publications will be reviewed in *Scottish Local History*.



**One of the four large Deanston water wheels, with man for scale c.1930
(courtesy Stirling Council Archives)**

ONLINE EVENTS

With the ongoing pandemic some societies are offering their members online presentations. If you are organising an event please add to the listings on the SLHF website as you would for face-to-face events. Meanwhile here is a flavour of what has come our way.

■ Our thanks to Steve Connelly, President, **Abertay Historical Society** for the following.

The Abertay Historical Society's has asked some of our speakers to put their presentations online and invited members to register for an online question and answer session with the presenters. Our delayed annual general meeting held via Zoom in September was followed by a session with Ruairaidh Wishart on *Abertay 25 so far*. This presentation dealt with the project to mark the first quarter century of the University of Abertay. Ruairaidh also covered the history of the institution before the granting of university status. As our first online event, it went very well. See:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=abertay+historical+society

In October, as part of Black History Month, we used the same format for Dr Alasdair Pettinger's *The Temperature of Dundee - Frederick Douglass at the School Wynd Chapel, 10 March 1846*. Alasdair covered this particular occasion, and also narrated the details of the life of this escaped slave and his impact during his tours of Scotland and Ireland promoting the cause of emancipation and the abolition of slavery. In particular Douglass pursued the issue of the financial support received by the Free Church of Scotland from slave-owning Presbyterians in the American South. Another excellent presentation.

In November Norman Atkinson OBE, the retired Director of Cultural Services for Angus Council, will be making a presentation on *The Picts in Angus and Fife*. It looks as if the online presentation and Zoom Q & A may be our *modus operandi* for the foreseeable future. Our annual publication is due soon and it is probable that we will have a virtual book launch. More of this anon.

On the subject of responses to the pandemic I should also like to commend a number of short online presentations on Dundee prepared by Kenneth Baxter of Dundee University Archive Services over the last few months. The link below will take you to several charting changes which have taken place in the city.
<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/archives/thearchiveonline/c hangingdundee/>

A search on YouTube for University of Dundee Archive Services brings up further presentations on the history of the university and its archive collections on a number of subjects, including the early years of University College, Rector Peter Ustinov, women in

Dundee, mental health and Zimbabwean law lecturer Walter Kamba.

■ **Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries** has recently started offering presentations on YouTube. The first of the 'virtual' talks in the 2020-21 season of the Antiquaries was given by Dr Murray Reid, a member of the Society's committee. Murray is a recently retired geologist who spent some of his spare time during lockdown investigating the geology of Kirkintilloch and its surroundings. Here he presents some of his discoveries and illustrates them with his own photographs. You can see the excellent presentation on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfwOxOpN7G57cDK3FpUCXjg>

■ **Fri 13th Nov: Being Human Festival - Community Archives and Heritage Group Scotland session**

A fantastic online event is the Being Human festival <https://beinghumanfestival.org/> 12 to 22 November and covering the whole of the UK. There are a lot of Scottish discussions in there, including the Sporting Memories Cafe being run by the Community Archive and Heritage Group Scotland. Hugh Dan MacLennan heads the speakers, and it will be three hours of sporting joy.

Programme here:

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/events/sporting-memories-cafe-sharing-stories-and-supporting-communities/>

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sporting-memories-cafe-sharing-stories-and-supporting-communities-tickets-123048237591>

■ **Saturday 14th Nov: Community Heritage Conversations**

If you are a fan of the annual Community Heritage Conference, then here it is in new digital format. It will be a web event run every month, not only this year, but throughout 2021. The first, on Saturday 14th November and 'Celebrating Resilience', lasts for about two hours, and includes contributions from Colourful Heritage, Friends of Dundonald Castle, and Grimsay Heritage. See:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-heritage-conversations-2020-21-celebrating-resilience-registration-126054722067>

■ **Conference – Working from Home in the Vernacular Period**

The **Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group** is holding an online conference from **7 pm to 9 pm on Friday 20th November**.

It will focus on some of the kinds of buildings that people worked in, or from, and how their ways of life influenced the design and character of those buildings. We are taking advantage of the virtual format to have

speakers from around the UK. There will be five short presentations followed by discussion:

- Geoff Timmins: England's handloom weavers' cottages: working and living conditions.
- Mark Watson: Where are the weavers' windows? Hand loom shops in the Scottish linen and cotton industries.
- Richard Bebb: The Welsh *Cegin* - Work, Rest and Play.
- Hannah Kingsbury: A Farmer-miner landscape: Cowhouses and the practice of smallholdings in Castle Bolton (lower Wensleydale, North Riding).
- Linda Fitzpatrick: Home from the Sea: living and working in Scottish fisher housing.

The conference is free of charge and is open to all those interested – it is not restricted to SVBWG members. Please book your place by emailing Niall Logan logannial@yahoo.co.uk. You will then receive a confirmation email containing the Zoom link for the conference.

■ **History Scotland's Jacobite talk** Professor Murray Pittock will deliver a *History Scotland* online talk titled 'Under Martial Law by a Foreign Power?' The Aftermath of Culloden and the Legacy of Jacobitism on 18 November at 2pm (UK time). Tickets are now available.

The event will comprise a 60-minute talk by Professor Pittock, exploring his new research, followed by a Q&A session. This is a live event and will not be available as a recording. Places are limited, so book now to guarantee your place:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/9116007006194/WN_yj3aL4fDR9iwT2V9CfuF8Q?_ccCt=RUdAN2CYRPQevi3WJy8SZlItQkhEoTWOTml%7efyOpf6h85bYdlfw_wd%7eggpRqXqVn

USING ONLINE SOURCES:

Some Personal Views

SLHF Trustees were asked to highlight websites they have used for their research, possibly including something quirky. The contributors have interpreted the request in different ways.

■ **PROFESSOR ANNIE TINDLEY** writes that sometimes material on local Scottish history is held in unexpected places, and this is certainly the case with the website I would like to highlight and introduce to our readers, who may not be aware of its existence. It should be of interest to any local historian interested in rural history generally, and that of the **Highlands and Islands** and the county of **Sutherland** more particularly <http://www.sutherlandcollection.org.uk>

The website is the result of a major cataloguing and digitisation project undertaken by the Staffordshire County Record Office of materials in the Sutherland Collection, a rich source of materials for anyone interested in the history of Sutherland and its people

and the wider reach of the estates of the earls and dukes of Sutherland.

Why is this material in Staffordshire? The earls and dukes of Sutherland owned substantial English properties, brought into their empire when Lord Stafford, later 1st duke of Sutherland, married Elizabeth, countess of Sutherland in 1785. One of these was Trentham in Staffordshire, and when that property was demolished in the early twentieth century, papers from it and the other English properties, moved to the county record office, together with a surprising amount of Scottish material. The record office has now catalogued and digitised this material, and it is well worth exploration by the local historian.

The site is divided into themes, which include sites on the family, their estates, their political power, their input into the industrial revolution, charitable activities and all helpfully contextualised by short articles. There is a lot of material here on the Scottish estates and their residents and the estate managers who ran them, which will be of interest to many.

<https://www.search.sutherlandcollection.org.uk/Details.aspx?&ResourceID=520&PageIndex=1&SearchType=2&ThemeID=124>

The materials cover correspondence, maps, petitions, and even a bomb threat to the family during the 1880s Highland Land War! These papers give us not just the voices of the ducal family and their agents, but those of the crofters, labourers, residents, townsfolk, ministers and merchants of Sutherland from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. They also highlight how important it is to remember that the local is part of the national story – for those local historians interested in Staffordshire, that there was once a strong link to Scotland's far north and vice versa.

<http://www.sutherlandcollection.org.uk>

■ **BILL SADLER** says:

A couple of sources I use as well as Google are <https://www.ambaile.org.uk/> and <https://her.hIGHLAND.gov.uk/> both of which are very useful. I often find however that the ubiquitous Google may lead one down some wonderful historic highways and byways.

■ **ERIC GRAHAM** a former Trustee of SLHF offers the following:

For the local historian with a maritime bent I would strongly recommend the marvellous online 'Scottish built ships' database <http://clydeships.co.uk/> developed by the Caledonian Maritime Trust. In recent years this database has been expanded from its original core of 'Clyde built' listings to include all Scottish shipyards which accumulatively launched c.35,000 vessels of all sizes and designs to date. What makes the database exceptional is that the

compilers have gone beyond yard launch lists to match up details of the vessels subsequent careers under a succession of owners including their war-time service and secondments.

An excellent example of how Eric has used these sources can be seen in his article *Steam Yachts Built in Leith* in Issue 107 of *Scottish Local History*.

NEW ONLINE MAPS AT THE NLS

We introduce a new feature with this *Clish-Clash*, an update on the new maps that the NLS Map Library has made available online.

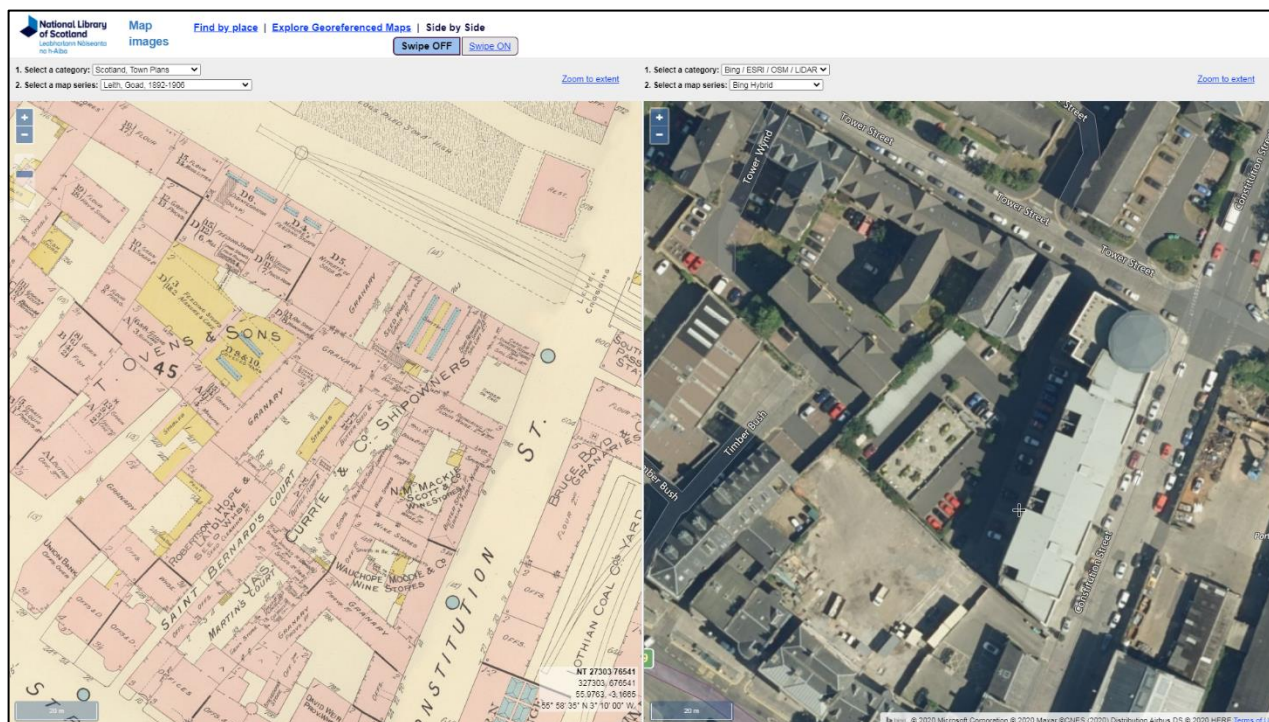
■ National Library of Scotland - new online maps

Those who receive the NLS Maps *Cairt* newsletter (<https://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/cairt>) will know that NLS has been actively putting online early maps of Scotland since the spring. These were scanned with a loaned, large-format flatbed scanner. 1,500 maps were put online by early July, including maps of Scotland, county maps, town plans and estate maps (see the July 2020 issue of *Cairt* for fuller details at:

<https://www.nls.uk/media/1818382/cairt37.pdf>). Since then a further 1,100 maps have been put online (July-October 2020). The main additions have been:

- **Charles Goad Fire Insurance Plans of Scottish Towns, 1880s-1940s.** 230 very detailed maps covering the main industrial areas of seven towns and cities in Scotland, particularly useful for showing the function of each building, as well as often the names of particular companies or institutions there (see overleaf).
- **Military maps of Scotland, 1656-1923.** 82 maps which add to the main existing Board of Ordnance and Wade collection military maps from the 18th century, and are drawn from other manuscript and early printed map collections.
- **Transport plans of Scotland, 18th-20th centuries.** 102 specialised early maps, plans and profiles relating to bridges, canals and railways.
- **Coastal charts of Scotland, 1592-1947.** 100 more charts of Scottish coasts and waters, doubling the number of sea charts NLS has online.
- **Sutherland estate mapping, 1770s-1920s.** 524 estate maps, 40 county maps, and 22 coastal charts reflecting all aspects of estate management over a century and a half, centred on the county of Sutherland. They illustrate agricultural improvement, the clearance of inland farms and the expansion of sheep runs, the creation of new villages, harbours, mines and industries on the eastern coast, as well as new roads, railways, lighthouses, and fisheries. Later maps show the creation of crofting lands, the expansion of shooting forests, and the sale of land.

- **Dumfries Archival Mapping Project (DAMP)** estate maps of south-west Scotland, 1770s-1940. 120 estate plans, held in private hands and archives and recently scanned. These include three volumes of estate plans, relating to Caerlaverock in Dumfries-shire (1775-76), Earlstoun in Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfries-shire (1800-1815), and Dunskey in Wigtownshire (1804).



Charles Goad Fire Insurance Plan of Leith (1892), georeferenced and viewed side-by-side with a modern aerial image

For further details of all these additions, as well as links to the maps, please view: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html>.

THE BIRLINN PRIZE FOR THE BEST PAPER IN SCOTTISH LOCAL HISTORY IN 2020

■ The SLHF in collaboration with **Birlinn Limited** recently established this prize and we are now pleased to announce the winners for 2020. There are two winners because the judging panel – Trustees Don Martin (journal Editor), Douglas Lockhart (Deputy Editor), Finlay Clark (Chair, Advisory Committee) and Paul Bishop (Chair) – could not resolve their tied scores, even after several attempts using different methods for counting votes. And the winners are: **ALLAN KENNEDY** and **JOHN HARRISON**.

**Cromwell's Highland Stronghold:
The Sconce of Inverness**

Allan Kennedy

**'The Drifty Days'
A Climate Crisis of 1673-4**

John G Harrison






Birlinn Limited
Polygon • BC Books • Arena Sport • John Donald

Allan Kennedy's paper is in *Scottish Local History* 107 and John Harrison's in *Scottish Local History* 108. The Forum is very pleased to collaborate with Birlinn on this prize because of Birlinn's obvious commitment to Scottish history. We thank Birlinn's Hugh Andrew and Kristian Kerr for their support and assistance.

MEET YOUR LOCAL GROUP

We introduce here a new feature, highlighting a local group, and we start with a report from Graham and Linda Clark on:

North Kessock & District Local History Society

The Society was formed in 2002. Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month from September to May usually with talks on topics of local interest followed by tea, homemade cakes and a chat (always an added attraction for members and visitors alike). The annual membership fee is £5 with a meeting charge (£1 for members and £2 for visitors). Annual membership is usually around 30-40. Our recent talks have included: National Trust for Scotland Culloden volunteers delving into the archives and discovering new information about the battle; RAF Catfirth submarine base in Shetland; Scotland's corrugated iron churches; and James Braidwood, the father of the modern fire service. In May each year there is usually a field trip to local museums, abbeys and monuments and in October we take part in the Highland Archaeology Festival in which we display our researches and feature a 'walk and talk', usually based on one of the walks in our booklet *Historical Walks around Killearnan*. As well as maintaining a database of local historical information, much of which has featured in our exhibitions and associated publications, we hold a growing photo, cine, video and audio archive.

Our founders, aware of the Society's need to engage the local community, wrote into our Constitution a requirement to hold biennial exhibitions – 10 so far! These are friendly community events and people often turn up with new information which we can add to our collections. We regularly involve local primary schoolchildren. In 2019 some pupils wrote and presented a BBC Schools Programme about how life on the Black Isle had dramatically changed after the opening of Kessock Bridge. We always involve pupils in our exhibitions, giving them a small grant to create

displays related to the exhibition theme and their curriculum studies. The early exhibitions were devoted to specific local areas including: the Kessock Ferry (which featured the publication of our first booklet *The Kessock Ferries*); the Kessock Bridge; and aspects of the histories of the local villages, e.g. North Kessock, Craigton, Kilmuir, Charleston and Redcastle (which also coincided with the publication of *Redcastle: A Place in Scotland's History*).

Between 2014 and 2017 the Society was involved in a large Heritage Lottery Fund project resulting from the discovery of Bronze Age roundhouses and fragments of unique bronze sickle-moulds in North Kessock. As a result, the Society became involved with the National Museum of Scotland in collating local research on Bronze Age metalwork, taking photographs and collecting samples of local clay. A book describing the project entitled *Feats of Clay: The Bronze Age around the Moray Firth* was published and three exhibitions included live demonstrations of bronze casting, forming and firing clay pottery, basket weaving, bread-making, woodworking, weaving etc.

Another project was in partnership with the North of Scotland Archaeological Society (NoSAS), Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH), and Archaeology Scotland's 'Adopt a Monument' scheme. It involved clearance of vegetation, restoration, the installation of an information board and ongoing routine maintenance of Carn Glas, a significant local Neolithic chambered cairn. The Society's latest publication is entitled *Killearnan Memories* and was launched at our most recent exhibition in 2019. It is an account of the history of Killearnan parish based on a long-running map-based project originated in 2011 as an ARCH project entitled *Black Isle Heritage Memories* which featured the village of Tore.

In the current circumstances it seems unlikely that we will hold an exhibition in 2021. However, we are about to issue our first Newsletter and we certainly will be celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2022.



John McDonald†, Past Chairman of North Kessock & District Local History Society, with some North Kessock school pupils at one of the group's Exhibitions in 2009.

CAN YOU HELP?

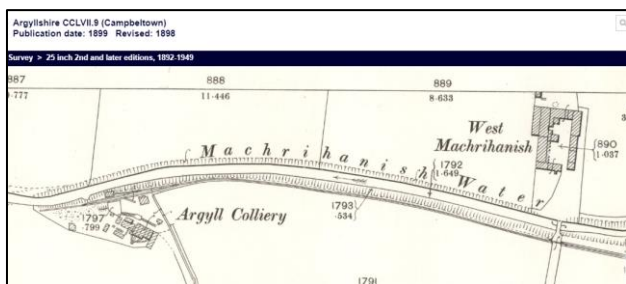
In this feature we post selected requests for information or help from people researching Scottish local history. If you would like to submit a request to be published in *Clish-Clash* (your contact details will be withheld unless you state otherwise), or if you would like to respond to a request, please contact the Forum <https://slhf.org/contact-slhf> SLHF does not do research for individual enquiries but queries such as this are generally circulated among the Trustees to see if one of us can help. We will also post responses.

■ **Searching for Back Issues:** I have for some time been collecting back issues of *Scottish Local History*. I have some remaining gaps which are Issues 1-12 inclusive and Issue 29. If any readers have these and feel able to let them go please let me know. James Kennedy jimmy.8ken3@gmail.com 01877 387 201.

■ My great grandfather was from **Aberfeldy**, and I'm trying to trace any family members that are still there. His father was a reverend from that area in the 1800's, their names are Rev John McLaren and he married an Elizabeth Fisher who came from Perthshire. I would be very grateful if you had any information on any of these families. Thanking you for your time, and hope you are safe. Yours faithfully Kathryn, Sydney, Australia.

■ Do you have any information about the **Duke of Argyll's Coal Works?** I have come across a very remote relation in Thomas Sommerville 1808 – 1857. His birth registration show his father Robert Sommerville of Drumlemble to be dead in November 1808. Thomas's death registration states his father was "Manager of the Duke of Argyles Coal Works". Robert does not appear in the Scottish death records. I can find no newspaper articles for this time. Was there an accident? Does anyone have any information? It is just sheer bloody mindedness on my part - I hate a mystery. Jackie, Australia.

Response: One of the Trustees, having just read *Not a Plack the Richer*, Marian Pallister's history of mining in Argyll (Birlinn, 2018), was able to recommend the book to Jackie. Two Trustees also recommended that she contact the Duke of Argyll's Archivist at Inveraray Castle, which she did. Drumlemble is about a mile to the southeast of the colliery.



The Argyll Colliery on Machrishaish Water (OS 2nd edition 25inch mapping; courtesy of the NLS). The Colliery came to be serviced by the Campbeltown & Machrishaish Light Railway which is shown on the next edition of the OS 25inch mapping (1921).

JOINT BULLETIN WITH THE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY HERITAGE ALLIANCE

SLHF is working with SCHA to look at the current situation and we have produced a detailed bulletin which can be found here:

<https://scottishcommunityheritage.org/>

Some key points:

■ We have been considering how best for historical societies and other activity groups without a physical base to plan ahead in these challenging times. There is a mixed picture out there. Some groups are forging ahead, others have decided to put everything on hold, and in between there is a lot of uncertainty and anxiety about what to attempt and how to do it. The key message is: **It is OK to do nothing.**

■ The bulletin is divided into two halves: firstly looking at keeping things to a minimum whilst maintaining your group coasting along for now, and secondly talking about the spectrum of activity planning for those who want to. Important issues such as governance and insurance are relevant in any considerations. The most important thing is to think about your membership. Some groups are offering a subscription holiday if all activities/ benefits are on hold and they have sufficient reserves to be able to do so. If you can do this, it is a good way of keeping both goodwill and members.

■ If you are planning activities don't overreach yourself. Doing small achievable things is better than having a big programme which is stressful and could crash if things change.

■ Elsewhere in *Clish-Clash* you will see details of planned online events. Feel free to contact SLHF or the relevant Society for advice and guidance. The detailed joint bulletin gives details of the range of decisions that several Societies have made.

■ It is really important that committees think about what they might do depending on local circumstances and guidance.

■ We are in an ever-changing situation and latest Scottish Government guidance needs to feature as a key part of any decision making.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/>



THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED IMAGE FROM ArtUK



***Gutting Herring*, John McGhie (1867–1952)
Scottish Fisheries Museum (courtesy of ArtUK)**

AND FINALLY: QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

■ 'Everything we do before a pandemic will seem alarmist. Everything we do after a pandemic will seem inadequate. This is the dilemma we face, but it should not stop us from doing what we can to prepare. We need to reach out to everyone with words that inform, but not inflame. We need to encourage everyone to prepare, but not panic.'

Michael O. Leavitt, 2007 when he was US Secretary of Health and Human Services

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>

Provide details of local history resources to our online Directory

<https://www.slhf.org/submit-listing>