

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

■ Welcome to this special issue of Clish Clash as we reach the milestone of 50 editions. Started in November 2013 Clish-Clash has continued to be sent to SLHF members every 2 months. Without the commitment of Diana Webster we would never have achieved this milestone and we are delighted that Diana has written an article offering her perspective on Clish-Clash. There are several other contributions associated with the theme of 50 as well a contribution from another SLHF stalwart Dr Douglas Lockhart about Scottish Local Heritage Publications.

■ A **Trustees Meeting** was held on Monday December 6 when we noted that for the first time in a wee while we have 12 Trustees. It's great to have such a diverse and energetic range of people willing to support the ongoing development of the Forum. As usual a range of issues were discussed including ongoing collaborations especially with *History Scotland*. We also noted the ongoing increase in SLHF membership and reviewed progress with *Scottish Local History* and Clish-Clash. Our Facebook page continues to attract large numbers of people with over 4,000 visits in a 6-week period.

■ One of our new **Trustees** is **Colin Brown**. Colin has been a Professional Actor since 1971 and is an ex-member of the SLHF Committee (as Chair of the Leith Local History Society). He was the first Supervisor of the Scottish Working Peoples Oral History Project; the tapes and transcripts being stored in the School of Scottish Studies. He was the Director of the oral history video company Serendipity Productions. He has a Certificate in Teaching Adults and a Bsc (Hons) in Film and Media Studies. He is currently conducting an MSc by Research at Edinburgh University on 'Women in the Scottish Media, 1960s to 1990s'.

■ **Scotland and Opposition to Slavery—the local experience: POSTPONED until later in 2022.**

■ **Scottish Local History No.111 (Spring 2022)** has been held up a little but should be published towards the end of January. It will have six main articles. Douglas Lockhart provides 'The Queen of all Bazaars', a commentary on the activities of Beatrice Clugston, one of the most influential women in west-central Scotland during the Victorian era. Her significant activity was centred on the organisation of a series of large-scale bazaars in aid of different charities, especially care homes and related organisations. Diana Webster's 'John Trotter, storekeeper extraordinary' describes the business activities of powerful Scots in London during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. It casts some unusual light on the London activities of Henry Dundas, who has generated a great deal of interest recently on account of allegations that he delayed the abolition of the slave trade. Pauline Brown's 'Attitudes to Slavery and Black People in the Glasgow Press 1830-70' is a useful commentary, by a woman of Caribbean heritage, on prejudice in the Glasgow press during the mid-nineteenth century. Tom Dowds' 'A View from the East' continues the SLH series on how the democratic rising of 1820 impacted on different communities across Scotland. Alastair Minnis's 'John Younger of St Boswells and Slavery' shows how a Borders poet expressed his opposition to slavery. And Allan Brown describes a typical project for erection of a World War I war memorial (in Cupar, Fife). It contrasts with Douglas Lockhart's recent series describing other forms of local war memorial in Scotland.

■ **PRIZE FOR THE BEST PAPER IN SCOTTISH LOCAL HISTORY IN 2021**
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As Birlinn recently noted in their blog we are pleased to announce that Dr. Graham Clark has been awarded the Prize for Best Paper in *Scottish Local History* for 2021. His paper, 'A Survey of Corrugated Iron Churches in Scotland' is a fascinating study of these distinctive buildings, which sprung up across Scotland in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The judging panel – Don Martin (Journal Editor), Finlay McKichan (Chair of the SLHF Advisory Committee) and Paul Bishop (SLHF Chair) – were unanimous in choosing Graham's paper for 2021's



churches nationally. Many congratulations to Graham.' The winning paper appeared in the Spring issue (108) of the journal.



prize. Paul Bishop, Chair of the Scottish Local History Forum, said: 'The Forum is very pleased that we have been able to team up with Birlinn to offer this annual prize. The judging panel is looking for a paper that makes a real contribution to our understanding of local history, while placing that history into a wider national context. Graham Clark's paper does exactly that – searching out the local detail so as to provide, as Graham says, an historical overview of surviving corrugated-iron

■ The Autumn 2021 Issue (No.110) has generated some interesting feedback in the form of short articles supplementing some of those published in that issue. Following on from David McVey's article 'The Afterlife of John Bell of Antermory', which provided some information on the introduction of rhubarb to Scotland, James Brown has prepared a short article on James Garvine of Ayr, another Scottish rhubarb pioneer. To supplement the information on the supply of Scottish pottery to Burmah that was provided in George Manzor's article on East India Merchant Charles Rennie Cowie, Graeme Cruickshank has supplied an article entitled 'Cowie Bros & Co of Glasgow and their Export Pottery to Burmah'. Finally, Tom Dowds has contributed to the Henry Dundas debate mentioned above, especially in relation to the controversial plaque that has been proposed for the Melville Monument in St Andrew Square, Edinburgh. It is still uncertain whether there will be room for all three of those short articles in Journal 111, but if not one or more of them will be held over until Issue 112.

■ **Annual Conference** On November 10 and 11 the SLHF annual conference was held in a couple of sessions on the theme of **Taking Part: aspects of Scottish sports and pastimes**. Attendees were treated to six presentations on a variety of topics.

Karl Magee, the University of Stirling archivist, got the ball rolling by explaining how his institution had been named the sports university of the year by *The Times* in 2020 and its role in preserving the records and memorabilia of Commonwealth Games Scotland. He then introduced his colleague, Ian MacKintosh, to talk about the **Tales from the Ring: celebrating Scotland's boxing heritage**. This project, which had been a collaboration with the Scottish Ex-Boxers Association to find archival material and record oral history, and had involved some of the great names of Scottish boxing, including Olympic champion Dick McTaggart.

Laura Nicolson introduced us to the little-known indoor game of **Summer Ice** played on a long mahogany table with rules similar to curling. Its origins date back at least to the mid-19th century, and it was still being keenly contested by four-person teams from Aberfoyle, Buchlyvie, Gartmore and Kippen until quite recently. At one time there had been fourteen clubs in the area and perhaps it is not too late for a revival to take place.

Well-known Gaelic broadcaster Hugh Dan MacLennan brought us fascinating details in **Tae a Ba': the history of the lost art of making a shinty ball**. We learned about the various materials used in the creation of this most important component of the game and the struggle to arrive at a standardised version. Hugh Dan pointed out the inherent danger to the sport through its reliance on a global supply chain now that all the balls come from the Punjab.

Craig Statham told us about **Jimmy Curran: Scotland's greatest athletics coach**, who was himself a remarkable athlete and Boer War veteran born in Galashiels in 1880. He emigrated to the USA and went on to train many of his adopted country's Olympic athletes to gold medal success. Employed by Mercersburg Academy, Pennsylvania, he was a nationally known and much-loved track coach for over fifty years.

Dr Fiona Skillen of Glasgow Caledonian University shared with us the quote that **'women work better after cricket and football': exploring the development of women's football during World War One in Scotland**. The talk went much further, citing references to women's football from the 17th century. The hostility to women's participation ceased when it was part of the effort to raise money for war charities but returned in the 1920s. It was shocking to learn that the Scottish Football Association was the only one in Europe to vote against the sanctioning of women's football in 1971.

It was left to Dr Eve Soulsby to close proceedings with **Wee Jessie: Scotland's World No. 1 Golfer**. At 5'2" tall Jessie Anderson, better known by her married name Valentine, was possessed of a prodigious swing. From the age of five she had been taught by her father, Joe, the Braemar Golf Club professional and greenkeeper at Craigie Hill in Perth. She had a wonderful career which would have been even greater but for the interruption of war in 1939. She carried on after the war and in 1955 she played thirteen matches in thirteen days, winning all but the last. 'The Fairway Maid of Perth' -win or lose, she always played with a smile.

■ **CLISH-CLASH 50: A PERSONAL MEMOIR FROM DIANA WEBSTER EDITOR OF CLISH CLASH 1-41.**

One of the benefits of volunteering to be a Trustee of SLHF is that you can continue with some of the activities you enjoyed while working, and avoid less agreeable tasks. For me, in my work as map curator at the National Library of Scotland (NLS), some of my favourite parts of the job were organising seminars and meetings, and developing

the Scottish Maps Forum (SMF) and its newsletter *Cairt*. I first joined the SLHF Trustees about 2000, as I was keen to develop NLS Map Library services for local and family historians; a joint conference for SLHF and SMF on 'Maps for Local History' was held in 2002. A few years later, when I retired from work, and was due to finish my term as a Trustee, having reached the ten-year limit, there was a shortage of volunteers, and as the sole woman Trustee, I was persuaded to fill in for a couple of years as Secretary. Fortunately for me, someone else came forward, and I was able to relinquish my most hated job of taking minutes (my policy of leaving minute taking for as late as possible showed my lack of suitability for the role). A more appealing prospect was organising conferences and events, which was enormously satisfying, meeting many interesting speakers and members, and developing programmes on topics which interested me – and fortunately others as well! One of my pet ideas was choosing a venue which related to the theme, which was challenging and fun: some memorable places were a tour of the museum in the Glasgow Trades Hall, the views of the Forth bridges from the Bay Hotel at Kinghorn, Clydebank Town Hall for a maritime conference, and going to Ceres Museum to photograph the 'jougs' at the old jail for an illustration for the publicity leaflet. The Walk and Talk summer outings began in 2014, in collaboration with several local societies who provided their enthusiasm and insights into their areas.

The redesign of the website at about the same time gave a stronger web presence for SLHF, but further exploitation of the online world was also needed. A recurring issue was that other bodies and groups asked for access to our mailing list to publicise their activities, which was not permitted because of Data Protection. Even forwarding their publicity to members could be an irritation if many unwanted emails were received. We also received requests for help for research. The lead-in times for the journal, *Scottish Local History*, were too long to respond to these requests, which were usually only a few weeks or days ahead of an event. The creation of an e-newsletter was intended to address these various issues, and to expand the use of online opportunities. By having a bi-monthly issue, it could be more current than SLH, and it would appear in members' in-baskets six times a year, which should not be too often.

Having suggested the idea, I was tasked with carrying it out. The name Clish-Clash came from trawling the Scots Thesaurus: 'repeated gossip' seemed an appropriate description for information gleaned from many sources (Cairt, meaning 'map' in old Scots and Gaelic also derived from a thesaurus trawl). The letters SLH (Scottish Local History), could be highlighted in the banner title heading (how many have noticed this?). There was some concern that the newsletter could detract from *Scottish Local History*, so the initial content was limited to lists of activities relating to local history: exhibitions in libraries, museums and archives; talks, publications and projects by local societies; university research proposals and results; websites providing access to sources; and new publication announcements. More recently James Kennedy, now the Clish-Clash Editor, has contributed podcast information.

One result of gathering information for the e-newsletter was that the scale of local history activity throughout the country became more apparent. For example, in the search for new publications, a large number of heritage trail and other local history leaflets, published by local authorities and local interest groups, was collected by Douglas Lockhart while visiting libraries and archives all over Scotland. Over 250 have now been passed on to the National Library of Scotland. The Library has struggled to acquire these through the usual legal deposit routes, as amateur publishers are unaware of the requirement to provide publications to the legal deposit libraries. My final flurry was to spend the first three weeks of lockdown in 2020 pulling together links to online sources for local history, a source list that should be useful for some time to come (see Clish-Clash issue 40, <https://www.slhf.org/newsletter>).

After about twenty years as a Trustee, ten conferences, several other events, and forty-one issues of Clish-Clash, I retired from the formal organisation of activities a couple of years ago: my luddite reluctance to join Facebook affected my ability to find out about local societies, which have increasingly turned to this publicity outlet rather than a web page, and new ideas and perspectives were needed. The new editor, James Kennedy, helped by Paul Bishop, has enlarged and expanded the newsletter enormously. It is now seen as a useful adjunct to the journal, and enhances the internet presence, together with Jan Bateman's innovations. Jan has worked hard with organisations such as the National Library of Scotland and Strathclyde University to create the Scottish Local History Directory, and to develop a Facebook page.

I was asked to provide this personal view of Clish-Clash on the occasion of its 50th issue, but I would like to use the opportunity to encourage people to join one of the SLHF committees – the Advisory Committee or Trustees' Committee. Involvement is hugely satisfying, meeting people, learning new things, and contributing to Scottish history, heritage, culture and community. And you don't have to be Minutes Secretary, unless you want to!

■ SCOTTISH LOCAL HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS *Dr Douglas Lockhart*

As a follow up to the publications referred to by Diana Webster, Dr Douglas Lockhart offers the following perspective.

Around 250 local heritage publications have been collected and recently donated to the National Library of Scotland. It was a pleasant surprise after collecting the leaflets from libraries, museums, archives and tourist information offices where the leaflets were on display, just how many there were and how these seemed to be available almost everywhere. Perhaps it's not a surprise that the larger cities also have the most publications. In Glasgow there are

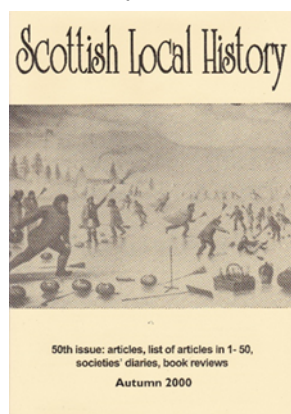
publications for many of its older districts and these are very comprehensive with guides such as the 40-page *Woodside Heritage Trail* containing a wealth of information on individual buildings. There are similar guides for Bridgeton, Queen's Park, Kelvingrove Park, Botanic Gardens, Calton and so on. Maryhill has three walking trails while The Friends of Glasgow West have published guides to Dowanhill, Hyndland, Hillhead and Kelvinside. Transport enthusiasts are also well catered for with *Glasgow's Canals Unlocked* and *SubCrawl*. Five Dundee Heritage Walk leaflets were located, two of which, *City Braes* and *Broughty Ferry* take walkers beyond the central areas of the city. Aberdeen offers opportunities to visit less- fashionable areas such as Torry, south of the harbour, with its *Churches Trail* and *Industrial and Maritime Trail* publications.

It is possible to find a heritage guide to most towns. Those in Angus for places such as Montrose, Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth have a similar format. The Angus Heritage series has been extended to include *Maritime*, *World War I*, and for family historians *Kirkyards* and a guide to tracing family history with links to the many excellent local libraries. Greenock has developed walking routes and leaflets for use by cruise passengers arriving at the port. The leaflet for Maybole (Ayrshire) contains a large-scale map of the town where walking will soon become much more pleasant when the A77 bypass is opened, while the *Cupar Heritage Trail* has a bird's eye view of the central area which highlights the medieval street pattern and burgh plots. In some publications, the focus is on people for example *William Thom: The Inverurie Poet*; *Four Paisley Architects* and *North Berwick's Golfing Heritage* where you walk in the footsteps of past legends such as Ben Sayers, professional and club maker and a more recent local hero, *Catriona Matthew*, Women's British Open Champion and Captain of the winning European team twice at the Solheim Cup.

While gathering leaflets it was a pleasant surprise to find a large number had been published for smaller towns and villages. The Keith (Banffshire) Paths Network boasts five leaflets; *The Fishwives Path* takes walkers from Buckie to Keith and in *Lossie Walks* you can follow in the footsteps of former Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald. The 250th anniversary of the founding of Archiestown (Moray) in 2010 was celebrated with a guide designed by fifteen local children. While Archiestown owed its origins to the linen industry, on the west coast, slate quarrying dominates the landscape of the islands of Luing, Seil and Easdale where the emphasis is on historic villages, a folk museum and a heritage centre. Informative guides to archaeology and architecture can be found for many islands such as Argyll's Atlantic Islands: Colonsay, Tiree and Coll. *Discover Coll* offers an insight into island history, culture and the present economy as well as a few reminders of etiquette to visitors driving on the single-track roads! Those seeking more remote locations may be interested in the guide produced by the National Trust for Scotland for St Kilda: '*A World Apart*'.

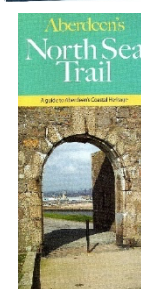
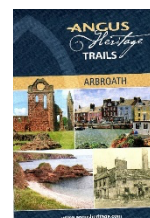
Finally, there are themes for which only one leaflet was located such as the Battle of Waterloo, *Waterloo Remembered in Nithsdale* featuring monuments and the veterans' graves, *Historic Catholic Sites in the Highlands and North East of Scotland* and *Windmill & Saltpans, St Monans* (Fife). The range of leaflets collected was significant though it was not possible during the five years that collecting took place to visit every library, museum or archive in every council area. Heritage guides have been quite clearly a growth area that had not been slowed or superseded by alternative online sources. What impact COVID-will have on the production of literature in paper format remains to be seen. It is hoped to monitor this and to continue to search for new guides.

■ **SCOTTISH LOCAL HISTORY ISSUE 50** This issue was published in the Autumn of 2000 and was edited by Clare Simpson. It included a range of articles as well as a full listing of articles from issues 1-50 and several book



reviews. Michael Cox, a long-time member of the Forum looked back over 50 issues and offered the following as his final comment: 'More money is required on a national basis to develop and expand on the efforts of the thousands of people in Scotland who are involved in Scottish local history-the heritage industry is now part of the wider tourist industry. But that is another story'. Don Martin recalls *Michael Cox was a truly remarkable character. He spent a huge amount of time travelling around Scotland visiting local collections and local societies, making a great number of valuable personal connections in the process. This enabled him to carry out research for the Exploring Scottish History publication that was the predecessor of our present online Directory.* Michael also selected ten articles from the previous 49 issues to illustrate the nature and breadth of coverage. Amongst these was David Smith writing about the restoration of Dalkeith Watch Tower and an interesting article by Robert Smart about Valentines of Dundee whose postcards are a key source of local history. Sport which has been the focus of the

recent Annual Conference was included with the reproduction of an article by Neil Tranter explaining why sport did not often feature in the world of the local historian. The relevance of oral history, newspaper archives and the challenge of coping with old handwriting were as relevant then as they are now! The book reviews were outlined in geographical regions and included 'Pilgrimage in Medieval Scotland' by Peter Yeoman, 'The Rise and Fall of Mining



Communities in Central Ayrshire in the 19th and 20th Centuries' an Ayrshire Monograph by Gavin Wark and SCAR- a Viking boat burial on Sanday Orkney by Olwyn Owen and Magnar Dalland. So, in many ways not much difference you might think. However, Issue 50 had very few images and another big difference has been that the diaries of member societies were in a detailed listings which of course has been replaced by the events section on the SLHF website. <https://www.slhf.org/events#>

■ IN CELEBRATION OF FIFTY ISSUES OF CLISH CLASH by Dave Harvie

I had an idea for this some weeks ago but in truth I'd forgotten quite what was being celebrated! I was lamentably seized by the magical figure of 50. When James reminded me that the focus was fifty issues of the invaluable Clish-Clash, my heart sank – I had been thinking 'years' rather than issues (and I can't claim a familiarity with Clish-Clash going back to its birth). So, in some desperation I'm going to cheat, with a brief reflection on a few events of historical and cultural significance in Scotland 50 years ago which might have found a space in one of those 50 issues of Clish-Clash.

On January 9, 1972, the liner RMS Queen Elizabeth, launched at John Brown's shipyard in Clydebank in 1938, caught fire and sank in harbour at Hong Kong, where a restoration as a floating marine university had been planned. (Later, there is a very final reference to John Brown's).

The same day, the National Union of Mineworkers held a ballot in which 58.8% voted in favour of a national strike. This lasted seven weeks and was highly momentous; exactly a month later the Prime Minister Edward Heath declared a State of Emergency. This led to the more politically aggressive and catastrophic strike of 1984-5, during which the Thatcher government was accused of 'weaponising' the country's police forces against the mining communities.

On February 10, 1972, the uninhabited island of Rockall, 290 miles east of the Western Isles, was formally incorporated as part of Scotland (having been 'annexed' in 1955 by a boarding party from HMS Vidal). The operation of a test-firing site for military rockets on Benbecula may or may not have had a bearing on this territorial claim, which has not been generally accepted by neighbours, including Ireland, or international authorities. The tiny island has had many visitors, including those whose focus has been on stunts of various kinds; and a surprising amount has been written about it. The Labour minister Lord Kennet said of it in 1971, 'There can be no place more desolate, despairing and awful.' And Willie Ross, Labour MP for Kilmarnock, noted the same year, not entirely accurately, 'More people have landed on the moon than have landed on Rockall.'

On February 10 1972 John Grierson died in Bath at the age of 73. He was the foremost individual in the formation of the philosophies and practices of documentary film-making, not only in Scotland and Canada, but across the cultural world. His unique contribution and capacity for inspiring others has been legendary, and he remains without a doubt one of Scotland's cultural titans.

In May 1972 the great Orcadian writer and poet George Mackay Brown published his extraordinary first novel 'Greenvoe'. The Dictionary of Literary Biography says that it 'ranks ... among the great prose poems of this century.' The events of the novel are firmly rooted in the character, history and rhythms of work, weather and landscape, yet are overshadowed and threatened by an undefined secret project called 'Operation Dark Star', which in real life, was mirrored by a brief scare of uranium mining, and later by the all too real oil industry. Seamus Heaney said Brown's works transformed life by 'passing everything through the eye of the needle of Orkney.'

August 25, 1972 saw the disastrous Kilbirnie Street fire in a cash-and-carry warehouse in the south side of Glasgow in which seven firemen were killed as the result of a 'flashover' while attempting to rescue a colleague. At the time this was the greatest loss of life by the Fire Service in a single fire event in peacetime.

1972 was a notable year for the expansion of air services to Scottish islands, with airstrips being opened at Fetlar and Whalsay in Shetland; and at Ashaig, Isle of Skye. This latter closed to limited regular Loganair services in 1988, and is only used occasionally by the NHS and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Also in 1972, the extraordinary Wendy Wood – artist, sculptor, writer, controversialist and lifelong campaigner for Scottish independence and numerous other progressive causes – spent a week at the age of 80 in a hunger strike (having been imprisoned several times for various offences). In a fascinating and highly colourful life of incident, she sued Eric Linklater for libel after he wrongly claimed that she had flushed a union flag down the toilet; she settled out of court for a farthing in damages. She did however have a union flag under a stair carpet in order feel that she was giving it a good trampling every day.

One of the oddest diplomatic situations – cod wars with Iceland – began in 1958, but reached a new low and dangerous stage on September 12, 1972 in the Second Cod War, with Iceland unilaterally extending what it regarded as its fishing limits, ostensibly to conserve stocks and to increase its share of catches. Numerous confrontations were sustained, with shots being fired, and incidents continued into a Third Cod War (1975-76). Similar tactics have recently been employed in the North Sea as a result of disagreements over the UK leaving the EEC.

On October 5, 1972, the bulk-carrier MV Alisa (for owners Haverton Shipping Ltd., London) became the last vessel to be launched by Upper Clyde Shipbuilders at the former John Brown shipyard at Clydebank. The liquidators of UCS arranged final completion at the former Harland & Wolff basin in Govan.

On November 30, Sir Compton Mackenzie - novelist, cultural commentator, raconteur and Scottish nationalist, died in Edinburgh aged 89. In 1928, he had been a founder of the National Party of Scotland along with Hugh MacDiarmid, R. B. Cunninghame Graham and John MacCormick. He was supremely well-connected in many fields of private and public life, and was both extremely colourful and cultured, with a huge output of deeply serious writing and an abiding love of Scotland. He is probably best remembered for his fabulously witty 1947 comic novel 'Whisky Galore', set on his adopted home of Barra during wartime, and memorably committed to film in 1949 for Ealing Films by Alexander Mackendrick, with a superb cast, in his directorial debut.

■ **50th EDITION OF CLISH-CLASH** The first Clish-Clash was produced in November 2013 but what other important events happened in that month. Apart from the usual wars, floods and crashes there are a few dates which may be of interest. **November 17**, Sony sold one million Play Station units within the first day of it coming on to the market. Teenagers around the world must have been very happy to receive such a present from Santa. Eight years on I wonder how many of those teenagers, now in their early 20s, are still excited at the prospect of receiving the latest model Playstation for Christmas? **November 20**, the Met Office issued severe weather warnings of freezing temperatures and snow across Scotland. Premiered on **November 23**, around the world to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of *Doctor Who*. William Hartnell was the first Doctor in BBC Television's *Doctor Who* from 1963-1966. Or if that doesn't appeal to you how about this. Released on November 25, by November 27 *Frozen* had become the highest grossing animated film ever released. You are never too old to watch an animated film and sing along to 'Let it Go', you know you want to. **November 26**, First Minister Alex Salmond launched the Scottish Government's White Paper setting out its vision for an independent Scotland.



(Images: William Hartnell © Wikipedia Frozen © movies.disney.com)

THE Scots

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LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **National Library of Scotland 'Sir Walter Scott and the Historical Novel' display marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). From November 12 to May 14, 2022.**

More than 2,000 items from their **Scottish antiquarian collections** are newly available online (that's 600,000 newly digitised pages available). Items include books and poems from Sir Walter Scott, such as 'Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border' and novels including 'St Ronan's Well', 'Kenilworth' and 'Waverley'. Scott's novels are also available in a variety of languages, with 'Rob Roy' in Italian, 'The Talisman' in Spanish, 'The Heart of Midlothian' in French, 'The Abbot' in German, 'The Fair Maid of Perth' in Swedish and 'Ivanhoe' in Portuguese.

■ **NLS** need your help to acquire and preserve material relating to the **UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)**. They are interested in all types of publications and unpublished records, ranging from detailed reports, diaries, and meeting minutes to posters, flyers and leaflets. Materials can be digital (for example in PDF format) as well as printed items. They are also keen to collect videos filmed during public protests and events at COP26, or those inspired by the conference on the issue of climate change in Scotland. Please get in touch to help build their collections for current and future researchers. To donate your material, please email acq@nls.uk

■ The **Museums Change Lives Awards** celebrate the achievements of museums that are making a difference to the lives of their audiences and communities across the UK. This year's awards took place in Liverpool on Monday November 8 and the winner of the Best Small Museum Project was the **Scottish Crannog Centre** who set out to create an apprenticeship programme that would provide training and work opportunities to five young people in rural Scotland. They created an apprenticeships programme that was designed to build confidence and community engagement. The apprentices work within a non-linear hierarchy where they are encouraged to have the freedom to make the right decision at the right time. Their new ideas and young voices have enlivened museum engagement and ensured the centre is working within the community.

■ **Highland Archive Centre Update** is the title of their winter newsletter which is a treasure trove of invaluable information. If you wish to subscribe, please contact archives@highlifehighland.com

■ The **Stirling Smith Museum** was shortlisted in the same category as they recognised that many of its users were particularly isolated during Covid lockdowns due to their lack of digital literacy. They responded by producing a booklet that showcases 20 paintings from The Smith's collection. It was designed with accessibility in mind: with large text and images and easy-to-turn pages. The Stirling Smith worked closely with local charities and care homes to distribute the booklets and had glowing reviews from many readers. The staff at the Smith have reflected on how this project has deepened the links between the gallery and its local community. <https://tinyurl.com/ye7cphnd>

■ **The McManus Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum** is inviting visitors to take a walk down memory lane and look at the history of shopping and licensed trades in the city with their latest exhibition, **The Street at The McManus**. Saturday November 13, 2021 until October 23 2022 <https://tinyurl.com/yh5ej8du>

■ **Fintry Museum Society** created the Museum in 2021 to share the village's great story with locals and the world. It was officially opened on November 21 2021. Further details are here <https://fintrymuseum.org.uk>

■ **Alford Heritage Museum** has been awarded Category A listed status by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in recognition of its special historic interest as a rare surviving example of an early 20th century livestock auction mart, and an important piece of Aberdeenshire's rural and agricultural heritage. <https://tinyurl.com/yzuclypv>

■ **Imperial War Museum** in London have recently opened two new Galleries with a focus on the Second World War and the Holocaust. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london/new-galleries>

■ **A new portal for accessing Scottish archives online from the Scottish Council on Archives (SCA)**



Archives tell our stories, enrich our lives, connect us with the past and give us a sense of identity. They may be used to provide evidence of our rights as individuals, organisations and communities and, through them, we can hold authorities to account. Archives can bring families and communities together by telling us who we are and where we come from. We believe that more people, if given the opportunity, will engage with and use the amazing resource that Scotland's archives have to offer. The Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) is developing a dynamic, exciting and unique online portal called *Your Scottish Archives*, which will allow people to search across the archives and records of local authorities, universities, businesses, as well as heritage and community groups. *Your Scottish Archives* will be easy to use with basic and advanced search options as well as lots of fascinating and helpful information and resources to help people on their archival journey. Because everyone's story matters, we want to include archival records from a wide range of communities. By providing greater access to archives, *Your Scottish Archives* can help increase the number of people accessing records held by bodies across Scotland, thus highlighting their value and importance within those organisations. Community-held archives are vulnerable for a number of reasons. Almost always run by volunteers, they suffer from

a lack of long-term planning, proper cataloguing procedures and professional oversight and expertise. Also, the Digital Preservation Coalition lists both 'community-generated content in arts and heritage' and 'digital archives of community groups' as 'Critically Endangered' because of: lack of understanding of risk; lack of continuity funding; and dependence on a small number of volunteers. *Your Scottish Archives* is a landmark project of local, national and international importance and impact which aims to share the stories and heritage of all Scotland's communities. We believe that more people, if given the opportunity, will engage with and use the amazing resource that Scotland's archives have to offer. The *Your Scottish Archives* team will work with official repositories as well as volunteers from heritage and community groups to make sure that the stories of as many people as possible are included in the portal. We will build on our ongoing work to support voluntary groups in collecting and cataloguing their own archives, including documents, photographs and oral histories, and help them promote and preserve the collections for others to access. SCA plans to launch the first phase of the site in late 2022. Engagement with community and heritage groups will be ongoing from 2022-2024 and beyond. For more details of this exciting project, contact John Pelan, SCA Director, j.pelan@scottisharchives.org.uk

SOCIETIES

■ **To all Society members** Please remember as a society that you can include a profile of your group on the SLHF website <https://slhf.org/member-societies> as well as listing events. There's also the opportunity to include some of your resources in the SLHF directory page. <https://slhf.org/scottish-local-history-directory> In essence if you want to increase the profile of your society the website can be an enormous help!

■ **Women's History Network** have announced details of the annual WHN book prize, which awards £500 for an author's first single-authored monograph in women's or gender history. Entries close on March 31, 2022 (for books published from January 1– December 31, 2021). bookprize@womenshistorynetwork.org

■ **Scottish Labour History Society** recently celebrated 60 years since their foundation in 1961. The Society has championed the study of working-class history through events and its highly-regarded journal. Nearly 30 years later, the **Scottish Working People's History Trust (SWPHT)** was formed to save and make accessible source materials relating to the history of working people. On November 30 the National Library of Scotland (NLS) hosted a special celebration. The 2021 edition of *Scottish Labour History*, the society's peer-reviewed journal, will be distributed over the next few weeks. With it will come a complimentary copy of *Diverse Voices, Challenging Injustice: Banner Tales from Glasgow*, a 106-page joint publication by the Society, Glasgow Museums and the University of Glasgow School of Geographical & Earth Sciences, which tells the stories of the peace, anti-apartheid and anti-racist movements of Glasgow through the voices of their participants. A 'Zoom' launch of the publication has been put back to the new year.

■ **British Association for Local History** have continued with their series of Local History Hour talks with a variety of speakers from the local history world. These talks continue in a virtual format <https://tinyurl.com/2p8pzjm2>

■ **Historical Association** A Scottish title is among the winners of the Historical Association's 2021 'Young Quills Award' for historical fiction aimed at children. Barbara Henderderson has received the award for the age 5-9 years category with her *The Siege of Caerlaverock*, published by Pokey Hat. The story is based on a real episode when Edward I invaded Scotland and a siege of Caerlaverock Castle ensued. In the book the heroine is Ada, a 12-year-old laundress and daughter of the castle cook. The shortlist for each category in the Awards is based on reviews by children of the appropriate age. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8hymk9>

WEBSITES

■ **Fragment Found**, is a new online archive of printed pottery sherds that invites people to submit images of their finds and share knowledge, as well as the joy of collecting! This digital museum of lost, broken, unwanted and discarded artefacts, rediscovered centuries later in fields, on beaches, in rivers, etc. The archive connects people, places, craft, local heritage and the natural environment. The aim is to build a community which centres around collating, identifying and categorising mysterious pieces of history,



which would otherwise remain undocumented. Selected fragments will become part of a series of ceramic artworks called 'Imaginary Artefacts'. The project is led by Eva Jack (artist), alongside Becky Sparks (web designer) and Kevin Andrew Morris (ceramicist) with the assistance of Claire Blakey (curator at the National Museum of Scotland). The project is supported by Creative Scotland. To find out more or make a submission visit <https://fragmentfound.com/submit/>

■ The **British Red Cross** museum and archives contain a fascinating portrait of their humanitarian work: <https://museumandarchives.redcross.org.uk/explore>

UNIVERSITIES

■ **University of Strathclyde Centre for Lifelong Learning** Introductory to intermediate online classes are available to book now. Classes kick off in January 2022 and topics include Family History Research, Genetic Genealogy and Using Technology in Your Family History Research. <https://tinyurl.com/3ba6ats5>

PODCASTS

■ **Extra Life : A short history of Living Longer** examines the science and medical innovations that conquered some of the deadliest diseases and doubled life expectancies across the globe. Set in the context of today's COVID-19 crisis, this new four-part health documentary series explores lessons learned from previous global pandemics, including smallpox, cholera and the Spanish flu <https://tinyurl.com/fw3b4p7v>

■ **Nuremberg: The Trial of the Nazi War Criminals** The story of the trial of Nazi war criminals following Germany's surrender in 1945. New drama podcast exclusive to BBC Sounds UK listeners. 16 episodes available for over a year <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p09sgpfw>.

■ On a similar theme Phillippe Sands explores the legacy of the **Nuremberg** trials in subsequent war crimes trials and the founding of the International Criminal Court. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0010pw9>

■ **On the Trail of the Templars** Historian Martin Palmer travels to a wide range of sites to understand the remnants of this secret society <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007nt7q>

PUBLICATIONS AND BLOGS

■ **'MILNGAVIE THE VILLAGE RISES AGAIN'** Some good news from Eric Gotts

In the absence of its usual programme of exhibitions, talks and walks because of the pandemic restrictions, Milngavie Heritage Centre Group embarked on a new local history book, which was published in November 2021. The project has its roots in the very popular book entitled 'Milngavie the Village' published in 2002 by the late Nigel Orr, but now out of print and difficult to find second hand.

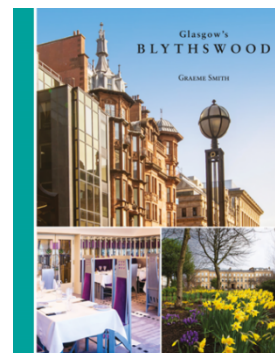
The new edition will have a foreword from the Orr family as well as an extra chapter bringing the history of Milngavie up to date by covering the first two decades of the 21st century. Many local organisations, such as Milngavie in Bloom and the Friends of Milngavie Reservoirs did not exist when the original history was written. These now appear in this latest edition, highlighting their valuable contribution to the life of the community. There is also a new chapter where local citizens, including poets Donald Munro Graham and Leela Soma, share their fond memories of Milngavie.

Eric Gotts, Convenor of the MHC Group, said 'This project has created a positive legacy for Milngavie after what has been difficult times for all. With over 100 pages of text and 40 local photos, this is an ideal read for the many local people that are keen to find out a lot more about Milngavie and the surrounding area's rich heritage.'

For more information about how to order a copy, contact admin@milngavieheritage.org or phone 0141 956 3541.

■ **GLASGOW'S BLYTHSWOOD** a new book by **Graeme Smith** From 1800 the empty fields and hills west of Glasgow's very new Buchanan Street were opened up and new streets were laid out on the slopes rising up and over Blythwood Hill. The first new houses appeared in Sauchiehall Street to be followed by St Vincent Street and West George Street. This was the city's 'New Town of Blythwood'. Bothwell Street came as its extension.

Its first developer William Harley, of Blythwood Square fame, also set out pleasure gardens with ornamental lakes and pagoda bridges, built the first indoor public baths in Scotland, in Bath Street, and pioneered the first hygienic dairy in Europe. Prosperity brought townhouses, churches, schools, shops, offices, clubs, hotels, artists' studios, theatres, and tenements.



James Scott was next in importance; developing Bothwell Street, ensuring Kelvingrove Park was created, forming St Vincent Crescent, and building Queen's Dock on the Clyde, today's Scottish Exhibition Campus.

This is the fascinating story of Glasgow's Blythwood, right up to the present time. Fully illustrated. Enjoy the story and colour of its streets, people, commerce and arts. Author & publisher Graeme Smith.

Buy from: www.blythwoodsmith.co.uk, Mackintosh at the Willow, 217 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G12 9JA and Hyndland Bookshop.

By the Same Author: The Theatre Royal : Entertaining a Nation Alhambra Glasgow

Co-author: Newton Mearns Through Time

Contributor and Co-editor: The University of Glasgow Library – Friendly Shelves

Contributor: Ships for a Nation – John Browns of Clydebank; Arthur Lloyd compendium of Theatres and Music Halls in Britain and Ireland.

■ **With Net and Coble. A Salmon Fisher on the Cromarty Firth**, by George Chamier, published by Pen & Sword £20.00. <https://tinyurl.com/uwpr4unk>

■ **George Miller, Town Clerk of Perth, 1723-1763**, by Steve Connelly Abertay Historical Society available to purchase from the society website for £7.50 plus postage. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8w4r7y>

■ **Something to Build On: the co-operative movement in Dumfries 1847-1914** by Ian Gasse published by The Scottish Labour History Society,

■ **Leith Reflections** by J Gillon & F Parkinson Amberley,

■ **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland: Raising the Curtain** by Stuart Harris Logan

<https://www.luath.co.uk/all-books>

■ **The Outer Hebrides: a historical guide** by Mary Macleod Rivett Birlinn,

■ **Slaves and Highlanders Silenced Histories of Scotland and the Caribbean** by David Alston, Edinburgh University Press.

■ **The Innes Review** Volume 72, Issue 2, November, 2021 is the journal of the Scottish Catholic Historical Association. The journal promotes the study of the history of Catholic Scotland, covering all aspects and topics related to Scottish history and culture, including but not limited to: ecclesiastical, cultural, liturgical, architectural, literary and political history from earliest times to the present day. <https://tinyurl.com/mr2nevh7>

■ **Land of the Ilich: Journey's into Islay's Past** by Steven Mithen, Birlinn.

■ **Craftworkers in Nineteenth Century Scotland: Making and Adapting in an Industrial Age**

By Stana Nenadic, Edinburgh University Press.

■ **The Forth Naturalist and Historian** Volume 44 2021 includes several papers of interest to historians <https://fnh.stir.ac.uk/>

■ **History Scotland** Vol 22 Issue 1 January/February 2022 includes Glasgow Southside and the legacy of slavery, a feature on the extensive mythology of Macbeth and an article on the influence of a powerful local minister in guiding his community in Dalgety. <https://www.historyscotland.com>

■ **BBC History Magazine** December 2021 includes a feature on the Scot, John Thomson as this autumn sees the hundredth anniversary of his death. He is considered to be a pioneer of social documentary and founding father of modern photojournalism. <https://www.historyextra.com/bbc-history-magazine/>

- **BBC History Magazine** Christmas 2021 includes a feature about Saint Columba marking 1,500 years since his birth. <https://www.historyextra.com/bbc-history-magazine/>
- **Who Do Think You Are** Issue 184 November 2021 includes an article by Jonathan Scott who picks the most useful websites for researching Scottish forebearers. <https://tinyurl.com/mnu6a538>
- To coincide with Black History Month, the **UK Association for the History of Nursing** has published its 2021 issue of the UKAHN Bulletin, which focuses entirely on the history of race in nursing.
<https://bulletin.ukahn.org/>
- **Journal of Scottish Historical Studies** Vol. 41, No. 2, November, 2021 is now available online
<https://www.euppublishing.com/toc/jsbs/41/2>
- **Northern Scotland** Vol. 12, No. 2, November, 2021 is now available online <https://tinyurl.com/2p9a4jzv>
- **The Scottish Historical Review** Vol. 100, No. 3, December, 2021 is now available online
<https://www.euppublishing.com/toc/shr/100/3>
- **The Local Historian** October 2021 Volume 51 No 4 £5.00 to non-members and free to members and this edition includes 'The Drifty Days': a climate crisis of 1673-1674 by John G Harrison. The paper was first published in *Scottish Local History* 107 and was joint winner of the Birlinn Prize for Best Paper in *Scottish Local History* for 2020. In the BALH Publications Awards 2021 it won the David Hey Memorial Award for the winning long article.
<https://www.balh.org.uk/thelocalhistorian>
- **Local History News** Number 141 Autumn 2021 Magazine of the British Association for Local History
<https://www.balh.org.uk/localhistorynews>
- **Who Do You Think You Are** issue 185 December 2021 includes a short article called 'Roll Out the Barrel' with a focus on whisky production in Scotland. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/>
- **Balbithan Wood, Kintore, Aberdeenshire: the evaluation of prehistoric landscapes** By Murray Cook available to download for free from <https://tinyurl.com/4bacdmey>.
- **Dean Village news Issue 188 Spring 2021** includes details of the history of the Dean Village Association, an announcement on the death of David Perry who had been editor of Dean Village News and a series of interesting articles <https://deanvillage.org/>

BLOGS

- **What do witches and nurses have in common?** Professor Nicola Ring's new research into the Scottish healers and midwives accused of witchcraft 400 years ago reveals secrets about the origins of nursing
<https://tinyurl.com/6x3kac54>
 - **The Loch Ness Monster on Land** by Erin Bienvenu can be read on the Historic UK website
<https://tinyurl.com/ecmpxb2t>
- Birlinn have posted a blog on Graham Clark's winning the Birlinn-sponsored prize for the best paper in *Scottish Local History* in 2021 <https://birlinn.co.uk/2021/11/25/graham-clark-wins-2021-prize-for-best-paper-in-scottish-local-history/>

USING ONLINE SOURCES

Some Personal Views

Andrew Jones, Forum Trustee and Hon Secretary, provides some insight into a useful historical source, digitised and freely available online courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.



Scottish Post Office Directories (<https://digital.nls.uk/directories/index.html>). This resource provides a simple but efficient means of searching the library's digitised collection of directories that cover most of Scotland from the 1770s through to the first decade of the twentieth century. Searches can be performed using any combination of name, place and year, and the results downloaded as a PDF either of an individual page or the complete volume.

It would be easy to view the *Directories* simply as the forerunner of the telephone directories that would become part of our daily lives later in the twentieth century, but this would be an injustice (and it is worth noting that both types of directory were

produced in many areas until the 1960s). In my view a most important and valuable difference is that the *Post Office Directories* often included, in addition to business advertising, classified listings of businesses (think *yellow pages*), and alphabetic listings of individuals by name, a directory of businesses represented in each street by door number; that's not just business names, but also individuals and their business or calling. Aligning the entries in the directory to a large-scale town map (e.g. from the NLS map images resource – <https://maps.nls.uk/towns/>) can demonstrate the nature of the business/occupations carried on by those resident in a particular street at a given point in time.

Personally, I have recently used the *Directories* for Aberdeen in the 1850s to do a little delving into the individuals named on an 'Extract Registered Protest' in respect of a dishonoured bill of exchange recorded at Aberdeen Sheriff Court, that came before me whilst researching financial/business practises in that period. Although I couldn't find the named principal listed at the address where the document had been served (in either the census returns, valuation rolls, or the *Directories*) I could get a feel for the type of neighbourhood in which he was residing at that time – apparently a lodging above a shop used by builders, plasterers and decorators and the like – and a single matching name/occupation for a business address suggests that the defaulter might be one of the founding partners of what would become a well-established and respected manufacturer and retailer of footwear in the city. A possible indication of early troubles in the business, perhaps? (The bill was eventually paid in full, with interest).

This free service can provide an excellent adjunct to the information available from paid-for searches of both census returns and valuation roll entries, they each have their limitations, but for researching anything related to businesses the *Directories* often provide the greater insight.

ONLINE EVENTS AND GENERAL EVENTS

■ Scotland and Opposition to Slavery—the local experience: POSTPONED until later in 2022

■ **Exhibition of Master Photographer John Thomson** The first Edinburgh exhibition devoted to the Scottish photographer John Thomson (1837-1921) and his photography in China will be shown from September 30, 2021 to March 22, 2022 at the James Watt Centre, Heriot Watt University. <https://tinyurl.com/5fzjxz6a>

■ **Joan Eardley's** mesmerising painting '**Street Kids**' is being displayed at **Duff House**. A masterpiece from one of Scotland's most popular twentieth century artists has headed to Duff House, on loan from National Galleries of Scotland. 'Street Kids' will be on display from Friday December 3 to Friday March 6, 2022. Entry to view the painting is included in the admission price of the guided tour of Duff House, where visitors will also be able to view the exhibition of local artist Toni Harrower. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/duff-house/>

■ **New digital model of Skara Brae** 3D scan shows how HES is investigating climate change impacts at the World Heritage site in Orkney. <https://tinyurl.com/2p85e3fc>

■ Many of the **Highland Archaeology Festival** online talks organised by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team have been uploaded onto YouTube <https://tinyurl.com/yznn5u4y>

■ A reminder of the wonderful **Learn with Lorna**. Lorna at Highland Archive Centre has recorded over 80 films relating to Highland archives and what they can tell us. Well worth a browse! <https://tinyurl.com/27j2pfwk>

■ All talks by the **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** are available. These include the recent Rhind Lectures by John Hunter on Untimely Ends . <https://www.youtube.com/c/SocietyofAntiquariesofScotland/videos>

■ **The National Library of Scotland** continues to provide a wide range of talks and workshops, many with a strong local history theme. Before Covid-19 these were run in the Library, but were made available online at the beginning of the pandemic. Audiences are bigger, and researchers from around the world can now attend. The main local history events are:

- Family History From Home: An Introduction
- Maps for Family and Local History
- Navigating the Maps Website
- History of the House
- Women's Lives and Writing
- Exploring the Climate Crisis at NLS

The current programme is listed on the NLS website – <https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours> – and each event appears between three and one weeks before it happens (this varies depending on the workshop). A link leads to Eventbrite where the talk or workshop can be booked. Please be aware that these events fill up very quickly, so it is advisable to ask Eventbrite to send an automatic reminder when an event becomes bookable.

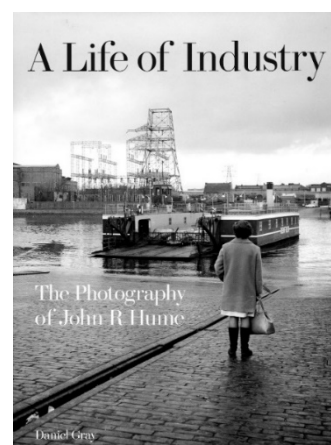
- **British Association for Local History** have continued with their series of Local History Hour talks with a variety of speakers from the local history world. These talks continue in a virtual format <https://tinyurl.com/2p8pzjm2>
- **Family Search's Rootstech 2022 free online conference** is now open for registration. This huge event will take place from March 3-5 and you can register to join here <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>
- **Glasgow Necropolis** The Friends of Glasgow Necropolis have recently published their Walking Tours Programme for 2022. The tours are designed to provide an introduction and overview to the 37-acre historical Victorian cemetery and tell the stories of some of the 50,000 people interred there. To find out more go to: <https://www.glasgownecropolis.org/tours-events/#tour2022>

BOOK REVIEWS

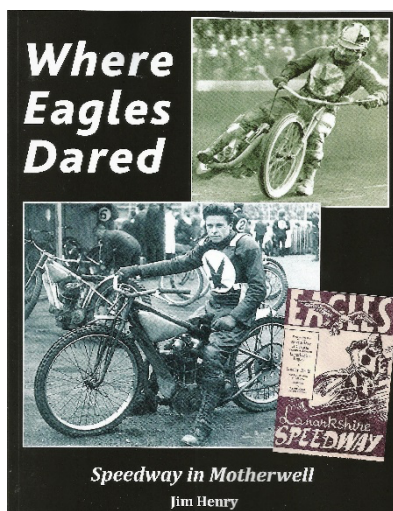
■ **Gray, Daniel, *A Life of Industry, the photography of John R. Hume*; published by Historic Environment Scotland, 2021, pp160; ISBN 10 1849173095**

For all who cherish Scotland's buildings, and especially the related industrial history, this fine, timely and well-titled book is a Must. One of the handful of individuals who fought to secure the academic study of industrial archaeology, John Hume has diligently photographed since the 1960's, mostly in glorious monochrome, over 25,000 late- and post-industrial buildings, and often their workers, the length and breadth of Scotland [the collection now in the archive of HES].

John retired some years ago as Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings at HES, but is as active as he always was in numerous advisory capacities, and in encouraging and promoting the cause of which is such a brilliant and accessible champion. The book has a fine text by Daniel Gray, who charts John's life and career and explains much of his reasoning and technique. The large format book is packed with full-page photographs, and many others at smaller sizes – all beautifully reproduced and printed in Italy.



■ **Henry, Jim. *Where Eagles Dared*, London League Publications, pp140, £13.95; ISBN 9781909885271**



Ace researcher Jim makes the Eagles fly again in print

Scottish historian Jim Henry has for long helped fuel the success of work by authors and journalists through the medium of his *Speedway Researcher* website. Now, a decade after his authoritative *Speedway in Scotland* (written with Ian Moultray), Jim has produced a fascinating account of the years, brief but always colourful, when the sport flourished in the steel town of Motherwell. *Where Eagles Dared* combines a compelling narrative and historic illustrations with, as expected from a top researcher, carefully assembled and clearly laid-out statistics - a goldmine for writers interested in speedway during the up, down and up again decade of the 1950s.

Whilst existing venues were used by the three earlier Scottish clubs, Motherwell moved into a new, purpose-built arena at Milton Street, on the site of a former colliery. As was often the case at the time, Motherwell spent their first season (1950) on an open licence, racing challenge matches. With a good response at the turnstiles, the Eagles joined Division Two for 1951, with a team largely built around two Australians, Noel Watson, who had been part of the 1950 side, and newcomer Keith Gurtner. They were joined by Scots star Gordon McGregor, young Australian Eric 'Bluey' Scott, who was destined to become a real crowd pleaser, and England international Derick Close. When Bill Baird, home-grown talent, signed for Motherwell he achieved a feat that can never be repeated, of riding for four different Scottish clubs.

Modern-day fans can only envy the years when Motherwell, Glasgow Tigers, Edinburgh Monarchs and Ashfield Giants served up a steady diet of local derbies. Motherwell spent four seasons – 1951-54 – in National League Division Two, in 1951 the Eagles achieved seventh spot out of 16 finishers – which was to prove the team's highest placing. A year later the team was eighth out of 12, behind all three of their Scottish rivals. The 1953 season perhaps saw the real start of the sport's 1950s decline and Ashfield were no longer a league team. The Eagles were sixth out of just nine finishers.

Decline accelerated in 1954 and by the time the tapes went up for 1955 Scottish membership of the National League for the 1950s had been wiped out. Already missing Ashfield, the opening weeks of the 1954 season were a black period for Scotland and the sport as a whole. Glasgow (together with Wolverhampton) quit before the league campaign had begun and Edinburgh raced just four league matches before pulling the plug, later being followed out of the door by Plymouth. Motherwell finished next to bottom out of 11 Division Two finishers in '54, but the promotion was willing to come to the tapes again for 1955. Their fellow Division Two promoters had other ideas however. The 11 Division Two starters featured no teams at all from the North of England and just two from the Midlands (Leicester and Coventry). All the rest were from the South and South West.

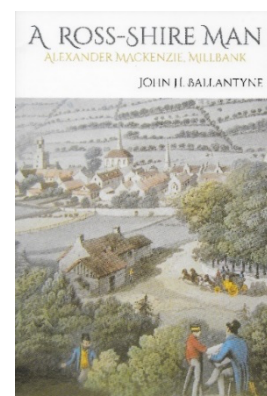
English clubs were accustomed to making Northern and Scottish tours to avoid unnecessary travelling. Now the Division Two clubs refused to travel 300 miles further north from their most northerly club, Leicester, for just one meeting. League racing at Motherwell was finished. It was not quite finish for Motherwell. Ian Hoskins ran a short season of nine meetings at Milton Street in 1958. And in 1962, with the original stadium and track demolished, a new 680-yard circuit, also used for trotting, was laid down on the site. Three long track meetings, featuring Barry Briggs, Ivan Mauger, Ronnie Moore and several Scottish-based riders, were raced. The promoters also constructed a conventional speedway track in the centre of the trotting/longtrack circuit but just one meeting was completed. The Motherwell speedway story and the comprehensive and immensely readable way it is treated in *Where Eagles Dared*, is far greater than would normally be expected or be possible from the history of a track which effectively ran for just five full seasons. It is a must read for speedway fans.

Jim Henry has been a fan of Edinburgh Monarchs since 1961. In the 1980s he founded the Speedway Researcher magazine and later the website which carries an ever-growing record of UK speedway meetings since 1928. His previous books include Glasgow's Speedways 1928-1940 and (written jointly with Ian Moultray), Speedway in Scotland and A History of Marine Gardens Speedway. He rose from track raker at Powderhall, Edinburgh to become clerk of the course at Powderhall, Shawfield, Armadale and Linlithgow.

■ **Ballantyne, John H. *A Ross-shire Man*, pp.80, 2021.**

This is a book about Alexander Mackenzie of Millbank (c.1792-1865), a member of an Easter Ross gentry family. It deals mainly with his business career as a farmer, cattle dealer, estate factor and County Clerk, which included two sequestrations. It is packed with source extracts, all referenced. Many are letters and some legal papers including records of the frequent civil cases in which he was involved. The last 30 pages consist of contributions he made to the *Invergordon Times* between 1859 and 1864. They include accounts of days past in Ross-shire and also of current matters such as fishing, sheep farming, crofting, removals and piping. The book will be of value to many interested in the county during this period. Complimentary copies may be obtained by e-mailing:

johnballantyne2011@hotmail.co.uk



MEET AN SLHF TRUSTEE

James Brown



I was born in Glasgow but have lived most of my life in other places in Scotland and England. At the age of five I was taken on a visit to Ardrrossan Castle and those ruins instilled in me a passion for historical architecture and the lives of those who resided within. Nearly half a century later I acquired my own 'castle' 16th c. Baltersan tower-house by Maybole, Ayrshire, a story too long to tell here. After decades of employment in totally unrelated areas (as a travelling salesman) I took advantage of my journeys across the land from Stonehenge to Stonehaven to visit historic sites, looking incongruous in a business suit, collar and tie among casually dressed tourists, or worse, tramping through fields to remote, long-abandoned ruins.

My years of work with office products companies taught me the value of maintaining clear and accessible record keeping which is essential for my expanding collection of artefacts and historical research. This includes hundreds of 17th and 18th century documents from sasines on vellum to ephemeral receipts on scraps of paper. Reading these fills gaps in the knowledge gained from the 150,000 words I have transcribed verbatim from the Kennedy of Kirkmichael papers in the Ayrshire Archives. That work includes recording paper sizes and watermarks - the latter signalling the need for a compendium (pictionary?) of historical watermarks in Scotland. Some work on this was done by Glasgow University on papers used by Robert Burns: <https://tinyurl.com/7cjfma7n>

I'm a founder member of the recently formed Carrick History Society. It has been created by a new, and younger generation of local historians who possess that most valuable asset - being computer-savvy. A sound base for their work is a book, Carrick Scotland: Beyond the Tourist Guides, I was commissioned to write for the community councils in the region by visiting numerous local historians in all the main towns and villages.

In 2012 I was awarded a Master's degree in international tourism by Glasgow Caledonian University and the disciplines I learned there on research methods has stood me in good stead ever since. My current research interests are focussed on Baltersan and Crossraguel Abbey which has led me to delve into the presence of Gaelic as a community language in Carrick. This in turn has drawn me into exploring the region's connections with the Highlands and Islands. Output from my work has included articles in issues 88, 94, 97, 103 and 108 of the SLHF's Journal. Thanks to a grant from the Royal Celtic Society, I am now gathering a list of every Mac (son of) and Nic (daughter of) family name connected with Carrick, in as many primary and reliable secondary sources I can find.

Although a Trustee of the SLHF for only a year I have relished learning so much by assisting in proof-reading of Journal articles and answering queries from the Forum's website.

MEET A LOCAL GROUP

Kirkcudbright History Society



Kirkcudbright History Society was established in 2001 following an initiative by local historian Jim Bell, taken forward with local historian David Collin and David Devereux, then Curator of The Stewartry Museum in Kirkcudbright. A small group of founder members was gathered and a committee appointed and constitution adopted. The main aim of the society is to promote and encourage interest in the history of the town of Kirkcudbright and its immediate environs, and more generally in the former county of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright (Kirkcudbrightshire). Membership grew rapidly leading up to the

present membership level of 80+ with another 100 guests attending lectures per annum. Membership is currently £12 per season with guests paying £3 per lecture. The programme comprises six lectures each winter. During lockdown we have managed to hold our meetings by Zoom and make available recordings on YouTube. This has resulted in participants from far and wide including Canada. Some of our talks are based on original research by members and it is our intention to produce a series of publications covering some of these topics. Over the years the Society has financed publications by members, in part or in full.

We collaborate with a variety of local community groups including the Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities, the Stewartry U3A, Kirkcudbright Community Council and the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership. Members are encouraged to participate in a variety of local projects, for example the Kirkcudbright group for ScRAP (Scottish Rock Art Project) and the community archaeology project at Tongland Abbey. Guided walks of the town are available and can be organised through the secretary.

Over several summers, the Society has offered guided tours of Kirkcudbright's historic kirkyard – the site of the original St Cuthbert's kirk which gave the present town its name. Following a case of serious vandalism at the kirkyard, Kirkcudbright Community Council successfully secured Heritage Lottery funding to repair over 40 damaged headstones. A condition of the HLF grant was that the project should also provide better access and interpretation on the site. As well as on-site information panels, the Society's tours contribute directly to meeting this need and attract totals in excess of 100 visitors for the 6 tours offered each summer. In addition to these tours, this past summer the Society has taken over the operation of the Kirkcudbright Town Walks, previously offered for many years by the Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities Committee. A pool of volunteers from the Society has been trained up to provide this service which contributes to the remarkably wide range of visitor activities offered all year round

in the town by the Festivities Committee. The Society's website and Facebook pages have become even more popular during the recent pandemic. The website is structured to be a repository of digital information, for example collections of local field names, histories of the local shops and firms, some of which are no longer in existence, as well as having a gallery of archive photographs.



There is also a section on local buildings where members have contributed their own research, for example on the Combination Poor House and Kirkcudbright Prison. Monthly Newsletters are sent to members and are also posted on the website.

Queries come from all over the world asking for help with family history and other aspects of local history, for example the Kirkcudbright Tolbooth Clock. Information is supplied by Society members and relayed back, and these lines of enquiry often lead to articles being published on the website. The Society monitors local planning applications and makes representation to the planning authority where there are issues involving the preservation or recording of our local heritage. Contact

secretary@kirkcudbrighthistorysociety.org.uk Website www.kirkcudbrighthistorysociety.org.uk

ONLINE MAPS

NEWS ON MAPS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

From Chris Fleet Senior Maps Curator

New guide on re-using georeferenced maps

NLS has released a new set of guides on re-using georeferenced maps locally for personal or community projects. The guides provide easy, step-by-step instructions for how to bring NLS georeferenced maps into GIS software such as QGIS and ArcGIS, as well as into *geojson.io* and *OpenStreetMap*. These software packages are particularly useful for annotation or tracing features, as well as comparing these maps with other georeferenced information or mapping. Also included are details of how to find georeferenced layer URLs from our *Explore Georeferenced Maps* viewer, as well as a brief layers list.

The new **Guide to re-using georeferenced maps** is at: <https://maps.nls.uk/guides/georeferencing/>

During the first half of 2022, we will be running a series of new workshops on georeferenced mapping, including how to find and re-use georeferenced layers, on map annotation and gathering features, as well as on various map transcription projects.

These will be announced in our forthcoming *Cairt* newsletter as well as online at <https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours/>

Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plans of England and Wales (1840s-1890s)

Although focusing exclusively on England and Wales, SLHF readers may be interested to know that NLS has recently added 10,519 sheets online showing Victorian town plans of England and Wales (1840s-1890s). Over 380 towns (all those with more than 4,000 people) were mapped at a scale of 1:500 - the most detailed maps that Ordnance Survey ever surveyed of these towns. These maps are of unrivalled importance for showing all aspects of the urban landscape - industries, public buildings, pubs, churches, infirmaries, poorhouses, schools, houses, trees, and parks. NLS is georeferencing these maps so they can be easily compared to the present day, or compared to each other over time for towns with two editions. We are prioritising town plans at 1:500 scale (around 85% of the total); other scales will be added over the next few months.

OS Town Plans of England and Wales home page: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/townplans-england/index.html>



Alphabetical list of all the towns with links to view maps: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/townplans-england/towns.html>



Detail from OS 1:500 of Oldham, Lancashire Sheet XCVII.6.12, surveyed: 1891, published: 1892.

View georeferenced overlay at: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=19&lat=53.54549&lon=-2.11490&layers=117746211&b=1>

■ CAN YOU HELP?

■ **Loss of military lives** East Kilbride History Society in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council Bereavement Services, is seeking to identify men and women who died in armed service between the years 1920 and 1940, and who, at the time, were resident in Glasgow and Lanarkshire. Information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be used to update local war memorials. Contact: Danny Maxwell by e-mail at: bereavement.services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or by post at: D. Maxwell, South Lanarkshire Council Bereavement Services, South Lanarkshire Crematorium, Sydes Brae, Blantyre, G72 0TL.

■ **Scottish Norwegian Connection (SNC)** This society seeks to promote the strong friendship between the peoples of Scotland and Norway, with a particular focus on the period after April 9, 1940 when whalers, sailors and others who could not return to their homeland after April 9, 1940. Some joined the Royal Navy or RAF, while others took up military training, forming the Norwegian Brigade - Den norske Brigaden (Skottland) in preparation for the liberation of Norway. Their base was in Dumfries, but other parts of Scotland were also involved. The SNC would like to hear from anyone with information, photographs or other documentation relating to the period. Contact: post@scotnor.no Their Facebook Group is: Scottish Norwegian Connection.

■ **Looking for a telephone box** Are you familiar with Acharachle in Ardnamurchan? An enquirer, Franc Genley, is seeking information on a K8 telephone kiosk there - is it still in situ? Franc can be contacted at francgenley@yahoo.co.uk This is part of a much wider research initiative he has undertaken on the subject of these increasingly rare kiosks, once made in Scotland. (See Clish-Clash issues 44-46).

■ **Ancient monuments in Paisley** Stephen Grimes is seeking information on what he believes might be a cairn or tumulus at Todholm Road, Paisley. He says, 'The site can be seen on Google Earth with a long, raised field, elongated and like an enclosure. It looked like embankment up to 10m thick in places.' 19th c. O.S. maps show what appears to be two tumuli on nearby Dykebar Hill - one has probably been obliterated by modern housing. Contact: grimesstephen68@gmail.com

THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED

A forum is a place for the exchange of ideas and information and SLHF is no exception. Sometimes it is a happy coincidence we find when people come to the forum. Franc Genley's enquiry about K8 telephone kiosks, now being handled by Scottish Local History editor, Don Martin, as one of his specialist subjects, came in at the same time as another one from England which also featured telephone boxes. The latter enquirer was requesting help in finding a suitable destination for her father's collection of notes and photographs of his visits to St Kilda and

Foula (Shetland) in the 1950s. SLHF Trustee, James Brown, will be in receipt of the collection in January for assessment.

QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

To wipe out our past is to wipe out memory and amputate our culture—Melvyn Bragg

CONTACT DETAILS

Email <http://slhf.org/contact-slhf>

*'Clash-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.*

Scottish Local History Forum Box 103, 12 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1DD

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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>