

# CLISH-CLASH



**The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum**

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## SLHF NEWS

Welcome to Issue 56 of *Clish-Clash* and we hope that you had a merry Christmas and that you enjoy a happy New Year.

Since the retirement of Doris Williamson, our long-serving membership secretary, her duties have been picked up by Jan Bateman, our treasurer. If any member is able to offer help with some of the general administrative tasks please get in touch.

■ The Trustees are very grateful to Mark Gallacher BA CA of EQ Accountants LLP in Dundee, who has acted as independent examiner of the Forum's accounts for some time now. We wish him all the best for his retirement. If any reader can suggest someone suitable and willing to take on the task, please let us know by emailing [scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com](mailto:scottishlocalhistoryforum@gmail.com).

■ **Scottish Local History** 114, the journal of the Forum will come out early in the New Year and in addition to the usual features will contain articles on *Cast-iron Meeting Halls* by G Clark, *Famed for its mills (Perth mills)* by A Cooke, *Fergushill Typhoid Outbreak* by C Hawksworth, *Conflict Over Cholera* by P Hoad, *It started with Rob Roy: film-making in the Trossachs* by J Kennedy, *Murder in Tinwald Parish (17<sup>th</sup> Century Dumfriesshire)* by M Kennedy and *Northern Rinking* by D Lockhart.

■ The Trustees are delighted to announce that the winner of this year's **Paul Bishop Prize** for the best paper in **Scottish Local History** 2022 is Douglas Lockhart's *The Queen of all Bazaars' Beatrice Clugston (1827-88)*. Congratulations to Douglas and our thanks to **Birlinn** for its continued sponsorship of the prize.

Save the date **27 April 2023** in your diaries for the in-person return of our annual conference. This will be our first live conference since 2019. The theme is **Science, Engineering and Technology** and the venue is the **Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth**. Papers will include: *John Ritchie: a forgotten Scottish pioneer of hydro-electric schemes in Scotland at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century* by Andrew Eadie; *David Gorrie & Son of Perth: Laundry Equipment for the World* by Steve Connelly; and *The Story of Dr John Roebuck (Carron Iron Co.) and James Watt at Kinneil House, Bo'ness* by Ian Shearer. We are also lining up Professor Chris Whatley on the engineers associated with the jute industry, Denis Smith on the introduction of electricity into medicine in Scotland during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and Roderick Stewart on the history of his family firm of hacklemakers. Full details and booking forms will appear with issue 114 of **Scottish Local History** and on the Forum's events page on the website before long.



**27 April 2023**

## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **The National Library of Scotland** provides 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. However, we're easing back into offering workshops in-person, and you will soon be able to book a place on Navigating the Maps Website at our Kelvin Hall building, on the afternoon of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The main local history events are:

- Introduction to Family History
- Maps for Family and Local History
- Navigating the Maps Website
- House History
- Women's Lives and Writing
- Exploring the Climate Crisis at NLS



NLS Dumfries Air Photo 1946

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.

■ **People of Pullars – Fabric of Society.** A new display at Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened in November, telling the story of Pullars of Perth through community voices. Created in partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council, Perth Syrian Family Support Group and ESOL Perth (English to Speakers of Other Languages), alongside artwork made



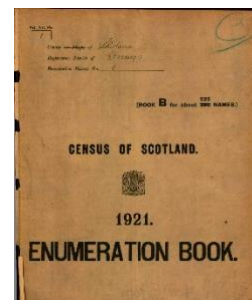
by Creative Catalyst (Creative Exchange) young artists. The display features objects from the museums' collection, a quilt stitched and dyed by the partners in this project and living memories from those who worked at Pullars of Perth. For 150 years, Pullars of Perth were innovators in the revitalisation and repair of textiles; an important activity championed in today's eco-conscious reuse-and-repair culture. Pullars started as a small dyehouse off Perth High Street in 1824, growing exponentially while also applying cutting-edge technology to its processes to become a national brand. [Museum partnership project stitched together by local community groups - Culture Perth and Kinross \(culturepk.org.uk\)](#)

■ **Football For All: Celebrating 600 Years of Football in Scotland.** The Scottish Football Museum in association with the Scottish Football Association is embarking on a three-year programme of events celebrating significant milestones in the history of football in Scotland and the world. The programme begins with an exhibition commemorating the world's first-ever official international match under Association rules between Scotland and England, which took place at the West of Scotland Cricket Club's ground in Glasgow in 1872. [The Scottish Football Museum at Hampden Park](#)

■ **Perth Museum.** The new home of the Stone of Destiny is to be called Perth Museum. This is the outcome of a call for suggestions for renaming the former City Hall. The current Perth Museum & Art Gallery is to be rebranded as Perth Art Gallery. This has occasioned some amusement at the expense of Culture Perth and Kinross, but the good news is that there will be much more space to store and display the amazing collections when the new museum opens in 2024.

■ **Once Upon a Time in The Muirton.** Much of this area of Perth no longer exists, but a display curated by Muirton's community, which ran until late December 2022 at the North Inch Community Library, preserved its memory through stories and objects. The display previewed an exciting new documentary produced by the 'Once Upon a Time in the Muirton' podcast team alongside objects, a community gallery and an interactive timeline. A new online version has now been created: You can visit the online exhibition and contribute here: <https://www.cpkmuseums.co.uk/muirton>

■ **1921 Scottish Census Records** The 1921 census records, made up of over 9,000 volumes of enumeration district books, have now been released by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) on the online research service [ScotlandsPeople](#). 200,000 images of 4.8 million individual records can now be searched, viewed and downloaded and have been added to the [census returns](#) already available on the website, covering every 10 years from 1841. The census is a survey which collects information on every household, building and vessel in Scotland on a particular night. The enumeration books contain all of the information transcribed from the household schedules (which were destroyed after work on the census was completed) and can be seen online as full colour images. See the full article about the release of these records: [News article: 1921 census records released | ScotlandsPeople](#).



1921 census enumeration book  
Crown Copyright, NRC

For one person's first experience of searching the 1921 census records for Scotland see Chris Paton's post on [Scottish GENES: ScotlandsPeople releases 1921 census - initial thoughts](#).

■ **Save Our Newspapers** The National Library of Scotland is appealing for donations to fund vital treatment to protect our newspapers for the future. Further details: [Newspapers Appeal | National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#)

■ **The Devil's Porridge Museum**, which tells the story of HM Factory Gretna, the largest munitions factory on earth during the First World War. See a profile of this unusual museum: Museum Profile - The Devil's Porridge Museum - AIM - Association of Independent Museums ([aim-museums.co.uk](http://aim-museums.co.uk))

Create a listing for your library, archive or museum in the SLHF Directory of local history resources. It is easy to do and free, just go to <https://www.slhf.org/submit-listing>

## SOCIETIES

A reminder to Member Societies please take a few minutes to make sure that you put your latest programme on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/events>

■ **Aviation Preservation Society of Scotland** tackle age related problems and commemorate the heritage of Great War aviation by hand building WW1 aircraft. <https://www.strutteraviation.com/>

If your society would like **SLHF** to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

## WEBSITES

■ **Scotland's Transnational Heritage Legacies of Empire and Slavery**. Edited by [Emma Bond](#) & [Michael Morris](#) November 2022. Edinburgh University Press <https://tinyurl.com/4vcpu847>

■ **A Look Back at Old Kilmarnock**. This new book will be of interest to Kilmarnock residents and exiles. It has over forty old photographs of places in and around the centre of Kilmarnock, along with detailed captions which give more information on the place, and the associated history. This is the latest title in the 'Look Back' series, written by local historian, Dane Love. <https://www.carnpublishing.com>

■ **Retour** The Newsletter of the Scottish Records Association Issue number 38 Autumn 2022. This is packed with plenty of news from the world of archives. <https://tinyurl.com/7mepntx3>

■ **Who Do you Think You Are?** Issue 198 December 2022 includes an article about the much-anticipated release of Scotland's 1921 census. There is also a very useful article about key online records for people researching clergy. <https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/>

■ **In One Woman's Life – Celebrating Mary Brooksbank**. Edited by Dr Erin Farley and Dr Siobhan Tolland. Abertay Historical Society. December 2022. £7.50. A book of essays exploring the life and times of the celebrated writer, singer and political activist. [In One Woman's Life – Celebrating Mary Brooksbank \(2022\) | Abertay Historical Society](#)

■ **Land of Stone – A Journey Through Modern Architecture in Scotland** by Roger Emmerson December 2022, Luath Press. [Land of Stone — Luath Press](#)

■ **Scottish Council on Archives** Annual Review 2021-22 Download for free: [SCA-Annual-Review-2022-web.pdf \(scottisharchives.org.uk\)](#)

■ **Cheers Mr. Churchill--Winston in Scotland** by Andrew Liddle. Birlinn October 2022 £20.00 <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/cheers-mr-churchill/>

■ **Local History News No.145 Autumn 2022**--contains the usually array of history news in its role as the Magazine of the British Association for Local History <https://tinyurl.com/bdzmq252>

■ **The Local Historian Vol. 52 No.4 October 2022**--the Journal of the British Association for Local History £5.00. Includes several papers such as 'Wayfarers-driven by war or poverty? A study of seventeenth century Devon' and 'West Indian Wealth and the English country elite'. <https://www.balh.org.uk/thelocalhistorian>

■ **Journal of Scottish Historical Studies Vol. 42, No. 2**, November 2022 is now available online: <https://tinyurl.com/438ckm7z>

■ **Northern Scotland Vol. 13, No. 2, November, 2022** is now available online <https://tinyurl.com/mr3d25nc>  
**Scottish Labour History Journal Volume 57**, 2022 £10.00 to non-members

<https://www.scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot/>

■ **Scottish Labour History 'Sell and Be Damned'--The Glasgow Merrylee Housing Scandal of 1951** £5.00 to non-members <https://www.scottishlabourhistorysociety.scot/>

■ **Scottish Historical Review, Vol. 101, No. 3: From Newbattle to Arbroath and Back, 1320–2020** - Terry Brotherstone and David Ditchburn; *A Longing for Peace: Putting the Declaration of Arbroath in Context* - Fiona Watson; *The Irish Remonstrance: Prototype for the Declaration of Arbroath* - Seán Duffy; *The Declaration of Arbroath, the Newbattle Assembly and the Community of the Realm* - Matthew Hammond; *With, Without or Against the King: Communities as Actors of Diplomacy, with a Special Focus on the Iberian Peninsula in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries* - Stéphane Pequignot; *Popular or Parliamentary Sovereignty? National Opinion and the Declaration of Arbroath on the Eve of Union* - Karin Bowie; *The Declaration of Arbroath: Georgian Editions, Libraries and Readers, and Scotland's 'Radical War' of 1820* - Michael Penman; *1320, 1776 and All That: A Tale of Two 'Declarations'* - David Armitage; *Endpiece* - Neal Ascherson; *Edward J. Cowan, FRSE, Hon. FSAScot, (1944–2022): An Appreciation* - Martin MacGregor and Müller, *Scotland and Arbroath: 700 Years of Fighting for Freedom, Sovereignty and Independence* - Edward J. Cowan. <https://www.euppublishing.com/doi/10.3366/shr.2022.0573?ai=t4&ui=e153&af=T>

■ **The Viking Age in Scotland – Studies in Scottish Scandinavian Archaeology** edited by Tom Horne, Elizabeth Pierce and Rachel Barrowman Edinburgh University Press, December 2022, £90.

[The Viking Age in Scotland \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](#)

■ **Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Volume 151 ( 2022)** includes several obituaries and an extensive number of articles and reports.

■ **History Scotland Vol.23 No 1 January/February 2023** includes The First Jacobite Rising, a focus on St. Ninian and the stories of female criminals banished to Van Diemen's land. <https://www.historyscotland.com/>

## UNIVERSITIES

■ **University of Glasgow** Dr Sarah Dunstan awarded a prestigious international History Prize

<https://tinyurl.com/9h7pmmze>

■ **A Cardiff University** academic says more needs to be done to recognise and archive the history of Black people's lives, work, and creativity in Scotland. Dr Francesca Sobande has worked with layla roxanne hill to document Black people's experiences and histories for their book, '*Black Oot Here: Black Lives in Scotland*'. <https://tinyurl.com/22vvvk9d>

## PUBLICATIONS

■ The **British Newspaper Archive** had recently added another Scottish title to its portfolio. **The Peebles News and Effectual Advertiser** was founded in 1887 and was published every Saturday at a cost of just one halfpenny. The years covered are from 1896 to 1920. <https://tinyurl.com/3mx7nfe6>

The following are some Sound and film websites from the November issue of 'Who Do you Think You Are?':

■ **British Library** During 2022 some new content has been added from music to oral history. <https://sounds.bl.uk/>

■ **The Imperial War Museum's Sound Archive** has more than 33,000 recordings relating to conflict since 1914. This link should take you to some Scottish content. <https://tinyurl.com/4hzu22wh>

■ **National Library of Scotland** From home movies to documentaries, from industry to entertainment - the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive (formerly the Scottish Screen Archive) has something for everyone. <https://movingimage.nls.uk/>

■ For the past 20 years, the **Scottish Oral History Centre (SOHC)** has been a leading international centre in oral history research and training. In addition to conducting cutting edge oral history research on an impressive range of topics, the SOHC provides training for professional historians, the heritage sector and community groups on oral history methodology, and has been commissioned to conduct oral histories for the banking and whisky industries. <https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/subjects/history/oralhistory/>

■ **The Dark Streets of Leith: A fascinating history of crimes committed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, either in Leith or by people originating from Leith** by Margaret Hubble, Kindle Unlimited, November 2022.

[eBook : Hubble, Margaret: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

If your society would like **SLHF** to sell your publications online, contact us <https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf>

## WATCH, RADIO AND PODCASTS

### Watch:

■ There are plenty of interesting presentations in the **British Association for Local History 10 Minute talks** using this link <https://www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks>

■ Meanwhile here in Scotland, **Learn With Lorna**, is a series of short films about the documents in the collections of the **Highland Archive Centre** and it continues to be broadcast on their Facebook pages, at 11am on Thursdays (no Facebook account required) with all films subsequently made available on the High Life Highland YouTube channel. <https://tinyurl.com/vy4pmrj5>

■ **The Roman Roads Research Association** was formed to advance knowledge of the Roman road network and promote the study of Roman roads and Roman heritage throughout the British Isles. Conquest: The Rivers and Roads of Flavian Scotland' by Andrew Tibbs is the title of one of their recent presentations available to watch on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QexTOFk7XCs>

### Radio & Podcasts:

There is much to listen to and celebrate following the Centenary of the BBC November 2022. What follows is a selection of some gems:

■ **Archive on 4: Our Archive Century** is a 3-part series which starts with a focus on examples of BBC's news coverage, followed the changing relationship between science, the national broadcaster and the public and concluding with what else but the arts. All of these deserve a good listen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001dmls>

■ **Property of the BBC** In a series of programmes for the BBC Centenary, historian Robert Seatter selects three objects from the BBC's archive store and tells the stories behind their creation - what they tell us about the changing history of the organisation, about expansion of the media and the nation at large. Robert's choices are unexpected, revelatory and sometimes, with the cruel benefit of hindsight, funny. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001f50h>

■ **Sunday Feature: the Sonic Century-the Microphone.** As part of the BBC100, oral historian Alan Dein explores the cultural history of the microphone, arguing that this unobtrusive object has changed people's lives more profoundly than they realise. He's joined by historians, artists, musicians and technicians. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001f6rk>

■ Meanwhile elsewhere check out [War Queens](#). In these podcasts father-daughter duo Jonathan and Emily Jordan uncover the ingenious wartime tactics of some of history's most powerful female leaders across millennia and continents, from the stifling battlefields of ancient Egypt to the frigid waters off the Falkland Islands.

■ The **Best History Books of 2022** can be sourced from [BBC History Extra](#).

## Blogs:

■ **National Museums Scotland** A new research project has begun which will attempt to recover and reconstruct the presence of Personnel of Colour within the RAF in Scotland between 1914-1945. Isobel Westbury has joined the University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland as a PhD candidate and will explore the records held at National Museums Scotland, and elsewhere across the UK and overseas, to retrieve some of the incredible stories of how and why Personnel of Colour came to Scotland, what their experiences were, and explore their legacies. As part of Black History Month, she was asked by National Museums Scotland to write a post for their blog to introduce her work, outline her project and write about her aims and hopes for the next four years:

[Air Personnel of Colour: Recovering their experiences in Scottish wartime aviation | National Museums Scotland Blog \(nms.ac.uk\)](https://nms.ac.uk)

Create a listing for your event (including online ones) in the SLHF website diary. It is easy to do and free, just go to <https://www.slhf.org/submit-event>

## WHAT'S ON

A reminder to **Member Societies** please take a few minutes to make sure that you put your latest programme on the SLHF website <https://www.slhf.org/events>

■ **British Association for Local History** have several events scheduled including:

**'Effective Social Media For Local History' 9 February 2023** <https://tinyurl.com/pm6h72bw>

Digital Strategy Coordinator Megan Kelleher talks through some ways in which you can ensure you engage with a broader audience. This will include how to find out the best times to post, different types of content you could share and how to create a consistent voice on social media.

**'Creating Engaging YouTube videos for Local and Family History' 9 March 2023.** <https://tinyurl.com/69mdyxwn>

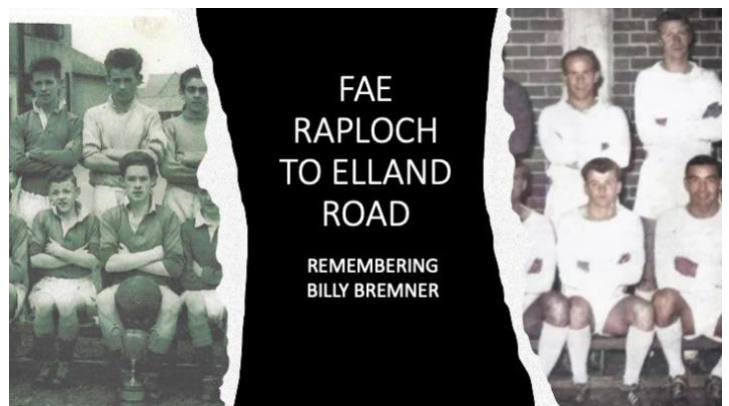
Ten-Minute Talks are a great and simple way of showcasing your research in a bite-sized format, and experienced filmmaker and Digital Content Coordinator Catherine Warr will show you just how easy it is to create your own. <https://www.balh.org.uk/events>

■ **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** Meet the Architectural Historian - Online Event Thursday 12 January 2023 Start time: 5pm (GMT) <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ab9z2>

■ **The Afterlife of Mary Queen of Scots** Is the focus of an exhibition at the Hunterian in Glasgow until 5 February 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/4av3tcec>

**Ron O'Donnell's photographs at the City Art Centre chart the lost interiors and changing face of Edinburgh** From prison cells, public toilets and laundrettes to greengrocers, fishmongers, brush sellers and pet supplies – these were the stomping grounds of Edinburgh-based photographer Ron O'Donnell from the 1970s onwards. Since his days as a young student photographer O'Donnell has always had a curious and insatiable desire to document the city. Looking for unusual interiors, he would regularly cycle around with his camera – a tool he used to access hidden spots that many people never saw or had access to. The exhibition is part of a photographic season at the City Art Centre from 19 November until 5 March 2023. Admission is free. The exhibition is accompanied by an extensive in-person and online events programme. <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/ron-odonnell>

■ **New exhibition kicks Stirling sporting hero back into spotlight** New memories about the life and career of Stirling-born football star **Billy Bremner** have been uncovered as part of a new online exhibition. Working with pupils from the sporting hero's former school, St Modan's High, and the local Raploch community, researchers from the University of Stirling uncovered a swathe of material connected to Bremner – who was born in the Raploch in 1942 before becoming one of the greatest midfielders of all time. The material, which includes a unique collection of anecdotes from former school friends, neighbours and team-mates, as well as photos, match-reports and school records, is thought to be the only collection of its kind. The online archive also includes a new heritage trail, highlighting sites significant to Bremner's life in Raploch, which was created in partnership with St Modan's pupils. The project is supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players. <https://collections.stir.ac.uk/billybremner/>



Bremner Gallery Credit: University of Stirling Archives

■ **University of Glasgow Adam Smith Tercentenary Throughout 2023:** The University of Glasgow, along with key partners will be hosting a series of events to mark the tercentenary. For more details follow this link <https://www.gla.ac.uk/explore/adamsmith300/>

■ **Date for your Diary: Highland Heritage Day Saturday 4 March 2023.** Historic Environment Scotland has provided funding to allow this networking event to go ahead on 4 March at Dingwall Academy. It will be an opportunity for everyone involved in Highland Heritage to get together, promoting their organisations and museums, with ample chance for networking. The event will be free, and provide travel expenses. <http://www.archhighland.org.uk/index.asp>

■ **Sir Walter Scott in the Historic Environment Scotland Archives** Selected dates until Friday, 31 March 2023. An exhibition of drawings, photographs and sketches selected from the HES Archives showing buildings and monuments associated with Walter Scott. It will feature alternative designs for the Scott Monument, Edinburgh, and buildings which trace Scott's influence on Scottish architecture. Venue: John Sinclair House. [Sir Walter Scott in the HES Archives | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

■ **Erskine Beveridge: Collecting Relics, Ruins & Ways of Life** Selected dates until Saturday, 15 April 2023. Venue: Museum nan Eilean (Stornoway). Sharing the atmospheric photography of Erskine Beveridge alongside supporting images from other Historic Environment Scotland projects, we explore the recording of Relics, Ruins, and Ways of Life. [Erskine Beveridge: Collecting Relics, Ruins & Ways of Life | HES \(historicenvironment.scot\)](#) You can also view our online exhibition: [The Photography of Erskine Beveridge](#)

■ **Romantic Scotland Through a Lens** Selected dates until Sunday, 22 January 2023. Venue: Rozelle House Museum and Galleries. Presenting photography from the archives, this exhibition explores life in 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotland and how its rugged ruins, fishing communities and rural life have contributed to understandings of Scottish identity and history. [Romantic Scotland Through a Lens | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

## **BOOK REVIEWS-our thanks to Don Martin for these reviews.**

**John Alexander, *Bygone Arbroath*, pp.56, £11.95 ISBN 978 1 84033 944 4**

**Alex F Young, *Bygone Peebles*, pp.52, £11.95 ISBN 978 1 84033 940 6**

**David Pettigrew, *Newton Mearns Then and Now*, pp.48, £12.95 ISBN 978 1 84033 917 8**

**All published by Stenlake Publishing Ltd, Catrine**

These three books in the Stenlake standard 'landscape style' were published during 2022. All three were preceded by earlier Stenlake albums relating to those communities, in the same style, respectively *Old Arbroath* by Fiona Scharlau (2001), *Old Peebles* (1998) by Rhona Wilson, and *Old Newton Mearns* by Anne Loudon and David Kidd (2001). As appropriate to a larger town, the new ***Bygone Arbroath*** book has several streetscapes showing the more extensive and busier buildings found in the centre of a place of this size. Some of the best examples are on pages 4, 10, 13 and 26. These are very obviously taken in the earlier years of the twentieth century. In contrast are two mid-twentieth century views of the late 1950s (pp.19-20), in which the motor vehicle types and people's clothing are clearly very different. The views of herring gutting on pages 50-1 display distinctive local character as does an early caravan-site view on page 42. A real period piece can be found on page 28, where the exterior of the present railway station is shown when new, about 1911, with a pair of characteristic horse-drawn cabs of the period outside, perhaps waiting to convey holiday-makers to their accommodation.

Equally distinctive are the images in the new ***Peebles album***, where the views of this smaller town often seem less busy and more relaxed. Interesting social history is displayed in an early view of the public park (opened 1908) which features the range of swings, see-saws and maypole provided for younger people during the park's early years. Another gem of social history is a picture of an Ancient Order of Forester's gathering (1904), dominated by two enormous banners. Whereas the Arbroath and Peebles albums are devoted entirely to older photographs, the ***Newton Mearns Then and Now*** album compares older views with modern colour views of the different scenes. These 'old and new' pairs show how extensively streetscapes have changed over the last century. The modern colour view on page 19, for example, demonstrates very clearly how the complexity of present-day street furniture often dominates the scene. This is in marked contrast to the very personal nature of some of the earlier views that show groups of adults and/or children, posing for the photographer in a natural manner and in this way providing a strong impression of a more casual atmosphere in former times.

**Jack Gillon, *50 Gems of Fife*, pp.154, £15.99, ISBN 978 1 3981 1160 8**

**Jack Gillon, *50 Gems of Stirling District*, pp.149, £15.99, ISBN 978 1 3981 1152 3**

**Charlotte Gollidge, *Graveyards and Cemeteries of Fife*, pp.96, ISBN 978 1 3981 1202 5**

**All published by Amberley Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, in 2022.**

Amberley's '50 gems...' series has been developed over the last few years to include localities across the British Isles. Recent examples include titles dealing with the English counties of Herefordshire, Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, as well as 50 Gems of Guernsey (Channel Islands).

Until now, Scotland has not been well represented, although Jack Gillon's 50 Gems of the Lothians was published in February 2020. The same author's ***50 Gems of Fife***, just issued, begins with a Contents List of fifty numbered 'Gems' of the area, followed by a double-page Map of Fife with the numbers of each of the fifty 'gems' marked boldly in red, also a short Introduction. The main body of text covers each 'gem' in turn, with a short (mainly historical) description and a range of high-quality colour images. Local historians with knowledge of Fife will be familiar with all or most of them, but other people are likely to find information on landmarks of Fife that was previously unknown to them. The reviewer was delighted to be introduced to the Lundin Links Standing Stones ('Gem' No.14) and the Dutch Village at Craigtoun Park, near St Andrews ('Gem' No.33); and it was pleasant to be reminded of the neat simplicity of the Tolbooth at West Wemyss ('Gem' No.11).

Jack Gillon's ***50 Gems of Stirling District*** has a contents list, map and introduction similar to that in his Fife book, followed by a numbered sequence of the appropriate '50 gems'. Some people will be puzzled by the geographical spread of this book, which accords with 'the historic boundary of Stirlingshire' and so includes the Falkirk area and parts of Loch Lomond-side. For convenience, Clackmannanshire is also included. Falkirk might perhaps have deserved a book on its own, but maybe Amberley and/or Jack Gillon have worked out a plan to cover Scotland systematically, in a finite number of '50 gems' books.

Charlotte Golledge's ***Graveyards and Cemeteries of Fife*** also seems to be part of a series, but in fact the only similar titles published by Amberley seem to be Golledges's *Graveyards and Cemeteries of Edinburgh* (2020) and her *Greyfriars Graveyard* (2018). The new Fife book includes a brief history of Fife, a section on 'Common Buildings in Fife Burial Grounds' (watch houses, mort houses, a memorial chapel, a Session house and a tool shed), and local chapters on graveyards and cemeteries in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Cupar and St Andrews, followed by one on 'Select Historical Burial Grounds in Fife not already featured'. There is also a chapter on 'The Trades' that has useful drawings of trade symbols found on the gravestones of different tradesmen. This will be of value to people researching the graveyard representation of trades in other parts of Scotland, as well as Fife. It is to be hoped that Charlotte Golledge will continue her attractive series of books with examples covering graveyards and cemeteries elsewhere in Scotland.

## MEET AN SLHF TRUSTEE – NORA SOLESBURY

My interest in history began a long time ago when I lived in the heart of rural Scotland's covenanting country and became aware of groups from various educational establishments and historical societies making regular pilgrimages across the moors to visit a nearby monument and battle site.

This fired my enthusiasm to find out much more about the covenanting movement and the general history of my local area, so I began using research facilities in libraries and reference books which were the only sources available at that time. There is plenty of information about how and why these people died, but I wanted to know more about their social circumstances and working lives more than two centuries ago. This prompted investigation of how agricultural practices had evolved and altered the landscape. My searches expanded and I made many friends with similar interests.

Career path and family life interrupted my early research and by the time I picked up the thread again many years later I had the advantages of internet access and digitisation – making the process of finding information so much easier. One positive outcome from the period of lockdown is the availability of additional material from newspaper archives and digitisation of historical maps.

The ability to participate in local history activities online has, for me, been a very positive aspect of the recent lockdowns and when I was invited to become a SLHF Trustee I realised that perhaps I can be supportive in practical ways.



## MEET A LOCAL GROUP – CUPAR HERITAGE

Cupar Heritage is the local history society for Cupar and the surrounding area of North Fife. We were formally established as a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) in November 2012, but had existed as a body prior to that time as an unincorporated association. Our constitution sets out our charitable purposes as being to advance and encourage an interest in history, with particular emphasis on the history of Cupar and the surrounding area, to facilitate research, to preserve and interpret the historical and cultural heritage of the area and provide a community resource by collecting and conserving items of local historical interest.

As an organisation that relies upon its membership to sustain these objectives, we rely entirely on the dedication of volunteers and Trustees elected by the membership to organise our activities. The main strands of our work are to provide a regular series of talks for the general membership on topics of local and general historic interest and to manage activities at Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre.

The talks programme had been a feature long established by our predecessor organisations. The range of speakers is drawn from our own membership, and regional and national experts in their field who can contribute new understanding of our area's history. The interruption caused by the pandemic was overcome to some extent by allowing continuity by Zoom for those who were able to join us.

Happily normal service resumed in September 2021 at our meeting venue, Age Concern Centre, Cupar when an encouraging audience for the first of our in-person meetings took place. Among the topics presented on Zoom we had talks on *Miss Duncan's Legacy*, the story of the Duncan Institute in Cupar, Ted White on *John White & Company of Auchtermuchty* one of the oldest surviving companies in Scotland, and

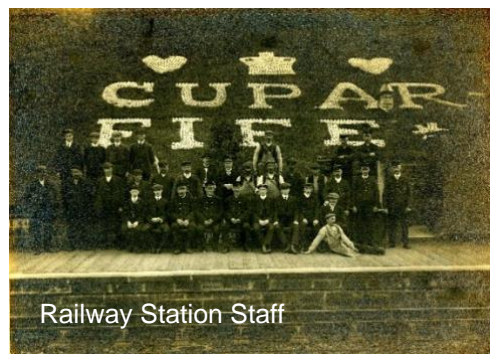


Beet Lorry

insights into the historical background to *Dry Stone Dyking*. Past talks have covered *Hidden Burgh*, the project to catalogue the Cupar Burgh Records held at St Andrews University Library Special Collections, *Traditional Shops and Shopping in Cupar* that had been part of a special study by Dr Lindsay Lennie, the *Doocots of Fife* and a report on the archaeological dig carried out at Cupar's Moat Hill. More recently Chris Fleet of the National Library of



Cupar Museum and  
Heritage Centre



Railway Station Staff

Scotland Map Library attracted a 'full house' for his presentation on *Scottish Maps*. Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre was established by Cupar Heritage to meet a long felt need in our community to tell the story of the 'County Town'. We were fortunate in being able to secure a former railway cottage at Cupar Railway Station that was deemed surplus to requirements by ScotRail and with financial assistance from our main funders, the Railway Heritage Trust, the Stations Community Regeneration Fund and LEADER in Fife we finally took possession of the premises in August 2011. The space that we acquired comprised three rooms, two on the ground floor for display space and the upper floor for storage and a work area. The initial opening to the public was over the weekend of Doors Open Day in September 2011 when we found ourselves welcoming a steady stream of visitors to our first exhibition.

Subsequent exhibition themes have seen a number of important local and national anniversaries being exhibited. For example, in 2012 we marked one hundred years since the visit of the Highland Show to Cupar in 1912, we made a special feature of the impact of the First World War on Cupar in 2014 including important material from the museum in Cupar's Twin Town, Sainte Menehould in France.

The presence of a local museum managed by local residents has allowed individuals and local bodies to have confidence in depositing records and artefacts with us. Two examples that illustrate this are the deposit of the records of Cupar Corn Exchange Company, acquired from the surviving shareholders and the gift of the 1860 Toll Board that formerly stood at Struthers Toll, eight miles from Cupar which will be an important part of our 2023 exhibition.

Not all exhibits come to us as gifts and occasionally we have been required to bid at auction or make an offer where the item is deemed of significance. One such occasion was when we learnt that a freedom casket awarded by Cupar Town Council to John Duffus who gifted Duffus Park to the town was being offered at an auction on the Isle of Man. A successful bid was placed and on delivery the bonus of the original freedom scroll being discovered in the casket was a cause for celebration.

Our attention was drawn to the possibility of acquiring two portraits of Charles Lees RSA, 1800-1880, the Cupar born artist. These were acquired from a private owner who had carried out research into his life and background. With the assistance of funding from a local authority grant and a number of private donors we took pride in exhibiting these as they had never been on public view before.

Our collaboration with local agencies has led to a number of developments that have been beneficial to Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre. We were part of a partnership that included Cupar Development Trust and CMC Associates that obtained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project that operated under the "Classic Cupar" banner. This involved the gathering of images of the town from a range of sources and creating a digital library of these. Further cooperation with the same partnership led to the creation of fresh public orientation and interpretation boards for the benefit of visitors to the town centre.

A further example of collaboration is the work undertaken by Cupar Museum to support the activities of Fife Historic Buildings Trust who carried out a Conservation Area Regeneration/Township Heritage Initiative that saw £7 million invested in Cupar's historic properties and streets. Our role was to give context to the work being planned through access to our collections and to provide exhibition material within the refurbished former Burgh Chambers. This is now luxury accommodation for visitors. The relationship with Fife Historic Buildings Trust allowed us to engage Dr Lindsay Lennie to conduct a survey and assessment of the town's historic shopfronts and had the added value of hearing her talk on the subject.

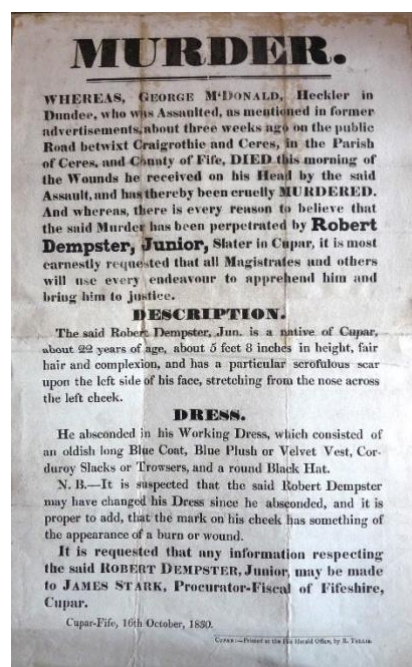
Looking to the future, our Trustees are conscious of father time being our enemy and there is a need to continually recruit younger members and volunteers. The acquisition of many objects and records over the course of the ten years that the museum has been open also presents issues in dealing with storage, a not unfamiliar problem to the museum sector. We also need to consider running costs for our existing premises and any future opportunities to expand that present themselves.

Our website [www.cuparheritage.org.uk](http://www.cuparheritage.org.uk) provides access to information about our ongoing activities and the opportunity for those who wish to make enquiries about our local heritage to contact us. Two recent examples of enquiries that come to mind were firstly from a Ramblers Group who wanted the background to the Hopetoun Monument near Cupar, as they plan to visit there soon and then another about the activities of Polish Troops stationed in the Cupar area during the Second World War. There is never a dull moment with Cupar Heritage!

Coronation Celebration at Mercat Cross



Cupar Town Band



1830 Wanted Poster

## HISTORY NEWS

■ **Publication of the 1921 Scottish Census:** Good news as the [1921 Scottish Census](#) was released on 30 November 2022—please see our **Libraries** section for more details.

Meanwhile in Ireland, the **1926 census to be digitised under new €5m project**. The project has been given €5 million in funding and due to be published online in April 2026. It includes over 700,000 individual return census sheets, containing data from 26 counties. The census in 1926 was the first to be carried out following the foundation of the State. It includes information about population, age, occupation, religion, housing and the Irish language.

<https://tinyurl.com/5n85pfas>

■ **Scotland's slavery role cannot be glossed over**, Lord Carloway says. Unveiling a plaque in Edinburgh, Lord Carloway said it was important to mark the 'true extent' of Scotland's historic role in the slave trade. The plaque marked a 1778 legal judgement that established that Scots law would not support slavery. The plaque was praised by academic Sir Geoff Palmer who has reviewed the capital's links with the slave trade. Lord Carloway, the lord president, unveiled the plaque at the Court of Session, to mark the judgment in the case of Knight v Wedderburn.

■ A book about Scotland's involvement in slavery has won the top prize at Scotland's national book awards. David Alston has received the [Saltire Society Book of the Year](#) for his book 'Slaves and Highlanders: Silenced Histories and the Caribbean'.

■ **A Memorial Pole** which has been on display at the **National Museum of Scotland** since 1930 is to be returned. The House of Nisga'a Memorial Pole, brought to Scotland nearly a century ago, will be returned to its place of origin in what is now British Columbia, Canada. The move follows a visit from a delegation of Nisga'a representatives to Edinburgh in August, when a request for its transfer to the Nisga'a Nation was made. The request was formally agreed by the Board of Trustees of National Museums Scotland and subsequently approved by the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture.

■ A 12-week consultation opened on 28 November as **Historic Environment Scotland** (HES), on behalf of the Scottish Government, asks the public to share their views on heritage to shape the new strategy for Scotland's historic environment. HES, as the lead body for the sector, has been commissioned by Neil Gray, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, to lead a review of **Our Place in Time** and develop a new strategy collectively with the sector. The consultation results will inform the new strategy which will be launched in spring 2023.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dydfwez>

■ The redesign of the **Paisley Museum** has recently had a boost as it reports a fundraising milestone of £1 million. The Paisley Museum Reimagined Ltd charity is raising the final money needed to complete the £45m transformation of the museum into what is hoped to become a 'world-class visitor destination'.

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2455/Paisley-Museum-Reimagined>

■ **The Museum and Heritage Awards** is now open for entries. With 17 categories available to enter, the closing date is 1 February 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/mwnxnmuw>

■ **News of a Borders cinema celebrating its centenary** The Playhouse opened on Market Street in 1920 as a dance hall, theatre and cinema. <https://tinyurl.com/yc8mivza>

■ **Blockbuster film location guide** launched by VisitScotland. 'Set in Scotland' is the title of the extensive guide which was launched in November 2022. A pdf of the guide is available here:

<https://www.visitscotland.com/ebooks/en/set-in-scotland.pdf>

■ **Stirling station renovation uncovers postcards from World War One.** A treasure trove of papers and postcards dating back to World War One has been discovered during renovation work at Stirling station. The Caledonian Railway postcards were sent to people in the Stirling area, asking them to collect items which had been sent on the train. Several were dated April 1916 and sent to troops and regiments stationed in the barracks at Cambusbarron. An appeal has now been launched to trace the soldiers' families. <https://tinyurl.com/4zemdh9r>

■ **Long lost letters shine new light on 1800s Borders life** Long lost letters discovered in a lawyer's cupboard are helping shine a new light on slavery, Sir Walter Scott and even the price of sheep.

The dust-covered books of correspondence from lawyer George Craig were found at the back of cupboards in a Galashiels law office. <https://tinyurl.com/2v84mc7k>

■ **A new museum at Perth City Hall will be called Perth Museum after 60% of people in a public consultation picked 'the obvious choice.'** Perth Museum beat other suggestions including The Sparkling Museum of Perth and the Victoria Drummond Museum. A spokesperson for the museum said the name had been a clear favourite and 'encapsulates the stories and history of the building'. <https://tinyurl.com/ycku2w55>

■ **The National Railway Museum's historic Station Hall will close temporarily in the New Year to enable urgent structural repairs to take place as part of the museum's ambitious redevelopment plans.** Station Hall will close on 3 January for an expected 18 months, but the museum will remain open to the public during the conservation project, with people able to visit Great Hall and North Shed.

■ **Vintage Carriages Trust Museum Of Rail Travel** hold a significant back stock of Railway magazines and are available at a very good price. However, you need to know the details and date of the relevant publication.

<http://www.vintagecarriagestrust.org/>

**Magazine Exchange is another source of Railway Magazines and has the advantage of a search engine**  
<https://www.magazineexchange.co.uk/>

■ The **Scottish Council on Archives** have produced a great new list of Twenty Treasures from Scottish Archives  
<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/explore/twenty-treasures-v2/>

■ **History of Nursing Research Colloquium University of Chichester Wednesday 28 June 2023 Call for Papers:** Papers are invited that cover any aspect of nursing history, including work in progress. The colloquium has a proud tradition of providing a supportive environment and space for researchers to present work in progress and obtain feedback for further development of their research. **Deadline: Friday March 17th 2023** Please submit abstracts of approximately 250 words to: [c.chatterton@chi.ac.uk](mailto:c.chatterton@chi.ac.uk)

## **MAPS NEWS-our thanks to Chris Fleet for this information** **OS AIR PHOTO MOSAICS - ENGLAND AND WALES, 1944-1950**

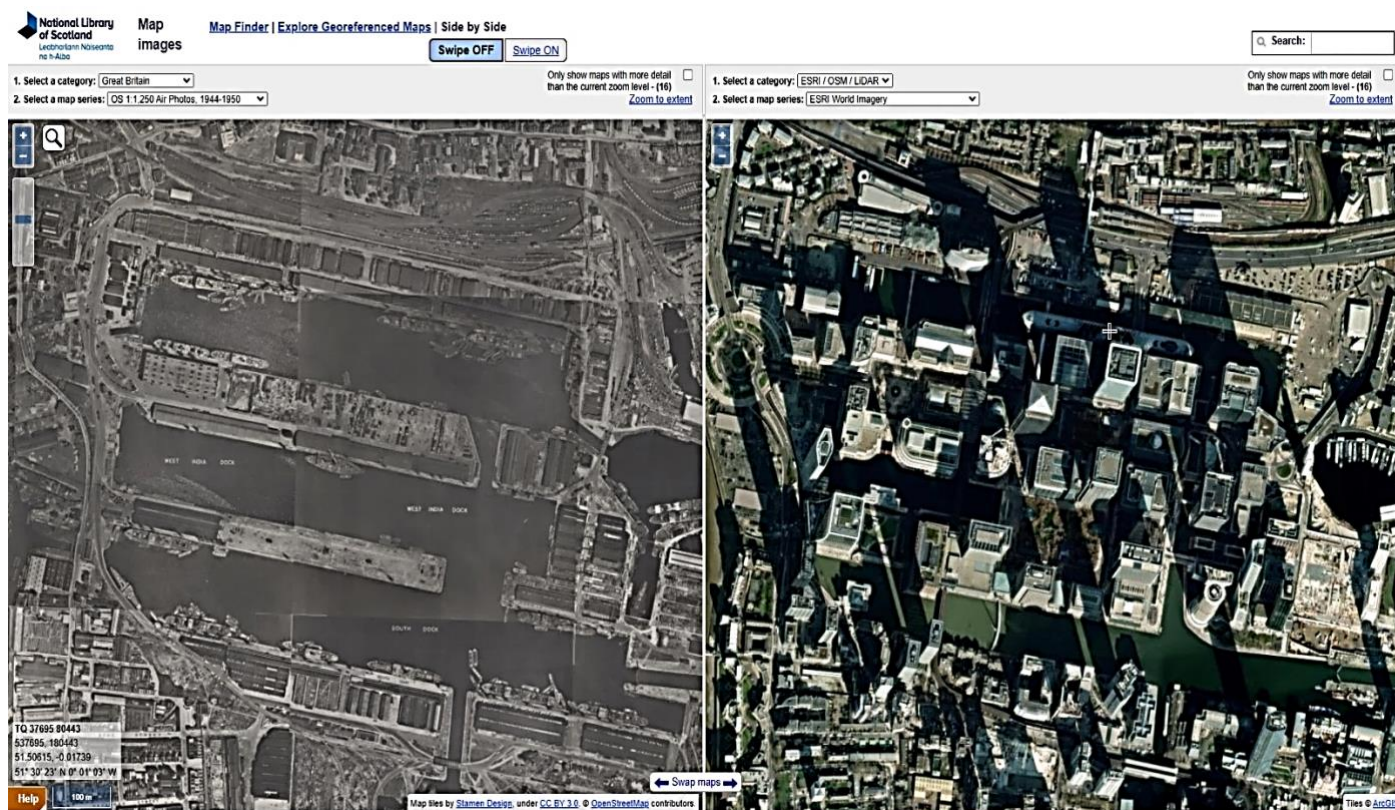
In October we put online 6,193 air photo mosaics, which provide detailed information on the landscape of England and Wales in the 1940s. They complement the Scottish air photo mosaics which we have had online since 2009. Around 20% of the British landscape was covered at 1:10,560 scale (showing useful information about fields, farms, roads, railways and woodland), and 16 towns/cities in England and Wales at 1:1,250 scale (with excellent detail of urban topography including buildings and industrial premises). These towns and cities had often sustained Second World War bomb damage, which can be clearly seen too. The mosaics were produced as an interim measure by Ordnance Survey as a quick and cheap expedient before proper paper mapping could be surveyed, to assist with post-War planning and reconstruction.

Air Photo mosaics: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/air-photos/>

Comparing Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 scale air photo mosaics, prepared from photography captured in 1947 (left) with modern satellite imagery (right) for Canary Wharf, London in the NLS Side by side viewer:

<https://maps.nls.uk/qeo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=16.2&lat=51.50510&lon=-0.01880&layers=253&right=ESRITopo>

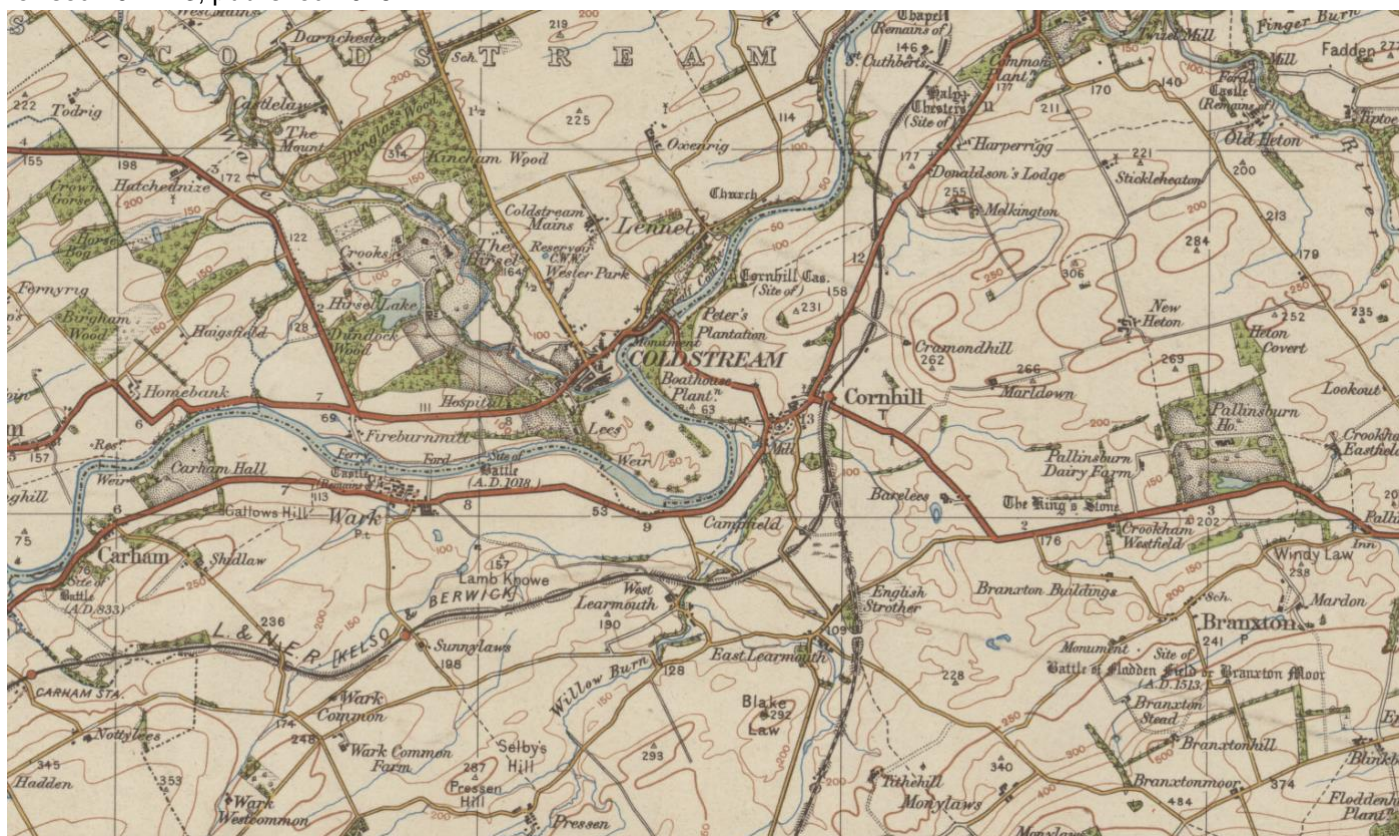
## **OS ONE-INCH TO THE MILE - ENGLAND AND WALES - 1890s-1940s**



In December we put online over 1,700 OS one-inch to the mile maps of England and Wales. This significantly expands on the limited coverage we had previously at this scale of England and Wales. OS one-inch mapping is often useful for researching larger landscape features, such as woodland, reservoirs, settlements, roads, and railways, supplementing the main record of landscape change at the larger basic six-inch and 25-inch to the mile scales. The new maps include the fully-coloured Popular edition of the 1920s and its successor series, including the military series GSGS 3907, which provides useful coverage during the Second World War.

OS One-Inch England and Wales mapping: <https://maps.nls.uk/additions/#134>

Detail of Coldstream environs from Ordnance Survey, One-Inch to the Mile, Popular edition, Sheet 1 River Tweed, revised 1921-23, published 1926.



## CAIRT NEWSLETTER

The January 2023 issue of our *Cairt* newsletter includes articles on the surveyor James Forbes Beattie (1804-77) and his work on village planning in Aberdeenshire, 1859 and 1873. It also includes a description of the background to James Fraser's *Map of the Counties of Fife and Kinross* (1841), and a review of Archibald Day's classic work on *The Admiralty Hydrographic Service, 1795-1919* (1967) which is newly available online. There are also the usual summaries of new online map resources, recent publications and an invitation to answer a very quick survey on future Scottish Maps Forum events. Available online at: <https://maps.nls.uk/cairt/>

## CAN YOU HELP?

### Church Recording Project

Supported by

Scotland's church buildings are currently experiencing a period of upheaval last seen on this scale in the 19th century. Hundreds of places of worship, many of which have been places of sacred ceremony, community fellowship and spiritual refuge for centuries, are set to close.

In most cases, the exterior solid fabric of these well-known local landmarks will be saved, as the buildings are reused for other purposes, but the artefacts inside will mostly be removed elsewhere and scattered to the four winds.



Scotland's Churches Trust is working with Historic Environment Scotland on a pilot project to try to enlist and empower local volunteers across the country to make a record of as much as possible of this unique, multi-generational, cultural heritage, before it is lost forever.



Why do we need a record of the contents of Scotland's churches?

"Cultural heritage includes artefacts, monuments, a group of buildings and sites, museums that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance."

UNESCO



**Scotland's Churches Trust**

PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND PRESERVING SCOTLAND'S PLACES OF WORSHIP SINCE 1978

Some of the items we will record and add to the HES Archives include:

- Stained glass windows
- Memorials
- Furnishings
- Linens
- Books
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Musical instruments
- Artwork
- Textiles
- Archival material

Help us record as much as possible before it's too late!

If you would like to volunteer or find out more about our project, please drop our Director a line at [director@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk](mailto:director@scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk)

## QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

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'You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know'.

William Wilberforce.

-----oOo-----

**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>

## 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.

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