



## SLHF NEWS

■ **Walk & Talk:** Join us to explore some of the history of Linlithgow from Mary Queen of Scots (and before) to the twentieth century (and beyond) on Thursday, 22 May 2025, 10.30am – 3.30pm. In the morning, we will take a short walk along the east end of the High Street stopping to examine evidence of the town's history from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the afternoon, we plan to explore the interior of St Michael's Church before taking a walk around The Peel, the Royal Park that surrounds Linlithgow Palace, to explore the history evident from this vantage point. Cost £7 (lunch not included). For further information and to book go to [Linlithgow Walk and Talk | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

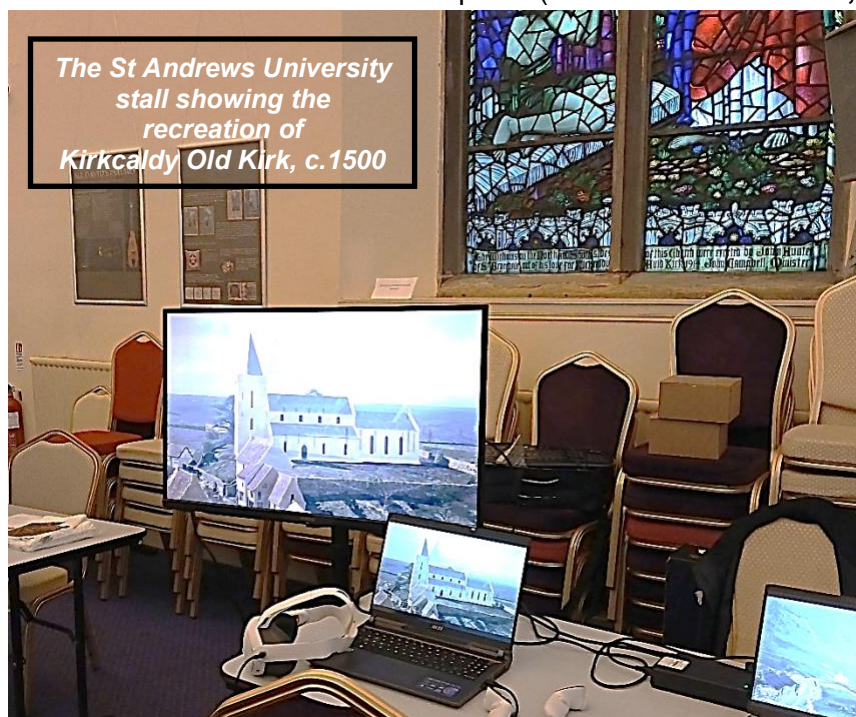
■ **Call for Papers** Scottish Local History Forum is planning to hold a conference in October 2025 on the theme of *Popular Protest in a Scottish Local History Context* and would welcome offers of thirty minute papers. Please visit [Contact SLHF | Scottish Local History Forum](#) to discuss possible contributions.

■ Congratulations are due to former SLHF trustee, **Finlay McKichan**. He has received a President's Award in recognition of his 50 years of dedication at the Aberdeen and District Members' Centre of the National Trust for Scotland.

■ Your *Clish-Clash* editor attended the **Fife Local History Forum** get-together on 13 November to promote the advantages of membership of **SLHF** for individuals and organisations. He heard some very interesting presentations and met old friends, former colleagues and stallholders representing various Fife groups. The splendid **Kirkcaldy Old Kirk** was the venue and they heard about the cutting edge, virtual reality re-creation of the Old Kirk and Environs, c.1500, created by the **School of Computer Science, University of St Andrews** using gaming technology. They also heard about the **Scottish Council on Archives' Community Stories, Community Archives** project and the new **Your Scottish Archives** portal (see details in **Libraries, Archives and Museums** section). The newly launched **Kilmarnock, Creich and Flisk** newsletter/magazine was an excellent case study [Creich, Flisk, and Kilmarnock Historical Group](#) and was followed up with good advice on how local history groups can work along with the press to their advantage as they have done in Dunfermline.

<https://olddunfermline.com/>.

The last talk was about the **Eco-Museum of Scottish Mining** – a virtual museum exploring the rich but often hidden local landscape legacies of coal mining across the Scottish midland coalfield, ranging from Fife to Ayrshire, through a series of cycling and walking routes created by local communities commemorating their industrial history and heritage, and celebrating their sense of place and identity. [Mining Landscapes](#)



## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ **National Library of Scotland** has seen a welcome increase in visitors compared with pre-Covid levels. [National Library of Scotland sees visitors return to pre-Covid levels | The Herald](#) and as it celebrates its centenary a programme of events to mark the occasion has been revealed. [National Library of Scotland Unveils Landmark Centenary Programme | National Library of Scotland Newsroom](#)

■ **Call for submissions: Digital collections. Community Archives & Heritage Group** are looking for people to submit posters or digital files to be displayed at their upcoming event on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March taking place in the ARC, Glasgow. This is an opportunity to showcase digital collections and digital projects you are undertaking or planning to undertake! Find out more and submit here:

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/latest/workshops-events/call-for-contributions-digital-collections/>

■ **Community Stories - Community Archives Events** The next series CS-CA events are now all listed on Scottish Council on Archive's *Eventbrite*. They cover a range of topics including Cataloguing, Engaging Outreach and Preservation and there will also be several in-person events too. To book your space head to Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/scottish-council-on-archives-18070269599>

■ **Your Scottish Archives** In December SCA launched the Your Scottish Archives Portal. YSA is a unique project to gather and make available worldwide, through a dynamic online portal, catalogue descriptions from archives across Scotland, including local authority, health, business and community archives, as well as records of under-represented groups. This major new resource is managed by SCA in partnership with Jisc/Archives Hub. It will build capacity amongst archive holders and develop skills, particularly amongst local communities, making an enormous contribution to the wider heritage sector by improving access to Scotland's documented past.

YSA currently displays catalogue entries from over sixty Scottish repositories, including local authorities, universities, heritage organisations and community groups. It is packed with guidance, links and resources for all users of online archives, both experienced and new. This is phase one of the site. Phase two in spring 2025 will include improved hierarchical display of records and search functionality. As the site grows, we hope more repositories will contribute catalogue descriptions. See [Your Scottish Archives - Explore and discover archive collections across Scotland](#) and for all comments and questions please email [your@scottisharchives.org.uk](mailto:your@scottisharchives.org.uk)

■ **A Year in the Life of a Community Archive 2024: The Museum of Scottish Railways** The Museum of Scottish Railways Archive final blogs for a *Year in the Life of a Community Archive* are now on the SCA website! The Museum of Scottish Railways discuss winning CAHG's 'Bringing Archives to Life' short film grant which will enable them to purchase equipment, undertake training with professional filmmakers, and create a short format film to showcase the people who make their archive special, and what they get out of volunteering. They also look back on their experience doing A Year in the Life by going through the wide range of benefits and opportunities they gained. They also discuss what is to come in 2025 for them after the project. Read the blogs here: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/community-archives/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-community-archive-2024/>

■ **Scotland's Museums and Galleries Strategy Symposium 2025** will take place on Wednesday, 26 February 2025 at The Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh and online. This event is open to all those who volunteer, work in, and collaborate with Scotland's museums and galleries. It offers an excellent opportunity to learn about sector initiatives, engage with topical discussions, and network with colleagues. Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture Angus Robertson MSP will deliver the opening address before a panel discussion with colleagues from the museum sector where they will explore shared challenges and opportunities for the future. This will be followed by various panel sessions, knowledge-sharing opportunities, and workshops designed to provide inspiration and practical advice across the priority areas of [the Strategy](#). Register for in person attendance: [Scotland's Museums and Galleries Strategy Symposium 2025 \(in-person\) Tickets, Wed 26 Feb 2025 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#) Register for online attendance: [Scotland's Museums and Galleries Strategy Symposium 2025 \(Online\) Tickets, Wed 26 Feb 2025 at 09:45 | Eventbrite](#)

■ If you are in London between April and September you might want to check out this new free exhibition at **The National Archives**: [MI5: Official Secrets - The National Archives](#)

■ **The Wellgate Project: Recreating a Lost Street** Wellgate was one of the most important streets in Dundee. It was an integral part of the social and commercial fabric of the city, with a history going back over 500 years, and was home to many well-known shops and businesses in that time. Now, fifty years on from its demolition in the 1970s, this project aims to tell its story and is looking for help to do that. [The Wellgate Project | Leisure & Culture Dundee](#)



*The Wellgate, Dundee, looking north to the Wellgate Steps*

*The Wellgate and Victoria Road awaiting demolition in the early 1970s*



■ **National Library of Scotland map news** The latest issue of the Scottish Maps Forum's *Cairt newsletter* was published in January 2025. This featured two larger research articles, the first by Nevis Hulme, on using maps and related written sources to locate Ingadill, a lost name in Gairloch, Wester Ross. A second article, by Douglas Lockhart, described the interesting life of John Innes (1769-1845) of Aberdeen. Few land surveyors have a portrait; even fewer have a ship named after them, and Douglas's research explains why! This issue also reported on recent machine-learning projects which have identified features on maps. Those relating to Scotland include:

- Moorland in Scotland, 1840s-1880s
- Urban trees in Edinburgh and Leeds, 1888-94
- Woodland in Scotland, 1840s-1880s.

Further information about these is available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/projects/> and *Cairt* is available at <https://maps.nls.uk/cairt/cairt46.pdf>

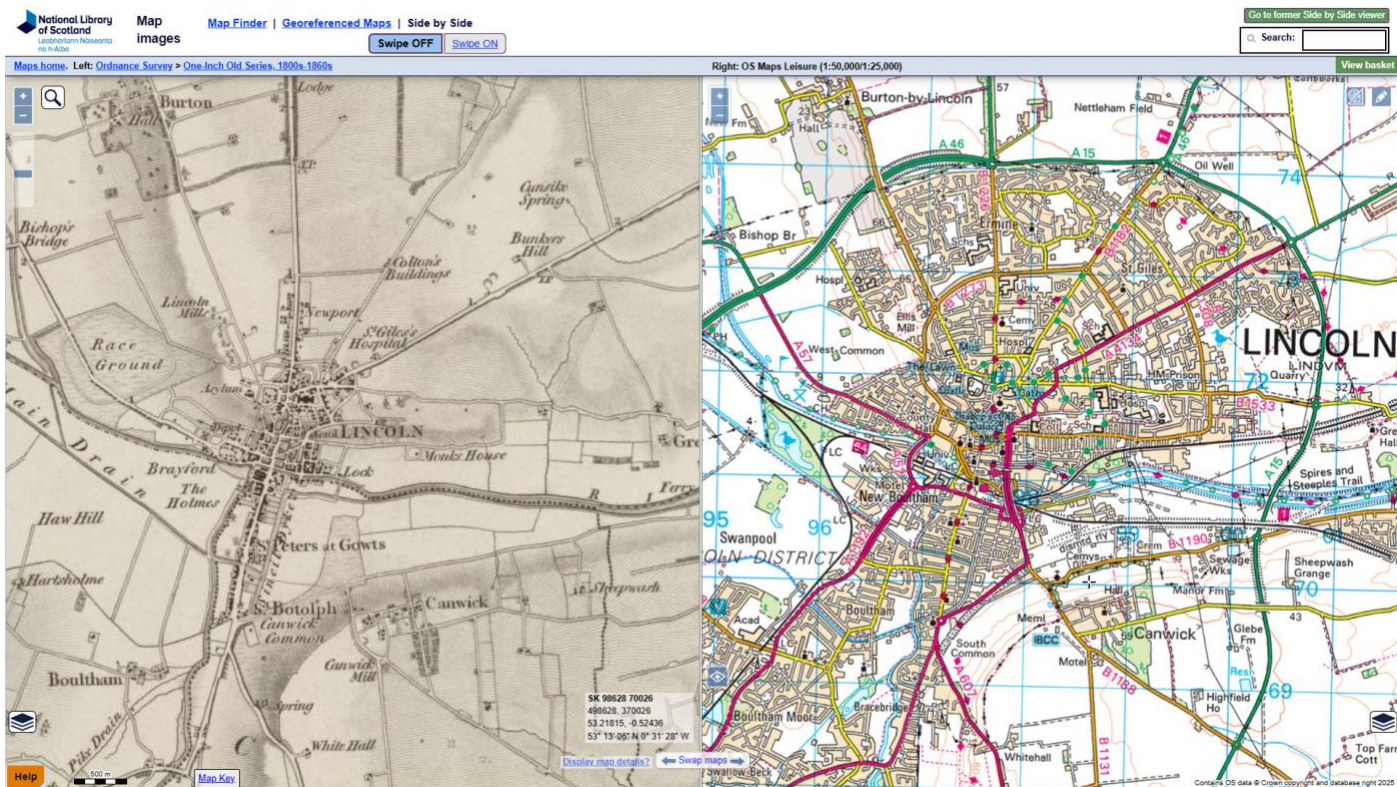


**Detail from the Urban trees viewer, showing extracted tree symbols from OS 1:500 Town Plans of Edinburgh, 1890s**

■ **Bibliography of the Historical Cartography of Scotland** This *Bibliography*, compiled by John Moore, was originally published over 40 years ago with just 238 entries, but John has continually maintained and expanded it since then. Now including over 770 references to articles relating specifically to maps and map-makers of Scotland, it has been made newly available online. It is possible to search by author, subject, and keyword, as well as browse the *Bibliography* through chronological, thematic and geographic sections. Informed descriptions and summaries accompany each citation. Further details: <https://maps.nls.uk/guides/hist-cart-scot/>

■ Other online map additions:

**OS One-Inch 'Old Series', England and Wales, 1800-1860s** (746 sheets). Ordnance Survey's very earliest published maps of England and Wales, of great value in predating the OS six-inch and 25-inch mapping by several decades: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/one-inch-old-series/>



Comparing OS 'Old Series' maps of 1800-1860s with present-day OS Leisure mapping in the NLS.

[Side by side viewer](#)

■ **Abraham Ortelius, *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, 1592** An attractively coloured world atlas with 134 map plates, providing a comprehensive geography of the late 16th century European world:

<https://maps.nls.uk/atlas/ortelius-1592/>

■ **OS maps published in 1974** 9,759 maps at scales of 1:1,250 to 1:10,560 which were published in 1974, and which therefore came out-of-copyright from 1 January 2025: <https://maps.nls.uk/os/national-grid/>

## PUBLICATIONS

■ **The Local Historian** [The Local Historian Volume 54 Number 4 November 2024](#) | [Local History News](#) | [British Association For Local History](#)

■ **Local History News** [Local History News Number 153 November 2024](#) | [Local History News](#) | [British Association For Local History](#)

■ **Scottish Ecclesiastical Heraldry: Religious Houses, Universities, Moderators** by David M Bertie. The Heraldry Society of Scotland, 2024, 395pp., ISBN 9781999979447, £40. [The Heraldry of the Ecclesiastical Deans of Scotland](#)

■ **Gleaners of Nature – 150 years of the Dundee Naturalists' Society** by Jim Cook, Colin McLeod, Anne Reid. Abertay Historical Society, Dundee, December 2024, 157pp., ISBN 9780900019661. £7.50. [Gleaners of Nature – 150 Years of the Dundee Naturalists' Society \(2024\) | Abertay Historical Society](#)

■ **Old Partick** by Lewis Hutton. Stenlake Publishing, Catrine, 2024, pp.48, ISBN 9781840339833, £11.95. [Stenlake Publishing - Old Partick](#)

■ **Bygone Brechin** by John Alexander. Stenlake Publishing, Catrine, 2024, pp.48, ISBN 9781840339680, £11.95 [Stenlake Publishing - Bygone Brechin](#)

■ **Secret Perth** by Gregor Stewart. Amberley Publishing, Stroud, 2024, pp.96, ISBN 9781398108387, £15.99 [Secret Perth - Amberley Publishing](#)

■ **Of Mansions & Mariners – the tale of Broughty Ferry** by Callum Webster and Craig Muir, 2024, 264pp., ISBN 9781036903176, £20 [Of Mansions & Mariners the Tale of Broughty Ferry - EAS Art Gallery Dundee](#)

■ **Scottish Castles and Fortified Tower Houses – Then and Now** by Phillip R Plevy. Craigietocher Publications, Turriff, November 2024, 106pp., ISBN 9781965875070, £16.99. [Scottish Castles and Fortified Tower Houses - Then and Now by Phillip R Plevy - AuthorsSolution Book Preview Amazon.co.uk : scottish castles and fortified tower houses, then & now](#)

■ **Burns and Black Lives** by Clark McGinn, Luath Press. Edinburgh, January 2025, 512pp., ISBN 9781804251690, £25.00. [Burns and Black Lives – Luath Press](#)

- ***The Sea All Around: A passion for Scottish islands*** by Richard Cluble, Luath press, Edinburgh. November 2024, 224pp., ISBN 9781804251591, £9.99. [The Sea All Around – Luath Press](#)
- **Edinburgh University Press** has released paperback and Ebook versions of these titles previously only available in hardback
- ***Robert Burns and Scottish Cultural Politics - The Bard of Contention (1914-2014)*** by Paul Malgrati. Edinburgh University Press, November 2024, 280pp., ISBN 9781399503464 Paperback £24.99, 9781399503488 Ebook (e-pub) £24.99, 9781399503471 Ebook (PDF) £24.99. [Robert Burns and Scottish Cultural Politics](#)
- ***Macpherson the Historian - History Writing, Empire and Enlightenment in the Works of James Macpherson*** by Mairi MacPherson, Jim MacPherson. Edinburgh University Press, November 2024, 296pp., ISBN 9781399541114 Paperback £24.99, 9781474411189 Ebook (ePub) £24.99, 9781474411172 Ebook (PDF) £24.99. [Macpherson the Historian](#)
- ***General William Roy, 1726-1790 - Father of the Ordnance Survey*** by Humphrey Welfare. Edinburgh University Press, November 2024, 310pp., ISBN 9781399505796 Paperback £24.99, 9781399505819 Ebook (ePub) £94.00, 9781399505802 Ebook (PDF) £94.00. [General William Roy, 1726-1790](#)
- ***Peter Williamson, French and Indian Cruelty – A Modern Critical Edition*** edited by Timothy Shannon. Edinburgh University Press, November 2024, 228pp., ISBN 9781399503426 Paperback £19.99, 9781399503440 Ebook (ePub) £19.99, 9781399503433 Ebook (PDF) £19.99. [Peter Williamson, French and Indian Cruelty](#)
- ***Rev. James Fraser, 1634-1709 - A New Perspective on the Scottish Highlands Before Culloden*** by David Worthington. Edinburgh University Press, November 2024, 248pp., ISBN 9781399501286 Paperback £19.99, 9781399501309 Ebook (ePub) £19.99, 9781399501293 Ebook (PDF) £19.99. [Rev. James Fraser, 1634-1709](#)
- ***John Kennedy of Dingwall, 1819-1884 - Evangelicalism in the Scottish Highlands*** by Alasdair J Macleod. . Edinburgh University Press, November 2024, 306pp., ISBN 9781399503907 Paperback £24.99, 9781399503921 Ebook (ePub) £24.99, 9781399503914 Ebook (PDF) £24.99. [John Kennedy of Dingwall, 1819-1884](#)

## WHAT'S ON

Links to the Scottish Local History Forum's events page will contain further details provided by the organisers. For events where information has not been provided by the organisers a link has been sourced by the editor where possible.

- **Mid Century Modern: Putting Scotland on the Map** Historic Environment Scotland exhibition on selected dates from Thursday, 6 February 2025 to Tuesday, 6 May 2025, North Lanarkshire Heritage Centre, High Rd, Motherwell, North Lanarkshire ML1 3HU. [Mid Century Modern: Putting Scotland on the Map | Hist Env Scotland](#)
- **Of Lions and Landscape: Excavations in the Grounds of Cramond Regis, Edinburgh** Talk to Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society by Philip Karsgaard of Addyman Archaeology, Wednesday, 12 February 2025 - 7:00pm to 8:30pm, Lecture room LG34, Patersons Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ. [Of Of Lions and Landscape: Excavations in the Grounds of Cramond Regis, Edinburgh | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Mapping the Mills of Britain through the Cartographic Revolution** Talk to Abertay Historical Society by Tara N Jonell, Wednesday, 12 February 2025 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN. [Mapping the Mills of Britain through the cartographic Revolution | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The Medieval Boundaries of Ayr** Talk to Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society by Beverly Ballin-Smith, GUARD Archaeology, Thursday, 13 February 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Robertson Room, Burns Heritage Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway. Ayr KA7 4PQ and online. [The Medieval Boundaries of Ayr | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Hillforts: a perspective from the Pentland Firth to the western Mediterranean** Talk by Abercromby Emeritus Professor Ian Ralston, University of Edinburgh to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Thursday, 13 February 2025 – 6.00pm to 8.00pm, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL and online via Zoom. [Event Details](#) · [Subscribe 360](#)
- **Telford's Highland Churches and Manses** Online talk by Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, organised by Scottish Society of Highland & Island Historical Research, Thursday 13 February 2025 - 7:30pm. [Online lectures – Society of Highland & Island Historical Research](#)
- **'In the Tracks of Mortality: the life and times of Robert Paterson, Stonecutter, 1716-1801'** Lecture by Iain Wilson to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Friday, 14 February 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries, DG2 9AW.

["In the Tracks of Mortality: the life and times of Robert Paterson, Stonecutter, 1716-1801" | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Scotland's Forgotten Canal** AGM of Clydebank Local History Society and talk by Sam Gibson, Monday, 17 February 2025 - 7:00pm, Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, G81 4JH.

[AGM and Talk: Scotland's Forgotten Canal | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **A Future for Your Church - Insuring your building** Online event via Zoom organised by Heritage Trust Network and Historic Churches Scotland and funded by Historic Environment Scotland and National Trust for Scotland, Tuesday, 18 February 2025 – 10.00am to 11.30am.

[A Future for Your Church - Insuring your building Tickets, Tue 18 Feb 2025 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Update on the East Lomond Dig** AGM and talk by Joe Fitzpatrick to the Dunfermline Historical Society, Thursday, 20 February 2025 – 7.30pm to 9.15pm, Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline KY12 7PD. [Talks – Dunfermline Historical Society](#)

■ **Private and Charitable Schools in Dundee** Talk by Linda Nicoll to The Friends of Broughty Ferry Library, Wednesday, 26 February 2025 - 7:00pm, Broughty Ferry Community Library, Queen Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, DD5 2HN. [Private and Charitable Schools in Dundee - A Talk by Linda Nicoll | Dundee City Council](#)

■ **Two eminent Scottish doctors** Talk by Eddie Edmonstone to Drymen and District Local History Society on Sir James McGrigor, who was Surgeon General to the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War, and Sir James Wylie from Kincardine, physician to the Tsar of Russia. Thursday, 27 February 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Drymen Village Hall, 3 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow, G63 0BP. [Two eminent Scottish doctors | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Evidence for Gaelic in Carrick and how it died out** Talk to Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society by Dr Aonghas MacCoinnich, University of Glasgow, Thursday, 27 February 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Robertson Room, Burns Heritage Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway. Ayr KA7 4PQ and online. [Evidence for Gaelic in Carrick and how it died out | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Architecture Heraldry in Dumfries and Galloway** Lecture by Prof James Floyd to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Friday, 28 February 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries, DG2 9AW.

[Architecture Heraldry in Dumfries and Galloway | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **How to Research your Family Tree** Talk by Stuart Gray to Clydebank Local History Society, Monday, 3 March 2025 - 7:30pm, Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, G81 4JH.

[How to Research your Family Tree | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Last Train to Aberfoyle** A presentation by Don Martin to Loch Ard Local History Group, Wednesday, 5 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Kinlochard Village Hall, Kinlochard, Stirling, FK8 3TL.

[Last Train to Aberfoyle | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Early Railways of Dalkeith** Talk to Dalkeith History Society by Brian J Scott, Monday, 10 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:45pm, Dalkeith Baptist Church Hall, 8 North Wynd, Dalkeith, EH22 1JE.

[Early Railways of Dalkeith | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Triumph of Textiles: Industrial Dundee, 1700-1918** Talk to Abertay Historical Society by Professor Chris Whatley and Professor Jim Tomlinson, Wednesday, 12 March 2025 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN.

[The Triumph of Textiles: Industrial Dundee c.1700-1918 | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Hidden Prehistoric Ayrshire** Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society event, Thursday, 13 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Robertson Room, Burns Heritage Museum, Murdoch's Lone, Alloway. Ayr, KA7 4PQ and online. [Hidden Prehistoric Ayrshire | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Ethnogenesis and Kingship AD300-900** Talk by Professor Gordon Noble, University of Aberdeen to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Thursday, 13 March 2025 – 6.00pm to 8.00pm, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL and online via Zoom. [Event Details](#) · [Subscribe 360](#)

■ **A Search for Campbell Connections on Coll** Online seminar presented by Kirsty MacFarlane for Friends of the Argyll Papers, Friday, 14 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

[Online seminar: A Search for Campbell Connections on Coll | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Filling the Gaps - Settlement Patterns in the Early Centuries AD – LIDAR** Lecture by Dave Cowley, Historic Environment Scotland to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Friday, 14 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries, DG2 9AW. [Filling the Gaps - Settlement Patterns in the Early Centuries AD - LIDAR | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Impact of the Romans on East Lothian** Illustrated talk by Dr Fraser Hunter, the Principle Curator of Iron Age and Roman Collections at the National Museum of Scotland to Gullane and Dirleton History Society, Wednesday, 19 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:45pm, Gullane Village Hall, Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA. [The Impact of the Romans on East Lothian | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Disaster at Darien – the Failure of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Scottish attempt to set up a Colony in Central America** Talk by Bruce Jamieson to the Dunfermline Historical Society, Thursday, 20 March 2025 – 7.30pm to 9.15pm, Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline KY12 7PD.

[Talks – Dunfermline Historical Society](#)

■ **With Shackleton to South Georgia, Elephant Island and the Antarctic** Talk by Ian Newton to Drymen and District Local History Society, Thursday, 27 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Drymen Village Hall, 3 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow, G63 0BP.

[With Shackleton to South Georgia, Elephant island and the Antarctic | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Roman Invasion of Scotland - Old Controversies and New Perspectives** Talk by Dr John Reid - The Trimontium Trust to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Friday, 28 March 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries, DG2 9AW.

[The Roman Invasion of Scotland - Old Controversies and New Perspectives | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Early Burgh of Stirling** Talk by Professor Richard Oram to Loch Ard Local History Group, Wednesday, 2 April 2025 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Kinlochard Village Hall, Kinlochard, Stirling, FK8 3TL.

[The Early Burgh of Stirling | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Recruit Training with the Fire Service at Gullane** AGM of Gullane and Dirleton History Society and talk by Phil Bruce, who trained and worked at the Scottish Fire Service College in Gullane, Thursday, 3 April 2025 - 6:30pm to 8:45pm, Dirleton Kirk Hall, Manse Road, Dirleton, EH39 5EL. [Annual General Meeting followed by a talk on Recruit Training with the Fire Service at Gullane | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Wolves at the Door? Angus in the ‘little ice age’, c.1400-1850** Talk to Abertay Historical Society by Professor Richard Oram, Wednesday, 9 April 2025 - 6:30pm to 7:30pm, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN.

[Wolves at the Door? Angus in the ‘little ice age’, c.1400-1850 | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Scotland beneath the surface** Talk by Bruce Keith to Dalkeith History Society, Monday, 14 April 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:45pm, Dalkeith Baptist Church Hall, 8 North Wynd, Dalkeith, EH22 1JE.

[Scotland beneath the surface | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **Rev Henry Duncan – anti-slavery campaigner, geologist, educationalist and newspaper founder** Talk by Professor Charles Munn to the Dunfermline Historical Society, Thursday, 17 April 2025 – 7.30pm to 9.15pm, Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline KY12 7PD.

[Talks – Dunfermline Historical Society](#)

■ **Members Night** AGM and short talks by members of Drymen and District Local History Society on aspects of their research or interest, Thursday, 24 April 2025 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Drymen Village Hall, 3 Main Street, Drymen, Glasgow, G63 0BP. [Members Night & AGM | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Real Anne Boleyn** AGM followed by talk by Roy Johnstone to Dalkeith History Society, Monday, 12 May 2025 - 7:30pm to 8:45pm, Dalkeith Baptist Church Hall, 8 North Wynd, Dalkeith, EH22 1JE.

[AGM followed by The Real Anne Boleyn | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Origins of Dundee's War Memorial** AGM followed by talk by Matthew Jarron to Abertay Historical Society, Wednesday, 14 May 2025 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm, Dalhousie Building, Old Hawkhill, Dundee, DD1 5EN. [The Origins of Dundee's War Memorial | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Manx Beauty Project – 88 Years of Stories** Talk by Richard Wemyss to the Dunfermline Historical Society, Thursday, 15 May 2025 – 7.30pm to 9.15pm, Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline KY12 7PD. [Talks – Dunfermline Historical Society](#)

■ **Linlithgow Walk and Talk** Scottish Local History Forum event, Thursday, 22 May 2025 - 10:30am to 3:30pm, meet at The Regent Centre, Blackness Road, Linlithgow EH49 7HU (booking essential).

[Linlithgow Walk and Talk | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ For a wealth of events relating to archaeology see: [Events and Digs - Dig It!](#)

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>



## HISTORY NEWS

■ **The Strathmartine Trust grant awards - applications now open** The Strathmartine Trust, a St Andrews based charity that promotes Scottish history, invites applications for their 2025 grant awards. Up to £5,000 is available for projects and publications related to the history of Scotland, with further details available on the Trust's website. [Grants and Awards – The Strathmartine Trust](#)

■ SLHF has been contacted recently by Alex Dodd, Hidden Histories Trainee working on the **Scottish Co-operative Discovery Centre (SCDC)** project in West Calder, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project celebrates the rich history of Scotland's Co-operative movement, focusing on uncovering its hidden stories and showcasing its impact on communities nationwide. The project workers are especially keen to highlight the contributions of underrepresented groups such as women, disabled individuals, and members of the LGBTIQQ community, aiming to create a more inclusive narrative of this important movement. SCDC is seeking stories, photographs, and objects from individuals and organizations connected to Scotland's Co-operative movement. Contributions like these will be vital in preserving this history for future generations. Interested individuals can contact Alex at [hiddenhistories@westcalder.org](mailto:hiddenhistories@westcalder.org) or connect with SCDC through its Facebook page: Memories of Scotland's Co-operatives ([Facebook](#)). Get in touch for more information about the project or to find out how SCDC is working to celebrate Scotland's local history.

■ **The Golspie Fishertown Project** will shortly be made available on this website:

[The Golspie Fishertown Project](#)

■ **The Norwegians in Contin in WWII** project display can be accessed from the website of ARCH Highland: [ARCH Highland - Norwegians Contin WWII](#)

■ **The British Newspaper Archive** has added *The People's Friend*, 1869-1928 to its searchable database. See more about this resource:

[The British Newspaper Archive Blog The People's Friend | British Newspaper Archive](#)

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** has produced a downloadable guide to climate change impacts. The guide identifies many of the risks and hazards of climate change that are facing Scotland's historic environment and offers owners, local communities and carers of historic sites routes to take action, to implement adaptation measures and enhance resilience to climate change.

[A Guide To Climate Change Impacts | Historic Environment Scotland](#)

■ A new project is bringing fresh life to Glasgow's past – through a rock band. **The Tenementals** are a group of academics and musicians who aim to use their songs to tell the 'radical history' of the city. [The band telling the history of a city by songs - BBC News](#)

■ The [Dendrochronology Research Framework for Scotland](#) is the first update to the Archaeological Science section of ScARF since 2012. This new framework showcases how dendrochronology has many applications both within and beyond cultural heritage not just as a method of dating wood. This resource embraces the wider applications of tree-ring science to include sections on dendroclimatology, dendroecology and dendro-isotopes as well as sections on dendrochronology in archaeology, standing buildings and landscape history.

[ScARF Releases New Dendrochronology Resource - Society of Antiquaries of Scotland](#)

■ Thanks to a large bequest left to the **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** by the late Audrey Henshall, £50,000 has been awarded to **Archaeology Scotland** for a new project entitled *Scotland's Earliest Megalithic Monuments*. This major new project will investigate Scotland's Early Neolithic megalithic chambered and passage tombs and aim to answer key questions about when they were built and who built them. [New Society Grant Funds Archaeologists to Investigate Scotland's Earliest Tombs with Local Communities - Society of Antiquaries of Scotland](#)

## WATCH & LISTEN

■ On Channel 4 and available to stream is **The Soldiers That Saved Britain** where journalist and film maker Mobeen Azhar uncovers the story of his grandfather who served among 2.5 million men of the British Indian Army during the Second World War. His journey takes him from his home town of Huddersfield to rural Scotland where a unit of Indian soldiers served during the war. <https://tinyurl.com/586ub8kt>

■ On the same channel but completely different is **Mysteries of Loch Ness** which explores the history, science and folklore that surround it. Featuring contributions from believers, sceptics, tourists and locals as well as an academic who considers the psychology behind supposed sightings of 'Nessie'. The programme also takes a look at similar legends around the world. <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/mysteries-of/on-demand/77014-002>

■ **The Gift** on BBC Radio 4 offers perhaps a slight detour from the theme of local history. Its focus is where presenter Jenny Kleeman talks to people whose lives have been changed irrevocably after they received home DNA kits. The words 'You may learn information about yourself that you do not anticipate' reads the

warning on the test kit—often an understatement. It's fair to say that in this second series in some cases the gift of a home DNA kit seems truly to be a poisoned chalice. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0gd2dgb>

■ Elsewhere on Radio 3 is a very interesting 5-part series called [The Essay: Scotland Rocks](#). Scottish poet Kenneth Steven turns his gaze to Scotland's geology including gemstones in various parts of the country including Angus and Fife and the island of Iona where Kenneth found his first gemstone.

■ In [The Stay at Home Soldiers](#) Military historian Colonel John Hughes-Wilson presents the story of the men and women who served in the Home Guard during the Second World War and beyond. It features unique archive recordings and interviews. Volunteers were aged between 17 and 65, hitting a peak of 1,700,000 members in 1943. The programme uses unique archive recordings, interviews and surviving male and female Home Guards. It also enlists the services of the Chatham Home Guard re-enactors in a bid to tell the story of 'The Real Dad's Army'.

■ Since 2012, the **History of Parliament** has been interviewing former members of the House of Commons in order to capture personal reflections of lives lived in parliament. Including participants from across the three major parties and ranging in both period of service and length of tenure, findings and insights from this landmark research project have already been showcased in journal articles, a book and numerous articles on its website. <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/> Now, for the first time, they have collated clips and excerpts from these interviews into a six-part podcast series. Hosted by Dr Emma Peplow, Head of Contemporary British History at the History of Parliament Trust, and Dr Alex Lock, historian and curator at the British Library, this podcast spotlights some of the brilliant interviews within the 200+ strong archive, using never before heard clips and highlighting the unique insights that oral history interviews provide. These insights cover not only the various milestones of a political career, such as the motivation to get involved in politics, joining a party, finding a seat and encounters with the Whips Office, but also the emotional effect political careers can have on personal lives, as well as the experience of historically underrepresented MPs who have found their way onto the green benches. Featuring clips from interviews with Ann Widdecombe, Michael Heseltine, Chris Smith, Helene Hayman and more, this podcast offers a unique insight into life in Parliament at the end of the twentieth century and beginning of the twenty-first. What drove these individuals to enter political life? How did they secure their seat or win an election? And what impact did this job have on their personal life? Find out in 'Tales from the Green Benches: An Oral History of Parliament'.

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/node/68474>

■ **Time Travels** on BBC Radio Scotland is an excellent series. Susan Morrisson and experts discuss a variety of topics from Scottish History. Recent episodes include the bloody struggles for the throne in medieval Scotland, the rehabilitation of injured soldiers after the First World War and how Scots took their holidays during the Second World War. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0h7ccfr>

■ **Home Children**—did you know that 7,000 of the British Home Children who were sent to Canada came from Glasgow? [Here](#) you can view a pair of webinars from the Scottish Council on Archives 'The Power of Archives: Finding the Home Children who went to Canada' and 'Give Us the Power to make a Golden Bridge-Honouring the story of Glasgow's Child Migrants'. <https://tinyurl.com/yz6axu7x>

■ **History's Youngest Heroes**: In this series from BBC Radio 4 Nicola Coughlan shines a light on the extraordinary young people from across history. When a reclusive young woman spots a shipwreck off the coast of Northumberland, she embarks on a perilous rescue mission. Little does she know, it will make her world-famous. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00268nk>

■ **The Shipping Forecast at 100** led to the BBC dedicating a full day to this wonderful programme. Scroll back to New Year's day schedule on Radio 4 for a bucketful of treats! <https://tinyurl.com/mvnaf6u8>

■ **Sporting Great: Sir Alex Ferguson** is a wonderful programme on BBC Radio 5. Over six episodes it offers an insight into a rather unique character. <https://tinyurl.com/mvnaf6u8> It coincides with the launch of two-part BBC Scotland documentary on iPlayer Sir Alex <https://tinyurl.com/4smzs6u9>

■ **Beyond Burns** which is presented by Alistair Heather goes on a tour of Scotland's modern poetry of place and reveals the Scots language is alive and well from Dundee to the Orkney Islands. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0026nd6>

■ **Conflict of Interest** is a podcast from the Imperial War Museum which has recently returned for a third season. With over 140K downloads so far and previously featured as one of Spotify's Podcast Picks of the Week, this series will once again bring together IWM curators, conflict experts and celebrity guests, this time to journey through the new Blavatnik Art, Film and Photography galleries at IWM London. Released weekly from Friday 3 January, the podcast starts the new year by exploring what art, film and photography can tell us about the nature of conflict and the human condition more broadly. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/iwm-institute/conflict-of-interest-podcast>

■ Closer to home from the BBC Series Short Works **The Third Wave** is a short story which marked the anniversary of the *lolaire* disaster when in January 1919 more than 200 men returning from the Great War were drowned when the steam yacht struck rocks close to Stornoway Harbour.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0026np0>

- **Strike! The Village That Fought Back** is a remarkable story of Polmaise colliery in Stirlingshire, four decades on from the miners' strike. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001xrwh>
- BBC Radio 4 - **Shadow of War - A Tainted Anatomy** tells the story of Donnie MacRae who died as a German prisoner of war during World War Two, but it was not until almost 80 years later that his family discovered he had been buried without his brain. Learn more about this by following this [link](#).
- On the same channel was **Word of Mouth**—Jackie Kay on the Scots language where Jackie talked about her love of the language and what it meant to her while she was growing up. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00274yk>
- **Rethink** has a focus on Museums and their relevance to our current times. The programme was presented by Ben Ansell. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00274ym>
- **Secrets of the Prize Papers** Over 4,000 boxes of letters, papers, and artefacts from ships captured by the British between 1652 and 1815 are held at **The National Archives**, Kew. A three-part series of podcasts discusses the challenges of cataloguing this fascinating collection and provides insights into global trade, warfare, and the everyday lives of the people who lived during the Age of Sail. [On the Record at The National Archives](#)
- **Scottish Council on Archives** has created **Connecting Communities** webinars which aim to give communities the skills and knowledge they need to create sustainable digital archives that will be preserved for future generations. The recordings for the first 3 webinars can be found on its YouTube: [Connecting Communities Webinar Recordings on our YouTube channel - Scottish Council on Archives](#)
- **The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** has made its recent lectures available through its YouTube. The Society is grateful to its 2,600 Fellows across the globe whose support enables it to make these events free and open to all. [Committing Sexual Violence in 1920s Scotland - YouTube](#) [Anniversary Meeting and AGM 2024 - YouTube](#) [The tools of the trade of field-working oral historians and folklorists - YouTube](#)

## BLOGS, WEBSITES ETC

- **National Records of Scotland** conservator Hazel de Vere tells us about the challenges of preparing the Declaration of Arbroath for display at the National Museum of Scotland. [Preserving Scotland's National Treasures: The Declaration of Arbroath, 1320 – Open Book](#)
- **Professor Margaret Bennett** offers an insight into her work as an oral historian uncovering Scotland's past. [Guest Blog – Uncovering Stories of Scotland's Women Brick Makers Through Oral History - Society of Antiquaries of Scotland](#)
- Back in 2016, the Archives team at **DC Thomson** made a remarkable discovery. They found a collection of approximately 80 film canisters, rusted shut. These canisters carry the familiar titles of beloved comics and magazines. Titles such as 'Bunty', 'The Dandy', 'The People's Friend', 'My Weekly', 'Jackie', and 'The Hotspur'. Read more about what they found here: [Rust to riches: DC Thomson's forgotten vintage adverts | National Library of Scotland](#)
- A new study led by **Aberdeen University** of Scotland's last plague, which reached as far north as Aberdeen in the 1640s, finds interesting evidence. [Study of Scotland's last plague reveals humanity in face of 'black death' | News | The University of Aberdeen](#)
- Find out about the forgotten Edinburgh street beneath the **National Library of Scotland**: [The forgotten Edinburgh street found behind a hidden library door - BBC News](#)
- A labour of love is the **Kirkcaldy in 50 Objects** website put together to celebrate the history and heritage of the Lang Toun: [Home | 50objects](#)
- Located near the village of Comrie in Perthshire is one of the most historically preserved sites from the Second World War – Camp 21, also known as **Cultybraggan**. [Camp 21 'Cultybraggan' | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)

Visit the Scottish Local History Directory and let us know if you would like to add details of your organisation: [Scottish Local History Directory](#) | [Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](#)

## QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

*“Go out on a limb. That’s where the fruit is.”*

**Former American President, Jimmy Carter, who died recently aged 100**

**Clish-Clash** is edited by Steve Connelly, assisted by Linda Clark, James Kennedy and Andrew Jones. Thanks to Marissa Trimble, SCA and Chris Fleet, NLS for contributions.

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