

SLHF NEWS

■ Our latest **Walk and Talk** event took place on 22 June with attendees being led around Stirling's city walls by Dr Murray Cook. Thanks to Murray's expert guidance the outing was a great success despite the cool and damp weather. Here are some of Jan Bateman's pictures from the day:





■ **Directory of Speakers** Are you involved in a local history project and are prepared to give a lecture on the subject to local history societies? Tell us about your topics and yourself and we will publicise it on our website. On submission, one of the SLHF team will review the submission and approve it. You will receive notification when the submission is approved and published on our website. You can find the form here: [Submit speaker details | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ SLHF were represented at **Scotland's Historic Environment Forum** in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on 10 June. It was useful to make contact with several organisations with interests similar to our own and to hear from the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic, Mairi McAllan, and various other speakers about the importance of heritage and the historic environment.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ The **National Records of Scotland** are consulting about the proposed changes to pricing both online and offline. The services covered by this consultation include fees for online searches on Scotland's People, daily search at the Scotland's People Centre, ordering official extracts such as replacement birth certificates and marriage and civil partnership notice and ceremony fees. The consultation sets out proposals to revise these fees so they better reflect the costs to deliver these services. NRS has not reviewed these fees since 2010. In line with the Scottish Public Finance Manual, public bodies are required to regularly review charges and, where appropriate, ensure full cost recovery for services delivered. The [full consultation paper](#) is available on the NRS website. [Consultation question responses](#) can be completed via Citizen Space, a consultation platform. The consultation closes on 4 October 2026. The views of users matter and will help inform final decisions that will be taken by Scottish Ministers.

■ One of our trustees, Linda Riddell, is a member of the Customer Advisory Panel of the National Records of Scotland and would encourage members to take the time to read the consultation paper and respond. She would be interested to hear views at SLHFmembers@outlook.com

■ **Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums** This project, sponsored by the Scottish Government, developed recommendations on how Scotland's involvement in empire, colonialism, and historic slavery can be addressed using museum collections and museum spaces. Find out more here: [Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

■ The **Friends of the Nations' Libraries** and **National Manuscripts Conservation Trust** annual reports for 2025 have recently been published. Find out about the grants that each organisation has offered and the amazing work carried out as a result. [FNL and NMCT publish annual reports - Scottish Council on Archives](#)

■ **Community Archive in Ness Celebrated with Award Ceremony and Gaelic Oral History Workshop** The Scottish Council on Archives (SCA) visited Lewis on 9 June to celebrate the work of Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, this year's recipient of the SCA Community Archive Award and featured community archive in SCA's *A Year in the Life 2025/26* project. This year's award has been specially created by local artist and potter Sue Blair, making the presentation a celebration not only of community heritage, but also of local creativity and

craftsmanship. SCA hopes the visit will help strengthen connections between Comainn Eachdraidh and encourage continued collaboration around Gaelic oral history, digital preservation, and community heritage. For more information about *A Year in the Life 2025/26* and the work of Comunn Eachdraidh Nis, visit the Scottish Council on Archives website: <https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/community-archives/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-community-archive-comunn-eachdraidh-nis-ness-historical-society/>

■ **Community Archive and Heritage Group Scotland** The [CAHG Scotland Digital Exhibition](#) celebrating intangible cultural heritage is available to view on the Scottish Council on Archives website.

■ **The Tunnock Prize 2026** This prize is the **Scottish Records Association's** essay competition aimed at postgraduate students and early career researchers kindly sponsored by Thomas Tunnock Ltd. Entries should focus on the use and interpretation of Scottish archives both within Scotland and further afield. Submissions should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words. Any submission that makes use of archival material to explore historical matters relevant to Scotland will be considered. Entries should follow the format specified in the Guidelines to Authors available at <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/scottish-archives> and should be in Word format. The winning entry will be awarded a prize of £250 and, subject to peer review, will be eligible for publication in *Scottish Archives* (journal of the Scottish Records Association). Please send your submissions via email to: editorscottisharchives@gmail.com accompanied by a brief covering letter giving your name and eligibility (degree, university and year of studies, or the year of obtaining your degree). The closing date for entries is 31 October 2026. The prize winner will be announced at the Scottish Records Association's AGM in November/December 2026 and publicised on the SRA website at <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org> and in its newsletter, *Retour*. The Scottish Records Association is concerned with the preservation and use of historical records in Scotland. It provides a forum for users, owners and custodians of records to discuss matters relating to the records, their custody and conservation and research.

PUBLICATIONS

■ ***Atlas of Scottish History to 1707*** edited by Peter G B McNeill and Hector L MacQueen. Published May 2026, ISBN 978-1-908332-40-0. [Atlas of Scottish History to 1707 | Open Access E-Books](#)

■ ***Tartan & Turmoil – The Angus Jacobite Story*** Exhibition catalogue published by ANGUSalive Museums & Galleries, July 2026, £5.00. 64pp, 52 coloured and 9 black and white illustrations. Available at Montrose Museum, email: MontroseMuseum@angusalive.scot

■ ***David Rizzio at the Scottish Court - History and Myth across Arts and Media*** Edited by Emanuela Patti. Edinburgh University Press, July 2026, 320 pages, 19 colour and 28 B&W images, £95.00, ISBN Hardback: 9781399552417, Ebook (app): 9781399552431 and Ebook (PDF): 9781399552424. [David Rizzio at the Scottish Court](#)

■ ***Scots in Hong Kong and New Zealand - Sojourners and Settlers, 1950-2015*** by Iain Watson. Edinburgh University Press, July 2026. 352 pages, 5 black and white images, 31 graphs and 67 tables, £95.00, ISBN Hardback: 9781474492751, Ebook (app): 781474492782 and Ebook (PDF): 9781474492775. [Scots in Hong Kong and New Zealand](#)

■ ***The Scottish Historical Review*** Volume 105 Issue 2, August 2026. The Smell of Scotland: Deodorisation, Identity, Worldmaking, ISSN: 0036-9241, eISSN: 1750-0222. [Edinburgh University Press Journals - Table of Contents - shr: Vol 105, No 2](#)

■ ***The Local Historian*** £5.00 [The Local Historian Volume 56 Number 2 May 2026 | | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)

■ ***Local History News*** £3.00 [Local History News Number 159 May 2026 | | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)

■ **Edinburgh University Press** makes its Scottish Studies titles available in paperback a year after first publication. A list of recently available titles along with some older publications can be perused here: [Scottish Studies Bookshelf - Scottish Studies - Subjects - Subjects](#)

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 found by the editor when possible. Information about upcoming archaeological events and talks can also be found at: [Events and Digs - Dig It!](#)

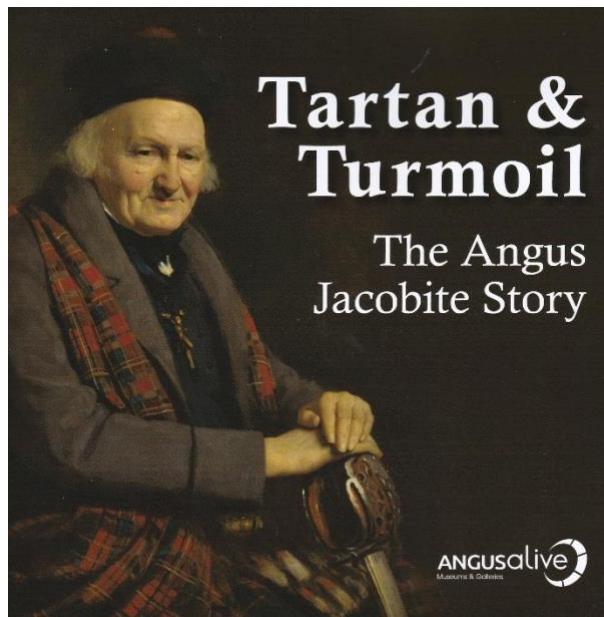
■ **Vennels: Perth's Little Streets** Exhibition at Perth Museum, St John's Place, Perth, PH1 5SZ until Sunday, 6 September 2026. [Vennels: Perth's Little Streets - Perth Museum](#)

■ **War, Destruction and Reform: The Early Years of Mary Queen of Scots** Exhibition at the Wardlaw Museum, University of St Andrews, 87 North Street, St Andrews KY16 9AE until 20 September 2026. [About the exhibition – War, Destruction and Reform](#)

■ **A Time to Keep: J D Rattar – 150 Years of Photography in Shetland** Exhibition at Shetland Museum & Archives, Hay's Dock, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0WP until Sunday, 11 October 2026. [A Time to Keep: J D Rattar - 150 Years of Photography in Shetland | Shetland Museum & Archives](#)

■ **Salt to Plate** Exhibition exploring the heritage and conservation of salmon fisheries along the north coast of Scotland curated by local wildlife artist and documentary filmmaker Debasis Biswas at Strathnaver Museum Annex, 10.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Saturday until 31 October 2026. [Strathnaver Museum](#)

■ **Bannockburn House Guided Tours** Dates available at Bannockburn House, Stirling, FK7 8EY every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until 1 November 2026. [Bannockburn House Guided Tours | Scottish Local History Forum](#)



■ **Tartan & Turmoil – The Angus Jacobite Story** Exhibition at Montrose Museum, Panmure Place, Montrose DD10 8HF until Monday, 23 November 2026. [Tartan & Turmoil - The Angus Jacobite Story • ANGUSalive](#)

■ **Scotland's First Warriors** Exhibition revealing the origins and impact of conflict in prehistoric Scotland and exploring the first signs of organised warfare, from the Neolithic (late Stone Age) to the Romans, through over 200 objects. National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF until Sunday, 16 May 2027. [Scotland's First Warriors | National Museums Scotland](#)

■ **White Ground, Black Water** Exhibition examining Scotland's role in Empire and its deep-rooted, often overlooked entanglements with the Caribbean at the Timespan Museum in Helmsdale, Sunday, 2 August 2026 to Monday, 1 March 2027. [White Ground, Black Water - Timespan](#)

■ **For the Safety of All: Scotland's Lighthouses** Exhibition at General Register House, Adam Dome, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY from 3 August – 25 September and Saturday, 26 September 2026, Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4.00pm. [Exhibitions and displays - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)

Edinburgh EH1 3YY from 3 August – 25 September and Saturday, 26 September 2026, Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4.00pm. [Exhibitions and displays - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#)



Lighthouses, Tayport by George Washington Wilson

- **Remembering The Accused Witches of Scotland book chat: "The Wise Witch of Orkney"** Online talk by Anna Caig on Wednesday, 5 August 2026 at 7.00pm. [Remembering The Accused Witches of Scotland book chat | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **A Fair City and Prosperous Burgh: the Archaeology of Perth** Talk by Derek Hall and Catherine Smith at Perth Museum, St John's Place, Perth PH1 5SZ on Wednesday, 5 August 2026 – 7.00pm to 8.30pm. [A Fair City and Prosperous Burgh: The Archaeology of Perth - Culture Perth & Kinross](#)
- **Crailers Behaving Badly** Talk by Dr Kelsey Williams organised by Crail Museum and Heritage Centre on Friday, 7 August 2026 - 7:30pm at Crail Kirk Hall, Marketgate, Crail, KY10 3TL. [Talk: Crailers Behaving Badly | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Centuries - Clash, Crafts & Ceòl** Celebration of Dingwall 800 history on Saturday, 8 August 2026 - 10.00am-10.30pm. [Dingwall 800 \(2026\) - Fèis Rois](#)
- **Guided walk at Achtercairn, Gairloch** Organised by Gairloch Museum on Saturday, 8 August 2026 – 1.30pm-3.30pm. [Guided Walk Achtercairn | Gairlochmuseum](#)
- **Overlord: the life and reign of Henry VIII** Online webinar with Steven Veerapen organised by History Scotland on Tuesday, 11 August 2026 at 6.30pm. [Overlord: The Life and Reign of Henry VIII Tickets, Tuesday, August 11 • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Brutal murder or ritually driven sacrifice: Rosemarkie Man within the wider context of the excavations in the Rosemarkie Caves, Black Isle** Online talk by Steven Birch organised by Groam House Museum on Thursday, 13 August 2026 at 7.30pm. [Groam House Museum](#)
- **Albert's War** Lecture by Lt Col (Retd) Lee Smart exploring the Great War experiences of his great-grandfather, Private Albert Edward Fyfe, a Perth railway worker turned soldier, Black Watch Museum, Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth PH1 5HR on Tuesday, 18 August 2026 – 6.30pm to 8.00pm. [Lecture | Albert's War](#)
- **Battle of Dunkeld 1689** Guided tour of site with weapons display organised by Historic Dunkeld on Saturday, 22 August 2026 - 12:00am to 11:45pm and Sunday, 23 August 2026 - 12:00am to 11:45pm at Stanley Hill Park, Dunkeld, PH8 0AN. [Battle of Dunkeld 1689 - tour of site | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **AI and the Digital Commons: Perspectives from online collections & archives** Free online event organised by Edinburgh College of Art on Thursday, 27 August 2026 – 10.00am-12.00am. [AI and the Digital Commons: Perspectives from online collections & archives Tickets, Thursday, August 27 • 10 AM - 12 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Henry Gamley: Sculptor of Cupar War Memorial** Talk to Cupar Heritage Centre at Age Concern Centre, Provost Wynd, (entry through Bonnygate Car Park), Cupar, KY15 5HE on Monday, 31 August 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Henry Gamley: Sculptor of Cupar War Memorial | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Development Trust Association Scotland** Annual Conference at Glasgow Caledonian University, Tuesday, 1 September and Wednesday, 2 September 2026. [DTAS Annual Conference 2026 Tickets, Tuesday, September 1-Wednesday, September 2 • 9 AM-3:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **Labor Vincit – The Work and Influence of Scott Sutherland RSA** Talk by Matthew Jarron to the Abertay Historical Society at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, University of Dundee, 13 Perth Road, Dundee DD1 4HT on Wednesday, 9 September 2026 - 6.30pm to 7.30pm. [Labor Vincit – The Work and Influence of Scott Sutherland RSA Tickets, Wednesday 9 September • 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)
- **Crail's Naval Commonwealth War Graves** Talk by Commander David Hobbs organised by Crail Museum and Heritage Centre on Friday, 11 September 2026 - 7:30pm at Crail Kirk Hall, Marketgate, Crail, KY10 3TL. [Talk: Crail's Naval Commonwealth War Graves | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Scottish B'stards, A History of Illegitimacy in Scotland from the 18th to the 20th Century** Talk to Scottish Genealogy Society by Alex Wood on Monday, 14 September 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and Online. [Scottish B'stards, A History of Illegitimacy in Scotland from the 18th to the 20th Century | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Medical Edinburgh and Empire** Lecture exploring Edinburgh's medical communities and colonial legacies at Physicians Gallery, 11 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JQ on Wednesday, 23 September 2026 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm. [Medical Edinburgh and Empire | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Recent Archaeology on East Lomond** Talk by Joe Fitzpatrick to Cupar Heritage Centre at Age Concern Centre, Provost Wynd, (entry through Bonnygate Car Park), Cupar, KY15 5HE on Monday, 28 September 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Recent Archaeology on East Lomond | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Spotlight: Straitjacket** Talk to Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Physicians' Gallery, 11 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JQ on Wednesday, 30 September 2026 - 12:30pm to 12:45pm. [Spotlight: Straitjacket | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The Hidden Lives of Viking Women** Live webinar and Q&A with Professor Alexandra Sanmark organised by History Scotland on Wednesday, 30 September 2026 – 6.30pm to 8.00pm.. [The Hidden Lives of Viking Women Tickets, Wednesday, September 30 • 6:30 PM - 8 PM GMT+1 | Eventbrite](#)

- **The Reivers: Fact or Fiction?** Lecture by Andy Nairn to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society at The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries DG2 9AW on Friday, 2 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Lecture by Andy Nairn - The Reivers: Fact or Fiction? | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **"A Short History of Singers" : Clydebank Museum's sewing machine collections: history, key machines, and stories** Talk by Andrew Graham, Arts & Heritage Collections Officer to Clydebank Local History Society at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, Clydebank G81 4JH on Monday, 5 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Talk: "A Short History of Singers" : Clydebank Museum's sewing machine collections: history, key machines, and stories. | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The Royal Caledonian School in London for Scottish Orphans** Talk by Lorna Kinnaird to Scottish Genealogy Society on Monday, 12 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and Online. [The Royal Caledonian School in London for Scottish Orphans | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Have we forgotten our past? An archaeological research framework for South-West Scotland** Online lecture by Tom Rees to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society on Friday, 16 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Lecture by Tom Rees: Have we forgotten our past? An archaeological research framework for South-West Scotland | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **"Gavin's Mill - the Story so far"** Talk by Sue Milne of the Gavin's Mill Community Project, Milngavie to Clydebank Local History Society at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, Clydebank G81 4JH on Monday, 19 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. ["Gavin's Mill - the Story so far" | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **History Novels** Talk by Vicki Masters to Cupar Heritage Centre at Age Concern Centre, Provost Wynd, (entry through Bonnygate Car Park), Cupar, KY15 5HE on Monday, 26 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [History Novels | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Forestry and Land Scotland: Lochar Mosses Peatland Restoration Presentation** Lecture by George Hemstock to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society at The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries DG2 9AW on Friday, 30 October 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Lecture by George Hemstock - Forestry and Land Scotland: Lochar Mosses Peatland Restoration Presentation | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **"Into the Cauldron: Mary Queen of Scots story continued"** Talk by Elspeth Crocket to Clydebank Local History Society at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, Clydebank G81 4JH on Monday, 2 November 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. ["Into the Cauldron: Mary Queen of Scots story continued" | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The War Graves of Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh** Talk by Ken Nisbet to Scottish Genealogy Society on Monday, 9 November 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm at 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL and Online. [The War Graves of Seafield Cemetery, Edinburgh | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **The influence of geology and landscape of Northern England on prehistoric and Roman societies** Lecture by Ian Jackson to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society at The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries DG2 9AW on Friday, 13 November 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Lecture by Ian Jackson - The influence of geology and landscape of Northern England on prehistoric and Roman societies | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Roman Scotland: Life on the Edge of Empire** Exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF Saturday, 14 November 2026 to Sunday 18 April 2027. [Roman Scotland: Life on the Edge of Empire | National Museums Scotland](#)
- **"Building the Erskine Bridge"** Talk by Stuart Baird to Clydebank Local History Society at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, Clydebank G81 4JH on Monday, 16 November 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. ["Building the Erskine Bridge" | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Cromwell in Perth** Rhoda Fothergill Annual Memorial Lecture by Norah Carlin at the A K Bell Library, 2-8 York Place, Perth PH2 8EP on Thursday, 19 November 2026.
- **Sporting Heritage Conference 2026** Online event organised by Sporting Heritage on Thursday, 19 November 2026 – 10.00am to 4.00pm. [Sporting Heritage Conference 2026 Tickets, Thursday 19 November • 10 AM - 4 PM GMT | Eventbrite](#)
- **William Craik of Arbigland (1703-1798) Living through turbulent times** Lecture by Alistair Alcock to Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society at The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries DG2 9AW on Friday, 27 November 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Lecture by Alistair Alcock - William Craik of Arbigland \(1703-1798\) Living through turbulent times | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **Cupar Sugar Beet Factory** Talk by Ian Copland to Cupar Heritage Centre at Age Concern Centre, Provost Wynd, (entry through Bonnygate Car Park), Cupar, KY15 5HE on Monday, 30 November 2026 - 7:30pm to 9:00pm. [Cupar Sugar Beet Factory | Scottish Local History Forum](#)
- **"Earl Loudoun's Regiment of Foote"** Talk by Robert Taylor to Clydebank Local History Society at Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, Clydebank G81 4JH on Monday, 14 December 2026 - 7:30pm

to 9:00pm. [Christmas meeting: including talk: " Earl Loudoun's Regiment of Foote" | Scottish Local History Forum](#)

■ **The Art of Commemoration** Exhibition at the National War Museum, Edinburgh Castle, Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NG from 5 December 2026 until 14 January 2029. [The Art of Commemoration | National Museums Scotland](#)

HISTORY NEWS

■ **Lintel: Final Edition** With the recent launch of its [refreshed HES website](#) **Historic Environment Scotland** will be bringing its communications from across the organisation under one banner. The Keystone newsletter will be circulated on a regular basis to keep the readership apprised of everything happening within the organisation. Please do [sign up for Keystone](#) now.

WATCH & LISTEN

■ With the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States we can anticipate a wide range of programmes. [A History of the United States in 100 Objects](#) is just one of the many programmes. It is hosted by Roman Mars and Jill Lepore. It will be available for at least 1 year.

■ [Founding Fathers: an American Dream](#) is described as an epic history of the USA. This is a podcast available on a range of providers.

■ [The American Revolution](#) on BBC4 was developed by the renowned documentary maker Ken Burns. It is helped by a star-studded voice cast. One of the must watch programmes of the year.

■ [Archive on 4: Born on the Fourth of July](#) is presented by James Naughtie and tells the story of Independence Day itself. Two future presidents, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, were key figures in drafting the Declaration of Independence and incredibly died on the same day, 4 July 1826.

■ Likewise, World Cup fever meant that there was a series of programmes on the theme of football. [Archive on 4: The Alf Ramsey Story](#) tells the story of a very modest but successful football manager.

■ A special one-off [Antiques Roadshow](#) had a focus on sport. Visits to famous venues such as Lord's and Wimbledon and a great showing of sporting relics and stories. Watch out for the story of the Lost Lionesses who played in an unofficial World Cup in Mexico in 1971 having only previously played in front of a tiny home crowd.

■ Archive on 4: [The Louisville Lip](#) is the story of Muhammad Ali told through the audio archives of the BBC. Largely told in his own words via interviews, commentary, poetry and song we follow the boxer from Olympic triumph to his amazing comeback at the age of 32.

■ [The Three Kings of 1936](#) takes us back to fascinating time in the history of the monarchy. It marked an extraordinary and turbulent time for the royal family with three kings in a single year. It also gives an interesting perspective on Wallis Simpson. Available to catch up on Channel 5.

■ The Nazis: a Warning from History was first shown in 1997 and got a welcome repeat on BBC Four. You can find it on the [BBC iPlayer](#). This was presented by the acclaimed historian Laurence Rees.

■ [Free Nelson Mandela](#) was a 3-part series about the campaign to free Mandela from his long incarceration. It traces both the political struggle and the explosion of music it inspired. On Channel 4.

■ On the same channel was [Dolly: the World's Most Famous Sheep](#) a documentary about the ragtag crew of Scottish scientists who made history in 1998 when, after 277 failed attempts, they created Dolly the first mammal cloned from a human cell.

■ [Jon Snow: A Last Big Story](#) is a beautiful and affecting film about one of the best-loved broadcasters of the last 50 years, which weaves together his experience of Alzheimer's disease and how his keenly honed journalistic skills punched through it to let him break a last major news story. Snow, who retired in 2021 having anchored Channel 4's main evening news show for three decades, subsequently revealed that he had Alzheimer's. Meanwhile he pursues the story of a mining disaster in Zambia.

■ [Sporting Witness: First official Penalty Shootout](#) is a fascinating wee story that takes us back to August 1970 and we get direct testimony from some of the key people involved. The match was between Manchester United and Hull City. These podcasts are only 9 minutes-long but you will find some gems in the archive.

■ On a similar basis is [Witness History](#) which packs a punch in just 11 minutes. Hear about David Attenborough's early broadcast and many other interesting stories which take us far and wide.

■ Returning to sport watch out on the BBC iPlayer for [The Three Kings](#) which is about the achievements of Jock Stein, Bill Shankly and Matt Busby as major football managers.

■ [The Wild History Of War](#) is a history storytelling podcast dedicated to uncovering the strangest, funniest, and most unbelievable true events from wartime history. Hosted by Nick Charlie Key - a history teacher turned

podcaster who also hosts *The Fantastic History of Food* - the show focuses on the total absurdity, chaos, and dark humour found in historical conflicts. Episodes include *The Disguised Warship*: The story of a Dutch warship that successfully escaped Japanese forces by completely disguising itself as a floating tropical island; and *Operation Mincemeat*: A deep dive into the unbelievable WWII intelligence operation where the British military used a disguised corpse to trick the Nazi high command.

■ **Ten Fights That Made the Green Movement** is a podcast series produced by BBC Radio 4 as part of its *Understand* strand. Hosted by the BBC's climate editor, Justin Rowlatt, the series explores the intense internal power struggles, ideological clashes, and tactical disagreements that have shaped modern environmental activism. The [series](#) is spread over 10 short episodes.

■ **D-Day: the Unseen Footage** shows rarely seen archive film which captures the 85-day struggle to liberate Europe after Allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy on 6 June 1944. The documentary features footage from the Battle of Normandy revealing one of the most violent campaigns in history.

■ **Who Did We Think We Were** is a BBC Radio 4 series where Neil MacGregor examines national identity through the prism of how it has been communally celebrated over the past century. His starting point, 75 years on, is the 1951 Festival of Britain. He also takes in events such as the annual Remembrance gathering at the Cenotaph. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002yl1q>

■ **Women of World War 2: More Untold Stories** This is a sequel to a 2025 programme of how women carved out a role in the US army. These programmes rely on rare archival footage and exclusive first-hand interviews to highlight the contributions of women who served as codebreakers, secret agents, war correspondents, and resistance fighters and worked on the atomic bomb.

■ **Here for the History** is a new podcast series from the BBC. History lovers Alice Loxton and Ben Henderson use their expertise to unpick aspects of British Life starting with the British love of tea. More to come about football and the English language.

■ **Series 23 of Who Do You think You Are** offers a wide range of stories from a great variety of people and includes Zoe Ball's story which takes us from Scotland to Cornwall.

■ The early years of Mary, Queen of Scots: war in 1540s Scotland - a talk by Dr Amy Blakeway of the University of St Andrews is available on the National Records of Scotland YouTube channel. [The early years of Mary, Queen of Scots: war in 1540s Scotland - YouTube](#)

■ A recently screened episode of Digging for Britain featured an Aberdeen University dig in the Bennachie Hills. A stone fortress built by the Picts in the early medieval period 500 metres above sea level on Mither Tap was the subject of this dig led by Professor Gordon Noble. It appears in series 11, episode 1/6 and is available on the website until 22 August. [BBC Two - Digging for Britain - Available now](#)

■ Deaf Action is home to the **Scottish Deaf Archive**, and it has been based in this building on Albany Street since 2020, but the history of the building, is a long one going back to 1890. John A Hay first went there as a child for 2 years of Sunday School at Albany Deaf Church. In this film he will guide you around the building now and talk about the 200-year history of Edinburgh's Deaf Church. [A Year in the Life of a Community Archive: Deaf History Scotland - Scottish Council on Archives](#)

CAN YOU HELP?

■ **ARCH (Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands) - Scanning Old Highland Estate Maps and Plans Project** Much of ARCH's time has been spent getting ready for the scanning days in August. It has contacted as many estates and museums in the Highlands as possible, inviting them to have their old maps scanned on an A0 flatbed scanner in Inverness between 17 and 28 August. Over 500 maps have been promised, but there is still capacity for more! ARCH is also still looking for volunteers to help during these days, cataloguing maps as they come in, and also with the physical process of scanning. High resolution scans will be given to owners, and also to the National Library of Scotland maps website. The newly appointed project officer, Claire Boardman, will be handling logistics. Contact ARCH on archhighland@googlemail.com if you would like to help or talk about possible maps to be scanned.

■ **Help tell the story of Scottish football** Historic Environment Scotland is asking football fans, clubs and local communities to help identify places that have shaped the nation's rich football heritage. Survey closes on 20 August 2026. [Tell us about important football places - Scottish Football Heritage Project - Historic Environment Scotland - Citizen Space](#)

MEET A TRUSTEE – JAN POLLEY



I grew up in the 'Wee County' of Clackmannanshire and I have had a passion for Scottish history for as long as I can remember. Our school classrooms looked along the Ochils to the Wallace Monument and, as early as Primary Four, I have a memory of my excitement when my teacher let me keep a little blue covered book which contained stories of Scottish heroes and heroines. And, of course, no family holiday was complete as a child without wandering round some ancient edifice imagining the people who once lived there.

Like many people, my adult career took me down a different route although I maintained my interest in history. I have also spent some 40 years working with other family members to build up our family tree and to understand the lives of those ancestors. As a result, I know I have around 2% DNA from a west African ancestor – probably from one of the hundreds of children of Scottish fathers and enslaved mothers brought over from the Caribbean in the late 1700s. History come to life!

During my career I spent some 20 years working as a civil servant in Scotland and London assisting, amongst other things, in the transition to our devolved parliament in the late 1990s. Thereafter I ran my own consultancy business for 12 years, working with public and not for

profit organisations across the UK to improve their governance and management. After I took early retirement in 2018 I attended many of the open courses on history run by Edinburgh University and, after COVID, I became a guide at the Newhailes House and Estate, an NTS property near Musselburgh. I love showing people around and inspiring their love of history and the role has given me the chance to indulge in a range of research. In 2024 *History Scotland* magazine published an article I had written about the Dalrymple family of Newhailes and their experience of the events of 1707 – '*The Treaty of Union – A Necessary Evil?*' I continue with my research and hope to publish more in future.

QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

'A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people.' Andrew Carnegie

Clish-Clash is edited by Steve Connelly with the invaluable help of James Kennedy, Linda Clark and Andrew Jones.

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