

# CLISH-CLASH



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

Scottish Charity SCO15850

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## SLHF NEWS

A Happy New Year to all our members!

### How can we help your local history society? How can you help the Forum?

A considerable number of local history societies are affiliated to the Scottish Local History Forum. The Forum is keen to support local societies in matters in which joint action would benefit all. For example, Michael Cox's *Exploring Scottish History* was an excellent directory of resource centres for Scottish local and national history. Its latest edition having appeared in 1999, it is inevitably outdated. The Forum's trustees believe that an updated online data base should be created and have begun to consider how this might be done and by whom.

The trustees are also very conscious of the threats presented by cuts in local library, museum and archive services and have made representations to the Culture Committee.

To enable the Forum to reflect the views and aspirations of its affiliated societies it has an **Advisory Committee**, in which representatives of organisations meet with trustees twice a year. AC members have no legal responsibilities. These meetings take place in Edinburgh, 10 minutes walk from the railway and bus stations, and travel expenses are paid to AC members.

We are keen to recruit additional AC members. ***If your society would like to be represented on the AC and has a member who would be willing to be nominated, please contact the Forum Secretary, Jan Bateman, [Jan.bateman@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Jan.bateman@blueyonder.co.uk).***

### CONTACT DETAILS

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

*'Clish-clash' means repeated gossip, so do email your local history news & information (Word attachment or link to your website) to **Contribute**.*

*Members only: To receive notification of the newsletter by email or to be removed from the mailing list, choose **Sign up for our newsletter** on the website contacts page.*

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## SLHF events in 2017

▪ **23 March, 6pm:** SLHF supports an annual local history talk in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. This year the talk takes place during Women's Month and the subject is:

### ***Bazaars, Benevolence and the Built Heritage in Scotland, 1830-1930***

Dr Douglas Lockhart, with Diana Webster.

*Charity bazaar mania reached its peak in the decades around 1900. Bazaars offered middle and upper class women an opportunity to use their organisational skills outside the home, with ever more extravagant events accompanied by sales of fancy work and other goods. Many bazaars funded public buildings and Douglas Lockhart draws on examples throughout Scotland to highlight the variety of projects which were associated with local fund raising.*

The talk is free but must be booked in advance. Bookings open on 4 January on the NLS website: <http://www.nls.uk/events/>

More dates for your diary:

- **18 May: Walk & Talk in Milngavie**
- **9 June: Walk & Talk in Dumfries: The Crichton**
- **27 October: Annual conference in Perth: Fairs, Festivals and Fêtes.**

*Booking has not yet opened for these events on SLHF website. There will be further information about the Walk & Talk programme in March Clish-Clash.*

## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

▪ 2017 is the **Year of History Heritage and Archaeology**. Visit Scotland is promoting events throughout the year, but the website is aimed at tourists and has not yet been fully updated:

<https://www.visitscotland.com/about/themed-years/history-heritage-archaeology/>

More useful is this archaeology website, which includes a lot more than archaeology... <http://digit2017.com/>

▪ **Local History Week** in Scotland is organised by local studies librarians and archivists. It takes place this year in early March. Look out for publicity in your local library.

## SOCIETIES

▪ **The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)** a British Conservation body carried out **A survey of thatched buildings in Scotland** in 2014-2015 with the support of **Historic Environment Scotland**. The results are available in a gazetteer of 638 pages, hard copy for sale on demand for £90.82, or download free from:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=68f8fa1e-a7e1-430d-88ff-a68700b19e6c>

▪ **Kinross-shire Historical Society** meets in Kinross Parish Church, Station Road, Kinross at 7.30pm.

6 Jan. 2017, **Loch Leven: the Fishery past and present**, Willie Wilson.

20 Feb. **Missing in Borneo**, George Sutherland. The discovery, investigation and identification of a historically important wartime aircraft wreck.

20 Mar. **The Way of the Wanderers**, Jess Smith. Travelling people, a guide to their origins and history in Scotland.

▪ **Dunfermline Historical Society** meets in Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline at 7.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Visitor's fee £2.00.

19 Jan. **The history of sanitation**, Hugh Walker.

16 Feb. **Five thousand years of Kinneil**, Ian Shearer.

16 Mar. **The history of Lochore Castle**, David Munro.

▪ **Girvan and District History Society**, talk in McKechnie Institute, Dalrymple Street Girvan, 7pm.

12 Jan. **Observations from the footplate: a history of South Ayrshire railways**, Bob Smillie.

Members £1.00; non-members £2.00.

## UNIVERSITIES

▪ **University of Aberdeen Museums**

**Aberdonians in the Americas**, exhibition 9 January-27 May 2017.

Lectures (in association with the **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland**) are on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Regent Building Lecture Theatre:

▪ 24 Jan. **Aberdonians in early Bolivian industry: the Penny and Duncan mining company**, Dr Maggie Bolton.

▪ 7 Feb. **New light on Bronze Age Aberdeenshire: a recent examination of a barrow at Bairnie**, Dr Dawn McLaren.

▪ 14 Feb. **Painting the past: using geological techniques to identify artists' pigments in Roman archaeology**, Dr Ruth Siddall.

▪ 7 Mar. **Medieval Aberdeen's digital future: unlocking Scotland's burgh records**, Dr Jackson Armstrong.

▪ 14 Mar. **Adventuring Aberdonians: the lives, travels and collecting of James W H Trail and John McPherson**, Prof Patience Schell.

▪ 21 Mar. **Restoration of the Mackintosh building after the 2014 fire**, Liz Davidson.

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/museums/index.php>

▪ **Scottish Historical Review Trust (SHRT)**

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Postgraduate Conference

#### **Scottish History: Works in Progress**

SHRT is hosting a two-day postgraduate conference on 2-3 June 2017 in Dundee. The Trust invites proposals for papers and panels (3 speakers) (20 minutes/paper) dealing with any aspect of Scottish History from the Medieval to the Modern periods.

Areas of particular interest are:

- Scotland's Relationship with the Wider World
- Scots' Relations with Indigenous Peoples
- Religion and Religious Identity
- Migration and Immigration to and from Scotland
- Slavery
- Landownership and Land reform
- Political and Cultural Identities
- Historiography
- Governance
- Environment and Land use
- Scottish Culture and Society
- Brexit and the Historical Context and/or Implications

The SHRT welcomes submissions from current or recently-completed (within two years) postgraduates from Scotland and abroad and asks that proposals, with a brief CV (amounting in total to no more than 3 pages) be forwarded to Dr Patricia Whatley ([p.e.whatley@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:p.e.whatley@dundee.ac.uk)), Dr S. Karly Kehoe ([Karly.Kehoe@smu.ca](mailto:Karly.Kehoe@smu.ca)) and Dr Norman Reid ([nhr1@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:nhr1@st-andrews.ac.uk)) no later than Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The SHRT will be offering a number of small bursaries to contribute to the travel and accommodation costs of those who need it. Please indicate on your proposal if you would like to apply for travel (lowest-price, standard class bus ticket) and accommodation support and please include a costing. **Date: 2-3 June 2017**

**Day 1 – Dundee; Day 2 – Field trip in Perthshire**

## WEBSITES

▪ **National Library of Scotland new digital resource: *An Comunn Gàidhealach***

A collection of nearly 300 items published by An Comunn Gàidhealach has been digitised by the National Library of Scotland and is available in the Digital Gallery on the Library's website.

Founded in 1891, An Comunn promotes Scottish Gaelic language, education and culture and organises the Royal National Mòd, an annual competition and celebration of traditional Gaelic song, music, literature and drama. From its earliest days it took a keen interest in wider issues that impacted on the survival of the language, such as local government reform and funding.

The collection, in Gaelic and English, includes journals and newspapers, annual reports, educational books, national Mòd programmes and published Mòd literature. All the national Mòd programmes in the NLS collection have been digitised, so if you were a

competitor you will be able to find yourself here – a useful resource for anyone interested in family research! The Mod is held in a different location every year, so the local adverts are especially interesting too.

The complete runs of An Comunn's journals, *An Deò-Greine* and *An Gaidheal*, are also digitised.

<http://digital.nls.uk/an-comunn-gaidhealach/pageturner.cfm?id=125660248>

▪ **Cromarty Medieval Burgh Community Archaeology Project.** Following a storm in December 2012 which exposed sections of coastline at Cromarty, a pilot excavation was held in 2013, followed by a three year archaeological project in 2014-2016. An article in *History Scotland*, 17(1) Jan/Feb 2017, 14-15, reveals some of the findings, including evidence of a major fire in the medieval period and an impressive stone-lined well.  
<http://www.medievalcromarty.org/news.asp>

### EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PRESS Special Offer

As the circulation of the November issue of *Clish-Clash* was delayed, the **30% discount** offered by Edinburgh University Press for Scottish History Books has been **extended to 31 January 2017**.

#### How to order

**Online:** visit [www.edinburghuniversitypress.com](http://www.edinburghuniversitypress.com), add the books you'd like to purchase to your basket, and before going to the checkout enter the discount code **HISTORYFORUM**

**By phone:** for card payments, you can also place your order over the phone by calling Edinburgh University Press on +44 (0)131 651 4856.

**Offer does not include postage and packaging.**

## PUBLICATIONS

▪ **Broadsheet: the magazine of the Scottish Council on Archives**, issue 40 (2016) is available as a pdf at:

<http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/magazine/current>

▪ **Islay Voices: an anthology**, edited by Jenni Minto and Les Wilson. Birlinn, 2016. 256pp. illus. Hbk. £20. (ISBN 9781780272917)

<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Islay-Voices.html>

▪ **From Elgin to the Far East: John Cumming, shipmaster, 1805-1856**, by Duncan Cumming. Aberdeen & NE Scotland Family History Society, 2016. Pbk, £9.00 + p&p. (ISBN 978-1-905004-49-2)  
<https://www.anesfhs.org.uk/publications/anesfhs-titles?task=publications>

▪ **No Gods and precious few heroes**, by Christopher Harvie. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. **Scotland 1900-2015**. Edinburgh University Press, 2016. Pbk, E-book. £14.99. Also Hbk. (ISBN 978 0 7486 8256 0)  
<https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-no-gods-and-precious-few-heroes-12558.html>

▪ **Old Dufftown, Glenrinnnes and the Cabrach**, by Douglas G Lockhart. Stenlake, 2016. Pbk. £10.00. (ISBN 9781840337563)

[http://stenlake.co.uk/book\\_publishing/?page\\_id=131&ref=1065&section=New%20Books](http://stenlake.co.uk/book_publishing/?page_id=131&ref=1065&section=New%20Books)

▪ **Bygone Montrose with Inverkeilor, Lunan Bay, Rossie, Usan, Ferryden, Bridge of Dun, Hillside, Dubton and Craigo**, by John Alexander. Stenlake, 2016. Pbk. £15.00. (ISBN 9781840337341)

[http://stenlake.co.uk/book\\_publishing/?page\\_id=131&ref=1071&section=New%20Books](http://stenlake.co.uk/book_publishing/?page_id=131&ref=1071&section=New%20Books)

▪ **Perth through time**, by Jack Gillon. Amberley, 2017. 96pp; 180 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 9781445663241)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/perth-through-time.html>

▪ **An ordinary of Scottish Arms**, published by the Heraldry Society of Scotland in 2016.

▪ **Burntisland oil shale works**, published by Craigencait Rural Community Trust in 2016.  
[www.CraigencaitTrust.org.uk](http://www.CraigencaitTrust.org.uk)

▪ **History Scotland**, 17(1) Jan/Feb 2017.

Articles include:

-Mapping our islands.

-Hidden history of Stonehaven.

-Pictish carved stone discovered on Orkney cliff face.

-Cultur Dùthchasach: a Gaelic approach to material culture studies.

-The origins, operation and impact of the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands, 1680-1800.

-Alexander Stevens and the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

-Zeppelins over Edinburgh, part 2.

-Aberdeen's witch panic.

-Dundee and Darien.

-Scotland's Glorious Gardens project.

## SHORT REVIEWS

Raymond Hood

**Old Robertson, Wiston, Lamington and Coulter**. Catrine: Stenlake Publishing, 2016. 48 pp.; illus. Pbk. £10.00. (ISBN 978 1 8403 3750 1)

This book contains a selection of old photographs of four small villages in South Lanarkshire – Lanark and Biggar are the nearest towns. Following a brief introduction, there are the usual mix of views of post offices, manses, kirks and a local railway station. There is just one agricultural scene and one of an angler with Tinto Hill in the background. The construction of Coulter Reservoir merits two photographs. However, there are many pictures of country houses of a type that will be familiar to readers of Bernard Byron's Stenlake publications on the country houses of the former Border counties that have been reviewed in recent issues of *Scottish Local History*. There is a short list of suggestions for further reading. *Douglas Lockhart*.

[http://stenlake.co.uk/book\\_publishing/?page\\_id=131&ref=1062&section](http://stenlake.co.uk/book_publishing/?page_id=131&ref=1062&section)

## TALKS OFFER

■ We have received this email from Jon Cooper, a battlefield archaeologist, which may be of interest to society programme secretaries:

### **The fall of Singapore and Scottish Battlefield Archaeology**

*I am a battlefield archaeologist recently returned from Singapore and now living in Corstorphine. I have spent the last 7 years researching and surveying the battlefield at Adam Park where the 1st battalion of Cambridgeshires stubbornly defended the estate for three days and after the surrender was used as a POW work camp which included the survivors of the Gordon Highlanders. More detail can be found in the Virtual Museum at [adamparkproject.com](http://adamparkproject.com).*

*One of the Adam Park project objectives was to heighten the awareness of the plight of the British forces in Singapore and life as a FEPOW before the Thai Burma Railroad. Therefore I would like to offer my services as a speaker to any local heritage groups who may think their membership would be interested in hearing about this subject especially in 2017 which marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of what Churchill termed 'Britain's Greatest Defeat'.*

*I am also returning to projects I was on before heading out to the Far East. This includes surveying the battlefields of Linlithgow Bridge of 1526 and finding the 'lost' fortress of Haddington. I have run in past seminars, talks and discussion groups on these battles and Scottish Renaissance warfare in general. Again I would be happy to share the findings of these projects to you members should they be looking for a speaker or a new project. I would also be happy to share my thoughts on battlefield archaeology in general and willing to meet up with any groups wishing to start up their own battlefield project.*

Contact Jon at [jonalicooper@gmail.com](mailto:jonalicooper@gmail.com)  
<https://sg.linkedin.com/in/jon-cooper-b0511515>

## WHAT'S ON

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>