

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

■ The **Walk & Talk** in June to the tall ship *Glenlee*, combined with the Govan stones, was blessed by the fine weather we have had this summer and was a most interesting and varied visit. Many thanks to the guides, Alan Blackwood and Alex Anderson on board the *Glenlee*, and to Frazer Capie at Govan. Thanks also to Helena Koumbouzis of the Advisory Committee who suggested the *Glenlee* visit and opened doors for us, and to Trustee Graham Clark, events secretary, for pulling the whole day together.

The Walk and Talk events rely on local people to introduce the wider membership to places of interest in their area. Could **your** group host a visit? Do get in touch if you have any ideas.



◀ Crossing on the Govan ferry: the usual ferry was out of commission and the replacement was much more exciting!

Frazer Capie was the guide at the Govan stones. ▼



■ Don't forget to book the **SLHF Conference and AGM** on Thursday 25 October in Perth. With the theme **After the War is Over: the legacy of WW1**, an excellent line-up of speakers has been arranged.

Details and online booking are at:
<https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-2018-annual-conference-and-agm>



◀ Alan Blackwood guiding a group on the *Glenlee*.

Photographs provided by G Clark & F McKichen

■ **SLHF Committees.** Two Trustees are resigning this year, and the **Trustees Committee** needs fresh blood. Can you bring your enthusiasm and local history expertise to help the Forum? To become a Trustee, charity rules state that you must be an individual member, but Society members can also help by joining the **Advisory Committee**. It is important that there is representation from as far afield as possible: the Forum covers **all** Scotland.

The Trustees Committee meets about 4-5 times a year, currently in Edinburgh. The Advisory Committee meets twice a year. Please contact the Secretary Jan Bateman (contact details below) for further information and a nomination form.

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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■ Long-term readers of **Scottish Local History** will remember an occasional series 'A Walk Round an Old Photograph'. We are proposing to re-introduce this series and invite members to send a jpeg photograph of local history interest (not family history) with a short description to the editor at:

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

Photographs must be out of copyright (usually over 70 years old for unattributed photographs, but if there is a named photographer, 70 years after death).

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ The **National Library of Scotland** and the **National Galleries** have collaborated to acquire over 14000 early photographs dating from the mid-1800s to early 1900s. collected by Murray MacKinnon. The **MacKinnon Collection** includes scenes of farming and fishing communities, industries, and town and city views. An exhibition is planned to be shown at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, to be followed by a touring exhibition. A 3-year programme to digitise the images starts in 2018 to make them available online.

www.nls.uk/collections/photographs/mackinnon

The purchase and project are supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Government and the Art Fund.

■ **Galloway: Gaelic's lost province**: conference on 6 September at **CatStrand Arts and Visitors Centre**, New Galloway.

<http://www.catstrand.com/galloway-gaelic-conference>

■ **Library cuts**. Some good news from **West Lothian** as local protests have saved three branch libraries, but the local studies collection remains at risk from undermanning. **East Lothian** library users are now petitioning against cuts in hours.

Feedback from **National Library of Scotland** users warns that the recently revised opening hours now mean that the front door opens at 9.30 (10.00 on Wednesdays). Previously readers could enter the building before the reading rooms opened, store items in lockers and get ready for the reading rooms opening, but now you will have to wait outside!

■ It's not just libraries facing closure. **Cupar Burial Office** has now closed. Records for cemeteries and some local churchyards are being relocated in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline.

■ **Edinburgh World Heritage** have opened a display in the Tron Kirk.

<https://ewh.org.uk/project/our-world-heritage/>

■ **National Library of Scotland** exhibition: **Strike for Freedom: Slavery, Civil War and the Frederick Douglass family** will be on display 4 October 2018-17 February 2019. Items relating to Frederick Douglass, escaped slave and human rights activist, from the Walter O. and Linda Evans Collection.

There is an article in the NLS house magazine **Discover**, 38, Summer 2018, pp.10-11. The magazine is available online at:

www.nls.uk/media/1618865/discover-38-p10-24.pdf

■ **Glasgow Women's Library** was shortlisted for the Museum of the Year Award 2018, an impressive achievement, although the eventual winner was **Tate St Ives**.

<https://womenslibrary.org.uk/2018/05/01/glasgow-womens-library-shortlisted-for-prestigious-art-fund-museum-of-the-year-2018/>

HELP WANTED

■ **The Burrell Collection, Glasgow**, needs your help to identify former staff at Sir William Burrell's Hutton Castle, in the Scottish Borders. Sir William purchased Hutton Castle in 1916, but did not move in until 1927, where he lived with his art collection of some 9,000 objects until his death in 1958. As part of the Burrell Collection's £66 million refurbishment, they are seeking the public's help to identify former domestic staff employed at the castle from 1920's -1940's. The Burrell's are understood to have employed 10 domestic servants including a butler, a cook and a liveried footman as well as gardeners, gamekeepers and chauffeurs. The task is now underway to identify staff depicted in some 15 photographs from the 1930s donated by Peter Clark, the son of Sir William's former butler of the same name.

At various times during the Burrells' lives at Hutton, the following staff are known to have been employed at the castle: Peter Clark (butler); Peter Freeny (cook); Jim Guthrie (maintenance, particularly of castle generator); Erich and Maria Hofer (butler and cook); Lexie Lesenger (domestic service and office worker); James Lornie (head gardener until around time of his death in 1930); Mr Phillips (chauffeur); John Pringle (estates); Duncan Rankin (chauffeur); Mary Renwick (domestic servant); Ethel Todd Shiel (secretary); Julia Turbitt (housemaid) and Jimmy Wallace (gamekeeper).

If you know of a relative or family friend who worked for the Burrell's in the 1920's – 1940's or have any family anecdotes about Hutton Castle at the time, then please contact Claire Rocha at:

claire.rochadacruz@glasgowlife.org.uk

SOCIETIES

■ The **Thomas Muir Festival** is underway. The annual symposium is on 7 November at Boclair Academy, Bearsden, 12.45-16.30. The theme is **The Great Reform Bills**, and the afternoon includes talks and music. The event is free but booking is required.

For full programme of events in 2018 see:

<http://www.thomasmuir.co.uk/thomas-muir-festival-2018.html>

■ The **Scottish Place Name Society** and the **Scottish Records Association** have a joint conference this year, on Saturday 17 November in the Scottish Storytelling Centre (the Netherbow), High Street, Edinburgh. The theme is '**Sources**'.

Find out more at: <http://spns.org.uk/day-conference-17-november-2018-edinburgh>

■ The **Cumnock History Group** was established in 2014, and has an active presence through their website.

<http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org/index.html>

From 2016 they were involved with the **Pennylands Camp 22 Project**. Pennylands Camp 22 was a WW2 military facility in the grounds of Dumfries House, 1939-59. This project combined archaeological excavation (before the site was to be developed), archival research, and oral history. The camp was originally a training camp, then became a Prisoner of War camp. After the War, it provided accommodation for Polish troops awaiting repatriation or re-settlement, then the huts were used as council housing. A leaflet has been produced about the project:

info@cumnockhistory.org.

<http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org/pennylands-about.html>

■ The **Historic Houses Association for Scotland**, which represents owners of historic houses, has rebranded itself as **Historic Houses**:

<https://www.historichouses.org/>

<http://www.scotlandsheritage.org.uk/partners/historic-houses-association/>

■ **The last Hepburns of Smeaton Hepburn**, display in the **John Gray Centre** in Haddington until December 2019. Talk on 5 September 14.00-15.15 about **Lady Margaretta Henrietta, Lady Buchan-Hepburn**.

<http://www.johngraycentre.org/events/margaretta-henrietta-lady-buchan-hepburn/>

<http://www.johngraycentre.org/events/>

UNIVERSITIES

■ **Edinburgh University** has a website **Our history**, which has a timeline of events and people since its foundation in 1583.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/about/our-history>

■ **St Andrews University** has established a **Centre for the Study of Philanthropy & Public Good**. They are producing a blog which includes a monthly historical series entitled **Scottish Philanthropy Snippets**. They welcome suggestions for this series.

<http://www.philanthropy.scot/category/scottish-philanthropy-snippets/>

WEBSITES

■ 2,400 maps and plans from the **National Records of Scotland** are now on **ScotlandsPeople** website. Registration required to use the site.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/guides/maps-and-plans>

■ The **Institution of Civil Engineers** is celebrating 200 years of engineering since its foundation. Their website **ICE 200** describes engineering achievements around the world, from 1800 to the present. It is possible to filter by date and place, and there are a few historical Scottish features. It's not the easiest site to navigate so here are some short cuts:

Home page: <https://www.ice.org.uk/ice-200>

Overview of 200 projects:

<https://www.ice.org.uk/ice-200#projects-1>

Filter by period and location at:

<https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do>

Some items of Scottish relevance (there are others):

<https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/kirkaldy-testing-works>

<https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/edinburgh-sewers>

<https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/caledonian-canal>

<https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/titan-crane>

<https://www.ice.org.uk/what-is-civil-engineering/what-do-civil-engineers-do/hydroelectric-power-scotland>

■ **Our Linen Stories** Is a multifaceted international project (Scotland, Netherlands & Ireland) about linen past and present, from history to current textile artists. Already shown in Leith, there is an event in Kirkcaldy 6-9 September and Newtonmore in October. There is a travelling exhibition by Dr John Ennis and a research project based on old maps is identifying bleachfields and other sites associated with the industry.

<https://ourlinenstories.com/tour-and-events/>

PUBLICATIONS

■ **Ardkinglas: the biography of a Highland estate**, by Christina Noble. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2018. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 9781780274867)

<https://www.birlinn.co.uk/Ardkinglas.html>

■ **Not a plack the richer: Argyll's mining story**, by Marian Pallister. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2018. Pbk. £10.99. (ISBN 978-1-7802-7504-8)

■ **Madam Scotia, Madam Scrap: Héloïse Russell-Fergusson 1896-1970**, by Hélène Witcher. Islands Book Trust, 2018. Pbk. £9.99.

About a pioneering musician, her work playing the clarsach and exploring Hebridean and world music.

<https://islandsbooktrust.org/products/madame-scotia-madam-scrap>

■ **Phillimore's Edinburgh**, by Jan Bondeson. Stroud: Amberley, 2018. 96 pp; 100 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-1-4456-7831-3)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/phillimore-s-edinburgh.html>

92 postcards of illustrations of Edinburgh by Reginald P. Phillimore (1855-1941).

■ **Cairt: newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum**, 33, July 2018. Includes updates on new digital mapping and related information, eg. Ordnance Survey Books of Reference 1859-82; initial GB1900 gazetteer of place names on OS 6-inch maps 1888-1913, prepared by crowdsourced volunteers: editing continues. Articles are:

-*George Campbell Smith of Banff (1804-68): surveying in Ross-shire, 1833-1851.*

-*Lanarkshire land-surveyors: Neil MacVicar- provost and surveyor of Rutherglen.*

<https://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subject-info/cairt>

■ **Discover: the magazine of the National Library of Scotland**, 38, Summer 2018.

Articles include: Frederick Douglass, David Livingstone's Zambezi expedition, the MacKinnon photograph collection, James VI, Henriette Marchant's travels in Turkey.,

www.nls.uk/media/1618865/discover-38-p10-24.pdf

■ **History Scotland**, 18(5) Sept/Oct 2018.

-Digging beneath the streets of Inverness (archaeological excavation)

-What I propose doing with the people? I say – nothing (Press reports about destitute Barra refugees in mainland Scotland during the potato famine)

-The jewel of 16th century Scotland (new digital reconstruction of St Andrews Cathedral)

- Scottish printer migration in the Victorian world.

■ Local history books often slip the net, as they are published by small local groups, or are not regular publishers. One title which your editor may have discovered too late (Amazon says 'unavailable') is **Old Clyde pullers: the history of Inverclyde's coastal rowing clubs**, by Tom Mackay. Greenock: RWSABC, 2015. 92 pp.; illus. Pbk. £9.99 + p&p. (ISBN 978-0-99343448-0-8)

There's a chapter on the 'Cartsydyke Worthies' who were apparently unofficial world champions in the 1860s!

Contact details are on their website and it may still be available:

<https://scottishcoastalrowing.org/2015/12/09/historic-book-on-coastal-rowing/>

PLEASE SEND DETAILS OF ANY LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

WHAT'S ON

■ **Doors Open Days** in September 2018:

<http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/>

■ **Wigtown Book Festival** 20th anniversary, 21-30 September 2018.

<http://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/>

■ **Black History Month**, October 2018.

At the time of writing the programme has not been published, but look out for it at:

<http://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/listings/region/scotland/>

■ **PBFA book fairs in Scotland.**

Skye: 6-8 Sept. Aros Cultural Centre, Portree

Edinburgh: 13 Oct. Radisson Blu hotel

Aberdeen: 28 Oct. Hilton Treetops Hotel

Edinburgh: 1 Dec. Radisson Blu Hotel.

<http://www.pbfa.org/book-fairs/2018>

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>

More photographs of the Glenlee Walk & Talk



Alan Blackwood (left) and Alex Anderson (right) guided the groups on the Glenlee.