

# CLISH-CLASH



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

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## SLHF NEWS

■ The **SLHF Conference & Annual General Meeting** was held on 31 October in Clydebank Town Hall. **Seeing the wood for the trees** focused on woodland, to commemorate the centenary of the Forestry Commission. The morning talks covered dendrochronology and the Ancient Tree Inventory. Sources, especially maps, were highlighted in 'Woodland Cover changes in Nithsdale and Annandale from 1740 onwards', followed by the role of plant hunters in introducing new species. Timber floating on the Spey revealed the importance of this local industry, then the history of the Forestry Commission. Oral history and the need to save the memories of those working with timber completed the wide-ranging and well-illustrated talks. Unfortunately Joyce Lockhart, a long-time member of SLHF, who was intending to recall her experiences of forestry work in the late 1940s and early 1950s, found herself unexpectedly in A & E. We hope she has recovered.

Thanks to Steve Connolly who developed an excellent programme which attracted over sixty participants. However, although the venue spaces are good and in a convenient location for transport, unfortunately the catering, which was out of our control, failed to provide sufficient food, and we apologise to participants who missed lunch. A refund has been offered to those who were affected.

Next year's conference will be held in the A. K. Bell Library in Perth: the date in October is still to be decided. The topic will be on some aspects of sport and leisure, so do send suggestions for speakers to Steve Connolly: choose 'events' at the contact page below.

### 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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At the AGM the following existing **Trustees** were approved:

*Hon Chair* – Paul Bishop

*Hon Treasurer* – Jan Bateman

*Hon Secretary* – Bill Sadler

John Irvine

Douglas Lockhart (Deputy chair & deputy editor)

Don Martin (*Scottish Local History* editor)

Finlay McKichan (Minutes secretary & governance)

Graeme Cruickshank

Steve Connolly (Conferences & events)

James Kennedy (*Clish-Clash* contributor)

In addition Annie Tindley, who had been coopted during 2018-19, was approved as a Trustee for 2019-20. After some twenty years Diana Webster has retired from the Trustees Committee but will continue to prepare *Clish-Clash* for the present. This creates a vacancy (there may be up to 12 Trustees) so please volunteer! The committee is particularly keen to increase the number of female Trustees.

The present **Advisory Committee** consists of:

Linda Clark (North Kessock & District LHS)

Helena Koumbouzis (Milngavie & Bearsden HS)

Graham Roberts (Dumfries)

Davis Smith (Friends of Glasgow West)

Jennifer Giles (National Library of Scotland)

Nicola Small (LOCSCOT)

Niall Logan (Baldernock History Group)

Murray Cook (Stirling Council)

Catherine Gillies (Ergadia Museums & Heritage)

Subscription rates have not been changed for several years, and expenses, particularly postage, are mounting. Members decided to increase the subscription from October 2020, the amount to be decided by the Trustees.

## LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **The Engine Shed** is the Conservation Centre of **Historic Environment Scotland**, based at Stirling, open 10-4 Mon. - Sat. with exhibition, tours and café. A new exhibition **A nation of stone** looks at building materials and geology, 29 Oct. 2019 - 28 Feb. 2020.

<https://www.engineshed.scot/visit/>

A new blog describes Scotland's traditional building methods and materials:

<https://blog.engineshed.scot/2019/08/27/traditional-skills-built-scotland/>

Future events for professionals and the general public include:

15 Nov. **Balancing act: collections care in historic buildings** ('quite technical')

22 Nov. **Roofing mortars and metals** ('technical')

<https://engineshed.scot/whats-on/>

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** (HES) has awarded £182,543 to heritage projects across Scotland as part of its Historic Environment Support Fund. The funding ranges from over £80,000 for traditional skills training to £15,000 to repair a historic loom, plus smaller grants to support publications, workshops and conferences. The recipients are spread across Scotland from the Outer Hebrides and Moray to the Scottish Borders and East Lothian.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/grants-and-funding/grants-awarded-by-us/>

■ **Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives** has received an award of £39,145 from Archives Revealed to help to catalogue the records of **Aberdeen Harbour Board 1795-1960**. These include photographs, plans, minute books and other records. Until 1810 the Harbour was controlled by Aberdeen Council, then a Harbour Commission, which included town councillors, so the Archives already hold material about the Harbour which complements this acquisition.

<https://news.aberdeencity.gov.uk/citys-archives-team-to-navigate-aberdeen-harbour-board-collection/>

■ To contribute to Visit Scotland's 'Year of Coasts and Waters' the **National Library of Scotland** is mounting an exhibition 16 Nov. - 15 Feb. on **Scotland's Coasts and Waters: photographs from the Mackinnon collection**. The collection spans 100 years from the 1840s and is jointly owned by NLS and the National Galleries of Scotland. A concurrent major exhibition of MacKinnon collection photographs will open on the same date in the **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**, finishing on 16 Feb.

<https://www.nls.uk/collections/photographs/mackinnon>  
<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/exhibition/scotland%E2%80%99s-photograph-album-mackinnon-collection>

■ **National Library of Scotland's** annual conservation appeal focuses on photographs this year.  
<https://www.nls.uk/support-nls/photography-conservation>

■ **National Records of Scotland** talks and visits are at:

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/events-talks-and-visits>

■ **National Library of Scotland's** talks & events in Edinburgh and Glasgow are at:

<https://www.nls.uk/events>

## SOCIETIES

■ The **Scottish Records Association** conference will be held in conjunction with the **Centre for Scottish Culture, Dundee University**, on Sat. 16 Nov. in Dundee, with the theme '**Hidden histories**'.

<https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/conference>

■ The 2019 **Thomas Muir Festival** continues into November:

<http://thomasmuir.co.uk/thomas-muir-festival-2019.html>

■ The **Banffshire Field Club** talks programme for 2019 is available at [www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk](http://www.banffshirefieldclub.org.uk). Nov.9. **The boundaries of Banffshire: a game of hide and seek**.

■ **ARCH – Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands** has announced their winter programme:

<http://archhighland.org.uk/calendar.asp>

■ **Renfrewshire Local History Forum** programme for 2019/20:

14 Nov. The Clan Macfarlane Arrochar project: three rare late medieval buildings on Loch Lomond.

12 Dec. The summer sheilings.

<http://rlhf.info/archaeology/>

## HELP WANTED

■ We have received this request from Alan McNee a Research Fellow at the University of London. He also offers to give talks about his research.

*'I am working on British tourism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. I am trying to track down any surviving visitors' books or guest books from hotels, pubs and inns from the period roughly 1870-1914. Given the popularity among Victorian tourists of Scotland in general, and the Trossachs/Loch Lomond region in particular, I hope that some members may be aware of the whereabouts of surviving documents. If so, I'd be very grateful for any help or advice. I am engaged in a long-term research project which aims to understand the attitudes and activities of tourists in the late-Victorian period, and to find first-hand accounts (in visitors' books, postcards, diaries and personal correspondence) of their experiences.*

*Although I am London-based, I do travel extensively as part of my research, and would be happy to give a talk about my research at some point if this would be of interest. Thanks for any help that your readers and members can offer.'*

E-mail address [alan.mcnee1@btinternet.com](mailto:alan.mcnee1@btinternet.com)  
Telephone 02086730661

## UNIVERSITIES

■ **Glasgow Caledonian University** is raising funds to create an archive of some 50,000 photographs by Oscar Marzaroli (d.1988), which have been donated by his family. He moved to Glasgow from Italy as a small child and £200,000 is required to catalogue the collection which is an important social history record. It is also hoped to make some images available on a website.

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/foundation/themarzarolicollection/newsvideos/>

## WEBSITES

■ A blog by **Glasgow Museums** describes artefacts, buildings and sources relating to Scots' involvement with slavery: **Legacies of Slavery in Glasgow Museums and Collections**:

<https://glasgowmuseumsslavery.co.uk/>

■ The **National Library of Scotland** has a new website which commemorates the **Iolaire** disaster when the ship carrying around 200 returning troops to Lewis sank within sight of home on 1 January 1919 with only a handful of survivors. The website draws on many sources and also covers the aftermath where the loss of so many people affected the community deeply.

<https://digital.nls.uk/learning/iolaire/index-en.html>

Local history websites:

■ **Strathbungo: from then til now.** [sic]

<http://strathbungo.blogspot.com/2013/04/strathbungo-from-then-til-now.html>

The blog is a mixture of current events with occasional local history items, such as shop histories.

<http://strathbungo.blogspot.com/>

■ **Arthur Lloyd.co.uk** is a music hall and theatre history website covering the UK and Ireland, dedicated to performer Arthur Lloyd (1839-1904) by his grandson. A highly illustrated section remembers **The Scottish Zoo and Variety Circus, and Glasgow Hippodrome, New City Road, Glasgow** and the lively entrepreneur, zoologist and circus showman, Edward Henry Bostock.

<http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk/Glasgow/ScottishZooAndHippodrome.htm>

■ A list of the **Stevenson maps and plans of Scotland, 1660-1940** is now available on the National Library of Scotland website, together with biographical and historical information about the firm, illustrated with examples. The Stevenson family of engineers collected, and made, maps and plans for their work, and also for general interest.

Over 2000 plans are in the collection, categorised by topic, such as bridges, canals, lighthouses, harbours, railways, machinery, buildings and monuments, among others. It is hoped to digitise more plans in future. The Library also holds business records and books from the Stevenson collection, but these are not part of this project.

<https://maps.nls.uk/projects/stevenson/about-plans.html>

## PODCASTS

James Kennedy continues his series on history Podcasts with his third offering:

*Having enticed you in the last 2 editions to engage with Podcasts, how do you choose from the thousands upon thousands of available podcasts? Like all reference material, where available check out any reviews or the reputation (or otherwise) of the company or the presenter—much the same as completing a critical literature review. I have undertaken various searches and a couple of Podcasts feature a lot.*

**1. Witness History** is produced by the BBC World Service which is a station always worth listening to. Because of its audience and remit the podcast themes are often global in nature, but very powerful as they often feature first-hand accounts of significant events. Some podcasts are put together in collections such as **World War One, World War Two** and **Women in History**—there are some 12 collections available with this link:

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2HD4Hm\\_bL3Dxnkvv5nJSDmCj/witness-history-collections](https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2HD4Hm_bL3Dxnkvv5nJSDmCj/witness-history-collections)

Individual episodes are very short, running to some 9 minutes, and in the last few weeks have featured the following:

■ **Sir Anthony Blunt - Soviet Spy.**

Sir Anthony Blunt, a distinguished British art historian and curator of the Queen's pictures was exposed as a former Soviet spy in the autumn of 1979. He was stripped of his knighthood and publicly shamed as a traitor for being part of the Cambridge spy ring. In the podcast Susan Hulme speaks to Christopher Morris who was the BBC Reporter sent to interview Blunt when the story broke.

■ **Being Black in Nazi Germany:**

Theodor Wonja Michael was a child when Hitler came to power in Germany. The son of a German mother and a Cameroonian father he faced discrimination and danger under Nazi rule. He spoke to Caroline Wyatt about how working as a film actor helped him survive the World War Two.

**2. Dan Snow's History Hit**

Dan Snow's History Hit is the UK's most successful history podcast, with almost a million listens every month. Dan travels the length and breadth of the country to keep up with the cutting edge of history, talking to experts, historians, and the people who were actually there. It is connected with a TV channel called History Hit TV and if you pay a subscription you get advertisement free access otherwise you need to cope with the advertisements....

■ An example of a recent podcast was **Chernobyl** with Julie McDowell, about the 1986 nuclear disaster. Dan talks to Scottish author Julie McDowell, an expert in all things nuclear, about the initial reaction to the blast, the impact it had on the firemen, and the fate of Belarus. They discuss how the legacy of Chernobyl damaged people's faith in the Soviet system. The Podcast runs to about 23 minutes in all.

<https://www.historyhit.com/podcasts/dan-snows-history-hit/>



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**\*\*Offer valid until the 31st October 2020;**  
does not include postage and packaging.

## PUBLICATIONS

- **Insurrection: Scotland's famine winter**, by James Hunter. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2019. xiv, 287 pp. Hbk. £20.00. (ISBN 978 1 7802 7622 9). [www.birlinn.co.uk](http://www.birlinn.co.uk).
- **Marnoch Memorial Hall: a centenary history**, by Bob Peden. Aberchirder & District Community Association, 2019. 48pp; 80 illus. Pbk. £8.00 (£10 incl. p & p) from [bobpeden1@sky.com](mailto:bobpeden1@sky.com); tel. 01466 780277. (ISBN 978 09553 2712 4).
- **On the edge of everywhere: Thornhill and environs: a social history revisited**, by Stuart James McCulloch. Glasgow: Thornhill Community Trust, Nov. 2019. 238 pp; 72 illus. Pbk. £10.00 + £1.75 UK p & p. (ISBN 978 15272 2905 1). Purchase from [Thornhilleditorialteam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Thornhilleditorialteam@hotmail.co.uk).
- **Hidden histories: Great War Dundee**. Dundee: The Great War Dundee Partnership, 2019. 42pp; illus. Pbk. <https://rke.abertay.ac.uk/en/publications/great-war-dundee-hidden-histories>
- **Tayside at war**, edited by William Kenefick & Derek Patrick. Abertay Historical Society, 2018. £5.00 + £1.60 p & p. (ISBN 978 0 900019 65 4). Order from [www.abertay.org.uk](http://www.abertay.org.uk) or C. Smith, Sales Secretary, Abertay Historical Society, c/o Alder Archaeology Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth, PH1 5NX.
- **Pabay: an island odyssey**, by Christopher A. Whatley. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2019. xi, 340pp. £20.00. (ISBN 978 1 78027 579 6). [www.birlinn.co.uk](http://www.birlinn.co.uk).
- **The old isle of Skye**, by Guthrie Hutton. Catrine: Stenlake, 2019. Pbk. £10.95. (ISBN 978 1 84033 845 4). [www.stenlake.co.uk](http://www.stenlake.co.uk).

Recent titles of Scottish interest published by Amberley, Stroud. These usually have 96 pages and cost £14.99.

- **Scotland remembered: a history of Scotland through its monuments and memorials**, by Michael Meighan. <https://www.amberley-books.com/scotland-remembered.html>
- **Edinburgh's military heritage**, by Gregor Stewart. <https://www.amberley-books.com/edinburgh-s-military-heritage.html>
- **Stirling in 50 Buildings**, by Jack Gillon. <https://www.amberley-books.com/stirling-in-50-buildings.html>
- **Old Edinburgh trams**, by Kenneth G. Williamson. <https://www.amberley-books.com/discover-books/local-history/area/central-scotland/old-edinburgh-trams.html>
- **A-Z of Dumfries: places, people, history**, by Mary Smith & Keith Kirk. <https://www.amberley-books.com/a-z-of-dumfries.html>

■ **Retour: the newsletter of the Scottish Records Association**, 32, Autumn 2019. (ISSN 1479-9634).

Items include:

- Distillation ... in 16<sup>th</sup> century Aberdeen.
- Unlocking our sound heritage: UK-wide 3-year project led by the British Library to digitally record vulnerable sound archives (5,000 from Scotland).
- Paisley's Thread Mill workers' contribution to the war effort.
- Inverness Royal Academy Archive.
- Combined archive for Inverness Cathedral and the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/retour>
- **History Scotland**, 19(6), Nov./Dec. 2019. Local history related articles include:
  - Paisley Abbey medieval tunnel.
  - Bandits of the 17<sup>th</sup> century: the Mackintosh-Macgregor gang.
  - The Eyemouth disaster.
  - Clydebank blitz.
  - The Maryhill Barracks controversy. <https://www.historyscotland.com/>

## 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>