

# CLISH-CLASH



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

Scottish Charity SCO15850

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## SLHF NEWS

• **Website** The re-designed website is now live – find it at [www.slhf.org](http://www.slhf.org). The website will continue to be developed as information and funds become available. This will provide a new focus for people wishing to discover their local history, and to help them to find out more about what is happening in their area of interest, and to meet like-minded people.

Members can create profiles for their organisations at [www.slhf.org/submit-your-details/](http://www.slhf.org/submit-your-details/) and publicise their events at [www.slhf.org/submit-event/](http://www.slhf.org/submit-event/). To provide details of projects with which you are involved, suggestions for news items, recommend books for review, or submit articles for publication in the journal and/or the newsletter choose *Contribute* to email at [www.slhf.org/contact-slhf/](http://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf/). The success of these initiatives depends on you, the members, sharing information, so do get online!

### • Events in 2014

We are currently exploring the possibility of a group visit for members to **Trinity House of Leith** in late April-early May. [www.trinityhouseleith.org.uk](http://www.trinityhouseleith.org.uk)

The origins of Trinity House can be traced to 1380, although the present remarkable building was constructed in 1816. Founded by shipowners and shipmasters of Leith to assist destitute sailors and their families, the incorporation developed to improve safety and training for mariners. With interesting maritime collections, mostly donated by the members, this is a fascinating place to visit. Eric Graham will also give a talk.

As numbers are limited, it would be useful to have some idea of how many people would like to attend. Please register your interest (name, email address, and number of people) at:

<http://slhf.org/contact-slhf> and choose **Events enquiry**.

### 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.

**Scottish Local History Forum**

**Box 103, 12 South Bridge**

**Edinburgh EH1 1DD**

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• The next **SLHF Autumn Conference and AGM** will be held in the A K Bell Library in Perth on **Friday 24 October 2014**. The conference theme will be on crime and punishment. If you have suggestions for speakers on any topic relating to the theme, for example police, law, judges, crimes, prison, punishments etc, please send your ideas to the events enquiry section at

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

• **Trustees** for 2013-14 were elected at the Annual General Meeting on 31 October.

Re-elected were:

John Irvine (Hon Chair)	Angus
	<i>Marketing &amp; advertising</i>
Don Martin (Hon Vice-Chair)	East Dunbartonshire
	<i>Journal editorial</i>
Dr Eric Graham (Hon Treasurer)	Edinburgh
	<i>Finance &amp; research projects</i>
Jan Bateman (Hon Secretary)	Edinburgh
	<i>Admin &amp; website</i>
Dr Douglas Lockhart	Ayr
	<i>Publication sales &amp; journal editorial</i>
Finlay McKichan	Aberdeen
	<i>Governance</i>
Diana Webster	Edinburgh
	<i>Events Secretary &amp; newsletter</i>

New Trustees are:

Anthony Cooke	Dundee
Dr David Ritchie	Edinburgh

With nine Trustees we still have vacancies for three more, so do consider being nominated, especially if you come from the regions not covered by the existing Trustees.

• **The Advisory Committee** is made up of volunteers from various member organisations plus the Trustees.

Current volunteers are:

Linda Clark, Black Isle
James Coleman, North Lanarkshire
Helena Koumbouzis, Glasgow
Alan Provan, Fife
Graham Roberts, Dumfries & Galloway

## AROUND THE LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

- The John Gray Centre in Haddington has launched an audio guide (for people with visual impairment) to their main exhibition '**The land, the sea and the people**' which features the social history of East Lothian. Illustrations of the exhibits, with the audio commentary of 'The Talking Museum' (and also transcriptions) are available from [www.johngraycentre.org/learning/exhibitions/the-land-the-sea-the-people-exhibition/the-talking-museum/](http://www.johngraycentre.org/learning/exhibitions/the-land-the-sea-the-people-exhibition/the-talking-museum/)

### • Library closures

*Several libraries have temporary closures while undergoing 'refurbishment'. Although in some cases this is a positive sign of investment, it may also mask a tendency to cost-cut by amalgamating collections in fewer buildings or reducing staff by combining services.*

- The **Edinburgh and Scottish Collection** at Edinburgh Central Library remains closed during refurbishment, while the Library incorporates the Music and Children's collections in the main building. Latest predicted re-opening is Spring 2014.

- The **Mitchell Library, Glasgow** is undergoing a period of refurbishment. Currently Floors 4 and 5 [**Newspapers; History; General Reference**] are closed until March 2014. Stage 2 of the programme involves the closure of Floor 2 [**Glasgow collection and Glasgow Archives**] and Floor 3 [**Family History**] in March, with re-opening in June 2014. After re-opening some departments will move to a different location.

- **Giffnock Library** [East Renfrewshire] is closed with a predicted re-opening date set for February 2014. Staff are currently at Newton Mearns library.

- **Barrhead Library** [East Renfrewshire] has relocated temporarily to Lowndes Street while the old library is demolished and Barrhead Foundry, part of which will contain the new library, is redeveloped. The **Barrhead Heritage Collection**, which includes most of the local history material for Barrhead, Neilston and Uplawmoor, is currently available at Neilston Library.

- On a slightly happier note, in Moray three of the seven local libraries proposed for closure have been reprieved. **Burghead, Cullen** and **Dufftown** are the lucky ones, while **Hopeman, Findochty, Portknockie** and **Roths** will close.

- **Stranraer Library** has re-opened following refurbishing. [www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3800](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3800)

## UNIVERSITY & SOCIETIES' NEWS

A pioneering study of the "ethnology" of Dumfries and Galloway was described at the November meetings of Kirkcudbright History Society and the Wigtownshire Antiquarian and Natural History Society by members of the team from European Ethnological Research Centre (EERC) at the University of Edinburgh. Ethnology deals with the detail of life at different times and in different places. Typically it is done by using documentary sources of different kinds like diaries and letters. It also makes use of "oral" evidence based on interviews and discussions. The current project started in 2011 and 136 in-depth interviews have so far been undertaken in Dumfries and Galloway involving 27 fieldworkers. The interviews have been recorded and are being transcribed. An analysis of the content of the interviews so far has revealed over 300 themes, like farming life and practices, school life, railways. Find out more at their blog and website:

[www.dandgstudy.blogspot.co.uk/](http://www.dandgstudy.blogspot.co.uk/)  
[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/celtic-scottish-studies/research-publications/research/eerc](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/literatures-languages-cultures/celtic-scottish-studies/research-publications/research/eerc)

## WEBSITES

- The **Scottish Records Association** is pleased to announce that their new look website is now live. With a fresh new appearance and an easy to navigate layout, the website is regularly updated with information about the Association. The website address has not changed, and can be found at [www.scottishrecordsassociation.org](http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org)

- **Births, marriages and deaths from the Ayr Advertiser 1803-1835.**

South Ayrshire Libraries have a new website of transcriptions taken from the *Ayr Advertiser*, prepared by the Opportunities in Retirement Family History Group. The Group started in 1991 so this is the product of over 20 years of effort.

Access charge £2 for 7 days.

<http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/bmd.aspx>

- **Aberdeen City Libraries** continues to develop their Local Studies website, the **Silver City Vault**. The website is in four sections: over 1600 *Historic Photographs* are currently available and a *General Index* is partially completed; *Documents* and audio-visual collections (*Sight & Sound*) are in preparation. [www.silvercityvault.org.uk/](http://www.silvercityvault.org.uk/)

- **Scotland's People** release the images of the statutory records which have become available with the new year. From 1 Jan 2014 the following are available: births in 1913, marriages in 1938 and deaths in 1963.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

- **Scottish Life and Society, volume 1. An Introduction to Scottish Ethnology**; edited by Alexander Fenton and Margaret A. Mackay. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2013. 528p.

Although numbered as volume 1, this marks the completion of the fourteen volume *Scottish Life and Society* series. It is available in e-book, hardback £60.00 (ISBN 9781906566067) and paperback £25.00 (ISBN 9781906566708). Chapter 8 (pages 163-74) 'Local History Societies' by Alex Murdoch is a wide ranging review of local history since the 1930s.

Previously published volumes are:

- Vol. 2. Farming and the land
- Vol. 3. Scotland's buildings
- Vol. 4. Boats, fishing and the sea
- Vol. 5. The food of the Scots.
- Vol. 6. Scotland's domestic life.
- Vol. 7. The working life of the Scots.
- Vol. 8. Transport and communication.
- Vol. 9. The individual and community life.
- Vol. 10. Oral literature and performance culture.
- Vol. 11. Education.
- Vol. 12. Religion.
- Vol. 13. The Law.
- Vol. 14. Bibliography.

<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/John-Donald-Scottish-Life-and-Society/>

- **Scottish Schools and Schoolmasters 1560-1633**, by John Durkan; edited and revised by Jamie Reid-Baxter. Scottish History Society, 2013. (*Scottish History Society fifth series*, v.19). 468 pp. Hbk. £40.00. (ISBN 9780906245286)

This is a rich and comprehensive picture of sources relating to schools and school education in early modern Scotland. The volume also includes a list of all identified Scottish schools and schoolmasters in the period.

<http://www.bookdepository.co.uk/Scottish-Schools-Schoolmasters%2C-1560-1633-John-Durkan/9780906245286>

- **A guide to the history, archaeology and natural history of Tullos Hill**. Aberdeen City Council, 2013. 24pp. This guide is one of a series of themed trails being developed around Aberdeen. Available as a pamphlet or download a PDF from [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/LocalHistory/tullos\\_hill\\_guide\\_booklet\\_2013.pdf](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/web/files/LocalHistory/tullos_hill_guide_booklet_2013.pdf)

Previously published Heritage Trail Guides are:

- [Battle of Harlaw](#)
- [Granite City Trail](#)
- [Heritage Tree Trail](#)
- [Jacobite Trail and Collections](#)
- [March Stones Trail](#)
- [Maritime Trail](#)
- [North Sea Trail](#)
- [Old Aberdeen Trail](#)
- [People and Places](#)
- [Sculpture Trail](#)
- [The Green Trail](#)

- Carmyllie Heritage Centre held a book launch on 2 December for their new publication which covers 135 years of the history of their parish in fifteen chapters. **Carmyllie Its Land and People, 1840-1975**. 186 pp. £10.00.

[www.carmyllieheritage.co.uk/book.html](http://www.carmyllieheritage.co.uk/book.html)

- **Sons of the Mars: further tales from the Tay's legendary training ship**, by Gordon Douglas. Shakeyhands, 2013. 164 pp. Pbk. £9.99 plus p&p. At the SLHF Conference in 2012 the author spoke about the Dundee training ship, the *Mars*. This is the second volume of tales about the boys who served on the vessel, 1869-1929.

<http://www.rootsmon.net/sonsofthemars.com/>

also available at Lulu.com <http://www.lulu.com/gb/>

- Some illustrated maritime books which should have a wide appeal have been published by Amberley Publishing, Stroud. Two volumes in the publisher's **The fishing industry through time** series are: **The Tweed to the Northern Isles**, by Mike Smylie. Amberley Publishing, 2013. Pbk, 96pp. £14.99 (ISBN 978-1445614472)

**From Duncansby Head to the Solway Firth**, by Mike Smylie. 2013. Pbk, 96pp. £14.99. (ISBN 978-1445614526).

Lifeboat stations past and present, and the development of lifeboats and the RNLI are discussed in **The lifeboat service in Scotland station by station**, by Nicholas Leach. Amberley, 2013. Pbk, 192pp. 458 illustrations. £15.99 (ISBN 978-1-4456-1339-0). <http://amberleybooks.com>

- **Look Up Glasgow**, by Adrian Searle & David Barbour. £25. (ISBN 978-1-908754-21-9).

The distributor has sent this information: this "is a new coffee table book of beautiful photography of Glasgow's world class architectural detail which often goes unnoticed. The author, Adrian Searle, is available to give talks, free of charge. Adrian has considerable knowledge of art history and many years' experience working in the design industry, and has drawn on this to put together a talk that maps the evolution of the city, as money flowed in and the city grew westward in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

If you would be interested in Adrian giving a talk to your members please get in touch on 0141 552 5303, or send an email to [info@freightbooks.co.uk](mailto:info@freightbooks.co.uk). [www.freightbooks.co.uk/look-up-glasgow.html](http://www.freightbooks.co.uk/look-up-glasgow.html)

- **Scottish Local History** issue 87 was published in December.

Contents include:

- *Snapshots of Kintyre*
- *Govan poorhouses*
- *Napoleonic prisoner in Lochmaben*
- *A Loch Lomond mystery*
- *President Grant's visit to Scotland*
- *Our Lady of Aberdeen*
- *Barrowfield and Camlachie*
- *Slavery and the Highlands*

## WHAT'S ON: *January-February 2014*

Find information provided by member societies about many more talks and events on the SLHF website.

'Upcoming Events' lists them in date order. <http://slhf.org/events>.

The 'Calendar' gives a daily, weekly, monthly or annual indication of events. <http://slhf.org/calendar-node-field-date>.

Both link to details of the society and a location map.

The inclusion of societies' programmes in the What's On section of the newsletter is an interim arrangement as the SLHF website now enables societies and organisations to add their own events to the calendar. Many thanks to those who have already done so. These include:

**Dollar History Society**  
**Drymen & District Local History Society**  
**Elie & Earlsferry History Society**  
**Fala, Soutra & District heritage and History Society**  
**Kinross-shire Historical Society**  
**Kirkcudbright History Society**  
**Milngavie & Bearsden Historical Society**  
**The Tweeddale Society**

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### CONFERENCES & SPECIAL EVENTS

20-22 Feb. **Who Do You Think You Are? Live.** Olympia, London. <http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com/>

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### SOCIETIES' MEETINGS

**ABERTAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** [www.abertay.org.uk](http://www.abertay.org.uk) [museum@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:museum@dundee.ac.uk)

18.30, Lecture Theatre 2, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee

Wed 5 Feb Bess Rhodes: **Bishops, bridges, and bust-ups – relations between the city of St Andrews and the surrounding area, c.1400-1560.**

**BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY** [www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/broughton-history-society](http://www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk/broughton-history-society)

19.00, Drummond Community High School, Edinburgh:

Mon 10 Feb. Ian Gardiner: **The Falklands War from the Perspective of 45 Commando.**

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE FIELD STUDIES SOCIETY** [www.cfss.org.uk/](http://www.cfss.org.uk/)

19.30 -21.30 Alloa Town Hall (Tommy Downs Room). Members of linked societies and other non-members are welcome; non-members would be expected to join for subsequent visits.

Mon 27 Jan Murray Cook: **Burning Questions: New Research on Stirling's Vitrified Forts.**

**KIRKINTILLOCH & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES**

19.30, Riverside Church, Lammermoor Road, Kirkintilloch

Fri 17 Jan John Gordon: **A history of Kilsyth**

Fri 14 Feb Dr David Graham: **Gruinard Island**

**MORAY SOCIETY**

14.00, Elgin Museum Hall. Non-members £3; members £2; students £1.50

Thurs 23 Jan Sandy Cooper: **Robert Burns in Moray.**

Thurs 6 Feb Visit to Moray College Science Dept

Thurs 27 Feb Marion Yool, NADFAS, **Moray's church interiors.**

**OLD EDINBURGH CLUB** [www.ouldedinburghclub.org.uk](http://www.ouldedinburghclub.org.uk)

19.00 Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL. Members free, non-members £5.00.

Wed 15 Jan Wilson Smith: **New research on the Edinburgh International Exhibition, 1886.**

Wed 19 Feb Malcolm Cooper: **Gerard Baldwin Brown: Edinburgh's forgotten preservationist.**

**OLD GLASGOW CLUB** [www.oldglasgowclub.org.uk](http://www.oldglasgowclub.org.uk)

19.00 for 19.30, Adelaide's, 209 Bath Street, Glasgow. Visitors £3.00.

Thurs 9 Jan Burns Shearar: **The Comet, the Clyde, the commerce.**