

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

■ Booking is now open for the next **SLHF Annual Conference** which will be held on Thursday 31 October in Clydebank Town Hall. The theme **Seeing the Wood for the Trees** explores many aspects of Scottish woodland history, to commemorate the centenary of the Forestry Commission.

But the talks cover a much longer period than the last hundred years. *A nation of planters* considers the introduction of new tree species after 1600, while *Woodland cover changes in Nithsdale and Annandale from 1740* looks at a particular locality.

From tree rings to timber trade and Timber floating on the Spey span dendrochronology to the timber industry.

Local historians can become involved in contributing to *The Ancient Tree Inventory* and another form of recording history is covered in *Glenmore Forest reflections: a 20th century oral history*.



Courtesy of Perth & Kinross Archives

Afternoon talks include *From 1919 to 2019: the rise and fall of the Forestry Commission*, while a member of SLHF offers a personal account of her experiences working in the *Cowal Forestry in the late 1940s and early 1850s*. Thanks to Steve Connelly for organising the Conference.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held during the lunch break on 31 October.

For more information and online booking go to: <https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-2019-annual-conference-and-agm>

■ The last issue of Clish-Clash reported on the **Walk & Talk** event held in May on the **Forth & Clyde Canal** at the Maryhill Locks in Glasgow. A second **Walk & Talk**, also blessed with fine weather, was held in Edinburgh on 16 June, to experience the **Union Canal**. A significant difference between the canals is that the Union canal follows contours without locks. This makes for a meandering route and also requires aqueducts to bridge valleys.



Graeme Cruickshank (in yellow jacket) with the group at Edinburgh Quay

SLHF thanks Graeme Cruickshank who organised the day, starting with an introductory talk **Canal's end: echoes of the east-most stretch of the Union Canal** followed by a walk which traced surviving vestiges of the section of the canal which has been filled in. At Edinburgh Quay, the present-day terminus of the Union Canal, the *Lochrin Belle* was our craft for a cruise through wooded Edinburgh suburbs to the Slateford Aqueduct where there was time for a short walk around the Aqueduct, before the return journey.

More photographs on page 4.

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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LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ Scotland owes many of its libraries and cultural institutions to Andrew Carnegie, Scottish industrialist and philanthropist, who died in 1919. To commemorate his death **Leisure & Culture Dundee** has devised a **Carnegie ABCDE Trail** with events in various libraries in the city between August and October. Find out more at:

<https://mailchi.mp/leisureandculturedundee/carnegie-abcde?e=86d197a96a>

■ The **Highland Archive Centre** in Inverness celebrates its 10th anniversary with an event on 23 November. However they have not yet revealed the nature of this occasion! In the run up to the event they would like to gather a collection of words that people associate with archives, heritage, family history, genealogy, and all things related, which will then form part of an artwork.

More details will be in their next newsletter, which you can sign up for at their website:

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre/>

■ **Culture Perth & Kinross** has received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £32,500 for a project **Perth & Kinross Remembers** to collect, conserve, catalogue and make accessible a wide variety of memorialisation projects on the First World War which have been carried out by about thirty community groups since 2014.

<https://www.culturepk.org.uk/perth-kinross-remembers-secures-national-lottery-support/>

■ The 330th anniversary of the Battle of Killiecrankie has inspired Perth's heritage sector. **Jacobite Clans** is an exhibition in **Perth Museum and Art Gallery** from 29 June to 26 October 2019 (closed Mondays), while the **AK Bell Library** highlights family history and Jacobite connections through the Nairne family tree in **Jacobite clans: ancestors at war**, 18 June to 26 October.

<https://www.culturepk.org.uk/whats-on/jacobite-clans-ancestors-at-war/>

■ **National Records of Scotland** talks are listed at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/events-talks-and-visits>

For example:

20 September 13.30-14.30: *Caring for your family papers*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caring-for-your-family-papers-tickets-61633790326>

27 September 13.00-14.00: *The Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge (SSPCK)*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-society-in-scotland-for-propagating-christian-knowledge-sspck-tickets-64800128930>

5 November 13.30-14.30: *For Baith Plenty and Pleisure: Putting together the Story of the Gardens at Gordon Castle* <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/for-baith-plenty-and-pleisure-putting-together-the-story-of-the-gardens-at-gordon-castle-tickets-59570082721>

■ **Kelvin Hall**, Glasgow, is taking part in **Doors Open Day** on 21 September. Tours show the Glasgow Museums and Hunterian Museum stores and behind the scenes at NLS Moving Picture Archive. Tours at 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm. Must be pre-booked at 0141 276 1450 or email:

kelvinhalltours@glasgowlife.org.uk

■ With the Solheim Cup (biennial women's golf challenge between USA and Europe) at Gleneagles this year (12-15 September), **Perth Museum & Art Gallery** celebrates a renowned local golfer who made her mark internationally, with a display about **Jessie Valentine** from 23 July to 12 October (closed Mondays).

<https://www.culturepk.org.uk/whats-on/jessie-valentine/>

■ **Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre** in Portree has a new exhibition **Over the sea to Skye: a history of tourism in Skye and Lochalsh**, July 2019 to Easter 2020.

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/skye-and-lochalsh-archive-centre/over-the-sea-to-skye-a-history-of-tourism-in-skye-and-lochalsh/>

■ The **National Museum of Scotland**, in partnership with **Edinburgh University Centre for Open Learning**, is running several classes (mostly over 10 weeks from mid-September; £194). In addition there is a one-day course on 9 November. **Scotland, Romance and Reality** will explore romantic images of Scotland and includes entry to the exhibition, **Wild & Majestic** which closes on 10 November; £63.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/openlearning>

SOCIETIES

■ **Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies Conference** is on Saturday 5 October in Irvine Town House. The theme is **Ayrshire Castles: from Kings to Covenanters**. Conference fee £15 includes lunch and a visit to Seagate Castle. Information from 01292 590273 or craigbraecottages@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/ayrshirefederationofhistoricalsocieties>

■ **East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society** has added back numbers of their **Transactions** to their website, with searchable indexes.

<https://eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk/transactions-of-the-east-lothian-antiquarian-and-field-naturalists-society/> The contents of the latest issue (32, 2019) are listed in the 'Publications' section of this newsletter.

The programme for 2019-20 is at:

<https://eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk/2019/08/>

■ The annual symposium organised by the **Friends of Thomas Muir** will be held in St Ninian's School, Kirkintilloch on 29 November 2019 (booking required). Other **Thomas Muir Festival** events are listed at: <http://www.thomasmuir.co.uk/thomas-muir-festival-2019.html>

UNIVERSITIES

■ Recent posts from the **Scottish History Network**, an informative newsletter prepared by students at Scottish universities, covering conferences, events and books relating to Scottish history, are at:

<https://scottishhistorynetwork.wordpress.com/2019/08/09/weekly-digest-9-august-2019/>

<https://scottishhistorynetwork.wordpress.com/2019/07/26/weekly-digest-26-august/>

WEBSITES

■ The future hosting of the website of the **Statistical Accounts of Scotland** has been under consideration, and a new arrangement is under discussion. Meanwhile the following statement has been issued:

*From 1 August 2019, the **Statistical Accounts of Scotland Online** website will be hosted by the University of Edinburgh Library for a period of two years. Scans, transcripts, map-based searching and our Related Resources will be available free of charge to all users. As a result of these changes, **you no longer need a subscription or a user account to use the website.***

Over the next year, our Board will be working with the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Library of Scotland on their plans to integrate the Statistical Accounts of Scotland into their national collections. We look forward to updating you in the coming months as these plans take shape.

<https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>

■ Continuing our series drawing attention to local history groups and their websites, the **South Loch Ness Heritage Group** has a gallery of local photographs and is involved with local projects:

<http://southlochnessheritage.co.uk/>

■ **Murthly History Group** has a series of blogs **Thornie Tales** detailing research on their local area:

<http://www.murthly.scot/index.asp>

■ **Stirling film locations map**. Your editors are undecided about whether this constitutes 'local history'. But it does cast a different light on various historical sites, and it is a bit of fun!

<https://www.yourstirling.com/alive-with-film/>

<https://www.yourstirling.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Stirling-Film-Location-Map.pdf>

PODCASTS

James Kennedy provides some more history podcasts, following his article in the last edition of *Clish-Clash*. Don't forget to let us know if you have any recommendations, as in the Scottish Local History Forum we are very keen to share knowledge.

■ The publication *History Scotland* supports their magazine with a number of podcasts. In **Hidden Histories Podcast**, Neil McLennan explores lesser-

known visitor attractions in Scotland revealing the history, stories and people of each region. In a recent visit to Dundee there are two items which you can listen to separately - University of Dundee Museum and the recently opened Malmaison Boutique Hotel - in its former life it was the Tay Hotel but has now benefitted from a £15m overhaul.

<https://www.historyscotland.com/articles/local-history/listen-to-the-history-scotland-hidden-histories-podcast>

Another podcast features **A Scottish angle on the Treaty of Versailles** - involving a Scot, James Duncan originally from Portlethen.

<https://historyscotland.podbean.com/e/100-years-on%e2%80%a6-a-scottish-angle-on-the-treaty-of-versailles/>

Use the following link

<https://www.historyscotland.com/articles/local-history/listen-to-the-history-scotland-hidden-histories-podcast>

■ **13 minutes to the Moon** is a **BBC World Service** production which tells the full story of the mission without recourse to pictures! It's a great example of the benefits of podcasts as they rely so much on the spoken word. The podcast is in 12 parts and is presented by Kevin Fong. It offers a level of detail on information that was not made available at the time such as Aldren secretly celebrating communion before stepping out of the module and gives an insight into some of the many people involved.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w13xttx2/episode/s/downloads>

■ My final offering this time shows how interesting history can come from all kinds of places. **Mountain** describes itself as 'a podcast about adventure'. It's hosted and produced by Christopher Sleight who a radio producer, journalist and climber living in Scotland. The podcast is a crafted mix of interviews, sound and music, brought together to tell compelling and immersive stories. **Mountain** was launched in 2015 and is one of the UK's most popular outdoors podcasts. Podcast number 16, *A quarry full of ghosts*, is an interesting story behind a hidden tunnel entrance and an abandoned village.

<http://mountainpodcast.com/episode/16-a-quarry-full-of-ghosts/>

PUBLICATIONS

■ **Kinnaird Head Lighthouse: an illustrated history**, by Michael A.W. Strachan. Stroud: Amberley, 2019. 96 pp; illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 9781445682518)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/kinnaird-head-lighthouse.html>

■ **Other times, other places**, by Donald Yule.

A family memoir based on his parent's diaries of their life in 1930s industrial Lanarkshire and Stirlingshire, and later in the West Australian bush and a West African mining camp. Includes photos of Falkirk area etc.

<https://www.completelynovel.com/books/other-times-other-places>

■ **Transactions of The East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society**, 32, 2019. (ISSN 0140 1637) Contents include:

- Obituary of Sir Hew Fleetwood Hamilton-Dalrymple. Vice-President of the Society.
- Going back in time: reassessment of the timber halls at Doon Hill, Dunbar.
- New thoughts on old place-names: Tynninghame and Wittingehame.
- Two Old English place-names: Haddington and Clerkington.
- A medieval palace revealed: Haddington's historic royal residence.
- Digging up Tantallon: archaeological investigations at the Castle, 1888-2014.
- From old to new: the creation of the present village of Tynninghame.
- The monument man: James Smith Richardson, 1883-1870.

<https://eastlothianantiquarians.org.uk/transactions-of-the-east-lothian-antiquarian-and-field-naturalists-society/>

WHAT'S ON

■ **Wigtown Book Festival** runs from 27 September-6 October 2019.

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

■ Don't forget **Doors Open Days** in September, celebrating their 30th year.

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

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>

WALK & TALK

16 June 2019: *The Union Canal, from Edinburgh Quay to Slateford Aqueduct*

