

CLISH-CLASH



The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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SLHF NEWS

A Happy New Year to all our members! Dates for your diary in 2020:

■ 12 March 2020, 14.00-15.00.

The fifth annual **Scottish Local History Forum / National Library of Scotland lecture** will be held in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Dr Ivan Ruddock will talk about "**Alexander Bain: the real father of television**".

The lecture is free, but must be reserved in advance. The Library will announce their January-March programme in early January, when booking will be available. Keep an eye on <https://www.nls.uk/events>

■ Summer 2020

Planning is underway for the next SLHF **Walk & Talk**, and details will be announced later in the year.

■ 22 October 2020

The SLHF **Annual Conference** will be held in the A K Bell Library, Perth, with a theme of Sport in Scotland. Full details and booking arrangements will be available in the Summer.

■ **Scottish Local History** issue 105 has been sent for printing and will be out soon. Throughout this year there will be a special series of articles to commemorate the bicentenary of the 1820 insurrection by Scottish radicals. Each article considers the local impact of the uprisings in different parts of Scotland, with the first two articles on Kilsyth and Dumbarton.

<https://digital.nls.uk/scotlandspages/timeline/1820.html>

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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Announcing

THE ANNUAL PRIZE for the best paper in Scottish Local History

Sponsored by Birlinn Ltd

The Annual Prize of £100 will be awarded at the Annual Conference for the best paper from the three issues of SLH in a calendar year.

The judging panel will be the journal's Editorial Board assisted by the Forum Chair. Forum Trustees will be ineligible for the prize.



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LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ The **National Library of Scotland** is inviting comments on their **draft 5-year strategy plan** for 2020-2025. The consultation runs from Monday 2 December 2019 until Monday 27 January 2020.

You can have your say in the following ways:

- Add your comments to the [online form on Citizen Space](#), which should take only 5-10 minutes to complete

- Fill in the form at the end of the draft strategy document and either email it to strategy@nls.uk or post it to:

Strategy 2020-2025
National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh EH1 1EW

- In person at a drop-in session on Tuesday 14 January, between 15.00 and 19.00, at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW. (The Glasgow drop-in session was in December).

<https://www.nls.uk/strategy-consultation>

■ **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** in Glasgow has a temporary exhibition about the Glasgow branch of the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS), formerly the Women's Voluntary Services (WVS), originally established for home defence and assistance during World War II. **Compassion in Crisis** is on display until 31 January.

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/venues/kelvingrove-art-gallery-and-museum/community-displays>

■ In October it was announced that £19 million has been allocated by the UK government to digitise museum and archive collections throughout Britain. Although the government statement was issued by the **Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport**, newspaper reports do mention that bodies such as the National Museums of Scotland and local museums are likely to participate.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-investment-backs-museums-of-the-future>

■ The next tranche of records to be revealed on **ScotlandsPeople** will be made available in early January: statutory birth records 1919; marriages 1944; deaths 1969.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/what-we-are-working-on>

■ **Dundee and the Russian Convoys**: talk at 12.30 on 27 February at **HMS Unicorn**, Dundee, to launch an exhibition on the topic.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/474563359818479/>

If you heard Gordon Douglas's talk at the SLHF conference in 2012 on **The sons of the Mars**, the training ship moored at Dundee, you may be interested that the current exhibition at the Unicorn is to be extended into 2020.

<http://www.frigateunicorn.org/exhibitions>

■ **Falkirk Community Trust** is developing a heritage wall and outdoor museum at Bonnybridge. There is a talk on the project on 5 February 2020.

<https://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/whats-on/a-heritage-wall-at-bonnybridge/>

UNIVERSITIES

■ Don't forget to check the **Scottish History Network**, compiled by history postgraduate students and other historians, which includes information on talks and lectures, forthcoming conferences, publications, etc.

<https://scottishhistorynetwork.wordpress.com/>

WEBSITES

■ **Scottish Labour History** have launched a new website and have just published their journal, issue 54. An index of articles in previous issues is available on their website:

<https://www.scottishlabourhistory.org.uk/>

<https://www.scottishlabourhistory.org.uk/index-of-past-issues/>

■ In November, BBC News covered a story about relics of Edinburgh's 300-year-old water supply: **Edinburgh's little stone buildings hiding water secrets**.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-50042933>

PODCASTS

■ **Ladies of the Links** is a podcast by Rhona Cameron, last broadcast in 2017, about the annual New Year golf competition held by the fishwives of Musselburgh, first held in January 1811.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b012zwwz0>

■ **Disability: a new history** is a 10-part series about historical research into disability in Britain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b021mdwt/episodes/player>

James Kennedy continues his series highlighting history podcasts.

■ *In recent articles I have struggled to suggest Scottish Podcasts and suddenly one appears! **Witch-Hunt** is a BBC Radio Scotland Programme and Podcast which started on 31 October. It's a six-part radio and podcast series which traces the stories behind a very strange period in Scotland's history. A stellar cast of commentators join Louise Yeoman and Susan Morrison. Six good chunky episodes very deftly make connections between those times and the here and now which makes it all a wee bit troubling*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07rn38z/episodes/downloads>

■ **BBC Sounds** has replaced the BBC Radio Player and I am told has been a struggle for those without smart phones or tablets so I hope you can find it. You can add bookmarks and subscribe to certain programmes—all a bit fiddly to start with but well worth the effort. A couple of my highlights are below—a bit idiosyncratic perhaps but it just shows the extent of what's available.

■ My Podcast of the year is **Junior Historians** which is an excellent BBC Scotland series where pupils from schools around Scotland delve into their local history and produce their own radio documentary. First off the blocks was Dunrossness Primary School from Shetland who produced a 28 minute programme about the Braer Oil Disaster which occurred in January 1993. No caution shown by these young Primary 7 interviewers who were able to handle the brief and ask meaningful questions of people who had lived the experience. Next up is the Dens Road Primary 7 class from Dundee who will tell us about the demise of the Keiller's Marmalade and Confectionary factory—I can't wait!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009bx2>

■ Elsewhere on the BBC Sounds web site are all kinds of previously broadcast programmes—some you may have missed and many are worth listening to again such as **Johnny Cash of Easter Cash**. This programme tells the story of how the Man in Black discovered that his ancestors came from a small village in Fife, all following a chance conversation on a transatlantic flight. This isn't just for the family historians amongst you ... if you like a good yarn you will like this.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00qll0x>

PUBLICATIONS

■ ***Aberdeen lives 2: the city at war and peace 1900-2000***, by David Norcroft. Leopard Press, 2019. 379pp. Pbk. £25. (ISBN 978-19162-6140-2)

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/aberdeen-lives/david-northcroft/9781916261402>

■ ***At the crossroads of time: how a small Scottish village changed history***, by Andrew C. Scott. Stroud: Amberley, 2020. 265pp.; 76 illus. Hbk. £20. (ISBN 978-14456-9832-8). About Lesmahagow.

<https://www.amberley-books.com/coming-soon/at-the-crossroads-of-time.html>

■ ***The graveyards and cemeteries of Edinburgh***, by Charlotte Gollidge. Stroud: Amberley, 2020. 96pp, 100 illus. Pbk. £14.99. (ISBN 978-14456-9424-5)

<https://www.amberley-books.com/the-graveyards-and-cemeteries-of-edinburgh.html>

■ ***Journal of Scottish Historical Studies***, 39(2), 2019. (ISSN 1748-538X).

- Lead mining and the lead industry in Scotland 1680-1780.

- Distilling in the Cabrach c.1800-1850: the illicit origins of the Scotch whisky industry.

<https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/jshs/39/2>

■ ***History Scotland***, 20(1) Jan/Feb 2020.

Items with local history interest include:

- Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg's entry into Edinburgh 1819.

- Tarbat medieval burials project.

- Life before the Sutherland clearances.

- The storming of Dundee, 1651.

- Alone at sea: Elizabeth Mouat of Shetland.

- Sir Alexander Mackenzie: Canada's forgotten hero.

<https://www.historyscotland.com/>

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>

WHAT'S ON

Some major anniversaries occur in 2020: the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath; the bicentenary of the Radical War of 1820; and not forgetting the birth of Bonnie Prince Charlie 1720.

1320 - The declaration of Arbroath.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/features/the-declaration-of-arbroath>

https://www.historyfiles.co.uk/FeaturesBritain/Medieval_TextArbroath01.htm

■ To mark its 700th anniversary (dated 6 April 1320) the **Declaration of Arbroath** will be displayed in the Scotland galleries of the **National Museum of Scotland**, Chambers St, Edinburgh from 27 March to 26 April.

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/declaration-of-arbroath/>

■ There are many commemorative events running from April-September in and around Arbroath, including 5 April, procession from Arbroath Abbey to harbour. Other events include concert, tapestry display, and it culminates in a sound and light coastal event in September (details not yet announced).

<https://arbroath2020.com/programme/>

■ Conference 23-25 May, Newbattle Abbey College:

<https://www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk/DOA/>

1820 Radicals

Several events are planned in various locations, but finding out about them is not easy. Please send details of local events to the *Clish-Clash* editor at the contacts address on page 1.

■ 1 April 2020, talk in Callendar House, Falkirk.

<https://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/whats-on/1820-the-radicals/>

■ **U3A** (University of the 3rd Age) have been working on the **1820 Radical Rising Research Project** since 2018 and propose a workshop in April.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/g/glasgow-west-end/docs/1820radicalrisingresearchproject.pdf>

■ **Glasgow Doors Open Days** has a talk on 22 September 2020, 14.00, at the Sighthill Cemetery Martyrs Monument.

<https://www.glasgowdoorsopendays.org.uk/the-radical-1820-war.html>

■ The latest inspiring ***Twilight Talk about Design***, Thursday 16th January brings together four expert panellists at Dovecot Studios to explore Scotland in Europe: Sharing Culture by Design against a backdrop of ***Scottish Diaspora Tapestries***. The talk forms part of a creative cluster weekend of free events, all bookable via Eventbrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/journeys-in-design-6652164461>