I write on behalf of Dr Rosalind Crone of The Open University who created the 19th Century Prisons database at [www.prisonhistory.org](http://www.prisonhistory.org/) in 2018.  This project has recently been updated and extended to include local lock-ups and, we should be grateful if you could kindly please share the following details with your members and member societies.

Alongside the 19th Century Prisons database ([www.prisonhistory.org/19th-century-prisons/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/19th-century-prisons/)), Dr Crone has developed **Your Local Lock-Up**; a public engagement project that aims to compile data on any place or structure used for temporary imprisonment between the 16th and early 20th centuries.  These structures could include purpose-built lock-ups, police stations, cells in town halls or courthouses, workhouses, stocks and even rooms in pubs where prisoners were guarded overnight.  The accused might have been held there until they appeared before a magistrate, or the structures could even have been used by the community to punish anyone misbehaving in the parish.

We therefore need your help!  We currently have over 700 English lock-ups in the database but only 8 for Scotland.  We anticipate that there are countless others we know nothing about, and would be very grateful if your members could tell us about any in their area.  Or perhaps Scotland has a different history of local imprisonment and lock-ups were never used.  If that is the case, we would like to hear from anyone who can tell us how practice differed locally.  Similarly, has anyone written books or articles on the history of imprisonment in Scotland as the known literature currently concentrates on English prison history.

There are several ways your members can get involved:-

           Contribute information directly into the database through an online form at [www.prisonhistory.org/locallock-up/submit-lock-up](http://www.prisonhistory.org/locallock-up/submit-lock-up).

           Supply us with old photographs of structures long demolished or pictures of those still in existence.

         Add extra details and photographs of somewhere already listed in the database by using the ‘Anything to Add’ button on each lock-up entry.

         Tell us a longer ‘story’ for our features page that gives the history of the lock-up (or its prisoners), how it has been restored or local events held there [www.prisonhistory.org/category/stories/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/category/stories/)

         Join our team  We are always happy for anyone interested in lock-ups and penal history more generally to join our project team to help with research and the development of the database at [www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/become-a-contributor/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/become-a-contributor/)

**Your** **Local Lock-Up**is interested in collecting many different types of evidence on lock-ups.  We especially welcome historic and present-day descriptions of structures or their uses but we do not always need written evidence.  We are equally keen to hear anecdotes about incidents involving the lock-up, the prisoners held there and the location of any that are now lost.

Finally, why not connect with **Prison History UK** on social media?  Your members can follow us on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/prisonhistoryuk>), ‘like’ our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Prison-History-UK-2390455521218014](http://www.facebook.com/Prison-History-UK-2390455521218014) ); and share material with us on Instagram ([www.instagram.com/prisonhistoryuk](http://www.instagram.com/prisonhistoryuk)). You can also subscribe directly to our mailing list at [www.prisonhistory.org](http://www.prisonhistory.org/) to receive the latest project news and updates.

If you have any queries, or would like further information about **Your** **Local Lock-Up**, please email Dr Rosalind Crone at Rosalind.Crone@open.ac.uk or myself at earlypolicing@gmail.com .  We very much look forward to receiving your comments and contributions to this exciting new project.

Best wishes, **Dr Elaine Saunders**

Researcher, **Your** **Local Lock-Up**

[www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/)

For Dr Rosalind Crone, The Open University