CLISH-CLASH

The e-newsletter of the Scottish Local History Forum

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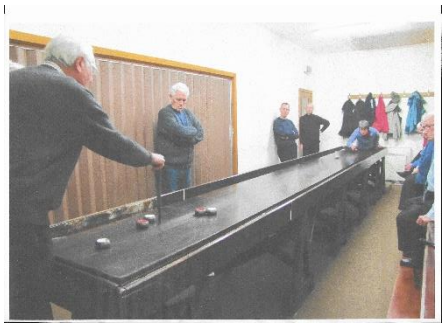


Buchylvie v Gartmore summer ice match (courtesy Laura Nicolson)

Brighten up these winter evenings by attending the SLHF Annual Conference with a focus on Aspects of Scottish Sports and Pastimes. Golf, boxing, shinty, summer ice, athletics and football feature as the six excellent presentations.
Not to be missed on November 10 and 11.
https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-2021-annual-conference-taking-part-aspects-scottish-sports-and-pastimes#

SLHF NEWS

■ **A Trustees Meeting** was held on Zoom on Monday October 11. Some of the main agenda items were making final preparations for the AGM and Annual conference and consideration of reports on a number of governance issues including finance, publications, and website and social media activities. Linda Clark and Nora Solesbury were co-opted as **Trustees**.

Linda has served on the SLHF Advisory Committee and lives in North Kessock. She has a long-standing interest in local history.

Nora is retired, having worked in Public Sector administration for twenty-odd years. She's from a farming background and finds Scotland's agricultural and social history fascinating. The free time in retirement provides the opportunity to learn and research more as well as becoming a Trustee. Nora's roots are in rural Lanarkshire and she now lives in Prestwick.

■ On the same date our **Advisory Committee** also met and discussed a number of issues including a very helpful update on the activities of a number of local groups and societies. With a small number of exceptions most groups have re-established their meetings and are using Zoom for on-line delivery. The significant contributions of Linda Clark as a member of the committee and Finlay McKichan as Chairman of the Advisory Committee were noted and acknowledged.

■ **AGM 2021** The Forum's 2021 AGM was held by Zoom on October 25. When apologies were given and the minute of the 2020 AGM approved, Paul Bishop (Honorary Chair) referred members to the Annual Report, which is on the Forum's website www.slhf.org, and highlighted a number of points. He thanked Jan Bateman for managing the Forum's finances well and for the considerable effort in processing our Gift Aid claim. He thanked the editor Don Martin, all the authors and MDPD for enabling our journal *Scottish Local History* to go from strength to strength. Don has now edited 30 issues, a very considerable achievement. Paul thanked James Kennedy for so successfully completing his first full year in charge of our online newsletter *Clish-Clash*. He thanked Steve Connelly for all his work in re-arranging the conference 'Taking Part: Aspects of Scottish Sports and Pastimes'. The conference had been postponed from 2020 because of the pandemic and will be held on Zoom on the evenings of November 10 and 11. He thanked the speakers who had contributed to the Zoom mini-conference 'Scotland's Involvement in Slavery: The Local View' in April. It was well attended and had increased the Forum's public profile. He thanked Jan Bateman, Jamie Sutherland and James Brown for their social media work, notably on Facebook, which is believed to have played a part in increasing the Forum's individual membership from around 250 to around 300. Dealing with plans for the future, Paul advised that another Zoom mini-conference, 'Scotland's Opposition to Slavery – the Local Experience', will be held on January 26 and 27, 2022. In conclusion, he was sure the Forum had enjoyed a successful year and had coped well with the demands of Covid 19.

Jan Bateman (Honorary Treasurer) gave an analysis of the Annual Accounts (available as part of the Annual Report). These show a deficit of £2,286 due mainly to the lack of income from events and the payment of two annual website fees within the financial year. However, the increase in online licence fees is gratifying and next year's income should be bolstered by a four-year Gift Aid claim which has recently been submitted. Thanks to the substantial Bainbridge legacy received a few years ago, the Forum ended the financial year with reserves of £26,827. Members had agreed a subscription increase at the 2019 AGM, which has not hitherto been implemented because of the pandemic. At this AGM it was agreed *nem con* to increase subscriptions in the year 2022-3 to Individual £28, Organisation with 1 Journal copy £35, with 2 copies £44, Overseas £50 and Student £14. This is the first increase for about 7 years and, relative to other similar societies, represents exceptionally good value (three issues of the journal annually along with six e-newsletters).

Finlay McKichan explained that proposed constitutional amendments (intimated to members who booked the AGM) were intended to make it easier for the Trustees to co-opt replacements if officer or Trustee places become vacant during the year. As for all Trustees, those co-opted would stand down or seek election at the next AGM. The constitutional amendments were approved *nem con*.

The election of eleven existing Trustees was proposed (five of whom had been co-opted during the past year) and one nomination was received from the floor. All were unanimously elected. The election of twelve Advisory Committee members (of whom three are recent recruits to the committee) was proposed and carried unanimously. Finlay McKichan, retiring AC Chair, thanked committee members, especially Linda Clark and Elena Koumpouzi, who have been on the AC since it was launched in 2012. He noted that the links the committee provided to other organisations have been particularly valuable during the pandemic.

Paul thanked for their service a number of members stepping down: Trustees Graeme Cruickshank, Finlay McKichan, Bill Sadler and Annie Tindley (the latter now elected to AC), Advisory Committee members Linda Clark (now elected a Trustee), Jennifer Giles and Catherine Gillies. Paul was thanked for his leadership of the Form.

In concluding the meeting, Paul advised that the 2021 winner of the Prize sponsored by Birlinn for the best article of the year in *Scottish Local History* would soon be publicly announced.

The full draft Minute of the AGM will be available in due course on the SLHF website.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES & MUSEUMS

■ **National Library of Scotland** Please check their website for the latest guidance for visitors https://www.nls.uk/using-the-library/visiting/

■ **Music catalogue records now online** After many years when much of the NLS printed music remained in card catalogues, a project to make all these items findable online has been completed. You can now search for and request all music materials with one search, including scores, books on music, and sound recordings. https://search.nls.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=44NLS_VU1

■ **National Records of Scotland** continue to refine the arrangements for visitors so please check the website. There is a significant demand for limited number of seats, so book early and be patient. NRS extended the opening hours for the ScotlandsPeople Dundas search room to 9am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday, and the daily charge is £15. Only sixteen places are available and there is a long wait (with one of our members recently having an eight-week wait). Further information regarding both the ScotlandsPeople Dundas search room and the Historical search room is available at these links: https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/visit-us and https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/about-us/service-status

■ Some locally based **Family History Centres** are yet to open including the Mitchell Library and the Spiers Centre in Alloa. The centre based in the Highlands has reopened on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact inverness.registrars@highland.gov.uk for bookings.

■ **Timespan in Helmsdale** was one of five finalists in the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 competition which is the world's largest museum prize. A celebration of the UK's museums and galleries, the 2021 prize reflects the resilience and imagination of museums throughout the pandemic. Well done for getting to the final, which was won by Firstsite in Colchester.

Timespan comprises a local history museum, contemporary art programme, public archive, geology and herb gardens, shop, bakery and café. Timespan responds to urgent contemporary issues, which are rooted in the local context of remote, rural Scotland, approaching these from a global and multi-disciplinary perspective. It commissions four major projects a year, each aligned with broader social movements. Timespan is primarily supported by Creative Scotland and the Highland Council. https://timespan.org.uk/

■ **Historic Environment Scotland** Light Waves is a multilingual short film by Historic Environment Scotland which showcases Scotland's coasts and waters and its links to Gaelic and Scots culture https://tinyurl.com/abu2surm

■ **The Burrell Collection** will re-open after a five-year refurbishment and redesign programme costing £68 million https://burrellcollection.com/

■ **ART UK** in their recent online exhibition have taken a trip to the seaside including 'Doon the water' with South Ayrshire Council. This exhibition offers a meander along the South Ayrshire Coast, featuring works from the South Ayrshire Council Fine Art collection, with captions researched and created by local members of the U3A Working Art Appreciation Group https://tinyurl.com/47yff5b6

Misty Day, Sound of Kilbrannon John James Bannatyne (1836-1911) (Courtesy South Ayrshire Council)

■ **New Lanark Trust** has postponed its *New Lanark 2021: A Living Legacy* conference, announcing that it will now take place on March 1 to 3, 2022, with the same programme. However, the John Pearce Memorial Lecture, set for Tuesday October 12, will still take place, with Lesley Riddoch as speaker. This is a free, hybrid event and individuals can register for it at www.newlanark.org/conference-2021. Anyone having booked a ticket, who can no longer attend, should inform the organisers.

SOCIETIES

■ **Society events** As groups and societies emerge from the past 18 months, the usual range and pattern of winter programmes are emerging. Several already appear on the SLHF website https://www.slhf.org/events If you would like to include details from your local group, please complete the details using this link https://www.slhf.org/submit-event

■ **Scottish Records Association** The AGM will take place on Friday November 26, 2021 at 12.30pm. Further details from Dr Anne Cameron Secretary of SRA http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/

BALH
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

■ **British Association For Local History** The BALH is seeking a motivated individual to coordinate and enhance their increasing offer of outreach activities concerned with the study, publication and teaching of local history across the British Isles. For further details of the Outreach Coordinator role and to submit an application: https://tinyurl.com/ye3gvmc8

Closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday November 12, 2021. Interviews will be held on Monday November 29, 2021.

■ **Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries** has recently held its AGM which also marked the retirement of three long-standing committee members: Rita Bennie (Treasurer 2017-21); Les Jenkins (Press Officer 2016-19) and Don Martin. All three retiring committee members were warmly thanked by the President for their contributions over the years including Don's unprecedented 41 years in the post of Honorary Secretary https://tinyurl.com/yzf8wduu

UNIVERSITIES

■ **Piston, Pen & Press** This AHRC-funded project, led by the **University of Strathclyde** and beginning in September 2018, has explored how industrial workers in Scotland and Northern England, from c1840 to c1910, engaged with literary culture through writing, reading and discussion. The project has been recovering their activities through archival research, and working with museum and library partners to make the findings available. Miners, railway workers and textile workers have been the main areas of study. More information at https://www.pistonpenandpress.org/

PODCASTS

■ **The Mariner's Mirror Podcast is t**he world's No.1 podcast dedicated to maritime and naval history. With one foot in the present and one in the past they bring you exciting and interesting current maritime projects worldwide, including excavations of shipwrecks, the restoration of historic ships, sailing classic yachts and tall ships, unprecedented behind the scenes access to exhibitions, museums and archives worldwide, primary sources and accounts that bring the maritime past alive as never before. It includes a series called 'Maritime Scotland'. https://snr.org.uk/the-mariners-mirror-podcast/

■ **For the Love of Scotland** is a podcast series created by the National Trust for Scotland and hosted by Jackie Bird. It gives you a chance to explore Scotland, its buildings and history https://tinyurl.com/rxxk5wh4

PUBLICATIONS and BLOGS

■ **History Scotland** Vol 21 No. 6 November/December 2021 includes news on the Scottish privy council project, a feature on Sir Walter Scott and a look back at the magazine's early days as it celebrates its 20th anniversary https://www.historyscotland.com/

■ The **Scottish Historical Review** Vol. 100, No. 2 (August, 2021) is now available online https://tinyurl.com/yz6r8cbx

■ **Scottish Church History** Vol. 50, No. 2 (October, 2021) is now available online https://tinyurl.com/zdxr34jv

■ The Autumn 2021 edition of **The Geographer** includes an article by Chris Fleet 'Exploring the outdoors with Gall & Inglis' https://www.rsgs.org/the-geographer

■ **Slaves and Highlanders Silenced Histories of Scotland and the Caribbean** by David Alston https://tinyurl.com/3xbxp5na. David spoke at the SLHF's April mini-conference on 'Scotland's involvement in Slavery – the Local View https://www.slhf.org/event/online-mini-conference-scotlands-involvement-slavery-local-view

■ **Railways: A History in Drawings** (Hardcover) published August 26, 2021 by Christopher Valkoinen https://tinyurl.com/y7zva22

■ **The Local Historian** Journal of the British Association for Local History (BALH) Summer 2021 Vol.51 No.3, £5.00 to non-members and free to members. Temporary suspension of the paywall: all back issues (excluding the latest issue) are available free to view during the pandemic. https://tinyurl.com/9w3bc655

■ **The Munros: A History** Paperback £11.99 September. 2021 by Andrew Dempster https://tinyurl.com/5fjx4xcf

■ **Where Eagles Dared – Speedway in Motherwell** Paperback £13.95 October 2021 by Jim Henry. https://tinyurl.com/5fyrznz8

■ **The ScotlandsPeople News and Features October 2021** includes news of the release of cabinet records and Tales of witchcraft: Witch-hunting in the Kirkcaldy kirk session minutes, plus other interesting items https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/news-and-features

■ **National Library of Scotland**'s latest News includes an item on Sir Drummond Bone who has been appointed Chair of the National Library's Board and details of the current range of activities at NLS https://www.nls.uk/news/latest-news/

■ **Retour** Issue Number 36 Autumn 2021 The Newsletter of **The Scottish Records Association.** http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/

BLOGS

■ '**What would Scottish culture be without immigrant artists?**' is a blog posted on August 30, 2021 by Sofia Cotrona. It is on the **ARTUK** site and concludes as follows: 'Migrant artists not only enrich the Scottish artistic scene but contribute to a wider culture of representation and language of belonging, one that will resonate with future generations of immigrants and refugees who are able to make Scotland their home'. https://tinyurl.com/nf6vza4r

■ **Like for Like: the Birth of a new Pictish stone** Go behind the scenes with the **Historic Environment Scotland** stonemasons who have created an eye-catching feature for their new exhibition at Arbroath Abbey https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2021/08/birth-pictish-stone/

■ **Museum Crush** digest includes an article that tells us about a collection of faded photographs from the dawn of photography which reveal Henry Fox Talbot's love of historical monuments including some of the earliest images of Edinburgh https://tinyurl.com/e97v5963

■ **The Royal Scottish Geographical Society** blog includes 'The Fair Maid of Perth: A Tale of Honour and Bloodshed, with a Dash of Geography'. Written by RSGS Writer-in-Residence Jo Woolf to mark the 250th birthday of Sir Walter Scott, this fascinating blog investigates Sir Walter Scott's ties to the RSGS through one of his most popular novels. https://www.rsgs.org/blog/the-fair-maid-of-perth

■ **Safe as Houses** is a blog written by David Lintern in celebration of the humble mountain shelter, past and present. https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/news/safe-as-houses/

■ A recent **Historic UK** blog includes the story of the **Great Gorbals Whisky Flood of 1906** https://tinyurl.com/yj6x2odz

USING ONLINE SOURCES

Some Personal Views.

Don Martin, Forum Trustee and Editor of our journal, gives us an insight into an important historical source, now digitised and freely available online.

Transactions of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (https://rhass.org.uk). This online archive extends from Vol. I (1799) – when it was known as *Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Society of Scotland* – to Sixth Series Vol. IX (1968). The user-friendly arrangement is hierarchical, whereby you first select a particular decade and from there a specific volume. There is a comprehensive online index ('Advanced Search'), and it can also be helpful to use the printed index that appears in each volume. In its early years, the *Transactions* were extremely informative, covering all aspects of Scottish agriculture and farming, including the science and practice of agriculture, the management of woods and plantations and the improvement of agricultural machinery. A feature was county surveys that serve as an update to the Old Statistical Account (OSA) and the New Statistical Account (NSA). For example, in the Fourth Series Vol. XVII (1885) there are accounts of 'The Agriculture of Lanarkshire' by James Tait (91 pages) and 'The Agriculture of Wigtownshire' by William H Ralston (41 pages).

I discovered some years ago that the *Transactions* can also be very useful when researching subjects that are not obviously agricultural. When looking for sources on early Scottish railways (pre-1830), I found that standard textbooks on early UK railways often cite the RHASS *Transactions* as a useful source. For example, CF Dendy Marshall on page 215 of *A History of British Railways Down to the Year 1830* (Oxford University Press, London, 1938) states that an important contribution to the history of railways is the collection of 'Essays on Rail-roads' edited by lighthouse-engineer Robert Stevenson, in the RHASS *Transactions*, Vol. VI (1824), pp.1-146. At the time, Stevenson was carrying out a great deal of research into the possibilities of railways (as well as building lighthouses). Dendy Marshall considers that the best essay in Stevenson's collection is the first one, by Alexander Scott of Ormiston, in three parts (pp.5-65). Robert Stevenson also provides valuable information in his summary at the end of the collection of essays. On another page of his book (p.158) Dendy Marshall confirms that Stevenson's collection of essays 'has been of so much assistance in writing the present work'. (*Image of Don Martin is courtesy of Dr Ivan Ruddock with our thanks*)

WHAT'S ON – ONLINE and 'LIVE' EVENTS

■ **Society events** As groups and societies emerge from the past 18 months the usual range and pattern of winter programmes are emerging. Several appear already on the SLHF website https://www.slhf.org/events If you would like to include details from your local group, please complete the details using this link https://www.slhf.org/submit-event

■ **The Forum's 2021 Virtual Annual Conference**

The early evenings of the November 10 and 11 will be the time, but the place will be wherever you want it to be as SLHF brings you its conference ***Taking Part: Aspects of Scottish Sports and Pastimes***. It is hoped that this is the only time we shall have to present the annual conference over Zoom, but we hope you will enjoy our varied programme in its two bite-sized portions. The pandemic has affected the incomes of many local history organisations and we hope you can help SLHF by booking a place on one or both of the evenings.

On Wednesday, November 10 we commence round one with Karl Magee, Stirling University's archivist, on ***Tales from the Ring*** and also hear from the project officer, Ian Mackintosh, on his work with the Scottish Ex-Boxers Association; Laura Nicolson of the Loch Ard Local History Group will introduce us to the phenomenon of ***Summer ice*** – a game that has much of its history in West Stirlingshire. Renowned Gaelic broadcaster and shinty afficionado, Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan, will round off proceedings with ***Tae a ba': the history of the lost art of making a shinty ball***.

On Thursday, November 11 we will hear about the dazzling career of ***Jimmy Curran: Scotland's greatest athletics coach*** from his biographer, Craig Statham of the National Library of Scotland; and Dr Fiona Skillen of Glasgow Caledonian University will examine the background to the quote ***'Women Work Better After Cricket and Football': exploring the development of women's football during World War One in Scotland***. And much-respected golf historian, Dr Eve Soulsby of St Andrews, a trustee of the Women Golfers Museum, will bring us the story of Perth's very own ***Wee Jessie: Scotland's World No. 1 golfer***.

Full details including booking and payment arrangements (£5 per evening) are available using this link: https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-2021-annual-conference-taking-part-aspects-scottish-sports-and-pastimes

■ **Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** December Lecture: 'Presbyterianism and Philhellenism, 1821–56' December 13 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Auditorium, National Museum Scotland. This will be a hybrid event hosted by the Society, which will take place both in the NMS Auditorium and online. https://www.socantscot.org/events/

■ **The National Library of Scotland** provides a wide range of talks and workshops, many with a strong local history theme. Before Covid-19 these were run in the library but were made available online at the beginning of the pandemic. Audiences are bigger, and researchers from around the world can now attend. The main local history events are:

- Family History From Home: An Introduction
- Further Family History From Home
- Maps for Family and Local History
- Navigating the Maps Website
- History of the House
- Women's Lives and Writing
- Exploring the Climate Crisis at NLS

The current programme is listed on the NLS website – https://www.nls.uk/events/workshops-and-tours – and each event appears between three and one weeks before it happens (this varies depending on the workshop). A link leads to Eventbrite where the talk or workshop can be booked. Please be aware that these events fill up very quickly, so it is advisable to ask Eventbrite to send an automatic reminder when an event becomes bookable.

■ **Scottish Records Association** The AGM will take place on Friday November 26, 2021 at 12.30pm. Further details from Dr Anne Cameron Secretary of SRA http://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/

MEET AN SLHF TRUSTEE

Dr Nicky Small

I left school at 17 to take up an apprenticeship in hairdressing. I had no formal qualifications. I am a creative person and enjoyed my work and was an award-winning student, competing (and winning) at national hairdressing events. After a brief stint as cabin crew for Air UK, I then ran my own hairdressing business for several years. After having two boys, I decided to change direction and realised that formal qualifications were required! Combining family and study was tough but I started by doing Higher English through distance learning, then three further Highers at college. I was accepted into the University of Dundee to do English at the age of 35. I thought I might teach English but actually fell in love with History.

Like a lot of mature students, I really embraced learning and loved my time at Uni. I had no intention of doing a PhD but my project for my final year dissertation was considered sufficiently good that I gained a Carnegie Scholarship

in order to do more. My doctoral thesis was on the theme of 'Scottish Noblewomen, the Family and Scottish politics, 1688-1707' (2012) and used the letters of various noblewomen but mainly the letters and documents at Blair Castle Archive from the collection of the first duchess of Atholl. Her life, her networks and connections and her influence are a vital part of the Murray of Atholl story. I have an ongoing interest in women in history which continues to influence my writing and my music.

I am currently employed as the Local History Officer for Perth and Kinross working at AK Bell Library, Perth. I had the chance to see this job advertised at a turning point when I was not sure where my research and working life was taking me. Initially this post was about connecting with local history groups, societies, and all kinds of heritage people in communities in order to help them find and use our resources. I was passionate about people finding the right information and using public libraries and archives to do so – having come to study later in life I was never afraid to admit I didn't know something or to ask a lot of questions! Sometimes institutions, like archives, can be intimidating to the newcomer – I like breaking down that perceived barrier and helping people see that anyone can access these places and find what they need. Library and archive collections are truly a treasure trove and I always challenge people when they tell me everything is online! No, it isn't! but you have to know where to look. I think the SLHF Directory is a brilliant resource and look forward to promoting it further.

I continue to research various Scottish noblewomen, other subjects and combine history with singing as part of the music duo PlaidSong with Syd House on guitar. I have written and performed various sets of songs on historical themes and we have enjoyed playing at fabulous venues such as Castle Menzies, Leith Hall, Surgeon's Hall Edinburgh and the Caledonian Society in London. Covid interrupted plans to go to France and the US to do small tours which we hope to revisit this coming year. PlaidSong has a dedicated website and Nicky and Syd write a regular blog and publish their music online. https://www.plaidsong.co.uk/

MEET A LOCAL GROUP

A brief bio of 'Airchie Oliver' – the Hawick Archaeological Society

In the early 1850s, several enthusiastic young men from the town of Hawick – picturesquely located at the confluence of the River Teviot and the Slitrig Water, among the hills of the Scottish Borders – made frequent rambles over the countryside to locate antiquities, and set out to investigate the history of the district and its characters. This shared passion led to the formation of an antiquarian society and a local museum, at a public meeting held in Hawick Town Hall, on August 26, 1856 – the birth of the Hawick Archaeological Society.

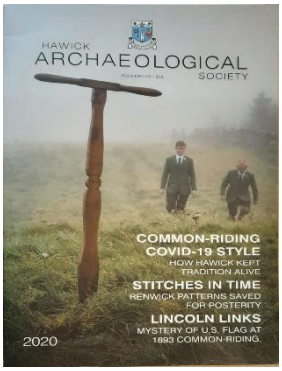
Known fondly as the 'Airchie Oliver' (as some folk have difficulty in pronouncing its Sunday name in 'braid Hawick', our local tongue), the society initially had two basic aims: '…the collection, preservation and elucidation of the antiquities and natural products of the district'; and the creation of a museum 'for the preservation of all such remains of antiquity'. These guiding principles remain cornerstones of our work today, 165 years on.

An inaugural meeting was held on September 16, 1856, for which members were granted free use of the town hall and fire and gas heating and lighting. Robert Michie, a leather merchant and renowned Borders athlete, was appointed as the Airchie's first president, and William Norman Kennedy its first treasurer.

James Murray in his legendary scriptorium, working on the OED

Arguably, the most notable figure to have emanated from the ranks of the society is Sir James A.H. Murray, who aged 19 became our first secretary and the person responsible for naming the organisation. Born in the neighbouring village of Denholm, in 1837, James was a prolific scholar, lexicographer and philologist. The years of dedicated graft he gave to the fledgling society were reportedly a contributing factor when he was invited to edit the *New Oxford English Dictionary*, for which he was knighted in later life. No James, no Airchie; no Airchie, no James – it was a fruitful symbiotic relationship.

In 1863, at the suggestion of an exiled Teri from America ('Teri' being an affectionate term for a Hawick native, deriving from the ancient Brythonic slogan 'teribus ye teri odin'), it was decided that all papers read at the meetings would be published in an annual format known as the Transactions. Mr Kennedy, who hailed from a local family of booksellers, publishers and writers, was responsible for printing these Transactions and even funded them himself when funds ran low.



Aside from a brief break in the leaner years of 1892-98, the Transactions have been a regular feature on the shelves of libraries, universities and exchanging historical societies and institutions throughout Britain and beyond, containing written contributions from all manner of people, on subjects ranging from flora and fauna to political riots and the roots of American presidents. The 2020 full-colour 'Covid-19' edition marked the first redesign since 1993, and a break from a format dating back well over a century – one that would have been recognisable to Sir James and his fellow founders.

Objects of interest were originally carried to and from the Town Hall for society meetings but this proved time-consuming and tricky. In early 1857, storage was procured in the backroom of a clothier's business at 38 High Street, and donations soon flooded in from all corners of the world. Hawick's museum would next find refuge above a furniture emporium, in a vacated grammar school, and at the Buccleuch Institute, before collections were signed over to the safekeeping of the local council in 1906.

Four years later, the Langlands estate and mansion house – which had been rebuilt in decades prior from the proceeds of a slavery compensation scheme – were purchased to become a permanent town museum, and now forms the crown jewel of the Green Flag-winning Wilton Lodge Park; what better location to collect, preserve, interpret, and display objects of artistic, cultural, or scientific significance for the study and education of the public?

The society was bestowed with an officially-sanctioned coat of arms in 1991, after a slight stooshie with the Lord Lyon, and a chain of office was created that same year by esteemed jeweller and friend of the society, Hamish D. Smith.

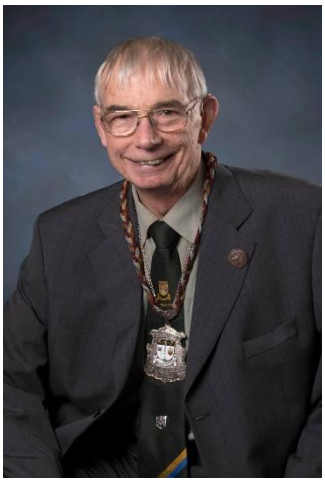
In more recent times we have published a wide range of books and pamphlets, including Derek Robertson's poignant tome, *Hawick and District and the Great War 1914-1918*, an astonishing in-depth record of those local men and women who contributed to the war effort and were killed in the conflict.

Alongside our annual spring/autumn lecture series of informative talks (currently held at Hawick High School), the society also funds numerous initiatives, such as a wreath for the German PoW memorial at Stobs Camp, the upkeep of plaques and monuments, a historical writing competition for local schoolchildren, and an annual 'boys versus girls' hockey match in honour of Hawick's Ivan Laing, the scorer of Olympic hockey's first ever goal.

The Airchie is also a valued partner in ongoing Archaeology Scotland projects at Stobs Camp (the best-preserved First World War internment camp in Britain) and the Twelve Towers of Rule (a community-led survey of peel towers and other historical sites to better understand the circumstances of the bloody and destructive 1545 Pacification of the Borders), adding to a longstanding record of archaeological digs and other field works.

We always welcome new members – no matter your age or level of interest in local history – and are currently endeavouring to create a website fit for 21st century consumption! In the meantime, please feel free to contact us via info@hawickhistory.scot or 07490 335858.

Airchie Oliver outing to Lanercost Priory



Current HAS President J Brian Tait

Alastair M. Redpath

Honorary Secretary

NEW ONLINE MAPS FROM THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

From Chris Fleet, Senior Maps Curator**.**

OS Six-inch Scotland first edition – railway and other variant states (1840s-1880s)

In September NLS added an additional 1,824 Ordnance Survey Six-inch to the mile, first edition maps of Scotland online (1840s-1880s). These are an earlier set of flat sheets to the initial set that has been online since 2008. In some cases these new sheets are useful for showing the variant states of these maps, including those which show railway additions, updates to towns, county boundary sheet changes, security deletions, administrative boundary changes, as well as related variant information in the map margins.

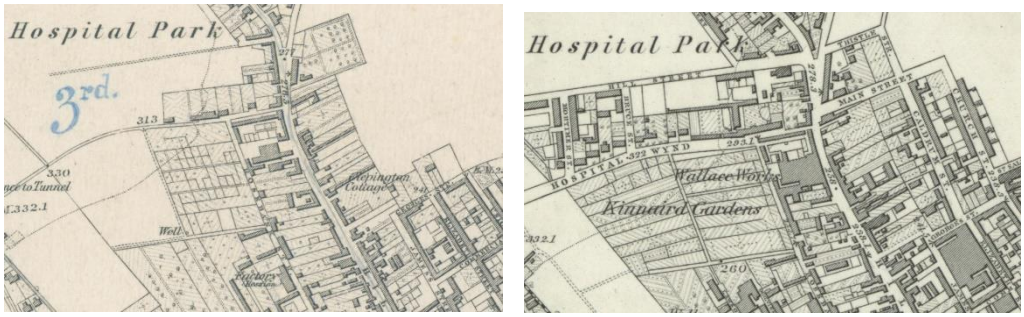
Further details

Following the initial survey of counties in the 1840s-1880s period, a small proportion of the OS six-inch to the mile sheets were reprinted with updated information on them, but usually with no change to the survey and publication dates in the map margins. This is particularly true of sheets that show new **railways**, constructed after the original surveying of the particular county maps. Very often for these particular sheets, topographic details immediately adjacent to the new railway that had changed, such as industrial buildings, houses, field boundaries, roads, and watercourses, were also updated and added to the revised map. This includes some private railways that connected sites such as coal pits to the new line. However, importantly, the rest of the topographic features on the map sheet were not revised. This routine addition of new railways stopped around 1868.

As these new 'railway' states usually have the same survey and publication dates as their parent sheet before the railway, a note has been added *(Railways to ca. XXXX)* after the survey and publication dates in the map header (e.g. Ayrshire, Sheet XLIV at https://maps.nls.uk/view/74425831). This date has been estimated from official sources based on the opening date of the railway in question, which is hopefully correct to the nearest few years. The Ordnance Survey rarely noted the addition of these new railways in the marginal information on the sheet, although an interesting exception, on Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet 44 at https://maps.nls.uk/view/74427658 notes in red 'Railway inserted since date of publication hereon'.

*'Railway' states: OS Six-inch to the mile, Ayrshire, Sheet XLIV, Surveyed 1857, Published 1859. The sheet on the **left** is the original state, whereas the sheet on the **right** shows railways to ca. 1865.*

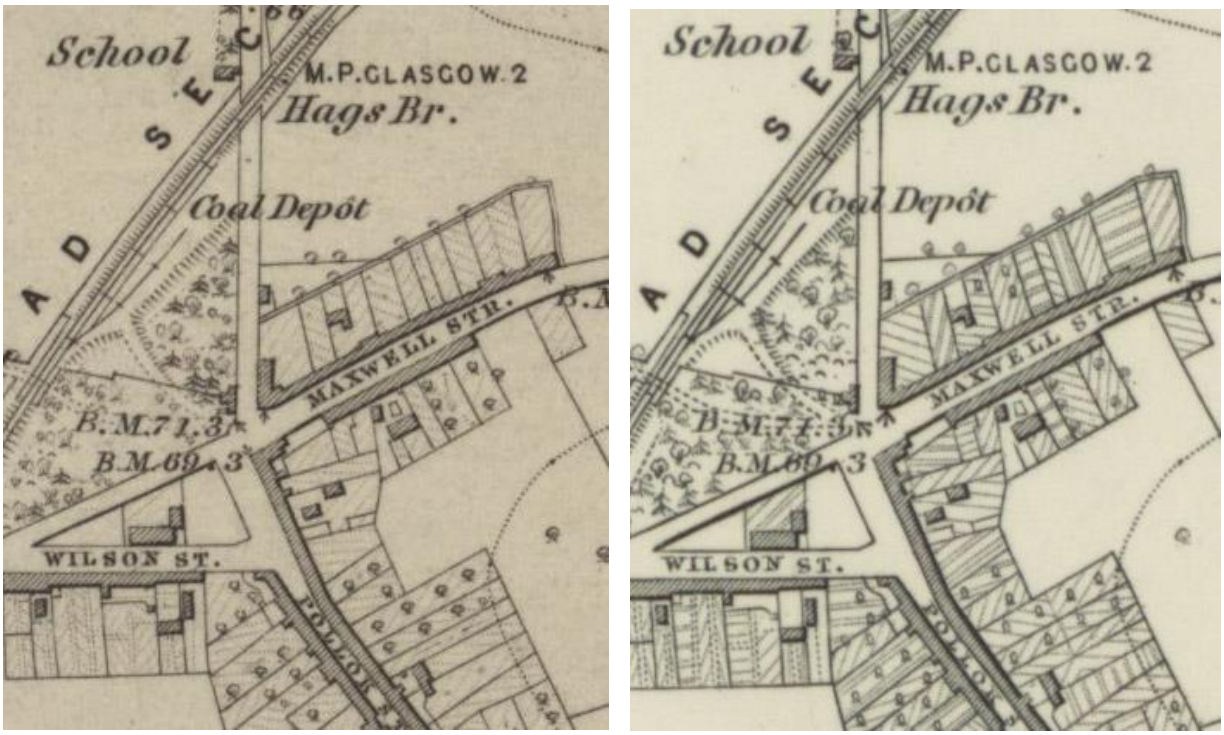
In some other cases, Ordnance Survey revised the sheets for **towns** that were changing rapidly or which had updated surveys at the larger scales of five-foot or ten-foot to the mile. This is true for Edinburgh (Edinburghshire, Sheet 2 at https://maps.nls.uk/view/74426701 carries a note in the lower margin 'Revised in 1877 within the limits of work surveyed at the 1/1056 scale') and Dundee (Forfarshire, Sheet LIV at https://maps.nls.uk/view/74426931 carries a note in the lower margin 'Dundee. Revised in 1872'). However, a preliminary investigation has not found similar updated sheets for other Scottish towns.



***Left**: Northern Dundee on OS Six-Inch to the mile, Forfarshire, Sheet LIV, Surveyed: 1860-62, Published 1865. Compare the same area of the sheet with revisions to 1872 (**right**).*

A further category of significant updates to map sheet content relate to sheets at **county boundaries**. Originally, these were mapped just up to the boundary, leaving the adjacent county area blank. Following the mapping of the adjacent county, Ordnance Survey sometimes chose to reprint a sheet that crosses the boundary by adding material from the adjoining county (or counties), with map detail thus filling the whole area of the map sheet. These filled sheets often add to the title the numbers of the sheets from the adjacent county, and sometimes adjust survey and publication dates accordingly into a range from all the sheets (e.g. Perthshire XXV at: https://maps.nls.uk/view/74428105).

Later states of the OS six-inch maps can also reflect changing rules on security deletions, changes to administrative boundaries, and spot heights. Ornament might be refreshed where the plate had become worn. In the case of garden ornament (e.g., at Pollokshaws on Renfrewshire XIII at https://maps.nls.uk/view/74428240) this can look like substantive changes, but are merely the way the engraver indicated land use.



OS Six-inch to the mile, Renfrewshire, Sheet XIII, Surveyed 1858, Published 1863. These two sheets show how the garden ornament changed between states of the same sheet, reflecting different engravers, but with no change on the ground.

Sometimes later states of the OS six-inch maps can reflect changing rules on security deletions and changes to administrative boundaries.

The NLS online holdings of OS six-inch maps are of two (incomplete) sets of flat sheet maps. NLS also holds a further set of OS six-inch 1st edition maps inside bound volumes. It is hoped that these can be scanned in future if a suitable overhead camera can be acquired for this purpose.

- Further information and links to listing of new sheets: https://maps.nls.uk/additions.html#119

CAN YOU HELP?

We have had no substantive enquiries via the Forum's Contact page https://www.slhf.org/contact-slhf and so we rest this section for this issue of *Clish-Clash*. Remember, we can help out informally with enquiries, but we do not undertake research for enquirers.

BOOK REVIEWS

■ Williamson, V. *Hag Storm* Cranachan Publishing, Isle of Lewis, pp.218, £7.99; ISBN 978 1 911279 91 4

Victoria Williamson is an award-winning author of children's books who has joined SLHF because she wants to find local stories that have potential as background information for children's novels. In due course she would be willing to provide a short article for *Scottish Local History* on the use of local history for this purpose. Her latest children's novel is set in the childhood of Robert Burns and reflects the belief in witchcraft at that time through the imagined experiences of the young poet. In it he observes a number of witches by looking through a circular hole in a 'hag stone' set in a field and realises that he will need to take action to counteract the harm they are planning.

■ Peden, Bob *St Marnan's FC: a history* St Marnan's Football Club, Aberchirder, 2021, pp.48; ISBN 978 0 955327 13 1; For further information contact bobpeden1@sky.com

This is an attractively produced history, in full colour, of the village football team in Aberchirder, Aberdeenshire (also known as Foggieloan). There must be hundreds of teams in Scotland at this local level, well down the hierarchy of organised football in Scotland, and probably dozens of books of this type. However, a great deal of care and commitment has gone into the production of this title. It seems to be a very good example of the genre.

LOCAL HISTORY 'NEWS' ITEMS

In this occasional section, we include news that that we think will be of interest to readers.

■ The Killearn Heritage Trail

Killearn is a village on the northwest flank of the Campsie Fells, in the western part of the Stirling council area. Documentary evidence shows that there was once a manor house, built in 1688, in the field next to Killearn Glen. There are no physical remains of 'The Place' but there is clear evidence of a designed landscape: ancient, imported trees; a canalised burn; stone walls of what is believed to be a 'tea house'.

In 1993 Glasgow University undertook a geophysical survey of the location of 'The Place' and in 2012 Stirling Council Archaeologist (and Forum Advisory Committee member), Dr Murray Cook, led a further evaluation of the area. The Glen itself has long been a managed woodland and it has never been ploughed or built upon to any extent. In 2016 the community organised an archaeological and dendrochronological walk-over survey led by Northlight Heritage and Dendrochronicle. To everyone's surprise and delight this work discovered what appeared to be the ruins of an ancient structure right in the heart of The Glen.

Of course, the interest of local enthusiasts was thoroughly aroused and there was huge appetite to organise an 'excavation' of this intriguing site. But Murray Cook pointed out that there are thousands of ancient sites across Scotland – they cannot just be excavated at random. The way to get backing for the project – and funding – was to build it into a community project with wider objectives: to link other historical features in the village; to involve community learning; to encourage appreciation of the built and natural landscape; and to promote visits to the area.

And so, the Killearn Heritage Trail project was hatched. Schemes were shaped; proposals were written; a National Lottery Heritage Fund award of £22k was secured; professionals were engaged to lead the archaeological evaluation of the 'Laird's House' in the Glen; to design graphics and branding; and to build the website. A Steering Committee led community volunteers and schools in organising the dig, researching content, designing the Trail,

The Killearn archaeological dig 2021

commissioning interpretation boards and populating the website. In total over 400 volunteer-days were devoted to the project, and over 700 people have engaged directly with activities (quite apart from visitors to the Trail).

The impressive website describes the Trail but also displays: maps showing the development of Killearn over the centuries; a gallery of over 150 archive photographs; the reports on the archaeological studies referred to above; articles on local history; local footpaths and cycle routes; and references and links to further material.

Please visit us soon https://www.killearnheritage.org.uk/

■ 'MORE THAN JUST TIME' by DAVID HARVIE

Published in *Scottish Review* in 2013 and reproduced with permission of David Harvie

Keirfield in 1928 (*Canmore*)

I like clocks, and last Monday, the 31st December 2012, I was carefully checking my three significant examples – a wooden-cased bracket clock, built from a kit; a long-case clock dating from the mid-18th century; and a marble-cased bracket clock bought for £26 at a small local auction sale twenty-five years ago.

It was this last one that drew me up sharp – not for poor time-keeping (as long as its pendulum is treated kindly, all is well). I had forgotten the small silver plate mounted on the base, and on this day, it had a special resonance. The engraving recorded that the clock was presented to Malcolm Mackenzie on the occasion of his marriage by his fellow workmen at Keirfield on 31st December 1902 – precisely 110 years to the day. The unfulfilled possibility of securing this latent personal connection between me and someone long-dead, of whom I had no knowledge, was immediately fired into action.

As I may have revealed in these columns before, I have a practical interest in the history of the textile industry, and the name Keirfield was my starting-point. A 'keir' (sometimes 'kier') was a widely-used wrought-iron cylinder used to boil cotton fabric or yarn in an alkaline solution. It was a fairly easy step to remember the small, thriving textile works on the Allan Water on the outskirts of Bridge of Allan, which a quick search of box-files confirmed as having been called Keirfield Works. The bleaching, dyeing and printing of cotton were originally established in the 1790s, and in 1851 John and Robert Pullar (of the famous Perth textile family) took over the operation, adding additional works at the nearby settlement of Ashfield in 1865.

Bridge of Allan itself had been a centre of copper and silver mining before becoming a spa town of some note; one writer, Charles Roger, noted in 1853 that, "Bridge of Allan, though not laying claim to the high temperature of some of the English Spas, claims an equability of temperature, certainly equal to any, and superior to most of them, entitling it to be regarded as the Scottish Montpellier." Keirfield prospered; extensions were added, workers' housing was built, and the printworks and its management and workforce became the backbone of the local community, building and running an assembly hall, reading-room, card-room, billiard-room and playing fields.

Further research revealed that on the day of their wedding, Malcolm Mackenzie, the 28-year-old son of an exciseman, had worked at Keirfield as a cloth lapper (who kept the cotton cleared of loose impurities between processes); his bride was Maggie Hossack, a domestic servant, the 27-year-old daughter of a farm labourer. They were married on 31st December 1902 at Ettrick House, a fine stone villa in Kenilworth Road, Bridge of Allan, which was given as her home address. As she was a housekeeper, could this also have been the home of her employer? Indeed, it was; her employer turned out to be none other than Frank John Pullar, described as "Living on his own means."

Bridge of Allan, Keirfield and Ashfield were well endowed with railway connections; the Scottish Central Railway ran from Stirling to Perth and beyond, a halt being established at Ashfield in 1848; and the Forth & Clyde Junction Railway from Stirling to Balloch was particularly useful when, between the wars, Keirfield fell on hard times and was sold by the Pullar family to British Silk Dyers in Balloch (established under French ownership in 1929, then Swiss-

owned from 1932 until 1960). Ashfield remained a working community until 1976, with some of the buildings still used for other businesses.

Whether or not the Mackenzie's prospered I have not discovered; I would like to think that they did. I'm not sure if I will, or should, continue to delve – if I do, that will be a project for later. But there will always be something pleasing about having a clock that tells me the time … and a little more.

■ Baldernock Tartan Launch

As reported in *Clish-Clash* 46, Baldernock, a small, rural parish six miles north of Glasgow, now has its own tartan, and this was officially launched at Balmore Golf Club on the evening of Friday September 17. The evening was introduced by Fiona Howie, who first had the idea of a district tartan for Baldernock, then Niall Logan gave a talk outlining the historical inspiration behind his design for the tartan, which was chosen by popular vote in a community competition. It was generally agreed that the tartan was not only very attractive, but a great achievement for a small parish. After many months of isolation owing to Covid, the residents of Baldernock were enthusiastic in their appreciation not only of their beautiful district tartan, but also for the opportunity to socialize again. Throws, wraps and scarves in lambswool plain weave were available to purchase on the night, and the first weaving of a 60-metre bolt was soon sold out, with orders being taken for further sales that require a further bolt to be woven, and interest from overseas. This is not a place in which members of the tartan team expected to be when the project began two years ago! It is hoped that there will also be sufficient demand for a bolt of twill, suitable for garments and upholstery, to be woven. Further information on the tartan can be found at http://www.baldernock.org.uk/tartan. About sixty people – guests and local residents – attended the event, at which the tartan was shown to the community for the first time. Appearing in the picture (from left to right) are the four members of the tartan development team with three of their guests: Fiona Grier, Niall Logan, Amy Callaghan MP, Fiona Howie, Deputy Provost of East Dunbartonshire Council Gary Pews, Jane Logan, and Rona MacKay MSP.

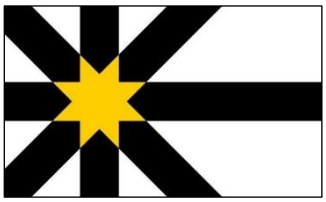
■ Regional flags - views sought

Prior to the pandemic lockdowns independence supporters organised numerous marches called, 'All Under One Banner'. In terms of the number of flags being carried, these were highly successful. But it also showed a disregard for how the Saltire should be depicted - i.e. in the tone of blue and in some cases, the thickness of the Saltire as a proportion of the flag size. The other prominent flag was, of course, the Lion Rampant, or more correctly, the royal banner of Scotland. All of this begged the question, 'What about regional flags?'

A number of these 'sub-national' flags have been created in recent times: Shetland (1969), Orkney (2007), Caithness (2016), East Lothian (2018), Kirkcudbrightshire (2018) and Sutherland (2018). All designs have been thoughtfully, but not always amicably, considered (especially in the case of Sutherland) and conform to vexillology and heraldic rules. It is worth noting that the Kirkcudbrightshire flag was designed by a charity, The Flag Institute, based in England.

The questions to which I am seeking views are:

- Would regional flags encourage a greater interest in local heritage?
- Should local authority flags be considered as distinct from regional ones since local authority reorganisations create redundancy in a way that does not apply to historic regions? (e.g., the identities of Cunningham, Kyle and Carrick still exist but Ayrshire County Council does not.)
- Would the competitive design process be more divisive than it is worth?
- How great a need is there for regional flags?



Please send your responses to me, James Brown at seumas1584@gmail.com. Although I am a Trustee of the SLHF, this is a personal initiative.

Flag of Sutherland

QUOTE OF THE MOMENT

'If we are to preserve culture, we must continue to create it'

Johan Huizinga, Dutch historian (1872-1945)

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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