



SLHF NEWS

- We are pleased to report that Dr Alison Rosie was co-opted as a trustee of the Forum at a meeting held on Zoom on 17 June. Some of you may know her from her days as Registrar of the National Register of Archives Scotland. We are delighted that she has agreed to join us. In response to our request for volunteers to help with the Forum's work we are able to report that we have had a positive response from two SLHF members and should be able to bring more news in the next edition of *Clish-Clash*.
- Andrew Jones, our Honorary Secretary, is taking on the task of organising a Walk and Talk event in Linlithgow to be held in May 2025, with the exact date still to be confirmed. Details to follow soon
- Another date for your diaries is Monday, 28 October 2024 when SLHF will hold its AGM on Zoom between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. All the relevant papers will be circulated in due course. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.
- **Scottish Local History issue 119** is due out in August and will contain the usual mix of articles, notes and queries, news features and reviews.

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

■ **250th Anniversary: General Register House.** General Register House (GRH) is one of the most prominent landmarks on Edinburgh's New Town Princes Street, yet many do not know its significance. Designed to house the records of the nation, it continues to hold and provide access to some of Scotland's most essential and precious documents. This is a building of firsts: the first 'proper repository' for the records of Scotland; the first purpose-built public record repository in Britain and Ireland. It has a good claim to being the oldest in the world still in use for its original function. This year we celebrate its 250th anniversary.



General Register House

Prior to a permanent record repository being built, the records had no proper storage space. For a time they were kept in Edinburgh Castle, and by the 18th century they were housed in various unsuitable storerooms in Edinburgh. One of these was the Laigh Hall in the Parliament House. The condition of the storerooms there was so poor, that by the mid-18th century a clerk of the Parliament House wrote to the barons of the exchequer to ask for money to '[breed] up a cat' to try and deal with the problem of mice nibbling through the records.

Things began to change in the second half of the 18th century when the official in charge, the Lord Clerk Register, applied for and received a grant of £12,000 from the government to build a purpose-built repository in the city. The architectural plans for the building were drawn up by Robert and James Adam in 1768, approved by the Trustees for the building in 1772, and the foundation stone laid on 27 June 1774. The magnificent building that is GRH, remains a model of functional architecture and is in itself one of the great cultural treasures of Scotland.



General Register House, South elevation, 30 July 1772 (Crown copyright, NRS, RHP6082/7)

But what of the records themselves? There is no organised human undertaking that does not create some form of record. These are not necessarily beautiful, although some certainly are, and they vary from charters gifting lands, to letters between family; from hand-printed photographs to registers of vital events. The diversity of form and topics covered within our archives, from the grand to the humble, is what makes our collections so exciting. They tell us: stories of individuals; capture changes in society; provide evidence of governance; and provide insight into the development of Scotland and our culture over the last 900 years (and counting!). They are irreplaceable and, therefore, priceless.

Over the anniversary year (June 2024 – June 2025), NRS will be publishing articles about and hosting events that illuminate some of the stand-out items and stories captured within our archives. Watch our Twitter channel, @NatRecordsScot, and Eventbrite page: [National Records of Scotland Events - 4 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#) for details as they are released.

■ **The National Library of Scotland**, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh recently opened its exhibition looking at how Scotland and Europe influenced one another during the Renaissance. It runs until 1 April 2025. [Renaissance: Scotland and Europe 1480 to 1630 | National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#)

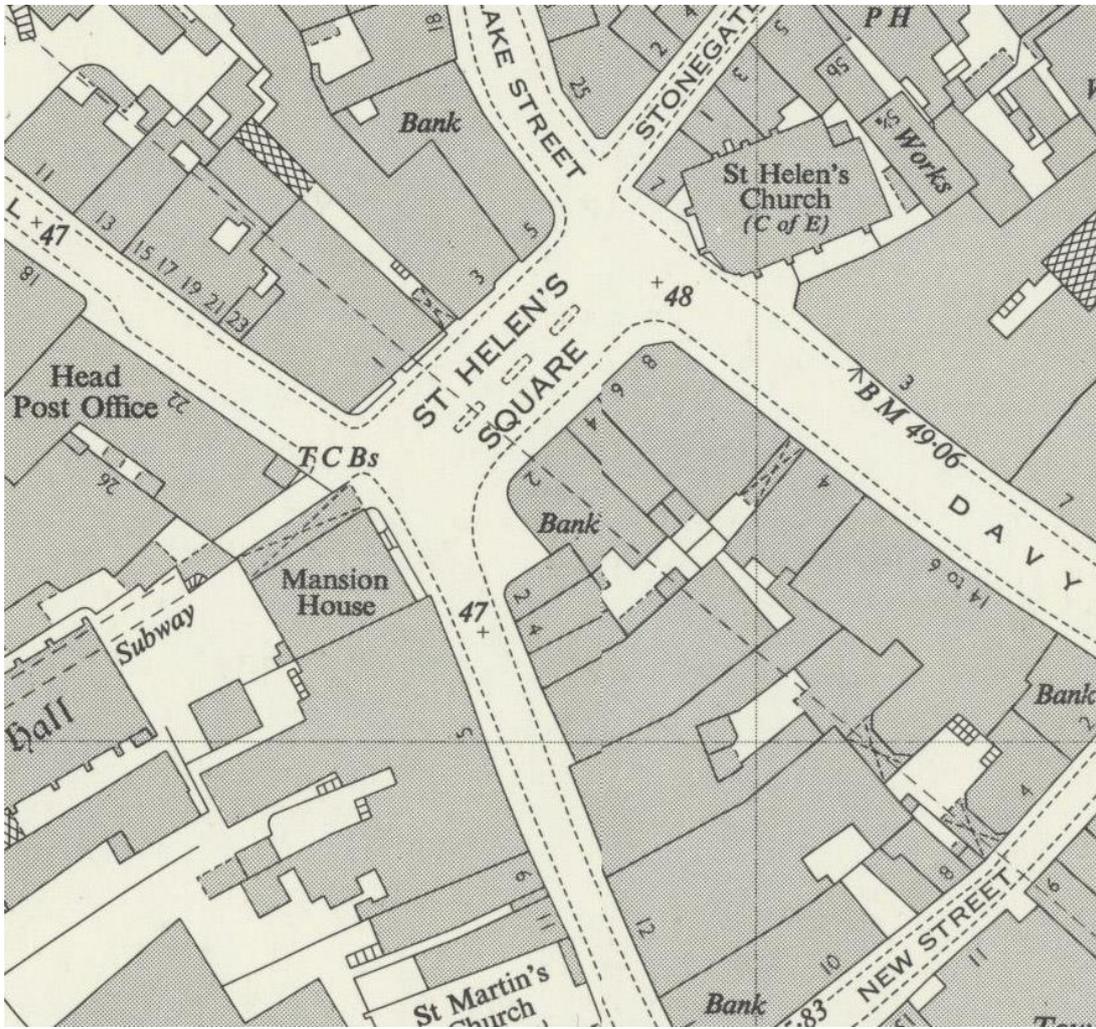
■ **New Estate Map of Lewis, 1817** NLS has recently put online the earliest detailed estate map of Lewis, from a survey by James Chapman, 1807-9. The only surviving map based on this survey was drawn by Alexander Gibbs (who assisted Chapman) in 1817; for many years this map was on display within the

Western Isles Council Offices in Stornoway. Through a successful collaborative project in early 2024 involving Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's Libraries Service, Heritage Service, the National Library of Wales, and the National Library of Scotland, the map can now be viewed as part of the *Stornoway and environs historic maps* web resource. Both the original map and georeferenced versions are now available for detailed study by anyone with an interest in the history of Lewis. Further details: Chapman/Gibbs [Plan of the Island of Lewis](#) (1817)



Detail showing the farms of Pabail Iarach and Pabail Uarach, Parish of Eye, from Chapman/Gibbs' *Plan of the Island of Lewis* (1817)

■ **New Ordnance Survey National Grid Maps of England and Wales, 1940s-1970s** Although not relating to Scotland (which has had maps at these scales online already for some years), NLS has recently put online 137,859 OS National Grid maps of England and Wales at 1:1,250/1:2,500 scales (1940s-1970s). These are the most detailed maps published by Ordnance Survey of England and Wales after the Second World War. All urban areas with more than about 20,000 inhabitants were mapped at 1:1,250 scale, and all other inhabited areas and cultivated land were mapped at 1:2,500. At 1:1,250 scale, most detached features covering 1 square metre or larger are usually shown. These maps are excellent for viewing divisions between houses, house numbers, public and industrial buildings, railways, pavements, streets and street names, parkland and trees, paths, spot heights, and all administrative urban and rural boundaries. These maps were continually revised, with successive editions for areas undergoing more change on the ground. Further details: [Ordnance Survey National Grid maps of England and Wales, 1940s-1970s](#)



Detail from OS 1:1,250, Sheet SE6051NW - A ed.
covering central York, surveyed 1961, published 1962

■ **The Museum of Scottish Railways Archive** is the latest community archive to be featured by the **Scottish Council on Archives**. Follow its activities here: [A Year in the Life of a Community Archive: Museum of Scottish Railways Archive - Scottish Council on Archives \(scottisharchives.org.uk\)](https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk)

Create a listing for your library, archive or museum in the SLHF Directory of local history resources. It is easy to do and free, just go to <https://www.slhf.org/submit-listing>

PUBLICATIONS

■ **An Historical Map of Perth – Royal Burgh and County Town** Historic Towns Trust in association with the Perthshire Society of Natural Science, May 2024, £11.99. ISBN 978-1-8380719-7-4. [An Historical Map of Perth | Map | Historic Town's Trust \(historictownstrust.uk\)](https://www.historictownstrust.uk)

■ **History Scotland**, Summer 2024 £7.99. Includes articles on mapping the Scottish Highlands, Dr Blair and the elephant, The British Honduran Forestry Unit in Duns, and the Esk River pollution case. [History Scotland magazine | Summer 2024 issue - History Scotland](https://www.historyscotland.org.uk)

■ **The Mack: Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Glasgow School of Art** by Robyne Calvert, Yale University Press, 23 April 2024, 208 pp, 230 colour and black and white illustrations, hardback £35.00. [The Mack: Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Glasgow School of Art \(studiointernational.com\)](https://www.studiointernational.com)

■ **The Local Historian** - Journal of the British Association for Local History, Vol 54 No 2, May 2024. Contains: Living and dying with the plague in civil war Durham; William Yates, surveyor (1738-1802) and his county maps; The Three Choirs Festival makes its broadcasting debut 1925; Court and Worth: place-names, topography and social status; The Lorde siblings of Kendal in early Tudor York; Masters and servants in

eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Hampshire; A checklist of local newspaper censuses of church attendance, 1882-1900 and review of four books on the local history of the Second World War.

■ **Local History News** - Magazine of the British Association for Local History, No 151, May 2024. Includes an article on Peter McLagan: Scotland's first black MP by David W Main.

British Association for Local History e-newsletter, Spring 2024. [BALH E-Newsletters | Publications | British Association For Local History](#)

BLOGS

■ As we wrestle with the climate crisis and the impacts of social inequality in the 21st century, archaeology can help bring real world benefits to communities across Scotland by dispelling myths about the history of “emptiness” in the Highlands and Islands: [A “People-less Paradise”? What Archaeology Tells Us About the Climate Crisis and the “Emptiness” of Scotland’s Highlands and Islands - Dig It! \(digitscotland.com\)](#)

■ From your favourite fish and chip shop to your go-to gelato place, Italian Scots have made such a difference for Scotland’s culinary landscape. But has it always been la dolce vita for the Italian migrants who came to Scotland in the late 19th century? Explore the life of some of Scotland’s earlier Italian Scots in pictures. [L’incontro: An archive of Italian life in Scotland - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)

Dr Keava MacMillan takes us on a tour of Greengate Close in Kirkcudbright and its place in Scotland’s queer history. [The Greengate Close Coterie - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)

■ Glasgow Women’s Library is home to one of the most significant LGBT Historical collections in the UK. With material spanning from the 1920s to the present day, the collection holds some really significant archives and artefacts of UK and International LGBT History. [The Lesbian Archive | Glasgow Women's Library \(womenslibrary.org.uk\)](#)

■ Find out about a new oral history project about the Gorgie and Dalry areas of Edinburgh: [Join the Maroon Mile Oral History Project! – Hearts \(heartsfc.co.uk\)](#)

■ See this recent blog on the subject of crofting: [A Quick History of Crofting - Historic Environment Scotland Blog](#)

WATCH & LISTEN

The anniversary of the D-Day landings was remembered across all channels. Here are just a few of what’s available.

■ The Last Heroes was hosted by Dan Snow on BBC4 and offered powerful memories along with gritty archive footage. [BBC One - D-Day: The Last Heroes, Original Series](#)

■ Also, on BBC2 D-Day: We Were There which is part of a broader BBC News project to collect and record as many first-hand accounts of the Second World War as possible by 2025. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c2x639z8vkvt>

■ Channel 4 D-Day: Secrets of the Frontline Heroes also offered an angle on the film-makers who helped to immortalise the Allied Forces landing and associated airborne operations. <https://shorturl.at/f1CCt>

■ Meanwhile on BBC Radio 4 D-Day: the Last Voices does what it says on the tin-we hear from veterans of that day and subsequent invasion. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001zlyn>

■ On PBS America The Story of the D-Day Forecast: Three Days in June. For a few tense days in June 1944, the success of the greatest military invasion the world had ever seen depended on weather readings taken by Maureen Sweeney at the remote Blacksod weather station on Ireland's west coast. <https://rb.gy/2k1tuc>

■ Way back in January 2023 in *Clish-Clash* 56, we featured Learn With Lorna, which is a series of short films about the documents in the collections of the Highland Archive Centre. It continues to be broadcast on their Facebook pages, at 11am on Thursdays (no Facebook account required) with all films subsequently made available on the High Life Highland YouTube channel. Lorna is taking a summer break for a wee while. There are 189 episodes to enjoy under the careful guidance of Lorna Steele-McGinn. <https://tinyurl.com/yy4pmrj5>

■ *Alderney: The Holocaust on British Soil*. During the 2nd World War, thousands of prisoners of almost 30 nationalities were kept on the Channel Island of Alderney as slave labourers by the occupying Nazis. In this Radio 4 documentary, journalist Christine Finn looks at the remains of the prison camps and the ongoing government inquiry into the deaths there. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001vkwx>

■ If you have an interest in business and examples of business failure you might want to catch up with a series on BBC Radio 4 called Toast. It revisits some businesses which were familiar to us all and reminds us of the factors that affected their demise. Recent examples include Green Shield Stamps and What happened to Safeway’s? <https://rb.gy/19x5vc>

■ Archive on 4: Night Train takes a train from Paris to Vienna for a night-time journey across Europe and delves into the archive to tell stories of brief encounters, betrayal and of course murder! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001yptq>

- A more recent edition of the programme has a focus on using DNA testing. Barrister and former MP Anna Soubry looks at the introduction of DNA profiling in the criminal justice system in the 1980s. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001yz5j>
- In an episode of his long-running Radio 4 series *Word of Mouth*, poet Michael Rosen shares listeners stories about the words and sayings unique to their families. If you want to find out what 'You look sharp as a matzo ball' and 'Watch out for the dangerous' mean, have a listen. <https://tinyurl.com/kbvduyz>
- Our last issue referred to several programmes associated with the Miners' Strike. *The Miners' Strike: Return Journey* has a specific episode featuring Scotland. It gives the perspective of a man who policed the picket lines and gave evidence to the Scottish government's independent review into how it was policed. This led to the pardoning, in 2022, of more than 500 people who had been given strike related convictions by Scottish courts. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001w6zp>
- In November 2020 we first referred to that wonderful programme *Stark Talk* which continues to deliver on high quality and interesting interviews. In a recent episode Edi Stark talked to actor Robert Carlyle taking a whistlestop tour of his life and many roles. <https://tinyurl.com/4ukc97vj>
- Elsewhere on Radio Scotland you can listen to *Cat Cube* who shares some of Scotland's stories from the RNLI archive. The programme is called *Stories from Scotland's Sea: the RNLI at 200*. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001xl4j>
- Another great listen is the very well presented and researched *The Reunion*. Brilliant listening on a Sunday morning. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007x9vc/episodes/player>
- *History's Secret Heroes* is an excellent series on BBC Radio4 and is presented by Helena Bonham Carter. With over 20 episodes available it covers a wide range of characters. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m001mcbp>
- On the same channel a detailed investigation into the story behind the massive scale of thefts at the British Museum. Katie Razzell investigates over 9 episodes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m001z1z0>
- Maclean Conference Videos now online Videos of the Scottish Labour History Society. November 2023 John Maclean Centenary Conference are now available on the Society's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@scottishlabourhistorysocie1326>
- There are seven separate videos, featuring speakers Bailie Roza Salih, actor Tam Dean Burn re-enacting Maclean's 'Speech from the Dock', Henry Bell and Gerry Cairns on the 'myths' surrounding Maclean, Stephen Coyle on Maclean's involvement with Ireland, Katherine Mackinnon on Maclean and Glasgow, Tom Allanach on Maclean and young people, and, finally, Professor David Howell and Dr Ewan Gibbs considering Maclean's legacy.
- **British Association for Local History** series of ten minute talks is available to view: [Ten-Minute Talks | Resources | British Association For Local History \(balh.org.uk\)](#)

HISTORY NEWS

- **Historic Environment Scotland** has organised numerous events and activities to help celebrate the 750th anniversary of the birth of **Robert the Bruce**. See details: [Celebrate the 750th Anniversary of Robert the Bruce! | Historic Environment Scotland](#)
- **HES** has also released a new digital 3D model of Tantallon Castle, one of the mightiest examples of 1300s castle architecture in Scotland. [Tantallon Castle - 3D model by Historic Environment Scotland \(@HistoricEnvironmentScotland\) \[46e5b4d\] \(sketchfab.com\)](#)
- **RRS Discovery** is undergoing conservation work and you can follow progress and also have the opportunity to contribute to the costs: [Explore the Build - Dundee Heritage Trust](#)
- **TownsWeb Archiving** has opened up its digitisation grant scheme 2024 for applications. [TWA Digitisation Grant | 3 x £3,000 Grant | TownsWeb Archiving](#)
- **SAVE Britain's Heritage** has launched a public petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to host a national debate to bolster safeguards for threatened listed buildings. [PRESS RELEASE: SAVE calls for national debate on demolition of Scottish heritage \(savebritainsheritage.org\)](#)
- The **Scottish Council on Archives (SCA)** is running a new two-year project to support the development and accessibility of community archives in Scotland. Find out more: [Community Stories – Community Archives - Scottish Council on Archives \(scottisharchives.org.uk\)](#)
- Congratulations to **Anne Balfour** of **Strathblane Heritage Society** who has won a **British Association for Local History** award for her outstanding individual contribution for leading the revival of the society 'through community engagement, talks, films and a new website, into one of Scotland's most vibrant local history groups.' You can view the BALH AGM, talks and awards: [See a recording of the BALH AGM and awards announcements | Local History News | British Association For Local History](#)

■ Readers of Clash-Clash may be unfamiliar with the work of the **Historic Towns Trust** in publishing historical maps of major British cities and towns as part of an international programme to promote the understanding of our urban past. These maps are firmly based on scans of relevant editions of Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping, usually of the 1880-90 or 1910-20 periods, supplied by the National Library of Scotland. Working in close association with the Perthshire Society of Natural Science and several local sponsors, the Trust has recently published its eighteenth historical map covering Perth, its first such work in Scotland. Following a very successful launch of the map at the A.K. Bell Library in Perth, on the anniversary of John Knox's 1559 sermon in St John's Kirk, the map is now on sale, priced £11.99, and can be purchased from bookstores and directly from HTT through its website (www.historictownstrust.uk) via 'Shop'. Maps of further Scottish burghs, including St Andrews, are now being investigated.

WEBSITES

■ Published by Guard Archaeology Ltd **Archaeology Reports Online** was established in 2013 to give free access to recent publications of archaeological investigations, research and analysis. [Archaeology Reports Online](#)

■ **Their Finest Hour Online Archive** allows you to explore over 25,000 newly uncovered objects and stories from the Second World War. From the extraordinary to the everyday, the collection features artefacts and memories that highlight the diverse experiences of all those who lived during this monumental global conflict. This University of Oxford project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. [Home | Their Finest Hour \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

■ June has been the annual **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** since 2008. Find out more about past and future events: [GRTs In Scotland — GRTHM.scot](#)

WHAT'S ON

■ **Kirkcudbright Town Walks** Join free guides for an insight into the history and development of the town, lasting approximately 1½ hours. They take place on Tuesdays at 6.30pm, 9 July – 13 August. Meet at the Information Centre, Harbour Square, Kirkcudbright DG6 4HY. For safety, spaces are limited so must be pre-booked on Eventbrite. [Kirkcudbright Town Walks. Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Kirkcudbright Kirkyard Trail** Tours are free and take approximately one hour. There are some steep steps and some walking on grass. Meet at the main kirkyard gate, Cuthberts Road, Kirkcudbright, Galloway, DG6 4XY. The tours take place on Wednesdays 7.00pm to 8.00pm from 10 July to 14 August. Check with www.kirkcudbrighthistorysociety.org.uk

■ **Inside the judiciary: Criminal law, legal sources and the administration** Online talk by Dr Stephanie Dropuljic [Inside the judiciary: criminal law, legal sources, and the administration Tickets, Mon, Jul 22, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Gaelic Treasures of the National Records of Scotland** In-person talk by Dr Martin MacGregor, HM General Register House, 2 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY [Gaelic Treasures of the National Records of Scotland Tickets, Thu, Aug 29, 2024 at 5:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Island Jewels of the Forth** A talk by Ian Archibald to Dunfermline Historical Society, Abbey Church Hall, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline, 7.30 pm, Thursday, 19 September 2024. Members free, visitors £3.00.

■ **Heritage Trust Network** Conference, Dunfermline, 29 September - 1 October 2024. More information about the conference and booking: [Heritage Trust Network Conference 2024 Tickets, Sun 29 Sep 2024 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Newmilns Heritage Festival** Friday, 4 October 2024 (All day) to Saturday, 5 October 2024 (All day), Morton Hall, 100 Main Street, Newmilns, KA16 9DJ. Festival will feature talks/presentations, exhibitions of pictures and objects. Tea and chat (bring your own objects for a show and tell!) Saturday will be walks and talks around Newmilns to showcase its 41 listed buildings, Burns, Industrial, Social etc heritage. Newmilns Regeneration Association hope to have a doors open weekend across the town, and an app launch. [Newmilns Heritage Festival | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](#)

Create a listing for your event (including online ones) in the SLHF website diary. It is easy to do and free, just go to <https://www.slhf.org/submit-event>

MEET A MEMBER SOCIETY

West Stormont Historical Society promotes and encourages the study of local history in this part of rural Perthshire.

West Stormont, historically, was the land west of the River Tay extending to Harrietfield and north of the River Almond, but south of the Birnam Gap near Dunkeld. Within it lie the parishes of Auchtergaven, Kinclaven, Logiealmond, Moneydie, Redgorton, and the Murthly portion of Little Dunkeld. One ancient description says it 'hath in lenth 10 myls in breadth 9 myls'.

Our work may be of interest if you have kith, kin or connections in or around **Airtully, Bankfoot, Chapelhill, Luncarty, Moneydie, Murthly, Pitcairngreen, Redgorton, Stanley, and Waterloo.**



Garry Bridge Bankfoot 1906

Over the decades, Society members have carried out considerable research into the people, places, industry, events and social developments formative in the creation of the area's essential historical character. Historical records and photographs have been collected, archaeological sites explored and recorded, local houses and buildings surveyed, and biographies of local personalities researched and published. They have also collected and transcribed memorial inscriptions for the following graveyards: Auchtergaven, Chapelhill & Logiealmond, Kinclaven, Kirkhill, Logiebride, Moneydie, Pitcairn & St Serfs, and Redgorton. Individual booklets are available on our website: www.wshs.org.uk. In addition, the Society publishes an e-magazine, **Auld Times**, several times a year. Also available to download from the website: [West Stormont Historical Society | Auld Times \(wshs.org.uk\)](http://West Stormont Historical Society | Auld Times (wshs.org.uk))

West Stormont's Auld Times

Issue No. 6 Autumn 2023



The Kirk O' the Muir. Summer 2023.

Welcome to the Autumn issue. The full programme of illustrated Talks, and Topic Nights from September to next April lies inside. Get those dates into your diaries now.

This year's AGM will be held on a Topic Night in Luncarty Church Centre, on Monday 13th November.

As ever we are indebted to Jennifer, Ros, Mike, Jock, and Paul for another collection of interesting, well-researched articles.

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CAN YOU HELP?

Scottish Council on Archives is holding its annual conference on the theme of **Building Evidence: How Archives and Records support Scotland's Historic Environment** on 10 December 2024, The Engine Shed, Stirling. A call for papers closes on 26 July 2024. [SCA Annual Conference 2024 - Call for Papers - Scottish Council on Archives \(scotarch.org.uk\)](https://www.scotarch.org.uk/)

The **Clish-Clash** editorial team consists of Steve Connelly, James Kennedy, Linda Clark and Andrew Jones. Thanks to Jocelyn Grant, National Records of Scotland for the item on the 250th anniversary of General Register House.

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>

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.

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