

CLISH-CLASH



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SLHF NEWS

Welcome to your latest newsletter. We hope you have managed to make the best of the summer, or perhaps the best is yet to come!

- A reminder to members that our AGM will take place online via Zoom on Monday, 28 October at 6.00pm. Please go to <https://www.slhf.org/event/slhf-agm> to register so that the joining details can be sent out to you.
- Subscriptions are due by 1 October and members can renew or non-members join online by going to <https://www.slhf.org/how-join-slhf>
- **Scottish Local History** Issue 119 has been dispatched to members. Non-members can order copies through the website: [Issue 119 | Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](https://www.slhf.org). The main articles in this issue are: *Politics and Politicians in Strathard 1918-1997* James Kennedy, *What Became of Mr Waistell? A Duellist of 1824* Lyndesay M Brown and Allan W Brown, *Dunbar Battery Hospital: a Short History* James E Herring, *'A Political Whim': Sir Alexander Murray's Scheme for St Kilda* Andy Drummond and *Tarbolton Engineer Robert Thom: Might he have Saved us from Fossil Fuels?* Andreas Malm, with David Whyte.

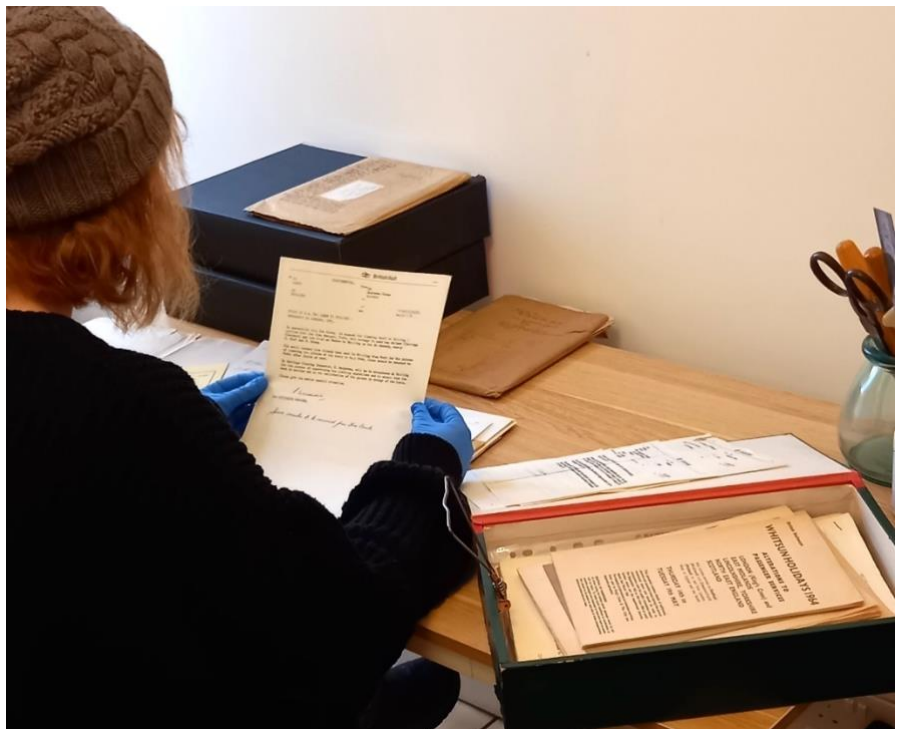
LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND MUSEUMS

- **Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS)** has announced that six museums from across Scotland have been supported through the Museum Development Fund. **Gairloch Museum, Outer Hebrides Heritage Forum – Comann Dualchas Innse Gall, Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, Scottish Football Museum and National Mining Museum Scotland, Ullapool Museum and West Highland Museum** are the recipients. Find out more about the projects being funded: [6 museums share £315K with the Museum Development Fund - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)
- **MGS** annual report is also now available. [Annual Review 2023-24 - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)
- Earlier this year the Scottish Government accepted the recommendations by the [Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums Steering Group](#). One of the recommendations was for the creation of guidance to support museums and galleries in their repatriation work. Read more in this blog by the repatriation working group's convener: [New repatriation working group seeks sector views - Museums Galleries Scotland](#)
- Running until 26 January 2025 at **National Museum of Scotland** is an exhibition entitled **Cold War Scotland**. For more information: [Cold War Scotland | National Museums Scotland \(nms.ac.uk\)](#)
- **Scottish Council on Archives** and **Community Archive Heritage Group Scotland** are working with **Our Heritage Our Stories**, a project led by University of Glasgow, part of the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded programme, **Towards a National Collection (TaNC)**. A survey has been prepared which is an opportunity for community archive heritage groups to share their experiences of collecting and caring for digital collections. Comments and ideas will feed into future training and support for community archives caring for digital collections. Access the survey here: [Connecting Community Archives Survey \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](#)
- The **Scottish Council on Archives** wants to proudly showcase its collaborative project with the **Museum of Scottish Railway's Archive: A Year in the Life of a Community Archive**. This inspiring project aims to highlight the vital role community archives play in preserving Scotland's rich cultural heritage. Though they are best known for the trains that are such a well-loved sight along the Bo'ness foreshore, archival material now accounts for the largest part of the collection and incoming acquisitions. The archive contains items such as papers of railway professionals, amateur enthusiasts, special interest groups, and authors. The photographic collections comprehensively document the railway scene from the earliest days of the personal camera. They also hold original artworks, maps, films, technical records, oral histories and the Scottish Railway Preservation Society corporate archive.



Bonar Bridge Station and Staff. Early 20th century picture of railway staff at Bonar Bridge Station acquired in 2014.

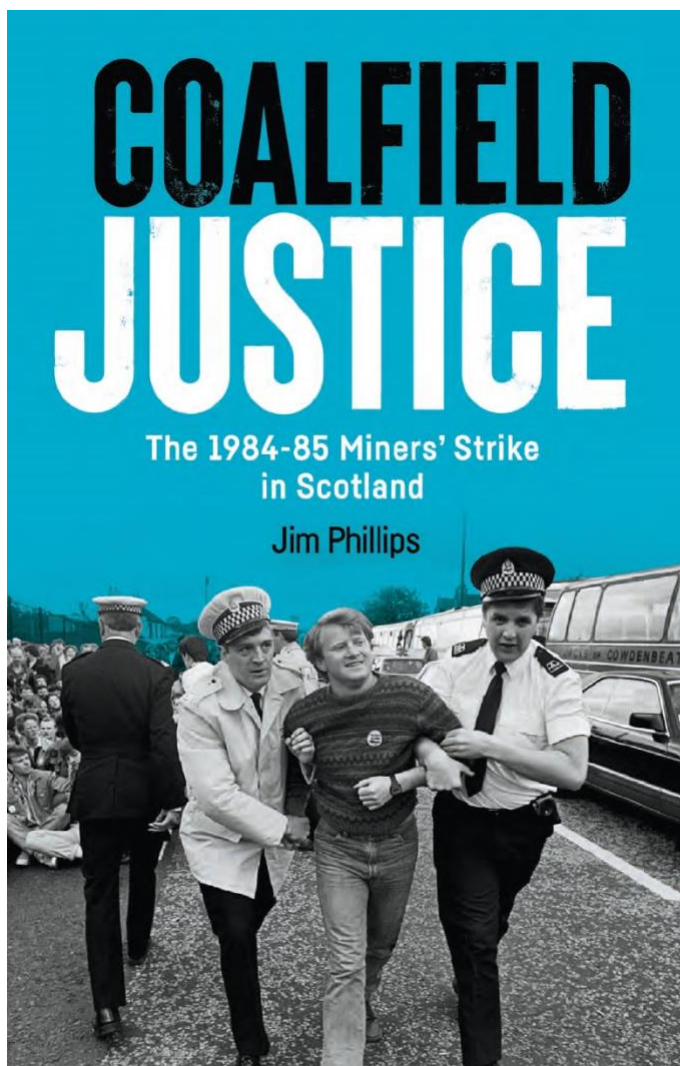
Each month, the Museum of Scottish Railway's Archive will provide an update on their activities and outputs. These stories will come from a range of voices including curator Vicky, the amazing team of volunteers and different partners. In the most recent blog, one volunteer told their story of cataloguing 5,000 objects! The next blog will introduce you to the personal archive of Jim M. Summers, former Chief Operator ScotRail, and bring you on a Deltic-hauled trip to the Scottish Riviera with distinct Gallic flair. The blogs can be found via the Scottish Council on Archive's website:



Listing the contents of one of the boxes in the collection

<https://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/community-archives/a-year-in-the-life-of-a-community-archive-2024/>

PUBLICATIONS



■ **Coalfield Justice - The 1984-85 Miners' Strike in Scotland** by Jim Phillips. Published by Edinburgh University Press, August 2024, 248 pages, 16 b&w illustrations, 10 b&w tables, ISBN: Paperback: 9781399536509, £14.99; Hardback: 9781399536493, £85.00; Ebook (ePub): 9781399536523, £14.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399536516, £14.99. [Coalfield Justice \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)

■ **The Afterlife of Mary, Queen of Scots** Edited by Steven J Reid. Published by Edinburgh University Press, April 2024, 400 pages, 77 b&w illustrations, 6 b&w tables, ISBN: Hardback: 9781399523530, £95.00; Ebook (ePub): 9781399523561, £29.99; Ebook (PDF): 9781399523554, £29.99. [The Afterlife of Mary, Queen of Scots \(edinburghuniversitypress.com\)](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com)

■ **In the Glen of the Dark Goddess** by Margaret Gardiner, Libby King and Dugald MacInnes - History and Archaeology of Upper Glen Lochay Killin, with a place-name study by Peter McNiven. Published by Archaeology for All, August 2024, hardback A4, 388 pages, 141 colour, 4 b&w illustrations, 22 plans of key features, 24 tables, 43 maps and plans, ISBN 978838416676, £20.00 (Plus P&P if required). Order from: jenniferboag@hotmail.com

■ **Dundee War Hospitals During the Great War 1914-1918** by Derek J Byrne. Available from Amazon, published February 2024, 128pp, ISBN 9781917129022, £5.99.

■ **Wartime defences of the Tay Estuary** by Margaret G Bowman. Published December 2023, 242pp, ISBN 9781739834111, £9.99.

■ The July 2024 issue of **Cairt** (the newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum) reports the results of recent

research on two Scottish land surveyors – George Robertson (1783-1845) and William Scott (1812-1882) – whose work connected to one another. Douglas Lockhart clarifies the confusion between two George Robertsons and pursues a Welsh connection. Diana Webster examines five letters from apprentice surveyor William Scott in Sutherland, 1829-32, which offer a rare insight into a surveyor's living and working conditions. Also in this issue are the usual updates on new online maps and resources, and recent publications. **Cairt** can be read at: <https://maps.nls.uk/cairt/cairt45.pdf>.

Back issues of **Cairt** are available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/cairt/>

■ **Arch** Issue 59, August 2024, the newsletter of **Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands**, Includes information on two new courses for the autumn, plus information on other events, and a report on the successful Golspie Fishertown Project. [ARCH Newsletter 59 August 2024.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](https://mcusercontent.com)

■ **Who Do You Think You Are?** Issue 221, September 2024, £5.75. Includes an article by Ruth Symes on the history of education and how our ancestors gained access to schooling. [Magazine | Who Do You Think You Are Magazine](https://magazine.who-do-you-think-you-are.com)

WHAT'S ON

■ September sees the return of **Doors Open Days** across Scotland. The dates to look out for are as follows:
7/8 September Aberdeen City | Angus | Dumfries and Galloway | East Dunbartonshire | East Fife | Falkirk | Inverness, Black Isle, Easter Ross and Ross Cromarty | Moray (Saturday only) | Renfrewshire | Scottish Borders | South Lanarkshire

14/15 September Ayrshire | Central Fife | Midlothian (Saturday only) | Orkney | Perth and Kinross | Skye and Lochaber | West Lothian | West Dunbartonshire (Saturday only)

21/22 September Aberdeenshire | Argyll and Bute | Caithness and Sutherland | East Renfrewshire | Glasgow | Outer Hebrides | Shetland | Stirling | West Fife

28/29 September Badenoch and Strathspey | Clackmannanshire | Dundee | East Lothian | Edinburgh | Inverclyde | North Lanarkshire. For further details: [Doors Open Days](#) | [Find a building](#)

■ September is also **Scottish Archaeology Month**. Check for events here: [Scottish Archaeology Month](#) | [Archaeology Scotland](#)

■ **Flax – from seed to woven cloth** and **Life before Lycra – ‘The Development of Underwear’** are two exhibitions available at the **Fife Folk Museum**, Wednesday to Sunday, 10.30am to 4.00pm until 31 October 2024, last entry 3.15pm, Fife Folk Museum, Ceres, Fife. [Visit Us - Fife Folk Museum](#)

■ **Coupar’s Camera** An exhibition of the work of photographer Alex Coupar, charting the faces and places of Dundee and beyond, Saturday, 10 August 2024 to Saturday, 2 November 2024, Lamb Gallery, Tower Building, Nethergate, Dundee DD1 4HN. Free. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-7pm, Sat 11am-4pm. Please note that earlier closing may apply on weekdays during the summer vacation. We advise arriving no later than 5pm. Please contact museum@dundee.ac.uk or 01382 384310 if you have any queries. [Coupar's Camera](#) | [University of Dundee, UK](#)

■ **The Bronze Age in North Kessock** Talk by Susan Kruse for North Kessock & District Local History Society, 7.30pm, Wednesday, 4 September 2024, North Kessock Bowling Club, 21 Ferry Brae, North Kessock IV1 3YH. [North Kessock & District History](#) | [Contact Us \(northkessockhistory.com\)](#)

■ **Tales of Tartan: A New Home for Tartan with Dr Murray Cook**, 7.00-9.00pm, Friday, 6 September 2024, Bannockburn House, A91, Bannockburn, Stirling FK7 8EY. Tickets £10, refreshments included. [Tales of Tartan: A New Home for Tartan with Dr. Murray Cook](#)

■ **Tales of Tartan: From Loom to Legacy Guided History Tours of Bannockburn House**, All day, Saturday, 7 September and Sunday, 8 September 2024, Bannockburn House, A91, Bannockburn, Stirling FK7 8EY. Tickets £10, refreshments included.

[Tales of Tartan: From Loom to Legacy Guided History Tours of Bannockburn House](#)

■ **Finding a Home for the Book of Kells** Talk by Dr Victoria Whitworth Thompson organised by Tarbat Discovery Centre, 7.30pm, Saturday, 7 September 2024, Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack. Free. [Upcoming Events – Tarbat Discovery Centre \(tarbat-discovery.co.uk\)](#)

■ **Scottish Women collectors: Sharing Stories Event** 10.00am to 4.30pm, Saturday, 7 September 2024, The Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street, Oban, PA34 5NA. Free. [Scottish Women Collectors: Sharing Stories Event](#)

■ **The early censuses of Dingwall** Online talk by Jonathan McColl for the Society of One-Place Studies, 8.15pm to 10.00pm, Tuesday, 10 September 2024. Free to members, annual membership £10. [The early censuses of Dingwall](#)

■ **Bob Stewart – The Dundee folk hero who spied for Stalin** Talk by Graham Ogilvy to Abertay Historical Society, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Wednesday, 11 September 2024, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee, Old Hawkhill, Dundee DD1 5EN. Free to members, donations from visitors welcome. [Bob Stewart – The Dundee folk hero who spied for Stalin](#) | [Abertay Historical Society](#)

■ **Carrick’s Gaelic Heritage** A one-day conference in association with Carrick History Society – Comann Eachdraidh Charraige, 9.15am to 4.30pm, Saturday, 14 September 2024 at the Carrick Centre, Culzean Road, Maybole KA19 7DE. £30 including light lunch. Booking via: www.carricknames.scot

■ **Royal Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh Archives and Treasures** Talk by Vincent Mason, Royal Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh Archives and Treasures Committee, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Monday, 16 September 2024, Augustine United Church Centre, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL. Free to members, non-members are welcome to attend for a small donation. [Royal Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh Archives and Treasures](#)

■ **Hunting laws in 16th century Scotland** *History Scotland* live webinar and Q&A with Nicole Cumming, 6.30pm, Monday, 16 September 2024. £15. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

■ **The Remarkable Women of East Lothian** Talk by Dr Hanita Ritchie to Gullane and Dirleton History Society, 7.30pm-8.45pm, Wednesday, 18 September 2024, Gullane Community Village Hall, Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA. Free to members, £3 donation for visitors. [The Remarkable Women of East Lothian](#)

■ **Friends of Dundee City Archives Local Family History Fair**, 10.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday, 21 September 2024, St Andrews Church Halls, King Street, Dundee. [2024 Family History Fair \(fdca.org.uk\)](#)

■ **The Highland War, 1689-91** *History Scotland* live webinar and Q&A with Dr Graeme Millen, 6.30pm, Tuesday, 24 September 2024. £15. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

■ **Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland** Online event in which Danielle Devlin talks about her fiction book *Burnt Offering* based on the Scottish witch trials of the 16th, 17th and 18th century, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, Wednesday, 25 September 2024. Free, donations welcome. [Remembering the Accused Witches of Scotland - Book Chat](#)

■ **Wojtek the Bear** A talk by Aileen Orr about this amazing bear who was adopted by the Polish Army and spent his final years in the Scottish Borders, 7:30pm to 8:45pm, Thursday, 26 September 2024, Fala Village

Hall, Fala, Pathhead, EH37 5UY. £3 for visitors, tea and baking will follow this talk. [Wojtek the Bear by Aileen Orr](#)

■ **Heritage Trust Network Conference**, Dunfermline, Sunday, 29 September to Tuesday, 1 October 2024. See full programme and costs: [Heritage Trust Network Conference 2024 Tickets, Sun 29 Sep 2024 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **Newmills Heritage Festival** Organised by Newmills Regeneration Association the 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 Newmills to showcase our 41 listed buildings, Burns, Industrial, Social etc heritage. We hope to have a doors open weekend across the town, and an app launch, Friday, 4 October 2024 (All day) to Saturday, 5 October 2024 (All day) Morton Hall, 100 Main Street, Newmills, KA16 9DJ. Free. [Newmills Heritage Festival](#)

■ **Highland Archaeology Festival** Annual Conference highlighting recent work on the archaeology and heritage of the Highlands, allowing you to browse displays from local groups and organisations, Saturday, 5 October 2024, Highland Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. [Highland Archaeology Festival \(HAF\) | Conference](#)

■ **The Letters of Mary, Queen of Scots – A Re-assessment** *History Scotland* live webinar and Q&A, 6.30pm, Tuesday, 8 October 2024. £15. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

■ **The Valetudinarium at Inchtuthil Roman Fortress: New Perspectives on an old Tayside Hospital** Talk by John Reid (Trimontium Trust) to Abertay Historical Society, 6:30pm - 7:30pm, Wednesday, 9 October 2024, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee, Old Hawkhill, Dundee DD1 5EN. Free to members, donations from visitors welcome. [The Valetudinarium at Inchtuthil Roman Fortress: New Perspectives on an old Tayside Hospital | Abertay Historical Society](#)

■ **North Mills UK Group** Online meeting about hydro schemes. An opportunity for organisations working with, or people interested in, mill buildings to come together, network and discuss. 10.00am, Wednesday, 9 October 2024. Free. [North UK Mills Group - October 2024 Tickets, Wed 9 Oct 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

■ **A conference to celebrate Edinburgh 900: City of David, Industry, Conflict, 9.00am**, Saturday, 12 October 2024, Lecture Theatre A, University of Edinburgh, 40 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9JX. £10. For programme and booking: [Edinburgh 900 Archaeology Conference | Museums and Galleries Edinburgh \(edinburghmuseums.org.uk\)](#)

■ **Dornoch Heritage Open Day** ARCH course exploring Dornoch Heritage will have an open day at Historylinks Museum, The Meadows, Dornoch IV25 3SF on Saturday, 12 October 2024, 11.00am-4.00pm, with a chance to browse the display and binders of information. [Home | Historylinks](#)

■ **“Are we nearly there yet?”** Talk to the Scottish Genealogy Society by L. Bruce Keith based on his study of British milestones, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Monday, 14 October 2024, Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Free for members, small donation from non-members. [Talk by L Bruce Keith entitled "Are we nearly there yet?"](#)

■ **Women in Dance: Patronage, Performance, Pedagogy** 2024 Conference of the European Association for Dance History, 1.30pm, Friday, 18 October 2024 to 5.00pm, Sunday, 20 October 2024, Dance Base, Scotland's National Centre for Dance, 14-16 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2JU. Costs vary - see event details. [2024 Conference: Women in Dance: Patronage, Performance, Pedagogy](#)

■ **The History of Shipbuilding on the Clyde** Talk by Iain Murray to Clydebank Local History Society, 7.30pm, Monday, 4 November 2024, Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, G81 4JH. Members free, £3 for visitors. [The History of Shipbuilding on the Clyde](#)

■ **A History of Whisky at Glengoyne** Talk by **Bill Gallacher** to Clydebank Local History Society, 7.30pm, Monday, 18 November 2024, Dalmuir Barclay Church, Durban Avenue, Dalmuir, G81 4JH. Members free, £3 for visitors. [A History of Whisky at Glengoyne](#)

■ **The Servants in Traquair House – What the archives tell us about their life** A talk to the Scottish Genealogy Society by Margaret Fox, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, Monday, 18 November 2024, Augustine United Church Centre, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL. Free for members; small donation from non-members. [The Servants in Traquair House - What the archives tell us about their life](#)

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>

BLOGS

■ **Revitalising Perth City Hall** Simon Montgomery tells the story of Perth City Hall and explains his involvement in its transformation to a new museum and home for the Stone of Destiny.

[Revitalising Perth City Hall \(historicensevironment.scot\)](http://historicensevironment.scot)

■ **From canvas to silk – making a 1760s sack gown.** A group of **National Trust for Scotland** volunteers have made a reproduction 1760s sack gown for our Ramsay and Edinburgh Fashion exhibition. Here is how they did it, in full view in the Georgian House's Drawing Room!

[From canvas to silk – making a 1760s... | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](http://nts.org.uk)

■ Among the manuscripts at the **National Library of Scotland** is this surprising Gaelic poem. *Please note that this article contains language that some readers may find offensive.*

[Does this forgotten saucy poem reveal a 16th century Scottish noblewoman's affair with her priest? | Who Do You Think You Are Magazine](#)

HISTORY NEWS

■ Keep up-to-date with the events planned for **Edinburgh 900**: [Edinburgh is 900 years old – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

■ Read about a remarkable **discovery in Rosemarkie**: [Work begins to reveal secrets of Bronze Age hoard discovered in Rosemarkie | \(guard-archaeology.co.uk\)](#)

■ **A 3D model of the face of King Robert the Bruce** has gone on display at Dunfermline Abbey to coincide with the 750th anniversary of his birth. Find out more:

[Come face to face with Scotland's hero-king HistEnvScot \(historicensevironment.scot\)](http://historicensevironment.scot)

■ Read about the **lost Highland community of Inverlael**: [Rediscovering a Lost Highland Community - Dig It! \(digitscotland.com\)](#)

■ **University of Aberdeen** commissioned a report to signpost and act as a starting point for further research and discussion into how a 527-year-old academic institution benefitted and continues to benefit from the labour and lives of thousands of enslaved people and the reparative steps required to acknowledge how slavery shaped the University of Aberdeen. Access the report and some of the initial research: [The University of Aberdeen and the Legacies of Slavery | About | The University of Aberdeen \(abdn.ac.uk\)](#)

WATCH & LISTEN

■ For anyone who wants to know a bit more about elections, an episode of **Archive on 4: Election Night Fever** might be worth a listen. Rachel Burden reveals the inside story of how the huge human and national drama of election night plays out. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0020p44>

■ The wonderful series on BBC Radio 4 called **The Reunion** has returned and its first episode looks at the early days of the Blair Government. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00223nc>

■ Continuing with the theme of recent events i.e. football, **On the Spot** is a radio documentary about the introduction of the penalty to discourage professional fouls. Robert McCrum takes us back to 1890 and in the programme as well as tracing his own family history, tied up with the settlement of Ulster by Scots and English, McCrum considers the psychology surrounding spot-kicks.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0020qdl>

■ For those amongst our readers who remember great days of Scottish football and footballers a couple of programmes are available on the BBC iPlayer. **Icons of Football** over 2 series offer some brilliant characters including Charlie Nicholas, Jen Beattie and Joe Jordan. <https://tinyurl.com/2a8nh5wx>

■ Also **Pitch Invasion: How the Scottish and Irish Changed Football**. This excellent programme over 3 episodes is a very engaging view of past glories <https://tinyurl.com/24nsdppm>

■ **Scotland V the World**: Features iconic Scottish Sporting moments on the world stage. A deep dive into when Scottish sport quietly set the bar and embodied everything that we love about sporting success. Andrew Cotter looks at the astonishing career of Scottish golf pro Young Tommy Morris. Have you heard of the time in 1922 when Falkirk FC pulled off the unbelievable and broke the world transfer record? There is also an episode focussing on Scottish success stories from the Olympics and it celebrates past medal successes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001zm1s>

■ **Ten-Second Showdown** was an interesting series especially in the year of the Olympics on BBC Radio 4. Using the 100 metres as the event it includes a feature on Alan Wells and the background to his success in the Moscow games of 1980. All 5 short episodes are worth a listen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m0020xs4>

■ **Hitler's Olympics** is hosted by Malcolm Gladwell and looks at the moment in time when Hitler and his Nazi party prepared to stage the 1936 Olympics. A shocking story in the annals of sporting history. <https://tinyurl.com/4y8apa7c>

■ **Our Story** was first broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland in September 2021 and 68 episodes later is still well worth a listen. These programmes have a strong local community contribution as it's about the stories that matter to them, whether it's Pigeon Racing or the life of the Queen's District Nurse. Other episodes include The Miners Strike; Balnakeil Craft Village and the story of Hallmuir PoW Ukrainian Chapel starting in 1947 through to the modern day as its yet again a focal point for our Ukrainian friends. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000srxw>

■ **The British Food History Podcast** is a kind of *In Our Time* for the kitchen, with the food historian Neil Buttery. So far over 60 topics have been covered including an episode on the Scottish Salt Industry with Joanna Hamby, Aaron Allen and Ed Bethune. <https://britishfoodhistory.com/>

■ Given the focus on American elections, BBC Radio **Archive on 4** has an episode **Nixon, A Resigning Matter**. It takes us back 50 years ago when Richard Nixon announced, following the Watergate scandal that he would stand down as US President. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0021pb7>

■ **Watergate Night** on BBC4 offered an extensive range of perspectives including an interview with Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v4bn>

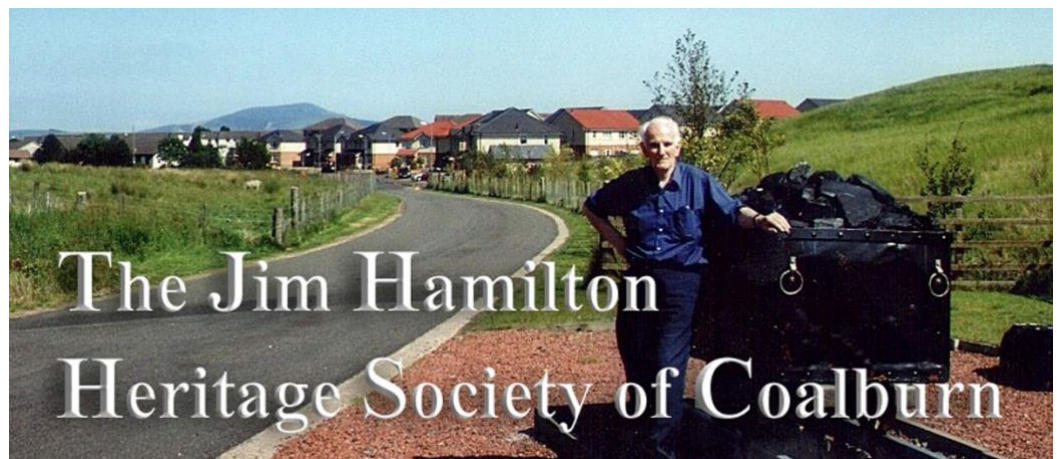
■ It was a message that heralded the dawn of the modern communications age and changed the world. Transmitted across 3000km of ocean, a group of visionaries had succeeded in what had never been done before - connecting Europe to North America by cable. Central among this group of pioneers was a Belfast scientist and Ulster-Scot, William Thomson – Lord Kelvin. A new film tells the epic story of how, on 16 August 1858, a message was sent from Valentia in County Kerry to Newfoundland in Canada on the other side of the Atlantic. The message, until that moment, would have taken days when carried by ship. It was sent by Morse Code along the new underwater transatlantic telegraph cable: 'Europe and America are united by telegraph. Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men.' It took just a matter of hours. **The Cable That Changed The World**, on BBC iPlayer and BBC One Northern Ireland explored how Thomson was key to achieving what had never been done before. Laying a cable on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean and sending a message across its vast expanse was the culmination of decades of pioneering science. <https://tinyurl.com/3u4mv86e>

■ An illustrated talk recorded last March for the **National Records of Scotland** - Dr Michelle Moffat, University of Otago, New Zealand ['See what it does for the dimples': The experiences of women workers in Second World War Scotland - YouTube](#)

MEET A COMMUNITY HERITAGE MGROUP

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn recently updated its information on the Scottish Local History Directory and SLHF takes this opportunity to bring you the detailed story of how this remarkable society came into being.

In the early 1970s Jim Hamilton (1922-2004) began to record a social history of Coalburn, Lanarkshire, with vivid interviews of the older inhabitants of the village where he was born. Many had strong recollections of their working, home and social lives in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. Jim presented these in a series of



'Coalburn Chronicles' issued between 1973 and 1998, 80 magazine-sized books of that name together contain over 5000 pages of rich memories in the original local vernacular, together with related photographs and documents. Jim then continued to interview local people using video equipment, and over the next few years compiled almost 80 video films. He compiled similar books for the surrounding villages of Lesmahagow, Kirkmuirhill, Blackwood, Douglas, Glespin, Douglas Water and Rigside. Jim also shot video of these areas and produced film of Old Hamilton, The Clyde Valley and Old Larkhall. In 2000 he authored *Old Coalburn and Douglas*, part of the historical series of Scotland Past by Stenlake Publishing. He summed up his work: 'My AIM is to make the books readable to all...My HOPE is that they will still be read in the years ahead. It

has been suggested to me that Coalburn now has possibly the best documented set of family histories for any village in Britain. The source of stories about the village and its inhabitants seems boundless.'



Jim Hamilton with 95-year-old Nellie Imrie in 1990 and her wedding day in 1919.

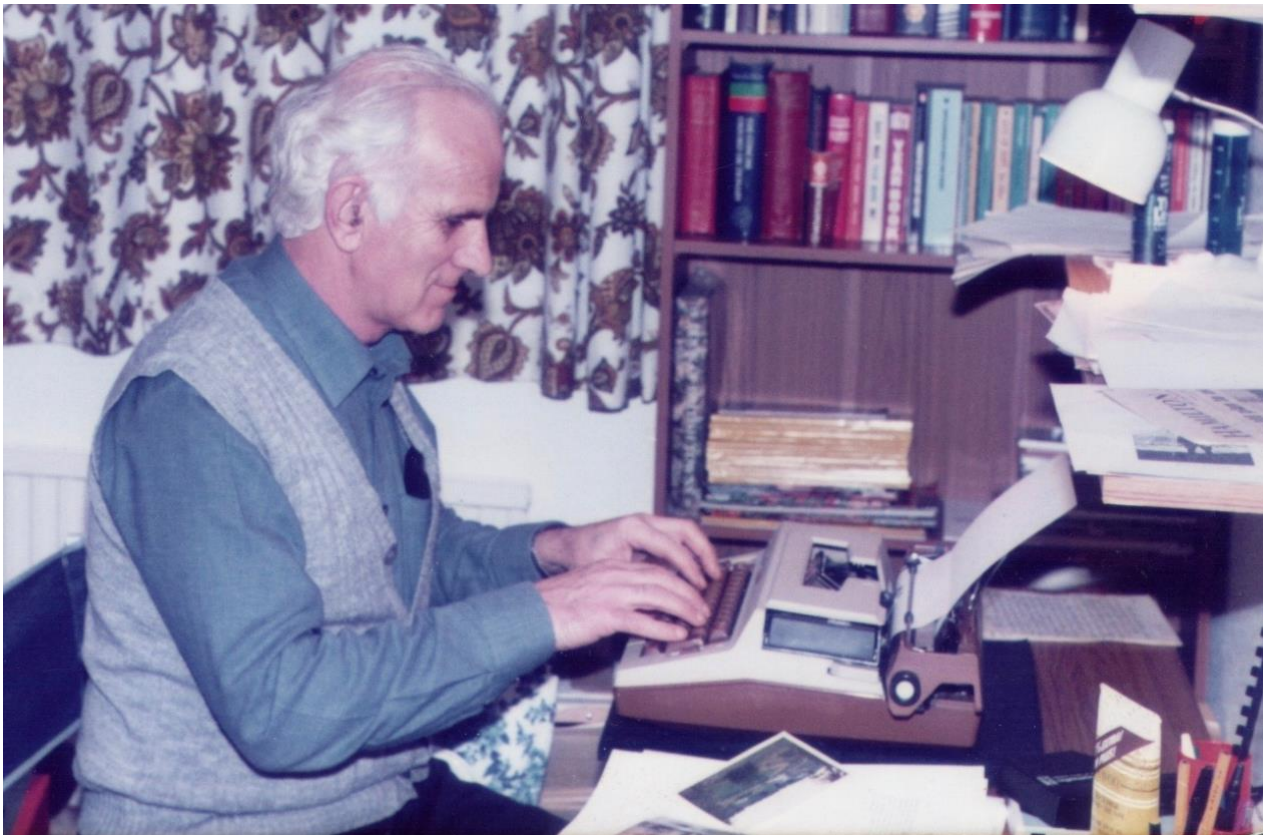
Jim Hamilton outlined his approach at the end of 70 plus pages on one family: 'I lay no claims to having carried out an exhaustive search into the family ancestry. This can be done at any time, now or a hundred years from now. What seemed more important was to write down reminiscences about the family while these were still remembered.'

In 2002 Jim received an award from the British Association for Local History for his major contribution. Jim Hamilton's final publication was in 2003, when he was awarded Lottery funding for his acclaimed book *Lanarkshire Coalminers and Their Wives*. A second print run was required the following year to meet demand and, as the book continues to be sought after, re-publication by Lanarkshire Family History Society is planned for 2024. Jim Hamilton's life's work represents a quite amazing collection of interviews, films, photographs and postcards, together with a wide range of related documents. His modest ambition: 'I only hope I give pleasure to all readers and offence to none.' His expressed wish was that this unique collection should eventually rest in Coalburn and, following his death in 2004, this was carried out by his widow Maureen who arranged for his archive to be passed into the keeping of the people of Coalburn, where the Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society had arranged Heritage Lottery funding for a Heritage Support Worker. Following a public meeting in July 2004 the Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn was formally established, under the able chairmanship of Peter McLeish, in an endeavour to continue and build on the remarkable work which Jim so willingly carried out in his lifetime. Peter remained as chair till near the end of his life in 2021: the society owes him too a great debt. In November 2007 the society moved into a purpose-built extension at Coalburn Miners' Welfare One Stop Shop, where the collection is housed.



Coalburn Miners' Welfare One Stop Shop

In the 20 years that have followed the collection has grown and grown. In addition to Jim Hamilton's collection, further documents, artifacts and photographs have been donated to the society, including a copy of the 1901 Census for the Coalburn District, and a variety of maps. Jim Hamilton was motivated by the desire to ensure that the lives and memories of working people take their rightful place in history.



Jim Hamilton at work in his study

Visit the [Scottish Local History Directory](#) and let us know if you would like to add details of your organisation: [Scottish Local History Directory](#) | [Scottish Local History Forum \(slhf.org\)](#)

CAN YOU HELP?

Shankara Angadi, who is engaged in PhD research at Warwick University relating to the family of Sir Thomas Munro (1761-1827), a notable Scot and well-respected administrator in India who became Governor of Madras from 1819 -27, recently contacted SLHF for help. Shankara would dearly like to know anything about an address in Edinburgh in the first and second decades of the 19th century: 423 Lawnmarket. A Jessye McQuorcodale lived there for some years c.1814. In addition, William Gibson junior appears to have owned a shop at that address. What sort of residence was it? Was it a 'good' address? Did it have a reputation as a house for 'kept women'? It is particularly to help Shankara make a judgment of the sort of person that Mrs. McQuorcodale (there are alternative spellings) might have been. Shankara would love to correspond with anyone who could help and plans to visit Edinburgh as soon as possible. Shankara has found a painting of Lawnmarket in 1824 in the Royal Collections and if the street numbering has remained roughly constant the picture would give a rough guide to the standard of living of the occupants. shankara.angadi@twist.org.uk

QUOTE FOR THE MOMENT

Democracy means that anyone can grow up to be President and anyone who doesn't grow up, can be vice-president. - Johnny Carson

The *Clish-Clash* editorial team is Steve Connelly, James Kennedy, Linda Clark and Andrew Jones. Thanks to Marissa Trimble for the report and photographs on the Scottish Council on Archives work with the Museum of Scottish Railways and Helen Brownlie for the information and photographs about the Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn.

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