October '24 report

Meetings

Breaking News

I am glad to report that we have agreed to another reciprocal sharing of our meetings. This time with Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (AANHS). This enables members of both Societies to attend each other's meetings through Zoom. Ayrshire hold their meetings fortnightly on Thursday evenings which means some weeks there can be three talks in a row with Dumfries on the Friday. However, this does give you a selection of talks through the winter.

The arrangements will be the same as with Dumfries. You can book for the season or individually for each meeting. I attach the 3 programmes so that you have them in the one place. The only meetings I will send reminders about are the KHS ones, otherwise you will be drowned in emails. When booking please make it clear which Society you mean.

October meeting

We had an extremely successful meeting to open our new season of talks. James Wolffe gave us an entertaining talk describing Galloway's version of Glen Tilt. For those who missed it, it can be accessed at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf0lXYyhcxo&t=1098s



Our November talk will look at the history of two totally different local houses. Donald will look at Cumstoun House, and the Maitland family, who have occupied it for almost 200 years. The story of the building (and the estate), together with that of the people living and working there, sheds light on many of the themes of both local and national Scottish history. He hopes to illustrate the role the building and the family have played in the life of the community.

Nick on the other hand will look at the life of a small town house. Having bought number 45 Millburn Street in the autumn of 2018, Nick and Emma Jackson set about renovating what was a damp, old and tired property that needed a total make over. During this work it became evident that number 45 had undergone a number of distinct phases of development during its long life. Nick will take us on his journey bringing the house into the present century.



Deadline for booking 8th November

Zoom

Uptake for registering for the winter's programme for both Societies has been very good and should save work for us all. Obviously you can still book each month for a talk and the usual instructions apply, a copy is attached to this newsletter.

Website



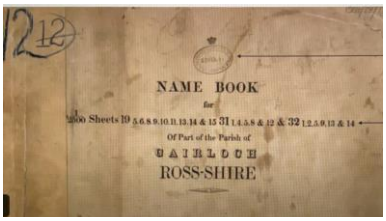
A stuffed "parrot" led to some exciting research completed by David R Collin this month. Peter Hewitt from the Museum, had contacted us asking if we knew anything about the stuffed bird labelled as Istapa possibly once owned by a Captain Morrison. To read the result go to https://www.kirkcudbrighthistorysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Istapa-tale-of-a-dead-parrot.pdf

Life certainly doesn't lack variety organising KHS website. Now we are hunting the life story of a motorbike!!



Two other recent articles on the website might also be of interest. The history of the walk out of town up the embankment tells the story of this area of town and land reclamation. Following Sam Kelly's postings of previous businesses in Castle St. I thought people might like to see the land preparation in Tanpits prior to the building of the houses.

Those of you who enjoyed the DGNHAS talk a fortnight ago about the growth of surgery in Edinburgh might be interested in the link between Robert Knox and St Mary's Isle. This can be found http://www.kirkcudbright.co/historyarticle.asp?ID=289&p=19&g=4



If you are interested in maps and mapping you probably know about the existence of the Charles Close Society. I recently discovered their meetings are available on Youtube. The first I watched was the one where the speaker Nevis Hulme is talking about Scottish Name books

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf6SND14zzob6D2wmvFUJjg

Other videos can be accessed here as well.

Museums and Galleries



Some information about our upcoming local exhibitions in the Tolbooth and the Stewartry Museum. The Tolbooth will have a Mary Queen of Scots paintings exhibition and in the Museum a Mary Queen of Scots collectibles exhibition. Hopefully they will run alongside the Mary Queen of Scots Casket Exhibition in the Galleries.
This is a free display
Kirkcudbright Galleries November 2nd 2024 to 27th April 2025

Research
Scotland's People have redesigned their site to make accessing Scotland's records easier than ever with quick, simple searching of their birth, marriage, death and census records. https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/news-and-articles/welcome-new-look-scotlands-people

Public Diners

We have been approached by Nourish Scotland who are designing a travelling exhibition around Scotland to raise awareness about Public Diners.

"Inspired heavily by British and Civic Restaurants during and after the Second World War, public diners are state-subsidised, community-run establishments providing affordable and nutritious meals for everyone. We believe this would be a vital piece of public infrastructure in Scotland today and are reaching out to individuals from local history groups, societies and charities like yourself to help us uncover these restaurants' rich history.

We're on the lookout for:

1. **Stories**: Individuals with first or second-hand experience of British and Civic restaurants between 1940 and 1950 that might be willing to share their stories with our fully-trained volunteers who adhere strictly to ethical and data protection guidelines: (https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/oral-history).
2. **Artefacts**: Newspapers, advertisements, photographs, and any material that could enrich our exhibition.

A link to the Public Diners report with more information can be found here - www.publicdiners.org".

Please note that the result of this investigation is how the future of Public Diners could fit into Scottish Governments food policy.

I hope you have found this newsletter of interest and that you enjoy a winter of enjoyable lectures.

Helen

Also attached

- KHS programme
- DGNHAS programme
- AANHS programme
- Zoom arrangements for 13/11/2024