



September '26

I hope you are looking forward to the programme. Our first meeting is always busy, so our treasurer and secretary have shared a message to help it run smoothly.

Membership

*“Many thanks to the 90+ members who have already renewed their membership. However, if our numbers match last year, that still means over 60 people could be queueing up to join at our opening meeting! To avoid standing in that queue, please arrange to pay **by 13th October**.*

*If there are no changes to your contact details (sent on Sept. 1st), all you need to do is pay your subscription (£15) – preferably by bank transfer (details below). Alternatively, cheques or cash can be sent or handed in to me at Cambo, Tongland Rd, Kbt. **by 6th Oct. please**. If you need to change any detail, or if you don't intend to rejoin this season, please let us know by replying to the email with that information.*

As the first meeting is always a very busy one, we would really appreciate it if you would renew your membership beforehand”.

Bank Details: Name: Kirkcudbright History Society; Sort Code: 800863; Account No: 00422201

Reference: your surname and (if possible) your membership number (on Sept. 1st email

Zoom

If you plan to join meetings by Zoom, please tell me, in good time, which ones you wish to attend, including those hosted by other societies.

secretary@kirkcudbrighthistorysociety.org.uk. If you plan to attend every meeting online, please let me know to simplify arrangements. You may still register for individual meetings, but please do not assume I know your plans. If you haven't told me I don't know.

Zoom details for the September meeting appear at the end of this newsletter.

October Meeting

Our first meeting this session should be very popular as our former Chairman David R Collin will be speaking to us about “A Lifetime of Connections between the Seas and Kirkcudbright”. David has always had a love of the sea and boats, from his childhood in Kirkcudbright to his working life in Fiji, where he was surprised to find Kirkcudbright links. His talk will recall many sea-going worthies of Kirkcudbright and their adventures. At the end of the meeting there will be the chance to ask questions. There will be a roving mike available so please wait for this. Participants on Zoom can write their query in the chat box. This is then passed to the speaker. Please make your query (whether in the hall or online) as concise as possible.



Events.

Kirkcudbright Fringe



Richard Oram informed and entertained a sell-out audience at our first joint event with the Fringe. He explained how Galloway once stood at the centre of British history through Fergus, Lord of Galloway, whose ties to the Scottish and English kings and alliance with the Lords of the Isles gave the region wide influence. The talk invited us to reconsider Galloway's role in Scotland's transformation. Richard will continue the story at the Wigtown Book Festival. 2nd October 6pm. £9. Richard D Oram, The Lordship of Galloway, County Buildings. Tickets online.

Local History Societies

We support the following Societies by advertising their meetings on our website's events column: Auchencairn History Society; Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society; Castle Douglas History Group; Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Archaeological Society, Gatehouse History Group's "Mill Talks" and New Galloway History Group. The Dumfries and Ayrshire meetings are live-streamed, and KHS members can watch them on Zoom free of charge.

Webinars

Mark White has again compiled a list of webinars taking place over the coming months; you'll find it attached to this newsletter.

Social Media

These have continued to be well supported over the summer. As you will know, an appeal was launched to purchase Parton Kirk, the burial place of renowned physicist James Clerk Maxwell. I shared it on social media because of its importance, generating considerable interest. Google unexpectedly placed our post at the top of its results, prompting several people to contact Carol. We like to think we helped make the appeal a success.

Kep

During the World Champion Sheepdog Trials, our website coincidentally published an article on Alan James's research into the word "kep" and its connection to a popular Gatehouse walk. To learn more about the meanings of "kep", see [Roon the Kep- what does it mean? Margaret Wright and Alan James investigate. – Kirkcudbright History Society](#)



Kirkcudbright RNLI local boathouse renovation and extension appeal.



The new boathouse was dedicated and the boat named this weekend. We are delighted that the appeal raised £209,000. An article about the community service of the RNLI's ILB Sheila Stenhouse B-814 is available here:

[Kirkcudbright RNLI's ILB Sheila Stenhouse B- 814 – "She deserves a medal" –](#)

[Kirkcudbright History Society](#)

The “Trades”



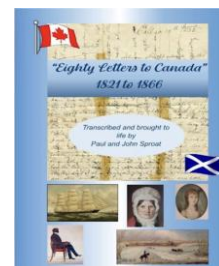
The Annual General Meeting of the Haill Six Incorporated Trades of Kirkcudbright will be held at 7pm on Friday 2nd October at the Tolbooth. All Deacons and Journeymen are strongly encouraged to attend, as the future of the Trades will be decided. A strong turnout is essential. To learn more about their history, see [The Haill Six Incorporated Trades of Kirkcudbright – Kirkcudbright History Society](#)

Books

Eighty Letters to Canada

Those of you who enjoyed John Sproats talk on the Sproat Family <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TseCbodlly&t=9s> will be pleased to hear that the book has now been published.

The letters tell an extensive, interesting and diverse story of the first half of the Nineteenth Century, and one that covers anything from the state of Galloway agriculture to tales of colonial emigration, from life on ocean-going clippers to gossip from Borgue, schisms in the Church to life in Canada and Australia, and much about the families living in the area. Contact email: johnbsproat@gmail.com (Mobile: 07860 691343) £17.



STENHOUSE: Growing Up in Edinburgh and Beyond is an independently authored and self-published memoir of growing up in Edinburgh during the 1980s and early 1990s. It records family life, school, football, skating, music, early technology, local characters and ordinary neighbourhood experience. £9.99 on Amazon.

Kirkyard Chronicles: Bre Martin, who runs a bookshop in Scotland’s international book town, has extensively researched and recorded the names, inscriptions and histories in Galloway’s old graveyards before they are lost. The author will discuss *Kirkyard Chronicles* at the Wigtown Book Festival on Thursday 1st October in the Festival Marquee. Tickets are £9. Tickets online. The book costs £10.99 from Foggie Toddle in Wigtown or £11.99 from Amazon.



Scottish Historical and Archaeological Internet Reports. (SHAR)

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland are now expanding the Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports (SAIR) to include historical research and will now be known as Scottish Historical and Archaeological Internet Reports. (SHAR)

These reports will be open access, and it will be possible to read them online, download them, or print all or part of them as is the case with the existing SAIR. So, keep your eye on the SHAIR webpage, accessible through the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland’s website. Go to ‘publications’ then press the SHAIR tab. You do not need to be a Fellow of the Society to access these reports.

Scotland's Historic Environment audit

This is Historic Environment Scotland's annual stocktake of the sector: what heritage contributes to the economy, how many people it employs, how many of us visit, what condition the places are in, and what it costs in carbon.

Hopefully you will enjoy our 2026/2027 Season. If you haven't renewed your membership this is your final newsletter.

Helen

Web secretary

Arrangements for those wishing to view by Zoom.

I am happy to give anyone a practice use of Zoom prior to the meeting.

- Please register your interest by **Friday 9th October** by emailing:
secretary@kirkcudbrighthistorysociety.org.uk
- On Saturday 10th I will send out an email to confirm that I have the correct email address on the register.
- If by Sunday 11th, you haven't received confirmation, please get in touch to have this rectified. Please check your "in" and "spam" boxes.
- The Zoom Link will be sent out on the afternoon of Monday 12th. Please check your "in" and "spam" boxes.
- **NB: the invitation will state the time as 7.00 - 9.30. From 7pm we will be setting up and testing the equipment so you will be admitted to the waiting room when you join. You will be admitted to the meeting at 7.25.**
- If you haven't used Zoom since our last meeting, open the app beforehand to check for and install any required updates.
- If you have any questions for our speakers please use the chatbox as you will be muted.

Online events collated by Mark

Attached.