



# NEWS

UHI Centre for History

As I write, the Centre is experiencing a highly prolific period in terms of publication. Whether monographs (single- or co-authored books based on original research), journal articles or book chapters, I'm massively impressed by what my colleagues are achieving in this area.

The team is rolling out fresh modules at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level: we never sit still for long when it comes to curriculum! Our taught and research students are also doing wonderful things in terms of receiving due recognition for their work, co-ordinating events and representing us in many fora.

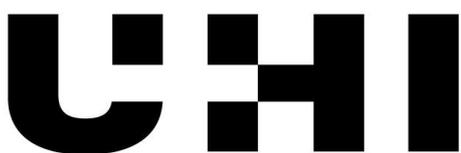
Please do look out for us in your own localities. Commencing from Dornoch, but reaching out nationally and internationally from there, we have been involved in many community-focused gatherings lately. If you are an alumni, a friend, or have just found out about us, do look out for us at one of these events, and say hello!

**Professor David Worthington**  
*Head of the Centre for History*

## Spring 2023

The **UHI Centre for History** has been a proud partner of UHI since 2005 and has contributed to the University's success through our internationally renowned research and teaching in Highland, Scottish and wider world history.

We are based in the cathedral town of Dornoch in Sutherland, where our offices look out over the town and coast. You can follow our news updates on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels or contact us directly via [email](#).



Centre for History  
Ionad Eachdraidh



# Student News

## Inverness Campus Student Meetups

One of our enthusiastic Student Voice Reps, fourth year BA (Hons) History and Literature student **Rebekah Mackinnon**, has coordinated a regular meet up for History students at Inverness Campus. We caught up with her to learn more!

Rebekah explained that the meet ups provide Inverness Campus students with a casual, social space to meet other History students in person and express any thoughts or feelings about the degree away from the classroom environment. 'At our first session on 15 November, we discussed how to reference and read articles, shared useful tips like changing the screen colour to night mode, using read-aloud features and highlighting articles whilst reading them', Rebekah added.

'I began organising the in-person meetings because I think it will help students feel more connected to the UHI campus and help continue to foster a history student community', Rebekah noted. 'I firmly believe that History degrees at UHI can be as sociable in person as they are online, even with an online based structure. I'm looking forward to seeing where the biweekly meetings will take us, and I hope for them to continue after I finish fourth year, for other students to meetup and enjoy.'

## TA Sillars Prize

Big congratulations to **Katherine Davidson** (BA History), the winner of this year's TA Sillars Prize! This new, annual prize is awarded to a History or Literature student, who has shown tremendous work ethic and dedication to their studies.



The prize is supported by a donor of the university, in memory of their father who was a retired headteacher and a keen educationalist with an interest in history and English.

## Poster win at UHI Research Conference

We are thrilled for **Pilar Girvan**, who took home the 'Best Student Poster' award at this year's UHI Research Conference, held in Elgin in January. Pilar joined us as a PhD student in last October and showcased her research into everyday resistance in the Highlands and Islands, c. 1780-1930.





# Staff News

## January 'Away Day'

In a traditional start to the new semester, our staff gathered together for an 'Away Day' - an opportunity for discussion, planning and team building.

This January, the main topics focused on best practice of using Webex (our VC teaching tool) and new apps that will support the learning process and student interaction.

We also began planning our next season of [History Talks Live](#), and have now put together an exciting list of potential speakers to work with!

## Professional networking

**Dr Nicola Martin** has recently taken on the post of Secretary for the [Jacobite Studies Trust](#), having already previously held the position of a trustee.

## Support for Higher History students

We are always very keen to build links with schools to inspire future generations of historians! In December our Head of PGT programmes, **Dr Iain MacInnes**, had a [Q&A session with the Higher History students](#) of Alford Academy in Aberdeenshire to discuss medieval kings, revolutionary figures and royal relationships. Dr MacInnes has supported two cohorts of Higher pupils at Alford Academy in their studies of the Scottish Wars of Independence by sharing his knowledge to support pupil revision, and we hope this collaboration continues in Alford, and potentially in other schools in the UHI region.

## Building connections with the Royal Historical Society

We are very excited to announce that our application to host a [Royal Historical Society \(RHS\)](#) departmental visit has been successful, and we will be welcoming the RHS President, **Professor Emma Griffin**, and council members to the Centre at the Burghfield House in September 2023. The visit will give the RHS the opportunity to learn more about how the Centre for History works, and also provide the chance for discussions on how the Society can best support historians at this time.

We are also thrilled to reveal that our Head of the Centre, **Professor David Worthington**, has recently been elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in recognition of his contribution to historical scholarship.



## The Dennis MacLeod Research Space

We are investing in our research resources and community this spring by establishing the Dennis MacLeod Research Space at our Burghfield House base in Dornoch. Named after the late **Dennis MacLeod**, the Sutherland-born businessman whose financial gift was the basis for the founding of the Centre in 2005, the space comprises an enhanced research room for the use of our research and taught students, associate staff, visiting staff and, potentially, we hope, for historical researchers in the broader local community.

Equipped with laptops, oral history recorders and social facilities, the space builds on the Centre's commitment in our current Research Strategy to 'greater enhancement of, and investment in, physical and digital resources' here in Dornoch and beyond.

## Blether at the Burghfield

Our Burghfield campus has changed over the years, serving as a house, a hotel and now a diverse learning hub connecting and welcoming students from all over the world. We were thrilled to welcome our friends in the wider community in for a visit on Tuesday 28 March.

Together with our colleagues from UHI North Highland, we delivered a morning of tours, tasters and talks as we opened the doors to showcase our expertise and excellent facilities, welcoming close to 40 visitors.





## Highland Heritage Day 2023

We were among the 60 heritage sector groups that attended the [Highland Heritage Day](#) in Dingwall on 4 March. A brilliant opportunity to meet people, build connections and have interesting conversations, the event brought together almost 130 people at Dingwall Academy.

### November

**Prof David Worthington** and **Dr Kathrin Zickermann** were both on the panel for University of Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics' discussion on [‘Scotland and the Baltic from the early modern period to the present day’](#) on 8 November.

**Prof David Worthington** gave the opening lecture for the relaunch of the [Robert Porteous exhibition](#) on 18 November as it travelled to Glasgow University Library after a three-year hiatus following stays at Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.

**Dr Alison Chand** took part in a roundtable discussion organised by the University of Strathclyde and the Oral History Society on 21 November, discussing interviewing processes during the Covid pandemic.

**Dr Iain Malnes** sat down for a [podcast with the lead columnist for @Medievalists.net, Danièle Cybulskie](#), to discuss the Scottish Wars of Independence and why a sovereign kingdom had to fight for independence in the first place.

### December

**Dr Nicola Martin** took part in a roundtable event on 7 December featuring University of Stirling history alumni, discussing her forthcoming book *The British Army in Scotland and North America, 1745-1775: Militarisation on the fringes of the Empire*.

### January

**Dr Iain Robertson** delivered a talk on 16 January at the Highland Cinema in Fort William on the Seven Men of Knoydart, the last land raiders in Scotland. With almost 80 attendees, the event had a brilliant turnout despite blizzard conditions!

A poem by Inverness writer Jennifer Morag Henderson, [‘The Travels of James Fraser’](#), inspired by **Prof David Worthington’s** research on Rev. James Fraser, was published in January by [The Spirit of the Highlands](#) as a ‘Spirit 360’ Commission.

### February

**Dr Lucy Dean** presented a paper, [Connections and Memories: Domus Vallis Virtutis and the Burgh of Perth](#) on 16 February for History Talks Live.

### March

**Dr Iain MacInnes** gave a talk at the Bannockburn Centre on 6 March on the topic ‘Scotland’s Second War of Independence? Or Scotland’s continuing Civil War?’

**Dr Katy Turton**, both an academic and a published author of historical fiction, was one of the panellists for a talk at York International Women’s Week on 10 March, discussing solidarity among female authors at Stairwell Books.



### Dr Louisa Taylor

took part in a roundtable discussion on Clerical Violence at the Texas Medieval Association 32nd Annual Conference and Virtual Meeting on 22 October 2022.

### Dr Iain MacInnes

Had a piece published in *Bylines Scotland*, [discussing the Battle of Culblean in 1335](#) in December.

### Dr Linsey Hunter

gave a paper at the UHI Research Conference on 11 January on the topic 'Healing the Body Politic?: Medical Allegories of Peace-Making in Early Modern European Print Culture'.

### Dr Alison Chand

completed the process of transferring 163 interviews conducted during the last two years to the Scottish Oral History Centre at the University of Strathclyde in January.

### Dr Nicola Martin

Delivered a seminar for the War and Peace research group at the University of Leeds on 30 March, on "The Laws of War and State-Sponsored Violence in the Eighteenth-Century British Empire"

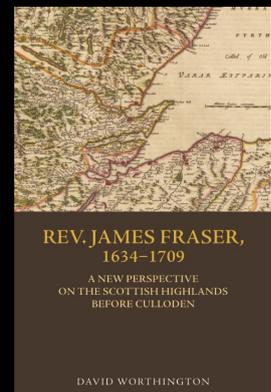
## Monograph Success

### The Curious Cleric

Congratulations to **Prof David Worthington**, whose monograph on the 'curious cleric', Rev. James Fraser (1634-1709), has now been published!

Studying the autobiographical sources left by the Gaelic-speaking scholar, minister and traveller, the book examines Fraser's self-presentation and situates him within his locality, Scotland, the British Isles and Europe. David

discusses his research and writing process in a [Q&A with the Edinburgh University Press](#), and the Curious Cleric in a wider sense in an [interview with the Press and Journal](#).



### Macpherson the Historian

We celebrated Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week, 20-26 February) with a new publication by **Jim and Mairi MacPherson**. *Macpherson the Historian* is all about how James 'Ossian' Macpherson (1736-1796), a Gaelic-speaker from Badenoch, became a leading figure in the Enlightenment. To mark the occasion, we collaborated with poet and UHI colleague **Dr Anne Frater** of UHI Outer

Hebrides, to present a wonderful [Gaelic reading on an excerpt from the 1796 poem, Macpherson's Lament](#).

