



# News

UHI Centre for History

In many ways, it has been an exciting and inspiring summer for the Centre for History. We performed exceptionally well in two, UK-wide surveys, as you will see below. Nevertheless, we have had our challenges too. As a part of UHI's Executive Office, we have been tasked with making some staff cuts this autumn. While this is already having an impact on us, solidarity within the team has been hugely impressive. Be assured that our students and their learning experience are, and will be, at the centre of our attention as we go through this process.

More than ever, it's my view that history is vital to understanding the Highlands and Islands, Moray and Perthshire - the UHI region - and to inspiring its future. For example, we wish to assist the university in addressing the demographic crisis facing us. The latest census material shows that, outside Inverness and a small number of other centres, our part of Scotland continues to experience massive population challenges. In order for these to be understood and acted upon, they require a knowledge of histories of land ownership, empire and more. History can and will show that the outward migration which still scars many parts of the north and west is not inevitable, but the product of systemic issues that have impacted here over recent centuries. The Centre for History can and should contribute massively in tackling this. We will work to ensure it does that to the utmost.

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

## Autumn 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.

Follow our updates on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) channels or contact us directly via [email](#).



# Student News

## Graduations 2023

Congratulations to all our 2023 graduates! It has been an honour to work with you and support your intellectual journey. We wish you the very best for the future and look forward to hearing about your successes to come!

## James Hunter Dissertation Prize

Congratulations to **Fiona Dendy** (BA Hons. Scottish History), our 2023 winner of the James Hunter Dissertation Prize! Her outstanding piece of work, "The Services of a Female Teacher Should be Secured," Opportunities and Limitations for Female Teachers in Rural Inverness-shire 1872-1914', was described as 'clearly first-class work, demonstrating deep engagement with primary sources and relevant literature'.



## TA Sillars Prize

We are thrilled to announce **Sven Blake** (BA Hons. History) as this year's winner of the TA Sillars Prize. The prize is awarded to a History or Literature student who has shown tremendous work ethic and dedication to their studies.



## Residential Weekend: Aviemore

Our staff and students had a brilliant weekend in Aviemore at the end of September with a busy itinerary focused around the theme of 'Land Use and Landscape'. With visits to the [Highland Folk Museum](#), [Loch an Eilein on the Rothiemurchus estate](#) and the [Strathspey Railway](#), the weekend also gave everyone the opportunity to come together and meet in person.





# Staff News

## Senior Lecturer Appointments

Congratulations to **Dr Lucy Dean** and **Dr Kathrin Zickermann** who have both been awarded Senior Lectureships. Dr Zickermann, who joined the Centre in 2011, is an early modern historian of Northern Europe who researches and teaches on military and social history (particularly the Thirty Years War), maritime history, and the history of the Orkney and Shetland Islands. Dr Dean joined UHI Centre for History in 2016, and she is a late medieval and early modern historian who researches and teaches on ritual, ceremony, kingship and power, material culture, life cycle, gender (particularly masculinity) and public history.

## Institute of Historical Research/UHI History Internship

**Juliette Desportes** commenced an internship with UHI Centre for History in July, offered in collaboration with the [Institute of Historical Research](#) (IHR). The project looks at the Centre's public history activities to gain a better understanding of the range of activities happening in the Highlands and Islands, and the needs of local communities.

The internship is supported by **Dr Iain Robertson**, **Dr Philippa Woodcock**, **Dr Linsey Hunter** and **Prof David Worthington** at the Centre for History, and **Dr Ruth Slatter** at the IHR.



## New PhD Students

We are welcoming two new postgraduate research students to the Centre for History, starting in October 2023! This includes our recent graduate from the MLitt History of the Highlands and Islands, **Iain Cameron**, in addition to **Jo MacDonald** who will commence on a Collaborative Doctoral Award project, offered in partnership with UHI Centre for History, [Sabhal Mòr Ostaig](#) and [The West Harris Trust](#). We look forward to sharing more news on their research journey!

## Excellent Results at the HISA Awards

Our staff were again recognised for their brilliant work at the [HISA Awards](#) this July, as six Centre for History colleagues were nominated or highly commended in various categories, with **Dr Louisa Taylor** taking home the award for 'Best Personal Academic/Learning Support'.





# Exciting Updates

## UHI Alumni of the Year

Congratulations to **Dr Graham Hannaford**, graduate of our MLitt History of the Highlands and Islands programme, who has been announced as co-winner of UHI Alumni of the Year Award!

## Royal Historical Society in Dornoch

We had the great privilege of welcoming the [Royal Historical Society](#) (RHS) for a visit on 18 September. The RHS is the UK's foremost learned society for the promotion and support of history and historians. The day in Dornoch offered insights on the work of the Society, the interests and concerns of historians today, and how organisations like the RHS can offer support to historians.

**Dr Philip Carter**, Academic Director for the RHS noted that: 'the day also offered the opportunity for the Society's President, **Prof Emma Griffin**, and Councillors — **Prof Cait Beaumont** (London South Bank University) and **Prof Simon MacLean** (St Andrews) to learn more about the Centre's work and its distinctive approach to teaching. Particularly impressive is the Centre's specialism to public and community history, and the close links of this work to the culture and economy of the Northern Highlands'.



The day concluded with a public lecture by **Prof Lucy Noakes** (University of Essex), titled 'Histories, Communities and Feelings in the Centenary of the First World War', focusing on citizen-led commemorations of 1914-18, including in the Highlands and Islands.

We are also delighted to announce that our **Dr Philippa Woodcock** has recently been elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

## Excellent Results - NSS and PTES

UHI students gave their seal of approval with UHI achieving its highest ever ranking for undergraduate student satisfaction in the 2022 National Student Survey (NSS).

The results place UHI fourth in Scotland for student satisfaction, above 14 other universities. For the Centre for History, our UG students gave the History BAH programme an outstanding 94% overall satisfaction rate.

Additionally, our results for History in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) are exceptional with a 100% for 'Overall Satisfaction' this year, up from 96% last year!



# Public Engagement

## May

**Dr Lucy Dean** had a busy month giving several interviews to both UK and [international media](#) on the coronation of Charles III. She also produced a blog post, [reflecting on the event](#).

**Dr Louisa Taylor** and **Dr Lucy Dean** were in Aberystwyth on 18 May to discuss collaborations between heritage bodies and academic institutions.

## June

**Prof David Worthington** met for a [chat with writer Jennifer Morag Henderson](#) to discuss Rev. James Fraser, the inspiration for Jennifer's poem for [Spirit of the Highlands](#).

**Dr Lucy Dean** organised an event together with [Culture Perth & Kinross](#) at the AK Bell Library on 10 June, titled 'From Foundation to Echoes: Charterhouse Workshop', exploring records from the Perth and Kinross Archive. A follow up event will be held on 7 November.

## July

**Dr Elizabeth Ritchie** met students from East Tennessee State University on 22 July in Inverness, to discuss the topic of the Highland Clearances.

## August

**Dr Lucy Dean** gave a talk titled 'The Marriage of the Thistle and the Rose' for the [Royal Collection Trust](#) on 8 August, the 520th anniversary of the marriage of James IV and Margaret Tudor.

**Dr Lucy Dean** and **Dr Kathrin Zickermann** hosted a roundtable event, ['Doing History in Public: An Early Modern\(ists'\) Perspective'](#) on 31 August.

## October

**Dr Alison Chand** delivered an oral training workshop to staff and volunteers from [Tape Letter](#) on 7-8 October.

**Prof David Worthington** [delivered a talk to 40 attendees at the Cromarty History Society](#) on the 'Curious Cleric', Rev. James Fraser on 17 October.

## Highland Archaeology Festival at UHI Centre for History

We were delighted to once again take part in the Highland Archaeology Festival. Part of the programme, our October History Talks Live event featured **Dr Darroch Bratt**, a recent UHI graduate and expert on the history and archaeology of illicit distilling with his talk ['Spare a thought for the Exciseman'](#).

**Prof David Worthington** led a walk and talk along the Sutherland shore in Dornoch, discussing the importance of coast and beach to both Dornoch and the wider 'firthlands' - the 'herring bone' pattern of peninsulas and saltwater north and north-east of Inverness.





# Research and Publications

## REMRA Kirkwall Workshop

In May, more than twenty UHI researchers, PGR students and associated staff met in Kirkwall and online for the workshop, 'The Orkney and Shetland Islands During the Early Modern Period: New Research Perspectives at UHI.' Organised by UHI Centre for History's **Dr Kathrin Zickermann** (convener of the interdisciplinary UHI Renaissance and Early Modern Research Alliance (REMRA)), the workshop also discussed possibilities for collaborative research across UHI centres, with Orkney and Shetland Archives, other local and national institutions, and scholars elsewhere.

**Dr Nicola Martin** has recently published a new article, *Inculcating loyalty in the Highlands and beyond, c.1745-1784*. The article can be accessed through *Atlantic Studies* on their special issue on [Scottish Loyalism in the Atlantic World](#).

**Dr Kathrin Zickermann** attended the workshop 'The Relevance and Methods for Teaching Military History in An Age of Ongoing War in Europe' in May at the Swedish Defence University, Stockholm.

She has also recently completed editing the latest volume of the *Northern Studies*, the journal for [The Scottish Society of Northern Studies](#) which will be available later in the year.

**Dr Louisa Taylor** has a new book out. *Peacemaking and the Restraint of Violence in High Medieval Europe* is edited by Simon Leboutteiller (Caen) and Louisa Taylor (UHI) and is available [through Routledge](#). By studying the restraint of violence and the imposition of peace, the chapters in this volume contribute to interdisciplinary discussions about the effects that violence had on medieval societies.

**Dr Lucy Dean's** new book *Death and the Royal*

*Succession in Scotland, c. 1214 – c. 1513: Ritual, Ceremony and Power* has now gone to the printers and will be available in 2024 through Boydell.

**Dr Iain Robertson** visited South Uist on the week commencing 11 September for research and to run workshops. Working with Dr Rebecca Rennell from the newly formed [UHI North, West & Hebrides](#), they have brought community partners together - including [Ceòlas](#) - to ascertain interest in developing a research project around the upstanding remains of Uist's Taighean-tughaidh ('thatched houses') which will draw together archaeology and oral history in an innovative, interdisciplinary approach.

**Dr Iain MacInnes** has a chapter titled 'Be at peace with God and me': Violence, War, and Royal Responses to Insurrection in Medieval Scotland, c.1100–1286' in the recently published book edited by Dr Louisa Taylor.

**Professor David Worthington and Dr Jim MacPherson** will be panellists for a UHI Humanities and Arts Research Cluster (HARC) coordinated all-day event on preparation and writing of monographs on 7 November.