



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Centre for History

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agus nan Eilean
Ionad Eachdraidh

Centre for History Newsletter—April 2017

Nothing but the (Post) Truth?

The Brexit vote, the Trump election, a possible new referendum in Scotland...

Our world is changing before our eyes. Much has happened in global politics since we published our October 2016 newsletter. As a Centre, we're deeply interested in public history. We don't live in a vacuum.

Consequently, we've sought to address, and respond dynamically to, the potential implications of the tumultuous events taking place around us. Historians must have the option of taking a role in the public debate on issues of local and global geopolitical importance.

In this newsletter, we've decided to shine a light on what individual staff and students have been up to since last autumn, with a strong focus on research and community engagement. We remain mindful, however, of the need to maintain our attention on our students, on all the finer detail of teaching (revalidations, designing new modules, marking, advising).



Scottish History and Politics student, Rebecca Bridson, third from right, on a year's exchange programme at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia. Read about her experience on page 7.



Photo courtesy of Professor Isaac Land, showing a bilingual 'ThinkUHI' bag on the Moscow Metro

By the time you read this, we will have revalidated our entire undergraduate and postgraduate provision. We will introduce several new modules on the undergraduate History and Scottish History programmes over coming years, and others at taught postgraduate level, so keep an eye out for those. We will provide more detail on teaching and curriculum developments in upcoming newsletters.



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Staff updates

With seven full-time permanent staff members, three other part-time lecturing appointments and a new teaching assistant (Dr Thomas Sebrell) now in place, Centre staffing is now, thankfully, at a significantly higher level than ever before. This is very much a reaction to consistent growth in student numbers, on our undergraduate degrees and, especially at taught postgraduate level. Crucial to the proper functioning of our curriculum and our research culture are the three part-time, fractional lecturing staff we now have in place: [Dr Kathrin Zickermann](#), who moved to part-time status following maternity leave, [Dr Linsey Hunter](#) and [Dr Stephen Bowman](#), both now on such contracts. All three are also very active in research terms, and you can expect to read more about them in ensuing newsletters.

Unfortunately, it took Alison MacWilliam, our administrative officer, to remind us recently that she's now been working within the UHI network for ten years. Those of you who have had any contact with Alison will be able to confirm that she is the epitome of friendly, helpful, efficient professionalism, and very often the lynchpin around which the Centre revolves, whether that's dealing with enquiries/admissions, exam boards, timetabling, confused students (or staff) and more. Congratulations Alison, and we hope you'll put up with us for a great deal more time to come!



On 1 November 2016, we welcomed [Dr Lucinda Dean](#) to the team, and she is now full-time. Lucy joined us from the University of Stirling. Her research bridges the gap between the medieval and early modern by exploring the ceremonial power and authority of the Scottish crown across four centuries, this currently expanding into an exploration of manhood, masculinity and 'coming of age' as regards the later Stewart kings. At the time of writing (Week 9!), Lucy is teaching on six modules and in charge of the following: 'Scotland, the North Sea

and the Baltic' (Second Year); 'Travelling Cultures: Global Diasporas' (Second Year); 'Historiographical Essay' (Third Year). She is also busy developing two new upper-level undergraduate modules for 2017-18 based on her own research interests.

In February, Lucy featured strongly in a BBC Scotland news [story](#) regarding plans to locate and recreate Perth's lost Charterhouse and the [royal tombs](#) of the medieval Stewart dynasty which it contained, and to create a visitor attraction in Perth. The Charterhouse Project, links us with the University of Stirling, The Glasgow School of Art and Perth's archaeology, heritage and cultural bodies. A public showcase took place at Perth Museum on Saturday 25 February. The Charterhouse Project will allow the local, national and world communities the opportunity to discover and re-discover the history of Perth as a 'lost capital' through innovative research and delivery methods, including virtual reality. It will offer, in addition, educational tools and involvement for all levels from primary to tertiary and beyond. For further information on the project visit: www.kingjames1ofscotland.co.uk You can also follow developments on Facebook (www.facebook.com/kingjames1ofscotland) and Twitter (@james1ofscots)



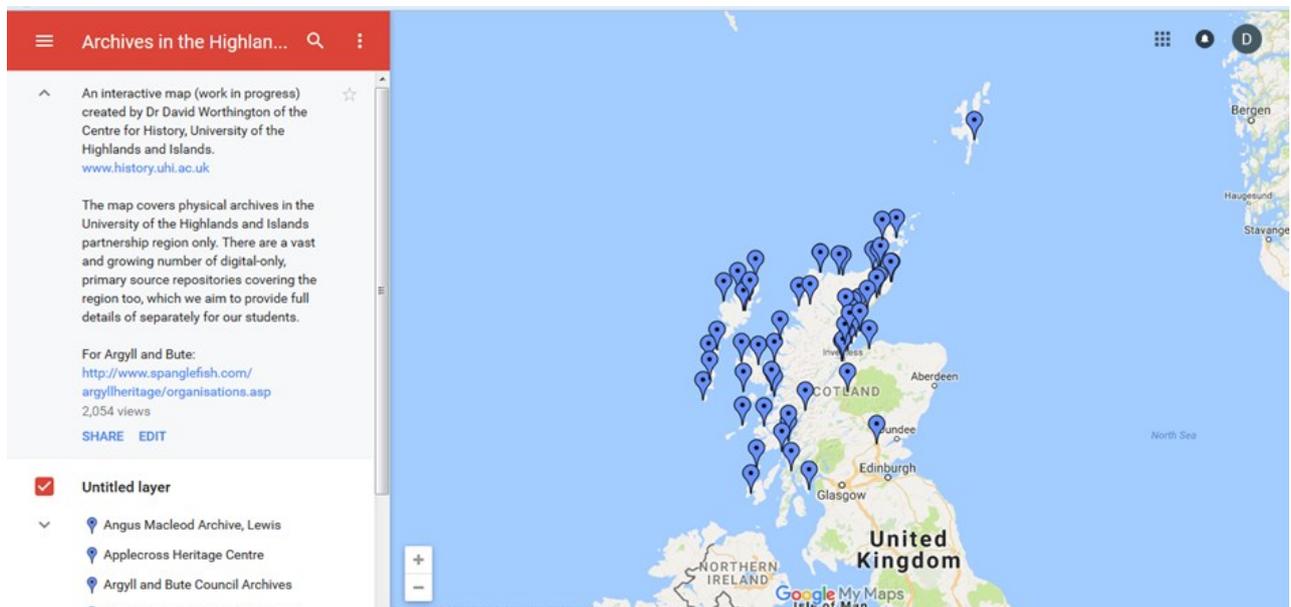
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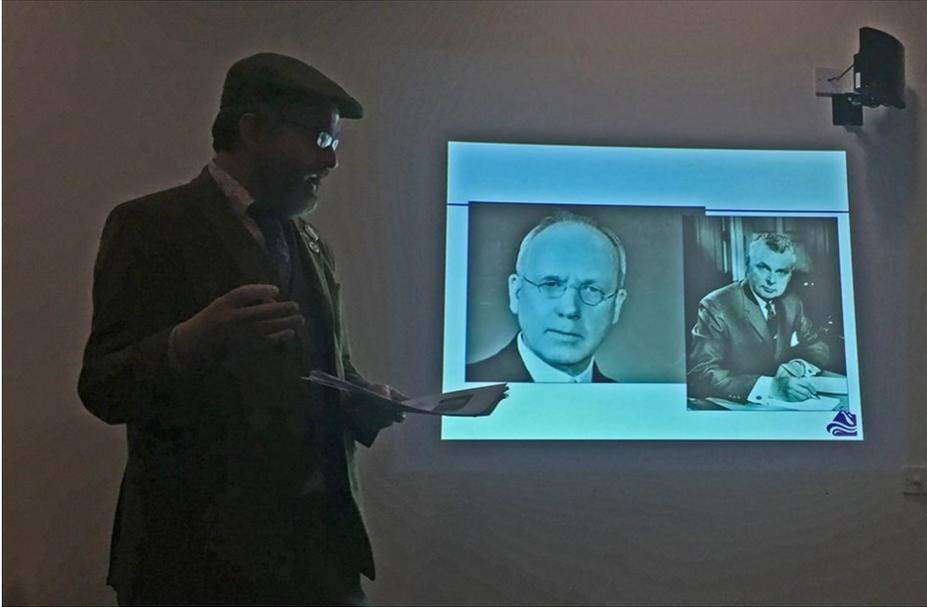
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Dr David Worthington has published two peer-reviewed articles since our last newsletter came out, one '[The Settlements of the Beaulieu-Wick Coast and the Historiography of the Moray Firth](#)' in the *Scottish Historical Review*, the other, '[Ferries in the Firthlands: Communications, Society and Culture Along a Northern Scottish Rural Coast \(c.1600-1809\)](#)' in *Rural History*. (It can't be long before we invest in a Centre for History boat!) David has also been busy with public lectures on littoral pasts including at the Highland Family History Society in February and University of the Third Age (Nairn branch) in March, meanwhile securing a book contract with Palgrave MacMillan for what will be the first ever full-length volume on Coastal History. Just occasionally, his coastal work coincides with his other major research interest: early modern connections between Scotland and central Europe, as in this [blog post](#) looking at circular migration between the Highlands and Poland. In June, David will take part in the 'Trading Places' workshop at the National Museums of Scotland, focused on material culture relating to Scotland's commercial diasporas. Also notable recently was the historical context he provided for BBC Highland journalist, Andrew Thomson, who brought to (very bright) light this [story](#) on the presence of a polar bear in Edinburgh in 1919 and its connections with a previously almost unknown episode in Scottish-Polish history!



David has also been updating, with plenty of support, his interactive map of [physical archives](#) in the Highlands and Islands and it will soon be added as a resource to Jisc's Archives Hub. Let David know if you have suggested updates.





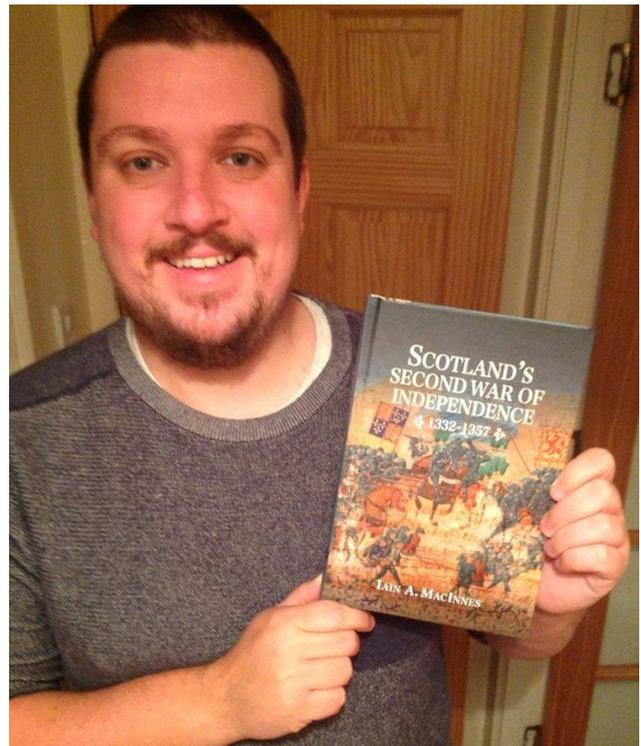
Dr Jim MacPherson has become increasingly interested in the modern history of the Highlands in recent years, and is working closely towards that with heritage bodies and local communities accordingly through [The Hub for the Study of British Identities](#) research network and through the collaborative postgraduate research studentships he leads on.

The photo shows Jim talking about the Scottish origins of Peter Fraser (left),

Easter-Ross born Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1940, and John Diefenbaker (right), Prime Minister of Canada from 1957, at the November meeting of the Highland Family History Society. Both cherished strong Highland family connections. Another of Jim's latest research projects involves working with the North of Scotland Cricket Association in helping to write a new history to celebrate their 125th anniversary in 2018.

Dr Iain MacInnes published his first monograph (single-authored book) [Scotland's Second War of Independence, 1332-1357](#) in October!

He has recently put online this [blog post](#) about it. Dipping his toes ever further into the blogosphere, Iain has also written this [reflective piece](#) on teaching and researching pre-modern history in a world of Brexit and Trump. Not only that, but he has had a busy conference attendance schedule and also published a charmingly-titled chapter, "One man slashes, one slays, one warns, one wounds": Injury and Death in Anglo-Scottish Combat, c.1296-c.1403" in this [book](#). Iain is currently standing in, on a 0.2FTE basis, in terms of Subject Network Leader duties, for Dr Brian Boag, and we have rearranged numerous programme leadership responsibilities as result.





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Dr
Elizabeth
Ritchie,
Centre for History



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“His manly worth”: Thoughts on
nineteenth-century masculinity
and gravestones in the Scottish
Highlands

April 7, 2:30-4 pm AQ 6229

Please join us at the Highland Pub
following the talk!



Dr Elizabeth Ritchie will be travelling this April to Simon Fraser University in Western Canada. The rest of us are ‘not jealous’, repeat, ‘not jealous’. Among other things, she'll be giving this lecture at the invite of their Centre for Scottish Studies. This follows a first semester of 2016-17, during which she was on a UHI-funded mini-sabbatical. During this period, she acted as editor for a special edition of *Northern Scotland* (will be published 2017), submitted two new articles on church and family history to peer-reviewed journals, began work on a prospective book, presented a paper for the Edinburgh University Research seminar catchily-entitled “‘It was of the age that her husband died’”: how Scots in British North America experienced emigration, widowhood and surviving alone, 1800-1850’, wrote a commissioned piece for Community Land Scotland, posted two blog posts for the [Historylinks Dornoch](#) blog. This Spring two of her articles are appearing. One of these is for *Agricultural History Review* and titled ‘Feeding in the forest: How Scottish settlers learned to raise livestock in the old growth forests of Upper Canada, 1814-1850’ while a companion piece is for *Ontario History*, ‘Cows, Sheep and Scots: Livestock and Immigrant Strategies in Rural Upper Canada, 1814-1851’.

Elizabeth reassures us that the bathtub on the right comprises an essential element of agricultural research fieldwork in Lewis carried out in relation to the mini-sabbatical. So there!



Seminars

This semester’s seminars have included stand out lectures by Professor Dauvit Broun, and, more recently, Dr Rachel Swallow. Back in January, our Visiting Professor, [John MacKenzie](#), spoke impressively on how Presbyterianism and Empire have shaped Scottish identities since the nineteenth century. We recorded the lecture and you can find a video of it [here](#).

Jim Hunter wins Saltire Book of the Year

In November, Our Emeritus Professor, James Hunter, won the Saltire Society Award for History Book of the Year, for his outstanding work, *Set Adrift Upon the World: The Sutherland Clearances*. Congratulations Jim on this exceptional work and its extraordinarily positive reception.



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Mount Stuart Internships

A superb opportunity has been created for our undergraduate students to compete for a place on an internship this summer. The universities of Stirling, Dundee and ourselves are collaborating with the Centre



for Scotland's Land Futures, in partnership with Mount Stuart Trust. We are delighted to offer three two-week internships at one of Scotland's finest houses and private collections.

Photo: By DeFacto (Own work) [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Undergraduate News

Rebecca Bridson (20), third year Scottish History and Politics BA Hons, Perth UHI, is currently on an exchange programme at Thompson Rivers University in British Columbia. Here she reports on her experience:

“Applying to the study abroad program was the best decision I have ever made. I have almost completed my two-semester exchange at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. My time here has been amazing, I have met the most wonderful people from all over the world, and I have become immersed in the Canadian culture eh! The exchange program has given me the opportunity to experience a different style of university and education, at TRU you regularly spend all day on campus, attending several lectures, and whiling away the rest of the time socialising (sorry I mean ‘studying’) with other international and Canadian students. During the induction week, I met the students I would spend the rest of the semester with, we were a mixed bunch, with people from Finland, Australia, Germany, Dubai, three UHI students and one guy from as far away as Bournemouth. TRU put on a variety of trips at the beginning of the semester, my favourite being an orchard and wine tasting tour of the Okanagan, as well as holding events on campus including BBQs and an outdoor movie night. The city of Kamloops has much to offer students no matter what your interests are. I regularly attend ice hockey matches and explore the local hiking trails. Over the reading break in February I visited Vancouver and Vancouver Island, which I would highly recommend to any students considering travelling to B.C, the Island is gorgeous. After the exams in April I am looking forward to a month of travelling and sightseeing. Honestly, I can say that coming to TRU was the best decision I have ever made - and I am sad that my time here is almost at an end.”





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Taught postgraduates

Our numbers of taught postgraduates are up by circa 250% since 2015-16! We inducted safely a good range of new students at this level back in January (some up at the crack of dawn) in Wauconda (IL, USA), Elora (Ont., Canada), Dartmouth, Kyle of Lochalsh, and various places in between. Unfortunately, the video connection proved problematic (from his end) for Jorge Lazo, who was due to be coming in just before his bedtime from Tianjin in China. We've since met him virtually, thankfully, using other forms of technology.

Theresa Mackay makes the news (twice)

In February, a 2016 graduate of our MLitt in the History of the Highlands and Islands, Theresa Mackay, was interviewed on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour on the history of women innkeepers in the Highlands. This, and additional attention from

[BBC Highland](#) and [The Scotsman](#), followed Theresa's outstanding achievement in winning of the Women's History Scotland Leah Leneman Essay Prize for 2016 for her essay, supervised by Elizabeth Ritchie, 'Women at work: Innkeeping in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, 1790-1840'. Theresa is now converting this essay for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.



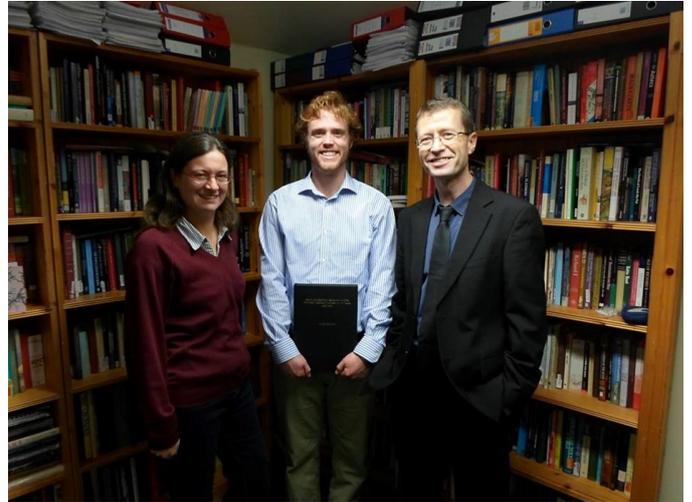
PhD students

Maureen Hammond has now commenced the AHRC-funded 'Badenoch Textiles: Economy, Innovation and Identity in the Eighteenth Century' PhD with us. The studentship, for which Dr Jim MacPherson is Director of Studies, and the Highland Folk Museum / High Life Highland a partner, explores material culture, especially textiles, as evidence for the construction of identities in the central Highlands during the eighteenth century. Meanwhile, Linda Ross and Mary Souter continue to make good progress, while Iain Robertson became Director of Studies as of 1 March for Joanna Rodgers, who is based at West Highland College UHI and exploring themes of ancestral tourism and heritage.



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It just doesn't feel real until you see the hardcopy somehow, does it? We extend our congratulations to Dr Wade Cormack on submitting his final, hardbound doctoral thesis in November 2016!

Canberra Highland Games

Another MLitt graduate, Graham Hannaford, proved once again to be a highly generous 'ambassador' for the Centre. He's now enrolled on a PhD at UHI's partner university in Australia, Federation University, on which the Centre's Dr Elizabeth Ritchie is a member of the supervisory team. Here's Graham, on the left, with Steve Buchanan, on the right, who lives near Sydney and enrolled more recently on the above-named programme, displaying one of our posters at the recent Canberra Highland Gathering. It looks like quite an occasion! How kind of them to spread the word there about what we do.





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Centre for History Social Networking

The Centre for History is very active in social networking. The following sites are all run by staff:

UHI Centre for History community page

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/UHI-Centre-for-History/137321449670658?fref=ts>

@UHIHistory

UHI Centre for History group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/91416853553/>

Northern Scotland

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northern-Scotland/454289977980405>

@NorthernScotEUP

Hub for the Study of British Identities

<https://britishidentities.wordpress.com/>

@UHI BritStudies

Moray Firth History

www.facebook.com/MorayFirthHistory

@Moray_Firth

Firths and Fjords: A Coastal History Page

<https://www.facebook.com/FirthsandFjords/>

Scottish-Polish Historical Links

www.facebook.com/ScotlandPoland?fref=ts

@ScottishPolish



Contact the Centre for History

For further information about our undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes, or for additional details about any of the above articles, please contact us:

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