

Winter Lectures – Session 2022-23

In the winter there is a series of lectures which are usually illustrated.

These will all be on Zoom and held on Thursdays at 7.30pm.

13 October 2022 Climate Change and Conservation

Sara Crofts, CEO ICON

27 October **Architecture & Conservation of Commonwealth Graves**
CWGC

10 November **TBA**

24 November **Ayr Burgh Charter**
Julie Vallius, University of Glasgow

8 December **Social Event – Time & Location to be confirmed**

12 January 2023 **'My Worthy Friend': The Wodrow-Kenrick Correspondence 1750-1810**
Dr. Emma Macleod, University of Stirling

26 January **Earning a Living: Women and Work in Medieval Scottish Towns**
Professor Elizabeth Ewan, University of Guelph

9 February **Mesolithic to Medieval: Excavations at Chapeldonan, Girvan**
Kenneth Green, GUARD

23 February **A New South-West Framework for ScARF**
Jennifer Allison, ScARF

9 March **The Natural History and Heritage of Castle Semple**
Pat Emslie, Countryside Ranger
Followed by short AGM

23 March **Social Event – Time & Location to be confirmed**

Ayrshire

Archaeological and Natural

History Society

Founded 1947

Scottish Charity No **SC044758**



Lectures

Publications

Outings

St John's Tower, Ayr

Web Site: <https://aanhs.org/>

Email: info@aanhs.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theaanhs/>

The Society

The specialist fields of interest are the archaeology, antiquities, local history and natural history of Ayrshire. Membership includes institutions, universities and libraries throughout Britain and the world.



Dovecot, Eglinton Park, Kilwinning

Please pass this on to anyone who you think may be interested in the work of the Society.

President's Comments

Once again, suddenly, it is September, and as summer gives way to autumn, we begin to think about the forthcoming winter. And that, for us, means the AANHS winter season of talks. For the last two seasons, as you know, these have been held on Zoom. We have had considerable debate on how to proceed for 2022-2023, more so than last year. I know some of you will be disappointed, but we have agreed that all lectures will be delivered by Zoom. This has been a hard decision to make, but I think that, firstly, we do not wish to lose the new contacts we have made over the past two years, and, secondly, there is still much uncertainty in the world, and we hope, as last year, making this decision now brings certainty and clarity.

As always, we owe a great debt to Billy Young, who puts considerable effort into creating an interesting and varied programme. Once again, he has succeeded: the programme is enclosed in this mailing. You will see that we have used the scope given us by Zoom to have speakers from a distance, including the University of Guelph, in Canada.

We organised a series of local visits through last winter, as a way of meeting the needs of those of you who relish the contact with other members. We aim to repeat this again this winter, and details will be sent out once confirmed. It is perhaps worth noting also that the Covid restrictions are much relaxed, and that it is not impossible for two or three to gather together around one computer or TV set, rather as in the early days of TV.

This year, for the first time for 3 years, we have had summer outings. These have been to Kirkcudbright, to see the magnificent Galloway Hoard, and to the Burrell Gallery in Glasgow, where our guides were two society members, John and Denis Rattenbury. Both trips were enjoyed greatly by those who went and it is a relief to see such outings back in the society's programme. My thanks go to Sandra Carolan, who organised these visits. Those thanks are tinged with sadness since, for personal reasons, Sandra has resigned from her position as outings organiser. She has held this post since 2014, delivering many high quality and interesting visits. She will be a hard act to follow, and leaves with my sincere thanks.

She will be a hard act to follow, but if you feel you have the necessary skills and commitment, please let me, or another member of the committee know.

As well as Sandra, the committee has also said farewell to Anne Milligan, who has made many pertinent contributions to our discussions. We hope to see both Sandra and Anne regularly at our winter meetings, and wish them well.

We have recruited to the Committee Nora Salesbury, from Prestwick. Nora has been a regular throughout the Zoom years and joined many of last winter's visits. She is also on the Council of the Scottish Local History Forum, and will provide a useful link between us and community history at a national level.

Additionally, Gordon Higgs has agreed to assist Denis with the management and development of the Society's online presence. This is an increasingly important part of our activities, and we thank Gordon for doing this.

Our publication in early 2022, Thomas McClelland: Ayr in the 1790s, has been well received, and provoked much debate. We are frequently asked if there is any more – sadly that is all that appears to survive, but we would be very happy to publish other diaries or journals from Ayrshire, so please check your attics. Our next publication, by Bruce MacCowan, will feature the considerable history of curling in Ayrshire.

The last year has not been easy for anyone – perhaps a little easier than the first months of Covid. We've tried – successfully, I think – to keep the cohesion of the society, and to keep finding reasons why you should re-join (or join) the Society. I think it is important to look forward and embrace the new reality, and grasp the opportunities it offers the Society.

I must close, as always, by thanking the rest of your committee. I can only repeat what I said last year, 'without them, the society could not function'. This year they have kept my feet on the ground.

With best wishes for the forthcoming winter and hoping to see you at our winter meetings.

Rob Close

Publications

A list of currently available publications is available on our web site. Back-dated publications still in print and some second-hand out of print monographs can be purchased from Ian Holland at treasurer@aanhs.org

We also publish along with the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies a twice-yearly miscellany of short articles and book reviews. These are available as down-loadable pdf's from the AANHS website.