

Winter Lectures – Session 2026-27 (these are usually illustrated)

These will be held in-person in the University of the West of Scotland, Craigie Campus and also on Zoom (Links sent out on email). They are on Thursdays at 7.15pm.

- 8 October 2026 The Archaeology of Whitelees & Eaglesham
Susan Hunter & Kenneth Mallard
(*Speakers in Person*)
There will be a short AGM after this meeting
- 22 October The Archaeology of Loudoun Estate
Max Coxhead (Speaker in Person)
- 12 November The Kirkoswald Smugglers Ballad
Neill McDermott (Speaker in Person)
- 26 November Curating Arctic Fever:
Text, Illustration and Acquisition
Isabelle Gapp, University of Aberdeen
(*Speaker in Person*)
- 14 January 2027 The Archaeology of the Glasgow Garden
Festival
Dr Kenneth Brophy, University of Glasgow
(*Speaker in Person*)
- 28 January 'PALaEoScot: New Approaches to Scotland's
Oldest Archaeology'
Professor Kate Britton, University of Aberdeen
(*Speaker on Zoom*)
- 11 February Scotland's First Warriors: Conflict and violence
from the Neolithic to Roman period
*Dr. Matthew Knight, Senior Curator of Prehistory,
National Museum of Scotland (Speaker in Person)*

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/>

- 25 February 'Historicising Robert Burns' Jamaica 1786-1834'
Dr. Stephen Mullen, University of Glasgow
(*Speaker in Person*)
- 11 March Burnswark Hill, Ecclefechan
James O'Driscoll, University of Glasgow
(*Speaker in Person*)



The Society

The specialist fields of interest are the archaeology, antiquities, local history & people 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 whom you think may be interested in the work of the Society.

Message from the President

This syllabus gives details of our programme for 2026-2027, and I hope that you will all find something of interest within it. As always, Billy Young has worked tirelessly to come up with a varied and attractive programme. This year, for the first time for a few years, most of the speakers will be present in the room, though, of course, the opportunity remains for members to follow the talk on Zoom. We are again meeting in the University of the West of Scotland, University Avenue, Ayr KA8 0SX, which proved very successful last year. Meetings will again begin at **7.15 p.m. (prompt)** to suit the University's janitorial.

Besides the winter meetings, the Society remains committed to a publishing programme, and to organised visits to places of interest. At the moment a number of publications are moving forward, though we recognize that we continue to be a little behind in our programme. We will always be pleased

to hear of proposals for books. This summer we have had visits to Sanquhar and Kirkcubright, and to Kilmaurs and Stewarton, and also hosted another social at the University, with local history enthusiast Ken Nairn.

We are also running a conference, Ayrshire Landscapes, at Harbour Arts



Centre, Irvine, on Saturday 10th October. This is to mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of Irvine Development Corporation. Details will be sent separately, and more will be found on our

website, and that of the Harbour Arts Centre.

To look further ahead, 2027 (which is now much nearer than you think) will be the 80th anniversary of the foundation of AANHS by Annie Dunlop and John Strawhorn. I think we should celebrate this in some way, and again any suggestions will be gratefully received by any member of the committee. I couldn't do this without the committee, and this is an opportunity to publicly express my thanks to them for keeping the society afloat. Especial thanks must go to Ian Holland, who seems to have boundless energy and to be able to react cheerfully to whatever we have to do.

This is your Society. Let us know what you want. I look forward to seeing you at the first talk at UWS, on Thursday 8th October 2026, at 7.15.

Rob Close