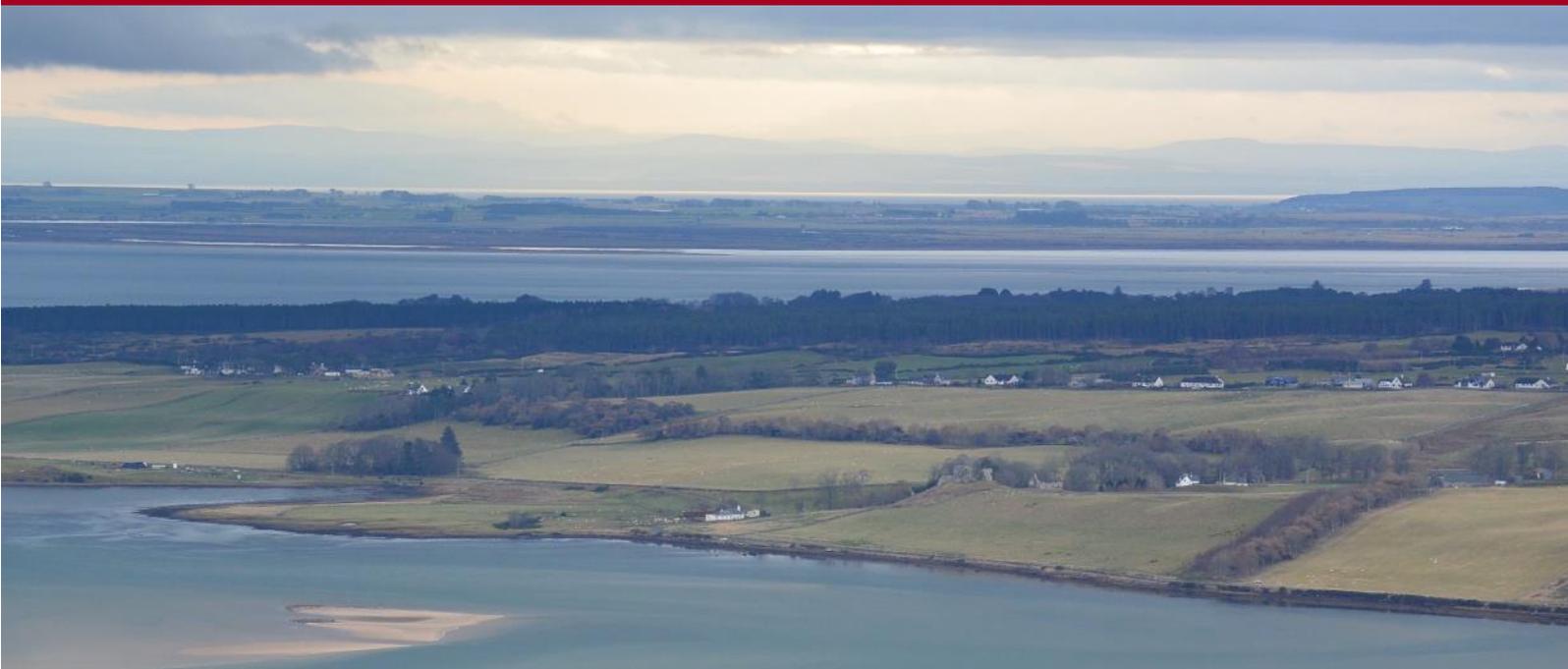


UHI Centre for History News



We've always thought of ourselves as more than a traditional university department in an organisation which is very much more than a traditional university. At the heart of our difference is a commitment to the region's students, researchers, historical and heritage organisations and our passionate engagement with the communities of the Highlands and Islands. It's part of our mission to collaborate with groups and individuals beyond the university and to create the conditions for improving people's lives. One way we do this is by inspiring local groups **'to change the ways in which their history is presented and to imagine alternative futures'**. Helping to research and re-present the stories we tell about our pasts allows us to imagine collectively a new way forward. We believe this ability will be fundamental to the kind of future we aspire to in the region. We hope you think so too — Prof David Worthington

The UHI Centre for History is proud to have been part of UHI since 2005 and to have contributed to the university's success through our internationally renowned research and teaching in Highland, Scottish and wider world history.

We have been based in the cathedral town of Dornoch in Sutherland since our foundation, most recently at Burghfield House where our offices look out over the town and coast.

News changes fast and you can find out more by following us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) @UHIHistory.

Our website www.history.uhi.ac.uk has information on undergraduate and online history masters courses or email us at history@uhi.ac.uk.

STUDENT NEWS



From student to museum curator

Our former MRes student **Aila Schäfer** (pictured above) has been appointed as curator of the **Clan Macpherson Museum**. Aila's masters research focused on James 'Ossian' Macpherson, so the opportunity to explain the importance of his work to the public is something of a dream job! Aila organised a very successful opening weekend for the museum and invited three members of the Centre's staff to run object handling sessions at the event.

Outstanding student work

Three undergraduate history students have been commended for their role assisting **The Coast that Shaped the World** project, run by UHI West Highland. **Cara Schroter**, **Jennie Mitchell** and **Charlae Jeffs** volunteered to support the story selection process for the project which has collected more than 300 curated stories about west coast highland life, people, history, environment and migration. The three student historians brought a wealth of experience to their work and their role was featured in the project's latest interim report.

Highland Society of London

BA Hons History graduate **Caitlin Crawford** from Argyll was awarded the 2021 **Highland Society of London prize** for the best undergraduate dissertation on a social, cultural, environmental or historical aspect of the Highlands and Islands. You can [watch a video of Caitlin](#) talking about her studies. Her winning dissertation 'The Highland Land Wars: Popular Memory and Identity on the Isle of Tiree' examined memorialisation on the island and its impact on memory and collective identity. This is the second time in two years that a UHI Centre for History graduate has won the prize.

MLitt graduates

Congratulations to three of our **MLitt History of the Highlands and Islands** students who graduated in February this year. **Linda Nicol** from Australia, **Helen Barton** from North Kessock and **Adrian Allan** from Manchester all earned distinctions for their dissertations, with Helen Barton receiving an overall Masters with Distinction. A fabulous result for all!

STAFF NEWS



We're back in the Burghfield

We marked the second anniversary of working from home by... working from home! But we're very happy to say that our suite of offices in the Burghfield has now been set up for hybrid working and many of us have seized the opportunity to use the excellent facilities we have there. It's been a very special pleasure to see colleagues from golf and hospitality again and we're looking forward to spending more time there over the coming months.

Accessibility and fellowship

Our teaching staff have been busy enhancing the accessibility of all our online learning and teaching content. We're very grateful to our lecturer, **Dr Louisa Taylor**, who has led us through this important process with clarity and enthusiasm.

Dr Taylor has also just been awarded **Fellowship of HEA** (Advance HE) demonstrating her broad understanding of effective higher education learning and teaching support. It's a mark of her professional commitment to our high-quality student learning. Congratulations Louisa!

Society of Antiquaries award

Shortly after joining us as our new teaching assistant, **Dr Rachel Davis** won the prestigious **Murray Prize for History** from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for her article '**Material evidence? Re-approaching elite women's seals and charters in late medieval Scotland**'. It's a great honour for Dr Davis to receive this award so early in her career and we're delighted for her.

Museum trustee

Dr Jim MacPherson has been made a Trustee of the **Clan Macpherson Museum** following a long period as a voluntary director of the museum. Many of us offer our time to local museums: **Dr Elizabeth Ritchie** is board member for Historylinks Museum in Dornoch and **Dr Iain Robertson** is a member of the board for **Timespan Heritage and Arts** in Helmsdale.

New broom

We will shortly be welcoming a new administrative assistant to the Centre after saying farewell to **Alison Munro**, who has written this newsletter and our social media for the past four years.



There's been a dizzying range of online talks, podcasts and interviews taking place by members of staff, despite the pandemic. Here's a brief snapshot from the past few months:

Dr Kathrin Zickermann gave a very well-received talk on Scottish communities in early modern Pommerania to the Scottish Diaspora Vernacular Buildings conference in November. You can [watch her talk online](#) (start at 1:18:19).

Dr Katy Turton has been giving a series of public talks on different aspects of the Russian revolution, to promote her novel 'Blackbird's Song'. You can watch her [HistoryTalksLive talk online](#).

Dr Iain MacInnes has recorded two podcasts on Scotland's Second War of Independence for the [Scotichronicast website](#) while **Dr Lucy Dean** has recorded two on medieval ritual artefacts and ceremony for the same site.

Dr Alison Chand gave a talk on her oral history research into parenthood during the first months of Covid to the [Centre for the Study of Modern and Contemporary History](#) at the University of Edinburgh in January.

Dr Nicola Martin gave a paper on military service in the Forty-Five to the [Scottish Centre for Global History](#) and the [Centre for Scottish Culture](#) at the University of Dundee, and has recorded a public talk for the National Trust for Scotland's Culloden anniversary event.

Dr Jim MacPherson gave a public talk on the Indian Rebellion of 1857-8 to [Community Curators at the Highlanders Museum](#) in Fort George in March, helping them consider the wider colonial context of the uprising.

Prof David Worthington gave his first face-to-face talk in two years to members of [ARCH](#) in Dingwall, speaking about his research into the life and times of Rev James Fraser (1634-1709). He also gave an online talk to the [Scottish American History Forum](#).

Dr Elizabeth Ritchie and **Prof Worthington** are both giving talks at [An Àirigh the Shieling Project](#) weekend on Ecology and Land Reform in May.

Dr Iain Robertson and **Prof Marjory Harper** have started research on the [lolaire disaster of 1919](#) and are looking forward to talking about it soon!

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Tourism in the Highlands

In June we will be holding our first [hybrid roundtable event at the Burghfield](#) since the pandemic began. Four speakers, each with a different research perspective on Highland tourism, will explore the themes and driving forces of Highland tourism in the past, present and future. There will be a small live audience in Dornoch and a wider online audience, so do join us if you can. [Booking is essential](#).

Two of our PhD researchers (who are also teaching undergraduate classes this year), [Alex Dold](#) and [Julian Grant](#), will speak about their research with [Prof Annie Tindley](#) and [Dr Steve Taylor](#), chaired by [Prof David Worthington](#).

REMRA

In April, our newly formed [Renaissance and Early Modern Research Alliance](#) (REMRA) is holding its first roundtable for colleagues and postgraduate students within UHI and the wider academic world. It aims to promote a collaborative cross-disciplinary approach amongst researchers of the period. You can [register for it here](#). [Dr Kathrin Zickermann](#) is leading this innovative group and there are more public events planned.

History Talks Live

It's been another busy season for online public talks in our flagship History Talks Live series, with some excellent speakers giving a wide range of specialist talks. All our events are recorded and we now have a library of more than twenty online talks, many of which have been viewed hundreds of times by people all round the world.

Recent talks online:

[Dr Katy Turton](#) [Writing Women into the Russian Revolution](#)

[Sue Jane Taylor](#) [North Sea Energy: an artist's perspective](#)

[Dr Rob Houghton](#) [A Very Civilised Rebellion: Mantua and Canossa 1090-1115](#)

[Dr Elizabeth Ritchie](#) [Emigrant Families at Sea: Scottish migration to Canada, 1770s-1850s](#)

[Dr Emma Newlands](#) ['A nurse and a soldier' Men in the ranks of the Royal Army Medical Corps during the Second World War](#)

Our May talk by [Dr Andrew Lind](#) from the UHI Institute for Northern Studies will be on the ill-fated Carbisdale campaign of James Graham: ['By the Power of the Sword' - Orkney and the Carbisdale Campaign, 1649-1650](#). All welcome.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS



Research Excellence Framework

We're patiently awaiting the results of our submission to 2021's Research Excellence Framework. [REF2021](#) is the process by which UK universities rank and assess the quality of research. Aspects of our research over the last seven years have been scrutinised by a panel of experts and their assessment will have a big impact on how much research revenue we receive and how well we are viewed in the world.

We're already working on REF2027 and beyond, planting the acorns which we hope will grow into the oak trees of the future.

One of these is our approach to student-employer engagement. Through teaching and research activities we work closely with historic, heritage and tourism employers in the region, creating opportunities for student volunteering and work experience. We also collaborate on public history projects which help organisations research and re-present the past. We're very conscious that our role as historians is to apply our research skills for wider benefit, by informing and inspiring people to choose alternative futures for themselves and their communities.

Pandemic books

Finding time for research and writing during the pandemic has been difficult for all university teaching staff, so it was inspiring to discover that some of us in the UHI Centre for History are bucking the trend. **Dr Jim MacPherson** handed the manuscript for his new book on James Macpherson to [Edinburgh University Press](#) in March and **Prof David Worthington** has just done the same for his book on James Fraser. Four other members of staff are currently preparing single-authored books for publication too and we look forward to telling you more about them soon.

Royal research

Meanwhile, **Dr Lucy Dean**, our undergraduate programme leader, has published an article in the latest issue of [Scottish Historical Review on dress, décor and identity in Scotland to 1700](#). Dr Dean researches royal ritual and ceremony and recently gave a paper at the [Renaissance Society of America](#) conference in Dublin—the first face-to-face international conference any of us have attended since 2019!