

Why Archives Matter

Archives are the documented memory of people, places, history and the nation. They tell our stories, enrich our lives, connect us with the past and give us a sense of identity. They may be used to provide evidence of our rights as individuals, organisations and communities and, through them, we can hold authorities to account. Archives can bring families and communities together by telling us who we are and where we come from.

Archives come in many forms - written, photographic, audio, visual, film and digital – influencing and improving almost every aspect of life in Scotland. Their impact, economic, social and cultural, is wide-reaching. They can be used to promote mental wellbeing by building confidence, self-awareness and helping older people with dementia. They attract visitors and boost the economy by supporting ancestral tourism. They underpin every aspect of education, science, health, culture, law and the historic environment. Archives inform the future by helping us to learn from the past.

Why Archives Matter is a series of events that will highlight the ways in which archives and records management are the bedrock of society. The programme will include presentations on a broad range of themes including health, tourism, built heritage and communities and feature archive engagement and outreach projects from across the UK.

This first event will highlight ways in which archives can be used as aids to help with issues such as loneliness, mental health problems, memory loss as well as facilitating engagement with a range of communities.

Programme

09:30-09:55	REGISTRATION Tea, coffee & pastries
09:55-10:05	Dr Irene O'Brien , Chair, Scottish Council on Archives <i>Welcome</i>
10:05-10:15	Laura Mitchell , Director of Information and Records Services and Deputy Keeper of the Records of Scotland, National Records of Scotland <i>Welcome from National Records of Scotland</i>
	SESSION 1- HEALTH AND WELLBEING MORNING CHAIR - Caroline Brown , SCA Trustee, and Archivist, University of Dundee
10:15-10:35	Laura Drysdale , Director, Restoration Trust <i>Change Minds – Adventures in Archives and mental health</i>
10:35-10:55	Michael White , Screen Memories <i>A Night at the Pictures — Screen archives and dementia: an intergenerational project</i>
10:55-11:10	COMFORT BREAK
11:10-11:30	Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan Professional Fellow, Academy of Sport, University of Edinburgh, and Sports Heritage Scotland <i>Mining Scotland's Sporting Archives: Reminiscences combatting dementia</i>
11:30-11:50	Pam McNicol , Archivist, Stirling Council Archives <i>The Re:Collections Project – sharing memories within the communities of the Stirling Council area</i>
11:50-12:00	DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS
12:00-12:20	Film by University of Edinburgh MSc Film, Exhibition & Curation former students <i>Why Archives Matter</i>
12:20-13:20	LUNCH
	SESSION 2 - COMMUNITY AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFTERNOON CHAIR - Gillian Mapstone , Head of Records and Archives Engagement, National Records of Scotland
13:20-13:40	Douglas Roberts , SCA Education Development Officer <i>Writing Home - dramatising wartime diaries and letters</i>
13:40-14:00	William Kilbride , Executive Director, Digital Preservation Coalition <i>Digital Memory: a dynamic and mutually supportive digital preservation community for young people</i>
14:00-14:20	Alexander Hamilton , Chair, Scottish Society for the History of Photography <i>Higher Vision – Engaging young people in photography</i>
14:20-14:35	BREAK Tea and coffee
14:35-14:55	Paula Larkin , Freelance Archivist <i>Govanhill Baths Archive: Site of Collective Memory</i>
14:55-15:15	Dr Emily Munro , National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive <i>Moving Memory: the strengths and limits of a film archive in building life narratives</i>
15:15-15:30	DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS
15:30-15:40	John Pelan , Director, Scottish Council on Archives <i>Summary</i>
15:50	CLOSE

Speakers

Caroline Brown is Head of Archive Services at the University of Dundee where she is responsible for the day-to-day management and promotion of the university's archive collections. Caroline is also Programme Leader for the Centre for Archive and Information Studies Archive and Family History academic programmes. Caroline is an SCA Trustee.

Laura Drysdale is the Director of the Restoration Trust. Laura has worked in conservation and museum management at the Victoria and Albert Museum, English Heritage and the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. Latterly she supported marginalised people in hostels and their own homes for Stonham Homestay, Julian Support and Together for Mental Wellbeing.

Alexander Hamilton is the Chair of the Scottish Society for the History of Photography. Alexander has, for over three decades, worked in the field of art and ecology. His principal medium is the photogram, and his images have been shown in major group and solo exhibitions across the UK and around the world.

William Kilbride is the Executive Director of the Digital Preservation Coalition which works to secure the preservation of digital resources in the UK and, internationally, to secure the global digital memory and knowledge base. Previously William was a lecturer and researcher in archaeology with research interests in computational analysis. He is an SCA Trustee.

Paula Larkin is currently an archivist working with Govanhill Baths She recently organised a conference on the importance of public wash-houses to working class communities, especially women, in the UK during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan is a Professional Fellow with the Academy of Sport and was Resources Manager of the Sports Heritage Scotland Project. Through reminiscence groups, the project uses sporting memories to help people living with dementia and in other circumstances of isolation as well as archiving the nation's sporting heritage, initially through images and photos.

Gillian Mapstone is Head of Records and Archives Engagement at the National Records of Scotland. She leads NRS' liaison with public and private record owners and directs NRS engagement in the wider archive and information management sectors.

Laura Mitchell is Director of Information and Records Services and Deputy Keeper of the Records of Scotland. She is responsible for NRS's archives and record-keeping functions, including the selection, preservation, conservation and cataloguing of records of historical value, providing advice to stakeholders, and regulatory functions under the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011.

Dr Emily Munro is currently Learning & Outreach Officer at the Moving Image Archive, National Library of Scotland. Before this, Emily was Head of Learning at Glasgow Film for over six years where she was responsible for lifelong learning programme, including strategic planning for work with children and young people.

Pam McNicol is an archivist at Stirling Council with 23 years' experience in local authority repositories in both Scotland and England. As well as caring for the historic records of Stirling Council and other records from local businesses, organisations and individuals, she also runs workshops, a volunteer programme and family history courses.

Dr Irene O'Brien is the Chair of the Scottish Council of Archives. Irene is the Glasgow City Archivist with responsibility for managing the archives and records of Glasgow City Council. She has worked in Glasgow City Archives (formerly Strathclyde Regional Archives) since 1982. Irene was formerly the Chair of the Society of Archivists, Scotland, and the Archivists of Scotland Local Authority Working Group, and served on the UK Council of the Society of Archivists.

John Pelan took on the role of Director of the Scottish Council on Archives in December 2017. John provides organisational leadership for SCA and, working with trustees, staff and stakeholders, develops its strategic direction. He has worked in the culture and heritage sectors in Scotland for almost thirty years.

Douglas Roberts is SCA's Education Officer. Douglas is a former teacher with a background in primary teaching, secondary English and History, and teacher training. Douglas is also an education consultant, specialising in active learning approaches using drama techniques, debate, and enquiry learning. He ran a theatre education company in Scotland and New Zealand for ten years.

Michael White developed the Football Reminiscence Project with the Scottish Football Museum and Alzheimer Scotland. The aim of the project is to use film to trigger memories and to enable people to reconnect with their love of film. The project is run by volunteers who have been trained in reminiscence approaches and who have knowledge of the issues facing older people today.

Why Archives Matter

Health, Wellbeing, Community, Young People

24 October 2018

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