

# Women's History S C O T L A N D

[www.womenshistoryscotland.org](http://www.womenshistoryscotland.org)

## Review of 2010-11

This last year we resumed our normal pattern of an annual conference in the autumn though we have postponed our postgraduate workshop, normally held in the spring, to October 2011 (more below). But while conferences have been our mainstay we have always had a number of projects on the go and this year has been no exception. This year we have also made efforts to start a dialogue with Scottish teachers of history to investigate how we can help them to include more women in the history curriculum. It is also good to report that our membership holds up at around 100, our finances are healthy and our Steering Committee, bolstered by some new blood, is active in maintaining our public profile and communicating to members via the website and the Newsletter which is now compiled by Elizabeth Ewan in Guelph.

### Past

#### **WHS Annual Conference 2010**

There is nothing like getting out of the Central Belt to reinvigorate our enthusiasm and so WHS's trip to Dornoch for the 2010 Annual Conference was, literally and metaphorically, a breath of fresh air. Thanks to the support and energy of the historians at University of the Highlands and Islands we held a hugely successful and enjoyable event in the Royal Dornoch Golf Club where WHS stalwarts were joined by a good number of participants from the local area. The long journey north for some of us was made well worth it by the range of events, the beautiful setting and the programme of papers. The event was kicked off by a guided walk around the town led by local Anne Coombs and Alison McCall. That evening the Sue Innes Memorial Lecture was presented by Dr Stana Nenadic from Edinburgh University who spoke about Scottish gentry women in the spectacular surroundings of Dornoch Cathedral. And the next day's programme on the theme of 'Women in/on the Landscape' featured papers ranging from crofting communities to the empire, and from physical recreation outdoors to domestic violence in confined spaces. WHS is indebted to Karly Kehoe and her team at UHI for a memorable event.



*Stana Nenadic (front) with Elizabeth Ritchie (UHI), Karly Kehoe (UHI) and Lynn Abrams (WHS/Glasgow)*

### **Current and on-going projects**

**Memorials to Scottish Women** This project, involving WHS, Glasgow Women's Library and Girlguiding Scotland, is now well underway. Members will recall that we received a grant from the Lottery Awards for All to finance the creation of an online database and a website to record memorials to women around Scotland. The first stage has been completed (thank you to Helen MacDonald for all her hard work to get to this point) and the webpage went live for the Girl Guides under the strapline, 'The Big Name Hunt'. A number of guide troops signed up and we anticipate receiving their suggestions and additions. At the same time, WHS members are helping to populate the database with the information we already hold from the *Biographical Dictionary*. When the site goes live to members of the public we hope to garner some publicity and members might be asked to do what they can in their particular localities.

**Documentary History of Women in 19th Century Scotland** is underway led by Esther Breitenbach, Linda Fleming, Karly Kehoe and Lesley Orr. We are confident that this will be an important text which might well be useful for teachers in schools as well as the general reader and those of us in higher education.

### **Future**

#### **2011 Annual Conference, 8 October, University of Dundee**

*'Bread and Roses: Women's Work, Women's Creativity, Women's Protest'*

The organisers Amy Murphy and Alison McCall are currently putting together the programme for this event. It will feature Deborah Simonton, a former WHS convenor, giving the Sue Innes Memorial Lecture. We hope to see many of you there. The registration form will soon be available via the Newsletter and the website.

**2012 Annual Conference:** we are planning this for the autumn in Edinburgh on the theme of 'Wellbeing'. A call for papers and further information will be communicated in the Newsletter and via the website.

**2013:** we are hoping to be in Orkney! Watch this space.

### General issues

The Steering Committee of WHS meets several times a year in order to review ongoing issues (membership, finances, publicity, etc) and to plan ahead. Membership of the Steering Committee is currently drawn from across Scotland, and includes two international officers (In Denmark and Canada) and includes academics (early career and established), postgraduates and independent researchers. This is a combination that seems to work well, providing a range of skills and energy levels! Information about WHS and our activities is provided on our website [www.womenshistoryscotland.org](http://www.womenshistoryscotland.org) and details of WHS activities and other gender and women's history related events are circulated via our e-Newsletter which is also posted on the website. News, views and announcements should be sent to Rosi Carr for the website ([rosalindcarr@yahoo.com](mailto:rosalindcarr@yahoo.com)) and Elizabeth Ewan for the Newsletter ([ewan@uoguelph.ca](mailto:ewan@uoguelph.ca))

If you have any suggestions or proposals for us please contact me or one of the Steering Committee members, or you can send us a message via the website.

WHS would not exist without those who give up their time to work hard in the cause of women's and gender history. I would like to thank everyone on the Steering Committee and those from amongst the wider membership who have contributed to our work over the past year.

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