

# An Invitation to the Lit

The 107<sup>th</sup> season of Colinton Parish Church Literary Society begins at 8pm on Wednesday 11 October 2017, in the Loan Hall, Dreghorn Loan. Membership costs only £10 for the full programme of 19 meetings, or £3 per meeting for visitors. New members of all ages are assured of a warm welcome.

## 2017

- 11 Oct**     **Susanna Kerr** gives an illustrated talk on Victoria and Albert's love affair with Scotland.
- 18 Oct**     **Dr Alison Rosie** from National Register of Archives for Scotland will describe the lives of 19 families on St Kilda from information newly discovered in a census taken there in 1764.
- 25 Oct**     **Sir Paul Grice**, Clerk and Chief Executive to the Scottish Parliament will talk about its international connections and give some thoughts on future challenges for democracies.
- 01 Nov**     **Louise Gardiner** introduces us to letter writing in the Middle Ages with her talk "Royal Correspondence in Late 14th century England"
- 08 Nov**     **Seonaid Wilson** will intrigue us with her talk entitled "The Mistress".
- 15 Nov**     **Dr David Caldwell** returns to describe Finlaggan on Islay where excavations revealed occupation since Mesolithic times. He discusses the fascinating history involving the Norse-Gael Lordship founded by Somerled, which developed centuries later into the Clan Donald.

- 22 Nov** **Alistair and Jane MacNeill**, with their group 4S will present Galloway, with its artists, scenes, songs and music.
- 29 Nov** **Dr Margaret Williams** will give us a lavishly illustrated talk as Christmas approaches, on “Herod the Great in History and Legend”. Herod was a great builder of palaces and fortresses and features a lot in European art.
- 06 Dec** **Christmas party** with entertainment from the Spylaw Scarlets, movie and theatre music. Buffet supper.

## **2018**

- 10 Jan** **Ian Gardiner**, well known to our Society, will give us his insights into The Crimean War, 1853-56. Current events in the Ukraine are part of a centuries old continuum. The British and Russian Empires fought for control on Russia’s southern periphery. The war led to the end of serfdom and major reforms in both armies.
- 17 Jan** **The Vine Trust**, whose HQ is the Vine Trust Barge in Prince of Wales Dock, in Leith, is the subject of this talk about a charity which achieves much.
- 24 Jan** **Simon Green** returns to trace the history of Dumfries House, designed by Robert Adam and adapted for the Marquesses of Bute. The Duke of Rothesay led the campaign to save this magnificent house and its contents from being dispersed. An illustrated talk.
- 31 Jan** **Jeremy Smith** of the Scottish Language Dictionary gives a talk about our native tongue.

- 07 Feb** **Andrew MacGregor Marshall** author and journalist describes the Thai monarchy, one of the most secretive and mysterious institutions in the world. He faces jail if he ever returns to Thailand because of his reporting on the Thai Royals. In this lecture, he will tell his story, and provide the answer to one of the biggest true-crime murder mysteries of the 20th century.
- 14 Feb** **Fred and Rita Daniels** will take us on a 9,700 mile overland journey from Chicago to Yellowstone. Their talk, entitled “Golden America” will be illustrated by their “amazing” photographs.
- 21 Feb** **Andrew Kerr** tells the story of “The Grand Fleet in the Forth”, an illustrated lecture on the challenges of protecting and operating this immense armada of 200 ships, and explains its part in the Great War. Andrew is a retired lawyer with a lifelong interest in ships and the Royal Navy. He was the Consultant Naval Historian for the recent BBC TV Programme “Scotland’s War at Sea”.
- 28 Feb** **Helen Edwards** from Edinburgh Museums and Galleries returns to talk to us about Lauriston Castle and its owner Mrs Reid, giving us an intimate insight to this house which was left to the Nation in 1926 with magnificent interiors and a beautiful garden laid out by William Playfair in 1840. The Japanese garden was a gift from Kyoto.
- 07 Mar** **Erlend Clouston**, Literary Agent for Nan Shepherd, one of Scotland’s neglected great authors, will describe her work.
- 14 Mar** **AGM** followed by **Fred and Rita Daniels** bringing us from Yellowstone to New Mexico to complete their overland tour.

## **What is the Lit?**

Our programme covers both literary topics and those of general interest which should be attractive across the entire community from whom our membership is drawn. Proposals for future talks may be handed in to the Programme Coordinator at any time.

Visitors are always welcome. Tea, coffee and wine will be served from 7.30pm. Talks start at 8pm.

Keep up to date with the latest news about the Lit on the Church website [www.colinton-parish.com](http://www.colinton-parish.com)

**Hon. President** - Rev. Rolf Billes

**Treasurer** - Katie Davidson

**President** - Alan Wright

**Committee** Gemma Roper-Caldbeck, Arlene Raeburn, Sandy Raeburn, Trish Shaw, Lorraine Veitch-Rutherford, Bob Mylchreest, Karen Sandison, Grant MacDonald

**Secretary** - Norman Young - [njyoung@onetel.com](mailto:njyoung@onetel.com)

**Hon Auditor** - A W Murray

**Programme Coordinator** - Morag Marshall

[Morag.l.marshall@btinternet.com](mailto:Morag.l.marshall@btinternet.com) 0131 441 2108