The Society for Folk Life Studies

**Annual Conference**

**Biggar, South Lanarkshire, Scotland**

* 1. **September 2022**

*\* Power to the People \**

The conference will be based at Biggar Museum,

156 High Street. Biggar, ML12 6DH

The conference accommodation is a choice between:

The Kirk Style Hotel 72 High Street, Biggar ML12 6BJ

([The Kirkstyle Hotel, Biggar | Homepage](https://www.kirkstylehotel.com/))

or

The Elphinstone Hotel

145 High Street, Biggar, ML12 6DL

[www.elphinstonehotel.co.uk](http://www.elphinstonehotel.co.uk)

*Please indicate your preference on booking form,*

*accommodation will be booked by the conference organiser.*

**PROGRAMME**

[Draft at 30-4-2022]

**THURSDAY 8 September**

*17:00 - 18:30 Registration at* The Elphinstone Hotel

*18:30 – 20:00 Dinner at* The Crown *(tbc)*

20:00 **Lecture 1**

(Speaker tbc)

***An introduction to South Lanarkshire***

**FRIDAY, 9 September**

*09.30 Assemble at Biggar Museum, 156 High Street, Biggar*

09.35-09.40Steph Mastoris(President, Society for Folk Life Studies)

***Welcome to the 2022 annual conference***

09.45-10.00 Elaine Edwards (Biggar Museum)

 ***Welcome to Biggar***

10.00-10.45 **Lecture 2**.

Janice Kirkpatrick

***Powering Ahead: the continuing story of the Clydesdale horse***

*10.45-11.15 Coffee*

11.15-12.00 **Lecture 3**

John Burnett

***Celebrating the Work, Celebrating the People: public utilities in South Lanarkshire***

12.00-12:45 **Lecture 4**

Stefan Sagrott, Senior Cultural Resources Advisor, Historic Environments Scotland

***Gas!*** (working title)

*13:00 – 14:00 Lunch venue tbc*

14.15-1700 **Excursion 1**

 Biggar Museum and environs

*18.30 – 20.00 Dinner at the* Elphinstone Hotel*, Biggar*

20:00 Claudia Kinmonth

***Post publication discoveries part 2: Readers’ responses to* Irish country furniture and furnishings 1700-2000**

Often after publishing a book, new, associated material comes out of the woodwork. Completing a book during the 2020 pandemic, and then publishing it and receiving responses from readers, during lockdown in Ireland, revealed a mass of objects that I was unable to go and scrutinise first-hand. Normally I cannot to give opinions on art or furniture without checking it first-hand, to ensure everything is genuine. Some professionally faked Irish furniture cannot necessarily be recognised from photographs. But lockdown forced me into a situation where I had no choice, I couldn’t enter peoples’ houses, or examine the subtleties of the undersides of chairs, or the backs and surface details of paintings in the normal way.

Taking to Twitter and Instagram to augment publicity in the absence of a launch, produced a mass of poorly photographed images, sometimes of fascinating objects. Correspondence with strangers about how best to photograph a chair produced some amusing results. The range of items that emerged was exciting. This paper takes the opportunity to showcase a scattered range of such ‘new’ historic material, and some new avenues of research, for the first time.

**SATURDAY, 10 September**

*09.30 Assemble at Biggar Museum*

09:45 – 10:30 **Lecture 5**

Neil Johnson-Symington (Glasgow Museums)

***The Albion Motor Company***

10.30 - 11.15  **Lecture 6**

Heather Holmes

***Power and innovation: Lanarkshire agricultural implement and machines makers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries***

*11:15 – 11:45 Coffee*

11.45 - 12.30 **Lecture 6**

David Eveleigh

***Old Ways, Old Things – When Connoisseurship discovered ‘Ordinary Folk’***

***(Folk life collecting etc. Part 2)***

 ***Excursion 2***

*12.30* Travel to Leadhills Mining Museum

 *Lunch on arrival followed by tour of the mine, museum & historic library*

*18.00 Return to Biggar*

*19.00-20.30 Dinner* *(*The Barony Restaurant,Biggar*)*

20:30 **Entertainment:**

*The Mighty Joes*

**Sunday, 11 September**

*09.45 Assemble at Biggar Museum*

10.00-11:00 **Annual General Meeting** of the Society for Folk Life Studies

*11:00 - 11.20 Coffee*

11.20 - 12.15 **Lecture 7**

Jim Ness

***Mills of South Lanarkshire***

*or*

(Speaker/Film tbc)

*The Common Riding*

12:15-12:20 *Concluding remarks and thanks*

12.30 **Buffet Lunch** at Biggar Museum

*End of conference*