

NUCLEUS

THE NUCLEAR AND CAITHNESS ARCHIVES



Nucleus: the Nuclear and Caithness Archives is home to the records of the UK civil nuclear industry, as well as the historical archives of the county of Caithness, dating from 1469 to the present day.

We are used to welcoming visitors interested in their family history, or the history of Caithness to the archive in person, but as we're closed just now we thought we'd come up with a list of archive and history inspired activities for you to try at home. As long as you have access to the internet, there are a wealth of online resources you can use for research.

Activities

- Start a diary. Diaries can be a great way to clear your head; record your thoughts, feelings and daily experiences. As a historical source, they can be fascinating and give us a different insight into past events. In years to come historians will use diaries from 2020 to study COVID-19's social impact on communities. Help them form a picture of how the virus affected life in Caithness by adding your diary to our collections.
- Record your childhood memories. This could be in written form, or you could record them using a voice recording app. Share your stories with your family.
- Dig out your old photos. These are great for stimulating memories. On the back write down dates, names and places. This will help enormously in the future when you've forgotten the details, or when your descendants look through them in fifty years time!
- Start your family tree. There are lots of great websites to help you with this.

Online Family History Resources

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> Scotland's official records online. You can look at civil registers, church registers, census returns, valuation rolls, legal records and poor relief and migration records. There is a fee to look at original certificates but lots of information is free.

<https://www.freecen.org.uk/> This website gives you FREE access to the census! The census is taken every ten years and records details about every household in Britain. It includes information for England and Wales as well as Scotland.

<https://caithnessfhs.org.uk/> Caithness Family History Society. A wonderful local voluntary group that can help you with your research. Membership gives you access to the society's resources. They also have a range of publications for sale.

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> and <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/> Lots of records and guidance with your family tree, but there is a cost to subscribe.



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If you are interested in finding out more about local history, there are lots of great websites to start your research.

<http://www.caithness.org/> has lots of articles on local and family history.

<https://johnstoncollection.net/> An amazing collection of historic photographs of Wick and the rest of Caithness from the 1860s on. Volunteers from the Wick Society have digitised over 40,000 glass plate negatives, all available on the website.

<https://www.wickheritage.org/voices.php> Wick Voices is an oral history project that records the memories of Caithness people and preserves them for the future. There are nearly 250 recordings for you to choose from on a wide range of subjects.

<https://www.ambaile.org.uk/> High Life Highland's website has lots of images, oral histories and newspaper articles covering many different aspects of Highland history.

Find out how World War II impacted Caithness in our Caithness at War blog <https://www.highlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives/category/caithness-at-war-blog/>

Lorna, our community engagement officer is currently doing weekly archive classes on our various collections. You'll find them on YouTube if you search 'Learn with Lorna'. Corresponding activities can be found at <https://www.highlifehighland.com/archives-service/learning-and-outreach/resources-for-teachers-2/>. The classes are aimed at children but have been popular with archive enthusiasts of all ages!

<https://maps.nls.uk/> The National Library of Scotland has a treasure trove of maps, both old and new, available online.

<https://canmore.org.uk/> This is Historic Environment Scotland's website. It has lots of photographs and information if you are interested in buildings and archaeology. Lots of information on Caithness.

<https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home> Free access to The Statistical Accounts of Scotland online. Offers a fascinating insight into parish life in the late 18th century and early to mid-19th century.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Online access to hundreds of historic newspapers from across the UK. Includes the John o' Groat Journal, Northern Ensign and Caithness Courier. A subscription is required.

We hope this information has given you some ideas and inspiration to begin a new hobby or start some research. When we open again we would be delighted to welcome you to our archive at the Airport Industrial Estate in Wick to take your research further. Until then, keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest news.

Telephone 07464538089 for enquiries or assistance

