



# SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES

---

## IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### CONFERENCE NOTICE

#### 2024 SNSBI Spring Conference

Dublin, 10th - 13th May 2024

This conference will take place at the All Hallows Campus of Dublin City University (DCU) at Drumcondra. Accommodation will be provided by DCU on the Glasnevin Campus. Both are in the northern suburbs of Dublin, easily accessible from the airport.

The conference will open formally after dinner on Friday evening, with a lecture by Dr Conchubhar Ó Cruaíoch, Chief Placenames Officer at The Placenames Branch. The coach trip on Sunday afternoon will be to the village of Fore, situated in a beautiful valley in Co. Westmeath

See page 4 of this newsletter for further details. To register for the conference, see the booking slip on the first circular, which is available here: [snsbi.org.uk/pdf/SNSBI\\_Dublin\\_2024\\_first\\_circular.pdf](https://snsbi.org.uk/pdf/SNSBI_Dublin_2024_first_circular.pdf)

### Newsletter NS. 27 2024

*Welcome to the 27th issue of the SNSBI newsletter!*

*This year's SNSBI Spring Conference is fast approaching, and registration is open. Please see the notice on the left of this page, and the further details on page 4 of the newsletter, where you can also find a link to the first circular on the SNSBI website.*

*Many thanks as always to those who have sent content for the newsletter. I am always grateful for contributions, particularly photos and content which includes photos, which I think keep the newsletter visually appealing and engaging.*

*Please continue to get in touch with me if you have any suggestions on things you would like to see in this newsletter, and send anything my way which you think is worthy of inclusion.*

*Harry Parkin (editor)*

CHARITY NO. 0177455  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:  
2023-24

#### President:

Ms Jennifer Scherr

#### Vice-Presidents:

Professor Diana Whaley  
Dr Aengus Ó Fionnagáin

#### Hon. Secretary:

Dr Rebecca Gregory

#### Hon. Treasurer:

Ms Julia Stanbridge

#### Nomina Editor:

Dr David Parsons

#### Webmaster: Dr Keith Briggs

#### Newsletter Editor:

Dr Harry Parkin

#### Publicity Officer:

Dr James Butler

#### Committee:

Dr Liam Ó hAisibéil  
Ms Kathryn Bullen  
Dr James Chetwood  
Professor Thomas Clancy  
Ms Katie Hambrook  
Dr Justin Ó Gliaáin  
Mr Jonathan Masters



Tweet  
[@SNSBI\\_official](https://twitter.com/SNSBI_official)

or email [promotions@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:promotions@snsbi.org.uk)  
with any news that you think we  
might like to tweet!



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Conference report

#### SNSBI Autumn day conference

4th November 2023

*Abstracts can be found on the [2023 SNSBI autumn day conference page](#) of the SNSBI website.*

The SNSBI autumn day conference was held online via Zoom on Saturday 4th November 2023. It was held jointly with friends and colleagues from the Scottish Place-Name Society (SPNS)

After a welcome from the SPNS's Convenor, Alan Macniven, the first paper was delivered by Jeremy Harte, who looked at "Gold, hoards and history in place-names". Jeremy explored how Old English *goldhord* is unlikely to have been used to name places where treasure was once found, thereby implying that most previous explanations for the place-name element, which do subscribe to a treasure-based definition, are inaccurate.

Next was David Parsons, who examined medieval dedications to St Andrew in Wales, and considered their likely historical context. He also discussed some of the

challenges associated with this type of evidence, due to dedications often going hand-in-hand with the names of places in Celtic-speaking regions.

Diana Whaley then spoke about a category of place-names defined as "verbal place-names" by Simon Taylor in 2008. These types of place-name are "both syntactically and semantically eccentric, departing radically from the norm of place-names that contain well-attested place-name elements". Diana built on Simon's work on Fife place-names by looking at names in Northumberland, supplemented with a small number of examples from elsewhere.

After lunch, Michael Given delivered a talk titled "Dwelling, travelling, and telling: place-making on Rannoch Moor through landscape archaeology and place-names", in which he combined archaeological, environmental, toponymic, historical and literary evidence to show how Rannoch Moor was a lively and dynamic landscape full of interaction among people, plants, animals, topography, and place.

The next paper, titled "Glasgow's Gaelic place-names", was delivered by

Alasdair C. Whyte, who presented new research from the University of Glasgow from the recently-published book *Glasgow's Gaelic Place-Names* (Birlinn, September 2023) - a book which also includes contributions from Katherine Forsyth and Simon Taylor. The paper focused on: the earliest sources for Glasgow's Gaelic place-names; language contact between Gaelic, Northern Brittonic and Scots; the Gaelic origins of place-names such as Auchenshuggle, Gartnavel, Keppochill and Teucharhill; and place-name evidence within 19th-century Gaelic song.

The final paper was delivered by Peter Randall, with the title

"*Ásleifarvík* or *Hálseyjarvík*? The Norse place-names of Scotland's west Coast in Hákonar saga Hákonarsonar". Through a re-evaluation of Old Norse place-names which are found only in this saga, Peter showed that relying on them as sources for the linguistic history of the Hebrides could be problematic, but that they do provide information on Scandinavian naming practices around the west coast of Scotland.

The conference was closed by SNSBI's President, Jennifer Scherr.



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## Photos and notes from Richard Coates

Annwyl Gyngor Sir Fynwy: Os oes gennych chi bolisi dwyieithrwydd ar gyfer enwau, cyflogwch siaradwr dwyieithog!

["Dear Monmouthshire Council: if you have a bilingual policy for names, hire a bilingual speaker!"]

Yng Nghas-gwent:  
[In Chepstow:]



("Caesnewydd" should be "Casnewydd")

Yn y Fenni:  
[In Abergavenny:]



("Heol Y Orsaf" should be "Heol Yr Orsaf")

Ym Mrynbuga:  
[In Usk:]



("Gerddi'r Priordy" should be "Gerddi'r Priordy")

## Photos from Jeremy Harte



Gandhi Way, a renaming of George Yard, Kingston upon Hull



Land of Green Ginger, Kingston upon Hull

## Whitsunday Pie Lock

There are a number of myths about this lock's strange name. The tale is that a farmer's wife baked a pie on Whitsunday, either for the navvies or the boatmen.

Sadly, this appears untrue. The area in which the lock was built in July 1775 was already known as 'Whitsunday Pye', and all 18th century documents spell the last word 'pye'; the meaning of which is unclear.

Etymological discussion of Whitsunday Pie Lock near Retford, Nottinghamshire



# SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### 2024 SNSBI Spring Conference

DCU All Hallows Campus,  
Gracepark Road,  
Drumcondra, Ireland  
10th - 13th May 2024

This year's conference is being organised by Dr Aengus Ó Fionnagáin in conjunction with Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge, Dublin City University (DCU). DCU has three campuses. The conference activities will take place on the All Hallows Campus, Drumcondra.

This year we will be asking delegates to book their accommodation directly. Ensuite Accommodation will be provided by DCU on the Glasnevin Campus. A booking link is available [here](#). The cost will be from £375 for a single occupancy room for three nights bed and breakfasts.

The conference registration fee (to be confirmed but around €50 for members, €80 for non members) will cover lunches and coffee breaks. A coach trip to Fore will be €15.

The Glasnevin campus is 3km from All Hallows (40 mins walk). Taxis to and from

All Hallows will be provided (for free) to delegates staying in Glasnevin, once in the morning and once in the evening. Public transport is also available (Dublin Bus). The university has reserved some rooms for delegates, but **please book ASAP and ideally before the 24th March**, after which rooms currently reserved for conference delegates may be offered to other guests. Delegates are also free to source their own alternative accommodation. The Skylon Hotel, Drumcondra, is a 7 minute walk from All Hallows.

For further details, see the [first circular](#) and keep an eye on [snsbi.org.uk/2024\\_Dublin.html](https://snsbi.org.uk/2024_Dublin.html).

#### Draft Programme:

*Conchubhar Ó Cruaíoch* "opening lecture".

*Liam Ó hAisibéil* "Eighteenth century 'translations' of Irish surnames"

*Justin Ó Gliaáin* "Placenames of Inishowen"

*Paul Tempan* "Place-names on Robert Lythe's Map of Carrickfergus Bay (Belfast Lough), 1567"

*Liam Mac Mathúna* "A corpus of Irish-language

place-names from the Dublin area (c.1728)"

*Aindí Mac Giolla Chomhghaill* "Minor placenames in the Dublin mountains"

*Peder Gammeltoft* "Quantitative extra-linguistic methods in place-name research – worth the bother?"

*Pádraig Ó Cearbhaill* "Sliabh na mBan" ('the mountain of the women')

*Thomas Owen Clancy* "Gaelic and the Ordnance Survey"

*Zenobie Garrett & Catherine Porter* "OS200 Database Demo"

*Abigail Lloyd* "Learning from Celtic predecessors or creation from scratch: What then is a dūn?"

*Eleanor Rye* "Old English and Old Scandinavian in contact: dialect-contact and place-names"

*Keith Briggs* "Suffolk place-name project"

*Carole Hough* "The Old English contribution to Scottish toponymy"

*Chris Lewis* "Helensburgh house-names of the later Victorian period"



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Patrick Hanks

24.03.1940 – 01.02.2024

It is with great sadness that I write this short note to let members of SNSBI know about the death of Patrick Hanks, following a period of ill-health following a covid infection. Patrick was known and loved by many members of the Society, and was an internationally-respected figure in the fields of lexicography, semantics, and onomastics. I had the pleasure of working with him for a number of years, and learnt a great deal from him, as I'm sure many others did too. His warmth, generosity and humour will be missed.

A full appreciation will appear in *Nomina* in due course

[ed.].

### Recent Publications

#### Glasgow's Gaelic Place-Names

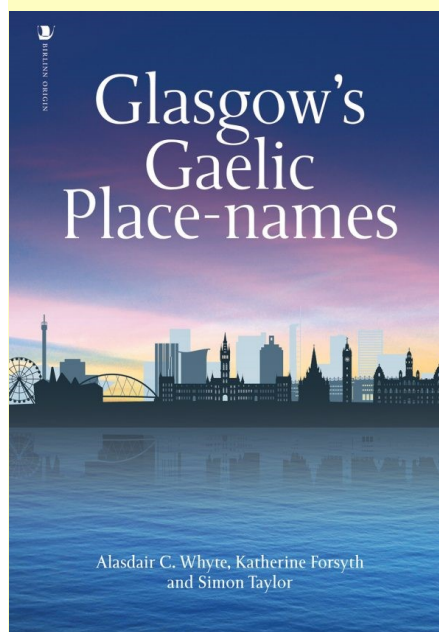
A. Whyte, K. Forsyth & S. Taylor  
Birlinn.

*Information from publisher's website:*

"It is time to bin – once and for all – the nonsense that Gaelic was never spoken in Glasgow.

In fact, Glasgow's place-names tell us that Gaelic has been spoken in Glasgow for around a thousand years.

Showcasing new research from the University of Glasgow, this illustrated guide to Glasgow's Gaelic namescape reveals how place-names are a key to unlocking Glasgow's hidden past and takes the reader on a journey of discovery the length and breadth of this great modern city – from Yoker in the west to Daldowie in the east, via Boclair, Carmunnock and many other places in between.



The truth about Glasgow's past, present and future dispels myths and throws up countless surprises about Glasgow's deep Gaelic roots."

The book is available through the publisher's website for £12.99. For further details, follow [this link](#) or visit [birlinn.co.uk](http://birlinn.co.uk).

Please note that the regular "recent publications" section is simply a listing of items of potential interest to members. Listing here does not imply any opinion regarding quality, academic rigour, etc. Where appropriate, reviews will appear in *Nomina* in due course.

### Nomina Bibliography

The *Nomina* bibliography team encourages members to send details of publications dealing with names in Britain and Ireland to [biblio@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:biblio@snsbi.org.uk) for inclusion in the annual bibliography.

The team would particularly welcome information about books and book chapters, and articles in journals that don't regularly publish onomastic content.

If it's not obvious why a publication will be of interest to SNSBI members from its title, a sentence or two outlining the onomastic content would be an enormous help!



## SNSBI SOCIETY FOR NAME STUDIES IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

### Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland Essay Prize

1. A prize of £100 will be awarded annually for the best essay on any topic relating to the place-names and/or personal names of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Man or the Channel Islands.
2. Submissions are invited from students and other researchers. The prize will normally be awarded to those who have not hitherto had work in onomastics published.
3. Essays should be about 5,000 words in length.
4. Essays should in some way make an original contribution to the subject.
5. Essays should be double-spaced, with pages numbered in a single sequence of arabic numerals, and should include a bibliography of source-material used and of books and authors cited.
6. Submissions should include an abstract of up to 250 words.
7. An anonymised electronic text of the essay and abstract should be submitted by October 31 each year to [secretary@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:secretary@snsbi.org.uk).
8. Entries will be blind-refereed and the final decision made by a panel normally consisting of the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Editor(s) of Nomina, who may consider it for publication.
9. Provided an essay of sufficient merit is forthcoming, the winner will be announced at the next AGM, held in the spring of the following year.

### Events

#### Scottish Place-Name Society Spring Conference 2024

Montrose, 4th May 2024

This conference, along with the Scottish Place-Name Society's (SPNS) AGM, will be held at The Links Hotel, Montrose. More details, including programme, cost, and how to book tickets, will appear on the SPNS's website ([spns.org.uk](http://spns.org.uk)) soon.

#### International Council of Onomastic Sciences

#### 28th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences Helsinki, Finland 19th-23th August 2024

*From the congress website:*

"The purpose of the congress is to advance academic research on names and naming by bringing together scholars from all over the world. The studies presented in the congress can represent various academic disciplines and categories of proper names.

The theme of the congress is **Sustainability of names, naming and onomastics**. The presenters are encouraged to evaluate how

their work could promote the goals of sustainable development.

The congress is organized by the University of Helsinki, in collaboration with the University of Turku and the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. The congress venue is the City Centre Campus of the University of Helsinki."

Keynote speakers are:

- Prof. Helen Kelly-Holmes
- Dr Jane Pilcher
- Dr Väinö Syrjälä

Registration for the conference is open from 18th March.

For more details, see the [University of Helsinki's ICOS conference webpages](#).

### Forthcoming SNSBI events

**SNSBI Spring Conference, Dublin, 10-13 May 2024. See page 4 of this newsletter for details**

*SNSBI Newsletter*  
Contact details  
email: [newsletter@snsbi.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@snsbi.org.uk)  
Website: [snsbi.org.uk](http://snsbi.org.uk)